

KOH KONG PROVINCE, CAMBODIA



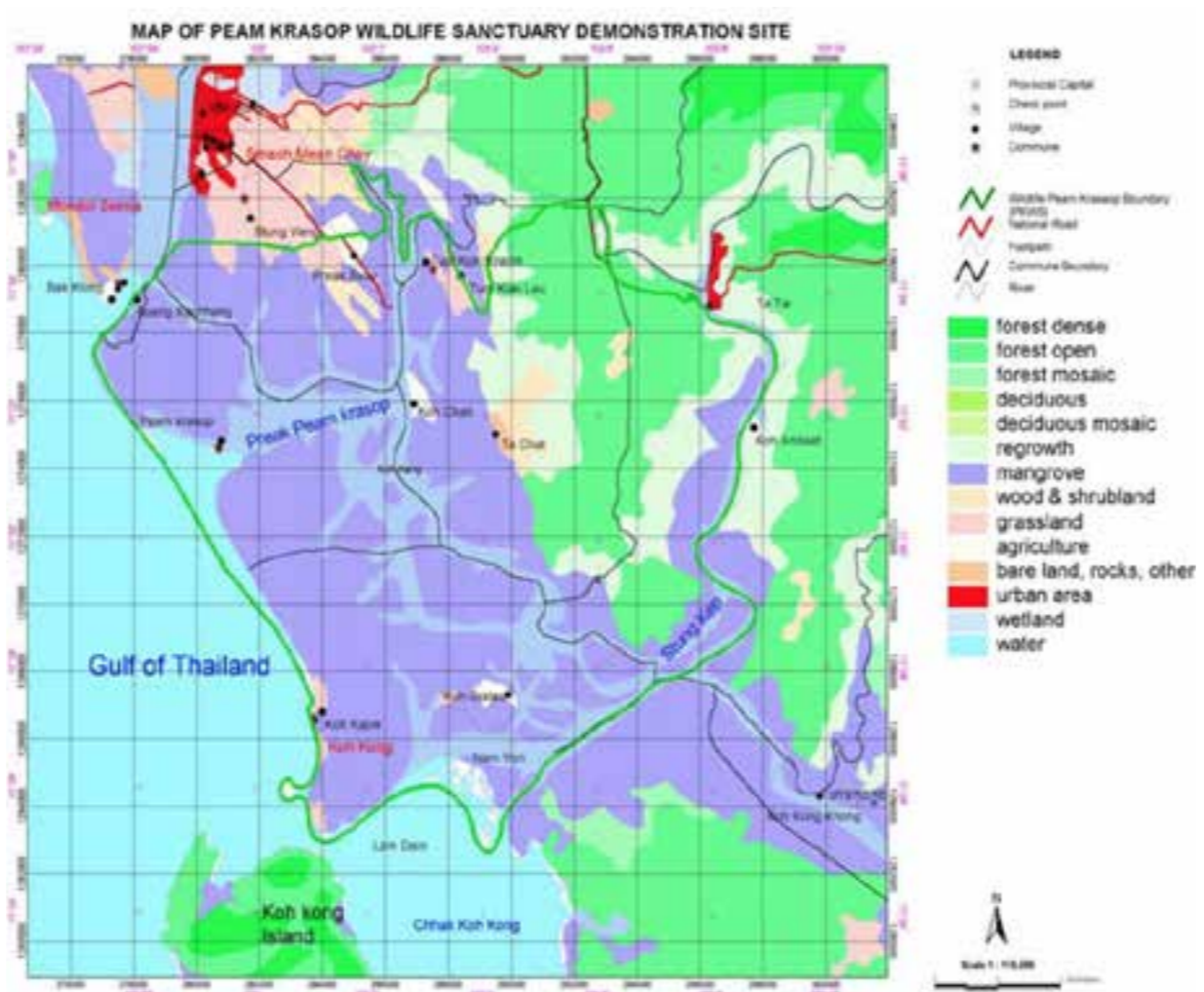
