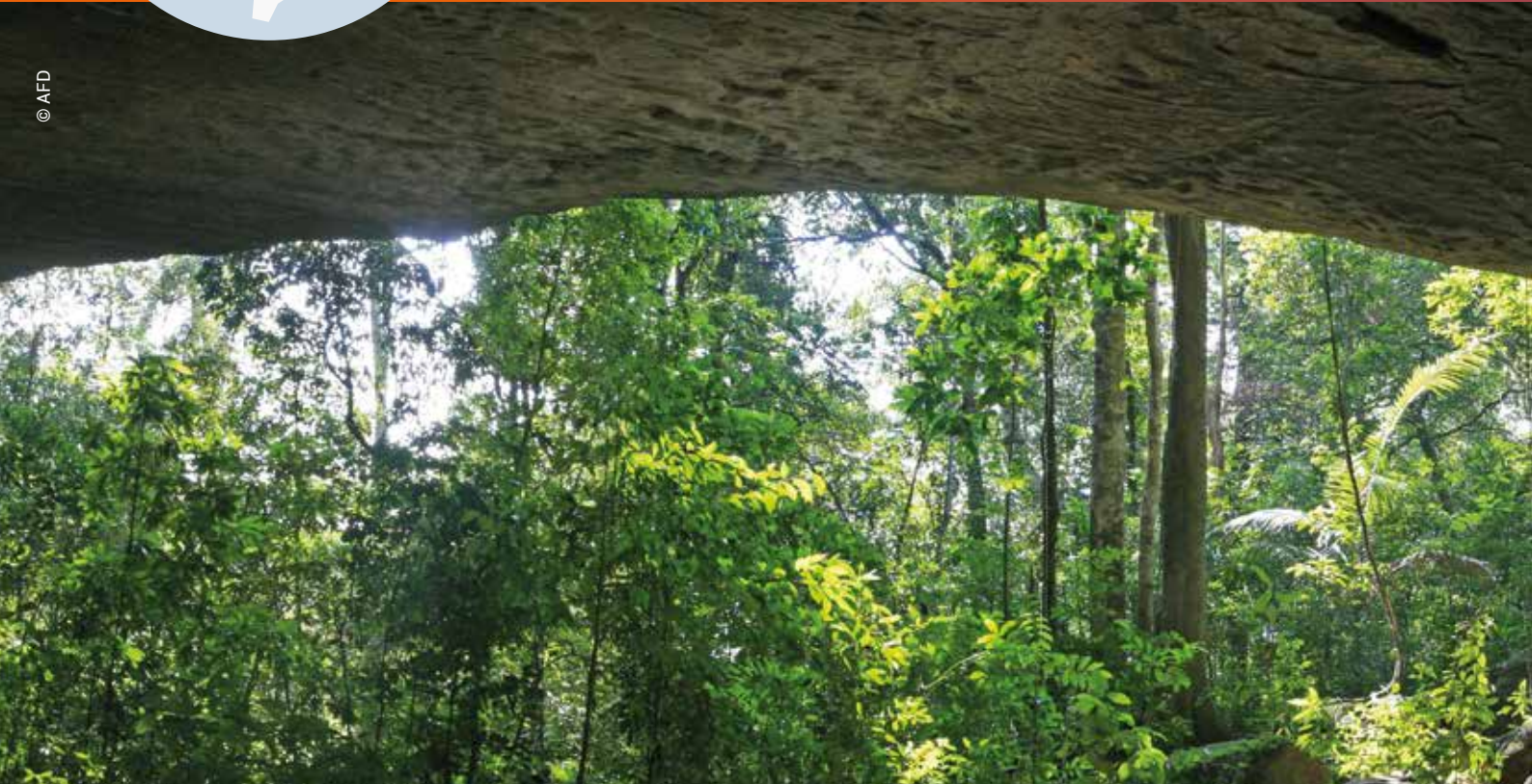


# AFD and the Environment in Cambodia

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€**6.5** million  
committed  
since 2005

**3**  
projects funded  
since 2005

**834,756**  
hectares of  
protected natural areas

Despite its low contribution to global warming, Cambodia is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in the world, which directly threatens the country's prodigious biodiversity. AFD is fully committed to protecting the ecosystem and biodiversity in Cambodia. It is also active in the renewable energy and green finance sectors.

#WorldInCommon

## 1 *Protect biodiversity*

The Indo-Burmese biodiversity hotspot is considered one of the biggest priorities in the conservation of global biodiversity, containing 14 of the 200 biomes (or eco-regions) on the planet. This region is also considered one of the eight hotspots that could lose the majority of their animal and plant species in the near future, if current rates of deforestation and overexploitation of biodiversity are maintained. Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar are considered to be the most important countries for biodiversity conservation in the region, partly because of their histories and isolation.

In 2006, AFD and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) co-financed the first biodiversity protection project, implemented by Conservation International in the Cardamom Mountains. Moreover, in 2014, the two organisations decided to finance a regional project for a period of four years. The aim was to support the sustainable management of protected areas in this biodiversity hotspot. This project was renewed in 2018. It endeavours to preserve biodiversity, maintain the ecosystem and reduce poverty. It involves the local population and the private sector in this sustainable environmental management.

## 2 *Fight against the impacts of climate change*

AFD is committed to fighting the impacts of climate change in Cambodia by developing the agro-ecology and resilient agriculture. Extreme weather events such as floods and droughts may increase in frequency and intensity in the near future. Thus, Cambodia's future crucially relies on the management of its water resources. AFD is financing several agricultural adaptation projects on this subject, notably through the WAT4CAM irrigation programme and the CaPFish project.

More broadly, all the projects implemented by AFD must henceforth integrate a dimension of the fight against climate change, whether in the form of adaptation or mitigation measures. This will enable AFD's activity to be 100% compatible with the Paris Agreement and ensure that 50% of the annual funding is dedicated to projects which have a direct and beneficial impact on the climate.

## 3 *Develop renewable energies*

Today, the majority of energy in Cambodia comes from non-renewable biomass. Renewable energies still form a small proportion of national output, in spite of the development of hydro-power. In this context, AFD and France are investing in this area through several ongoing and future projects.

In 2018, the FFEM co-financed the construction of a one-megawatt thermal power plant. This plant is connected to the national network and produces electricity from sawmill-waste wood gasification. In the long term, it will produce electricity from sustainable plantations.

In addition, AFD finances pilot projects carried out by NGOs on various themes. All these projects aim to promote the development of renewable energies, e.g. solar energy and the creation of a coal-fired electricity supply chain fuelled by sustainable woodcutting.

Finally, the second phase of this credit line project for water and electricity will emphasise the renewable energies, particularly the development of solar energy in Cambodia.