

Sister Park Agreement

between

Samlaut Multiple Use Area

and

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

I. Introduction:

Samlaut Multiple Use Area (Samlaut Protected Area) in northwest Cambodia was set aside in the 1st November 1993 by Royal Decree to protect essential natural and watershed resources from illegal timber and wildlife poaching, and over development of consumptive industries.

Sequoia, and later, Kings Canyon National Parks in California were similarly set aside to protect the natural resources and watershed from over development and industrialization.

II. Purpose for this Agreement:

The purpose of establishing a Sister Park Agreement between Samlaut Protected Area in Cambodia and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) in California, USA, is to promote international cooperation and collaboration that would provide mutual benefits for both parks. The mutual values and concerns for resource stewardship in Samlaut and SEKI can be fostered by sharing skills and knowledge.

III. Description of the Sister Parks:

Samlaut Protected Area (Samlaut PA), Battambang Province and Pailin Municipality, Cambodia--

Samlaut PA encompasses 60,000 hectares (148,263 acres) in northwestern Cambodia on the border with Thailand. It forms the northern tip of the Cardamom Mountain Range, one of Southeast Asia's most prominent landscapes, and hosts a spectrum of wildlife such as endangered Asian elephants, Asiatic black bears, pig-tailed macaques, pileated gibbons, hornbills, and pangolins. Samlaut PA is one of Cambodia's key watershed area's, providing fresh water and natural resources for almost one million people living in the provinces of Battambang and Pailin.

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The Cambodian Government granted Samlaut "Protected Area" status and designated it as a Multiple-Use Area in 1993. This status permits the local communities the right to continue to utilize the natural resources in a sustainable manner; however wildlife and timber poaching, gem mining operations, and land encroachment continued to threaten the area.

In 2003, the Maddox Jolie Pitt project (MJP) was created as a conservation and community development program in Samlaut District, aimed at providing direct support to local villages, endangered wildlife, and habitat protection.

MJP, working in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, the Department of Land Border Police, and the Royale Gendarmerie Khmer, developed an implementation plan that included recruiting, training, and supporting a Conservation and Wildlife Enforcement Team (C-WET) made up of 30 Cambodians. C-WET is mandated to operate inside the park in order to effectively stop illegal land encroachment, timber and wildlife poaching, and to educate the communities on stewardship.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI), Southern Sierra Nevada, California, USA

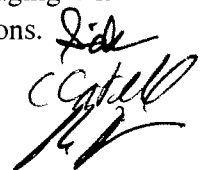
Sequoia National Park was established on August 25, 1890, making it the second national park in the U.S. system. General Grant National Park, the forerunner to Kings Canyon National Park, was established in 1890. In 1940 a larger area north of Sequoia was incorporated into General Grant National Park to become Kings Canyon National Park.

These two parks dominate the southern Sierra Nevada in California. Sequoia covers 164,475 hectares (406,426 acres), whereas Kings Canyon encompasses 185,682 hectares (458,831 acres) and together are designated as an International Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations Man and Biosphere Program. Today, the two national parks are administered by one park superintendent and a conservation staff headquartered in Three Rivers, California.

Each park has a unique landscape: Miles of alpine terrain, acres of first growth Sequoiadendron giganteum, caves, hot springs, waterfalls, , rare plants and wildlife, including American black bears, mountain lions, and golden eagles. Sequoia also has the highest mountain peak in the lower 48 states- Mt Whitney at 14, 494'- and one of the most important watersheds for almost a million people, and thousands of acres of agricultural land in the central valley. More than 1 .5 million visitors from around the world visit these parks annually.

IV. Commonalities and Reasons for Paring Samlaut PA and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks:

Samlaut PA and SEKI have similarly extraordinary landscapes including essential wildlife corridors, water drainages, and habitat for rare and endangered flora and fauna. Samlaut is one of the most important places in northwestern Cambodia for water quality and habitat for threatened wildlife species such as the Asian elephant, and the Asiatic black bear. Both parks, however, face significant external pressures for the precious resources found within their borders, and are engaging with local communities to promote stewardship and protect these resources for future generations.



It is estimated that current forest extraction rates for firewood and charcoal in Samlaut PA are seven times the sustainable level and will decimate much of the remaining standing forest in 10 years, not unlike the challenges faced by SEKI in the late 1800s. Deforestation can damage Samlaut PA's ability to serve as a watershed for the future. Outside pressure threatens the resources in SEKI, including global climate change and air pollutants.

