

It's our forest too - Environmental Justice in Cambodia



Local grassroots initiative welcomes university students and interns

The Prey Lang forest complex is situated in the central plains of Cambodia. More than 250,000 mainly indigenous people live in 340 villages bordering Prey Lang and depend on it for their survival. Forest loss in Cambodia has accelerated faster than in any other country. As a response, local community members formed Prey Lang Community Network (PLCN), an informal network of volunteers that advocates for the protection of their land. PLCN conducts forest patrols to intercept loggers and seize chainsaws and encourage local authorities and the national government to take responsibility for the protection of Prey Lang.

In 2014, University of Copenhagen partnered with the PLCN forming the "[It's our forest too](#)". University of Copenhagen, together with local NGOs, provides the PLCN with knowledge on their rights as citizens and smartphones including a specially designed app to monitor forest resources and illegal logging. The data from the smartphones is uploaded to a database and results are published in on-line [monitoring reports](#).

Since 2014, the initiative has hosted more than 30 students and interns. Students conduct research and topics so far have included; Community Based Monitoring, Importance of NTFPs to Local Livelihoods, Incentives for engaging in Environmental Activism, Earth Journalism Network, and use of Information and Communication Technology and Social Media. Interns and students contribute to activities such as training, app development, database management, report writing, communication, press conferences, funding applications and more.

If you are looking for an applied setting in which to carry out research for your bachelor-, master-, or PhD thesis, or if you are interested in joining the initiative as an intern please contact:

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