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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES IN TONLE SAP LAKE

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GLOBAL FISH ALLIANCE

Context:

- ◆ Sustainable Fisheries Radio Discussion
- ◆ Making a Contribution in Raising Awareness to the Rights of Fishermen
- ◆ Exposure Visit to Kampong Plok and Chong Khneas, Siem Reap
- ◆ National Dialogue on Local Innovations to Support Reform in Aquatic Resources Governance on the Tonle Sap Lake

Sustainable Fisheries Radio Discussion

To share the fisheries collaboration work on the Tonle Sap Lake and to raise awareness of fisheries issues to the public, G-FISH in collaboration with the Communications Task force has created a Radio Discussion program.

The program, “Sustainable Fisheries Radio Discussion”, will provide regular up to date information about the activities of fisheries stakeholders on the Tonle Sap Lake and also address any urgent and important issues that arise from the Fisheries Administration (FiA), Tonle Sap Authority (TSA), Ministry

of Labor (MoL), local authorities and fishermen.

The Sustainable Fisheries



Radio program will be of benefit to all people associated with fisheries or those who would like to learn more about fisheries. Fisheries experts from FiA, TSA, Fisheries NGOs, and Communities will come to share their fisheries work

and experiences on the program.

The Sustainable Fisheries discussion radio will cover all provinces around Tonle Sap Lake - Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap and Kampong Thom province.

(Continue to page 3)

Making a Contribution in Raising Awareness to the Rights of Fishermen



Floating village in Kampong Pluk Commune.

“Flooded forests are a valuable natural resource.”



Exposure visited to Kampong Pluk Commune.

The Coalition of Cambodia Fishers (CCF) has a clear mission in raising awareness for fishermen’s rights to receive benefits from natural resources. CCF is a non-profit organization working directly with fishermen in three areas in Cambodia—coastal, Mekong and Tonle Sap Lake regions.

Focusing on advocacy and building capacity, each of the CCF members are trained in democracy and rights, facilitation skills, and

as trainers, to allow them to work independently and inform villagers about their rights and democracy. CCF is also strengthening their network to allow the improvement of sustainable fisheries in the lake.

Currently, CCF is working in collaboration with local police officers and provincial Fisheries Administration (FiA), Fisheries organizations and villagers to raise awareness of fisheries resources and to improve live-

lihoods for fishery communities.

“At the end of 2012, we noticed that fish numbers had decreased especially smaller fish” Mr. Long Sochet, CCF Team leader says. He continues, “The shortage of fish this year really affects the life of the fishermen. I think the decrease is because of water shortages this year and because of illegal fishing that occurred in the middle of June 2012”

For further details about the work that CCF does please contact: Mr. LONG Sochet, CCF Leader.

Exposure Visit to Kampong Plok and Chong Khneas, Siem Reap

This exposure visit ran for two days from 13 to 14 December, 2012. The Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) invited fishery communities from Phat Sanday, Phras Konloun and Thoul Neang Sav Tripe to Siem Reap province to visit the Kam Pong Pluk district who offer an eco-tourism experience to visitors. Kam Pong Pluk provides visitors with a restaurant, beautiful scenery, and the opportunity to visit the unique and special flooded forest by boat.

This tourism project is designed to assist with the management of the conservation area at each community and improve livelihoods therefore reducing poverty in accordance with govern-

ment policy.

FACT and the Coalition of Cambodian Fishers (CCF) supported by G-FISH assisted with the flooded forest replanting activities to enhance the conservation area.

The objective of this visit was to assist with capacity building for the management of the conservation area, and to allow other communities to gain experience and understanding of a successful eco-tourism operation, which they can use to establish in their own communities. This in turn supports the Cambodian Base Organization (CBO) to manage the conservation area effectively.

On the First day of the visit

members of the Phat Sandy, Thoul Neang Sav and Phres Konlong communities went to Kam Pong Pluk to meet with the commune council and villagers to share their experiences. Following this meeting community members visited vegetable sellers and growers in the area.

During the second day members met with the commune chief at Chong Khneas for further discussions regarding eco-tourism operations. After this meeting members visited the water hyacinth handicraft center to view the handicrafts being made to sell to visitors. The visit concluded at FACT office for a debrief of the exposure visit.

For further details about the work please contact: Mr. SOUNG Sophat, FACT officer.

