



Social Assessment

Peak Kanteil Floating Village, Tonle Sap Biophere Reserve

Introduction

Traditionally, the communities on the Tonle Sap Great Lake have a diverse ethnic background, with many fishers frequently of Cham (muslin Khmer) or Vietnamese descent, attracted to the resource rich fishery. As per the history of Cambodia there is traditional migration of ethnic groups for natural resource exploitation. Many Khmer farmers migrate in the dry season to become fishers for a short period of time, typically from February to May (Baran et al, 2007).

Land tenure has been a persistent issue for all Cambodians and many vulnerable communities and ethnic minorities do not formally own land. As such living in floating communities and seasonally utilizing natural resources is an important niche livelihood. Over time, many Khmers moved from their own villages, by necessity or choice, to live on the lake for fishing as their main economic activity. The composition of ethnic groups in Tonle Sap floating communities is dominated by Khmers, with minority groups of Chinese or Sino-Khmers, Vietnamese, and Chams (Muslin- Khmer). In general the Khmers are traditionally farmers, who have become fishers, the Chinese and/or Sino Khmer minority tend to be more active in the fish trade and small business rather than fishing and the Vietnamese and Cham are traditional fishers, who over time with changing political boundaries found themselves as minority groups.

People of minority ethnicity are said to be vulnerable to various forms of social exclusion or discrimination that inhibits their access to certain services (e.g., health, education) or opportunities (e.g. training, employment) (Brett et al, 2007). State support for vulnerable groups is limited. Social protection systems, notably pensions and social insurance, are largely confined to those in the civil service or with formal sector employment. In theory, government equity funds exist to help the poor gain access to health services, but in practice these have limited impact, especially for minority groups. NGOs play an active role in providing a range of social welfare services, and actively seek to engage with ethnic minorities.

Indigenous Peoples in the Project Area

Peak Kantiel is one of the floating villages on Tonle Sap, around Prek Toal Core Area of Tonle Sap Biophere Reserve. This village is only accessible by boat from Siem Reap or from Batambang. There are around 180 households with 900 people living in the village of Peak Kanteil. The villagers belong to the following ethnic groups: Khmers (70%), Chinese or Sino Khmer (20%), Chams (Muslim-Khmer) (5%) and Vietnamese (5%).



អគ្គការ អប់រំបរិស្ថាន ទេសចរណ៍ធម្មជាតិ និង អភិវឌ្ឍន៍សហគមន៍
CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, ECOTOURISM & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

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Khmer: Khmer is the main ethnic group in Cambodia and in Peak Kanteil where they represent 70% of the village population. They settled their permanence floating houses in the village of Peak Kanteil about 50 years ago and most of them are fishers.

Chinese and/ or Sino-Khmer: They are active in the fish trade and industry. They are richer social class and economically important and dynamic group. Chinese and Sino-Khmer represent around 20% of the village population.

Chams (Muslin-Khmer): Established in Cambodia since the ancient Charm Empire of central Vietnam, they are excellent fishers and boat builders. They are Muslims speak Malay and very well organized and integrated in Khmer society. Chams represent around 5% of the village population.

Vietnamese: Ancient migrants from Mekong delta, these experienced and innovative fishers are often living in houseboats. Vietnamese represent around 5% of the village population.

Expected project impacts (both positive and negative)

The over-exploitation of the flooded forest resources of the Tonle Sap Lake (fishing, wood collecting, wildlife poaching) puts increasing pressure on the ecosystem, and by consequence on the human population. The community of Peak Kanteil is one of the most vulnerable to the degradation of their ecosystem and to the depletion of its natural resources as they completely rely on it. An absence of access to land in that far-off area further limits their livelihood alternatives. The Project will:

- teach children about environmental awareness and good practices (basic waste management, sustainable harvesting of natural resources)
- raise specific and locally adapted environmental awareness to children who represent the future keepers and stakeholders of their natural environment
- teach children to protect their environment and livelihoods on the long-term

Description of how free, prior and informed consultations have been carried out with affected communities during design of the project proposal

OSMOSE has long experience already working in the village in the past, with positive participation and engagement and support from children, families and the head of the village. This proposal is in response to community requests for Osmose to continue working with them.

