

## News

### New Master of Science in Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture forms the backbone of the Cambodian economy and is a priority sector in government policy. To meet future food needs, it is imperative to transform Cambodian agriculture to ensure food security and safety, restore ecosystem services (e.g., carbon sequestration, water quality), sustain economic growth and provide greater opportunities for small-scale farmers.

The Master of Science in Sustainable Agriculture (MSA) was developed by the University of Battambang as part of the *Implementing quality of education & training of the young universities in rural areas of Cambodia* (UNICAM) project which is supported by the European Erasmus+ programme and university partners in Spain, France, Belgium and Italy.

The MSA programme provides students with an opportunity to develop appropriate methods and professional skills in sustainable agriculture development attuned to rural situations in Cambodia. The programme is designed to meet the needs of modern agriculture by equipping students with the necessary skills and practical knowledge to balance the natural resource and the human and economic factors that affect agricultural sustainability. To this end, it emphasizes integrative approaches that can be applied to enhance economically viable, socially supportive and ecologically sustainable agriculture at a national and international level.

The degree is a two-year, part-time (weekend) study programme taught in Khmer (75%) and English (25%). The curriculum combines course work and research work, and includes core, major, elective and research (thesis) components. Teaching staff are experts in sustainable agriculture. Students also have opportunities to undertake internships in Cambodia or overseas countries with collaborating partners. Further details are available at <http://unicamedu.com>

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### Save Cambodia's Wildlife launches new project to protect forest and biodiversity in Cambodia

Between January 2019 and December 2022, Save Cambodia's Wildlife (SCW) will collaborate with Weltungerhilfe (German Agro Action) and the Cambodian Ministry of Environment to promote forest and biodiversity protection in Cambodia, with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The project will establish a natural resource management network comprising 152 Community Protected Areas (CPAs) nationwide. Representatives from each CPA will work with SCW and the Department of Environment and other local authorities to establish by-laws and other regulations to reduce pressures on natural resources.

Over the next four years, the project will support the CPAs through the development of non-timber forest products and eco-tourism services. Because SCW believes in youth as actors for change, the project will also establish a self-sustaining green youth development program where students and young adults can meet to discuss environmental issues and work with local decision-makers to address these.

The project will also raise awareness and understanding regarding climate change and resilience through education activities and piloting of renewable energy initiatives. Eco-clubs will be created in rural schools, where children will learn about nature and recycling and clean up their villages. For renewable energy, SCW will introduce biogas digesters and solar water pumps, which transform cow dung into gas for cooking and improve irrigation options, respectively.

The project will target over 5,500 individuals across the 152 CPAs and indirectly affect over 350,000 people. Increased knowledge through capacity building and youth enabled as actors for change will help ensure that the project outcomes continue beyond its lifespan. The work of SCW ([www.cambodiaswildlife.org/](http://www.cambodiaswildlife.org/)) focuses on sustainable natural resource management, climate change and renewable energy, environmental education, alternative livelihoods and social entrepreneurship.

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