Access to Collective Land Titles for Indigenous Communities in Cambodia

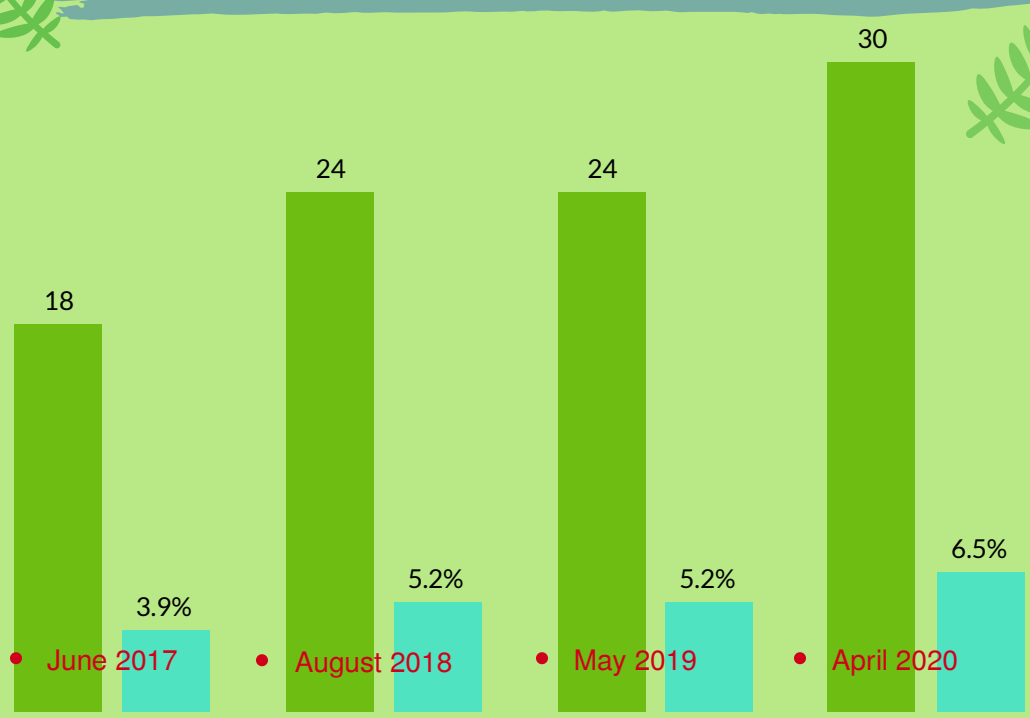
Collective land title ("CLT") is the shared ownership and rights of a community to their land and natural resources. In Cambodia, CLT for indigenous people over their traditional lands is recognized under the *2001 Land Law* and regulated under the *2009 Sub-Decree No. 83 on Procedures of Registration of Land of Indigenous Communities*. Despite this, in practice in Cambodia collective land registration has been almost non-existent.

There are approximately 458 indigenous communities in Cambodia, representing 24 different indigenous ethnicities with 23 unique languages across 15 provinces.

In 2017, the Ministry of Land, Management, Urban Planning and Construction ("MLMUPC") announced it would accelerate land registration for indigenous people for 10 communities per year.

In 34 months (from June 2017 – April 2020), only 12 Collective Land Titles were granted.

Communities granted CLTs by MLMUPC since 2017



Barriers to obtaining CLTs in Cambodia:

- Complex legal framework
- Poor implementation of the law
- Complex process and lengthy process (often taking 6+ years)
- Lack of resources in indigenous communities
- Lack of understanding by authorities

CCHR welcomes the acceleration of land registration for indigenous people and urges the Royal Government of Cambodia, including the MLMUPC, to take further steps to speed up registration and address the barriers facing indigenous communities who wish to register communal lands.

Sources:

- 1. Ministry of Land, Management, Urban Planning and Construction "MLMUPC" report in July on land registration; and interview with the official of the MLMUPC in July 2018.
- 2. Outcome report of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction in April 2020.
- 3. Cambodian Center for Human Rights, 'Access to Collective Land Titles for Indigenous Communities in Cambodia, 2016.

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