Sustainable Fisheries Radio Discussion *(Continue from page 1)*

Please join us to listen to our program which is scheduled to run on Saturday mornings from 8.10am to 9am. Our first discussion topic, will be Flooded Forest and Replanting. Other upcoming topics will include:

- Problems associated with cutting down flooded forests and solutions for avoiding this activity;
- Conservation areas on the Tonle Sap Lake;
- Fisheries reform;

- Why and how closed season is important for fisheries breeding, feeding and migration;
- What aquatic resources are in the Tonle Sap Lake;
- Patrolling of Community Fisheries (Cfi)
- Community Fisheries (Cfi) savings groups;
- Who are the relevant government officials for the Tonle Sap Lake;
- Role of Communities;
- Role of police and authorities in addressing illegal fishing activities;
- Role of civil society organizations;
- Role of media in broadcasting fisheries issues;
- Fishing gear-family fishing gear; and
- Fisheries Law.

For further details about the work please contact: Ms. NOU Vannsan, Communications and Networking Facilitator, G-FISH



FiA cracked down illegal fishing in Tonle Sap Lake.

National Dialogue on Local Innovations to Support Reform in Aquatic Resources Governance on the Tonle Sap Lake

In cooperation with WorldFish, the Cambodia Development Research Institute (CDRI) organized a workshop in order to invite all fisheries stakeholders to share their successful experiences from the Strengthening Aquatic Resources Governance (STARGO) project.

The purpose of this workshop was to discuss and exchange experiences and identify solutions for the future and establish the main activities that local communities are able to achieve in order to support fisheries reform and improve livelihoods.

Opening remarks and appreciation by H.E. Dr. NAO Thouk, Fisheries Administration Director, were given for the workshop on further actions to support reform in aquatic resource governance in the Tonle Sap Lake, and to community members from Phat Sanday, Kampong Ko and Peam Bang commune for their contribution toward preserving natural biodiversity in their communities.

Mr. Mam Kosal, Program Specialist from WorldFish Center, gave a presentation about the current STARGO project being conducted in

three communes on the Tonle Sap Lake: Phat Sanday, Kampong Ko and Peam Bang. This pilot project aims to promote collaborative resource management among key stakeholders, including community fisheries (CFi), Fisheries Administration (FiA), local authorities and civil society networks, to conserve biodiversity and enhance local livelihoods.

(Continue to page 4)

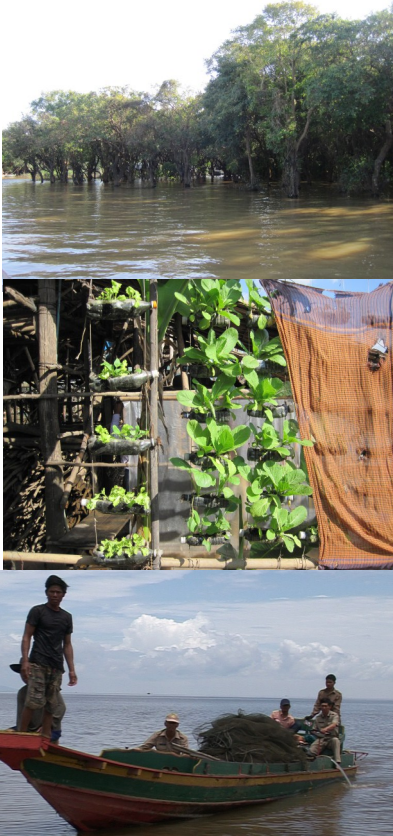
“To destroy flooded forests destroys a fish’s Home”



G-FISH team is meeting with Communities leaders and Commune in chief in Chong Khneas commune .

National Dialogue on Local Innovations to Support Reform in Aquatic Resources Governance on the Tonle Sap Lake

(Continue from page 3)



The STARGO process is a community-led approach that allows relevant stakeholders involved in the development and testing of various innovations, institutional in particular, to improve community fisheries management and help conserve contested natural resource areas. Activities include strengthening CFis through testing of an expanded structure of current

CFi management, enhanced patrolling to allow for protection of larger areas of fishing grounds by local communities, and community-based commercial fisheries production. Some of these activities are intended to generate sustainable income to protect fishing grounds by the communities.

At the end of the workshop, all participants discussed the

challenges of works. They contributed new ideas on how to improve the work approach, and support reform in aquatic resource governance on the Tonle Sap Lake.

For further details about the work please contact: Mr. MAM Kosal, WorldFish Program Specialist

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