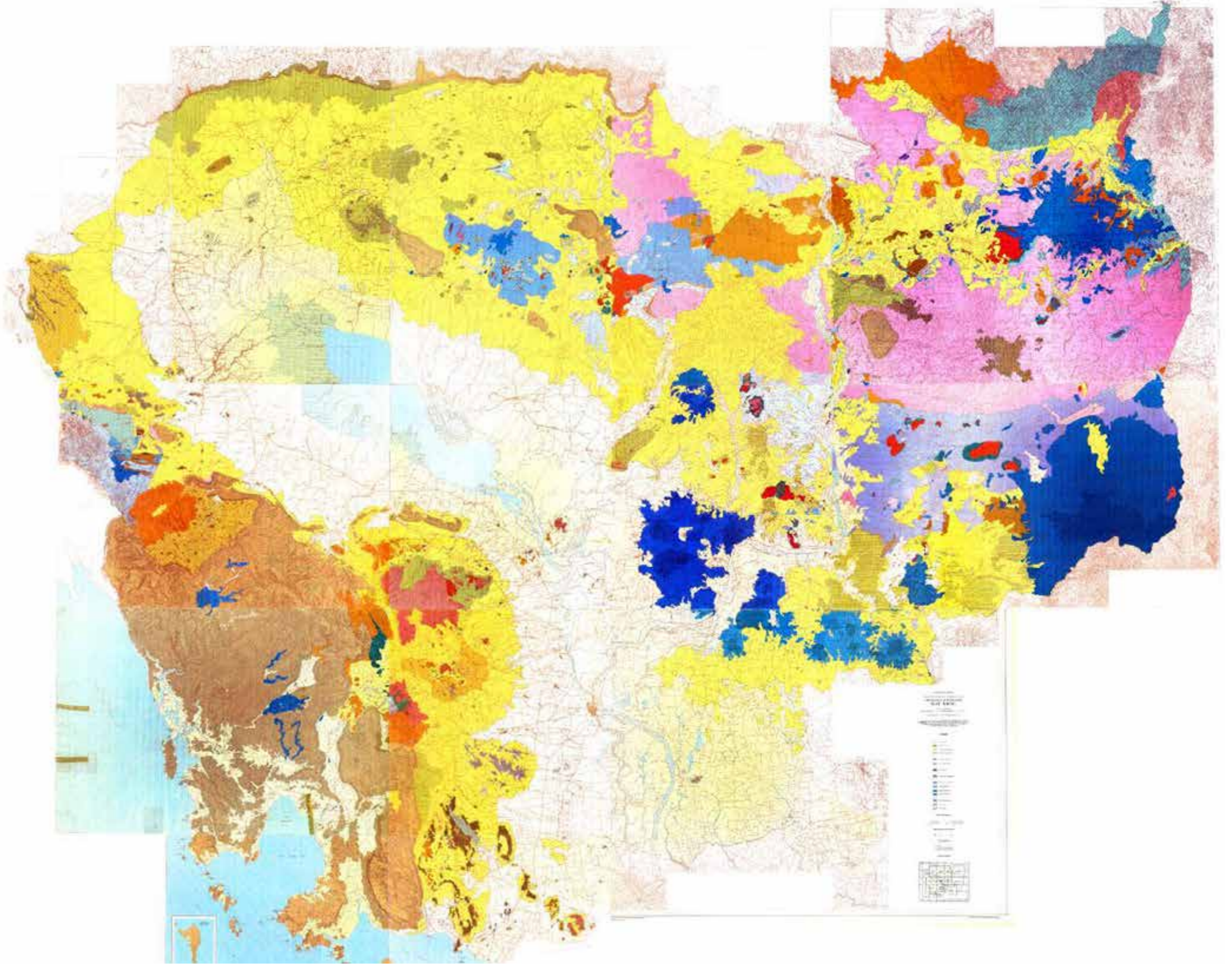
Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary



Koh Sralau village



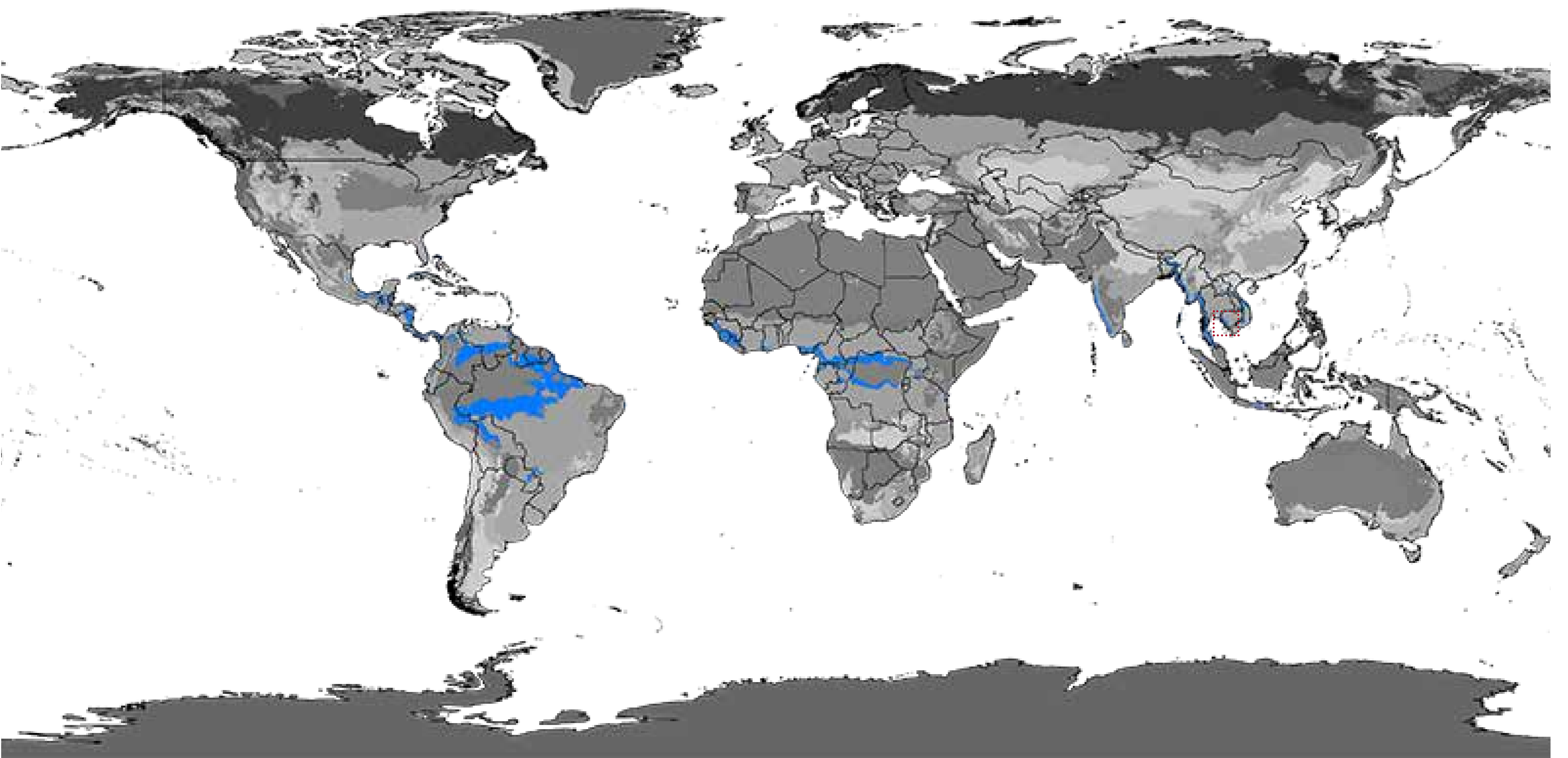
Koh Sralau village, Rural Khmer Houses



The climate of the area is similar to the rest of Cambodia in terms of being a tropical monsoon climate with two distinct seasons (wet and dry). The average temperature is 28 °C; and the annual rainfall ranges from 2,800-3,000 millimetres. The area is strongly influenced by surface freshwater runoff from the two rivers. The presence of intact mangrove areas contributes significantly to the stabilization of the coast against erosion by storms and tides.

Peam Krasop is the most important one of marine wildlife sanctuary that is under national protected areas system. It is the highest priority for mangrove protection in Cambodia. The area has an elevation of 0 – 2 metres, a perimeter of around 61,050 metres and lies in a deltaic flood plain bisected by numerous distributary channels and salt water inlets. The area lies about 15 km South-east of Koh Kong Town near the border with Trat Province of Thailand.

Peam Krasop is dominated by small alluvial islands immediately off the mainland of Koh Kong Province many of which have been formed by the deposition of mud and sand eroded from the sandstone catchments of the two main rivers, Peam Krasop estuary called Prek Peam Krasop (in Peam Krasop commune) and Stung Kep estuary (in Koh Kapik commune). The catchments of these rivers are located on the southern slope of the Cardamom Mountains. The soils consist of a thin organic mud or humus layer overlying sand and sandy loam, hence they are predominantly alluvial and sandstone soils of red or yellow podzol and coastal complex. Along the western coastline of the main island, there is well-developed mudflat, while the northern coastline is sandy. The site is classified into two wetland types (estuarine waters, and intertidal mud, sand, or salt flats).





small and large gather



filled with families



Rainfall distribution in Cambodia is strongly influenced by the two monsoons and also by topography, so the spatial pattern of rainfall varies throughout the country. The highest rainfall occurs in the southwest in coastal areas, with annual amounts ranging from 2000 mm to 3400 mm. In this region about 80% of the annual rainfall is received during the Southwest Monsoon season. The second highest rainfall occurs in the northeast plateau area where the annual rainfall amounts range from 1800 mm to over 2200 mm.

The population of Peam Krasop is around 9,000 people and about 90 percent of the population are migrants from different provinces. In total, there are 10 villages in 6 communes (in 3 districts) located within or adjacent to the demonstration site. The occupations of the population include fishing, charcoal production and mangrove logging. Agricultural farming and livestock breeding are common activities on a small scale; however, these agricultural activities are increasing significantly as a consequence of population growth.

The most critical threats to the site are habitat loss and reduction of aquatic resources, which result from direct use of mangrove for charcoal, over exploitation of marine resources, land clearance (land encroachment), soil erosion and sedimentation, and inappropriate waste dumping and discharge. Of the total of 8,912 people living at PKWS the majority are dependent on marine resources for direct use. Poverty is a key issue that is perceived as an underlying cause of environmental degradation in the area.

Due to the climate in this region, floods are a natural phenomenon however there has been an increase in flooding due to the large amount of rainfall, poor drainage system and the land grab activities (such as dredging) that block natural streams and disrupt the environment. As a result of these changes, communities living in Koh Sralau are forced to abandon their homes as they can no longer sustain their traditional way of living.