During the community meetings in June 2013, the Peak Kanteil Village Chief was invited and involved: specifically asking when OSMOSE will conduct further activities in his village.



Before writing the proposal, another meeting was held with the council of Koh Chiveang commune and Peak Kanteil Village Chief to ensure that the community is happy with the re-starting of the Environmental Education Project. The Commune Chief, the Village Chief and the people in the village are all happy to know that OSMOSE will seek funds with IUCN to re-start project activities to support them.

End of October 2013, during OSMOSE Study Tour and Participatory Action Plan for 2014, the Chief of Koh Chiveang Commune and Peak Kanteil Village Chief were also invited to joined and participated in the meeting.

OSMOSE has received the same questions from the village chief of Peak Kanteil: when OSMOSE will conduct further activities in his village and how is the result of OSMOSE funding proposal with IUCN? We answered him that expected result of our funding proposal with IUCN is in early 2014, so that is why the re-starting Environmental Education in Peak Kanteil remains a priority in OSMOSE activity for the 2014 Action Plan which also raised by all the participants during their discussion.

Measures taken to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits

There should be no adverse impacts. The community has requested our support and Osmose has made sure that the EE classes will be integrated inside the official hours of the school, so that the normal family life is not affected by the program in any bad way. The project’s participatory approach combined with an existing relationship with the beneficiaries will help to ensure positive communication. This is a forgotten community, without formal support, but of huge importance due to its location in the heart of the Biosphere reserve. The community is so proud to have Osmose helping them, even if it is just for Environmental Education Project as it has a positive impact by positively acknowledging the communities role in managing the environment.

Implementation and follow up of measures taken and monitoring

As part of the environmental education’s participatory approach we monitor community engagement in activities to ensure good representation of all community members including ethnic minorities. We also have regular meetings with the beneficiaries and the community leaders. Any impacts, either positive or negative, can be identified through these channels and this is further facilitated by the existing relationships OSMOSE has with the community.



A grievance mechanism

As per OSMOSE experience, grievances can be raised directly with the project staff, and/or made directly to OSMOSE management in Siem Reap by phone or during one of their site visits. With an independent board and membership with several organizations and close working links with government there are multiple ways that grievances can be raised through third parties.

See below the table of our third-party contact for grievances:

Group	Third- Party Contact
For any issue	Board member of OSMOSE CAMBODIA: 1) Mrs Nathalie Saphon-Ridel 2) Mr. Jady Smith 3) Mr. Bunthan Keat 4) Mr. Jacques Guichandut Board member of OSMOSE FRANCE: 1) Frederic GOES 2) Nathalie NIVOT 3) Frederic Joly
Governmental	1) Ministry of Environment (Environmental Research Station, Prek Toal Core Area) 2) Ministry of Education Youth & Sport (Department of Education Youth & Sport in Batambang) 3) Ministry of Tourism(Department of Tourism in Siem Reap)
NGOs	1) Cooperation Committee for Cambodia(CCC) 2) Live and Learn Environmental Education 3) VVOB Education for Development Cambodia



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<p align="center">Local Authority</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mr.Thiya Kvan, the head of Koh Chiveang Commune 2) Mr. Sophan Choun, the head of Peak Kanteil Village
<p align="center">For OSMOSE Ecotourism</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cambodia Community Based Ecotourism Network(CCBEN) 2) Connecting Communities, Environment & Responsible Tourism (ConCERT)
<p align="center">For OSMOSE Saray Tonle Project(Water Hyacinth Handicraft)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Angkor Handicraft Association(AHA) 2) Association Artisanat Cambodge (AAC)