Samlaut PA, known throughout the region for its gems (rubies and sapphires), was also exploited during the Civil War of the 1970s. Years of mining and gem exploration have left gaping holes in the forests that need restoration of native flora and fauna. SEKI, which has 116 years of restoration management experience, can provide Samlaut PA with the needed expertise to rehabilitate damaged and deforested areas, and share solid strategies for resource management.

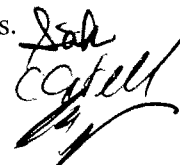
These parks share the high priority goals of preserving natural biodiversity and maintaining ecosystems and habitats; and implementing research, inventory and monitoring programs necessary to achieve success. They strive to work in partnership with surrounding communities in the development of compatible services and facilities to foster tourism, support local economies, improve resources qualities, and promote stewardship.

SEKI has a research and education partnership with the University of California at Merced and its Sierra Nevada Institute. MJP is working with The Earth Institute at Columbia University and the Director of the United Nations Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary, General Kofi Annan, on the Millennium Development Goals in Samlaut Commune, the villages bordering Samlaut PA.

V. Areas of cooperation may include:

- Sharing park management methods and philosophies
- Sharing cultural and natural resources management methods and techniques (such as Geographic Information_Systems, cave fauna inventory, fire management and watershed restoration)
- Sharing law enforcement methods and techniques
- Electronic communication and technical information exchanges, including programs for science and resource management applications
- Environmental education techniques, programs, and facilities, including plans and designs for youth curriculum
- Recreation and ecotourism management planning, including partnerships for economic development
- Sharing approaches to develop volunteer and "Friends" organizations for national park support

The United States Pacific West Region of the National Park Service (NPS) strongly encourages parks to share best management practices and promote environmental stewardship. Sharing best practices in park management with SEKI would help Samlaut protect its environmental resources for future generations as well as provide a viable watershed for local communities.



VI. Understandings:

Samlaut PA and SEKI agree to become sister parks. Within the framework of legal authority of both countries all exchanges should be subject to the supervision and instruction of the Cambodian Ministry of Environment, the United States Department of the Interior, and the National Park Service (NPS). All travel costs, including for any NPS employee or representative to travel to Cambodia will be sought from funds other than that of the NPS.

To this end, Samlaut Protected Area and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks desire to establish mutual cooperation and partnership in areas of management of natural resources, scientific research, visitor and community information and education, and law enforcement.

Through short term personnel exchanges, Samlaut PA and SEKI will share technical information and best management practices, with SEKI providing guidance to help Samlaut PA to work toward National Park status if that is what the Cambodian government and people desire.

Both parks agree to fund their own staffing in this endeavor. While the NPS may not presently spend congressionally appropriated dollars on international travel, it can commit limited personnel to projects, and can acquire and make available other technical expertise as non-NPS funding support becomes available.

It is generally understood that when personnel of one park visit or are detailed to the other, the park sending the employee will be responsible for the salary costs. SEKI can provide dormitory accommodation for Samlaut PA employees. Samlaut PA can house visitors in its Ranger Training Center.

Each exchange is to be negotiated and agreed upon individually and is dependent upon available resources.

The term of this relationship shall initially be five years. The term can be extended or amended, or may be terminated by either party through a three month written notification. This Agreement has equal status in both original languages (Khmer and English).

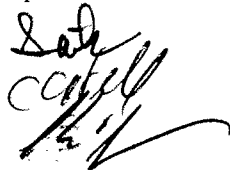
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SEKI Contact: Craig C. Axtell, Superintendent Tel.: 01-559-565-3101;

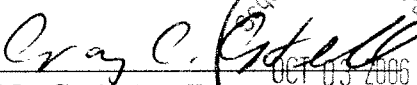
Email: craig_axtell@nps.gov


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Signed at SEKI, on this 3rd day of October 2006

On behalf of Sequoia and
Kings Canyon National Parks
California, USA

On behalf of Samlaut Protected Area and the
Department of Nature of Conservation and
Protection, Ministry of Environment
Kingdom of Cambodia



Mr. Craig Axtell
Superintendent

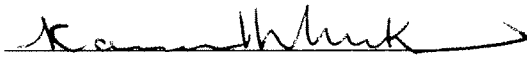



Mr. Chay Samith
Director

Witness

Witness


The Honorable Joseph Mussomeli
US Ambassador to Cambodia


His Excellency Dr. Mok Mareth
Senior Minister, Minister of Environment
Kingdom of Cambodia