

# Tonle Sap Conservation Project



## Background

The Tonle Sap is the largest permanent freshwater body in Southeast Asia and is one of the most productive freshwater ecosystems in the world. The Tonle Sap ecosystem is critically important for Cambodians as a source of nutrition and livelihood. The population of the Tonle Sap sub-catchment is about 3 million people, many of whom derive at least part of their subsistence needs or income from the lake's resources. Freshwater fish from the Tonle Sap constitute about half of the country's total production. They come both from large commercial fishing lots and from community fisheries.

The main threats to biodiversity are the over-exploitation of forest resources, encroachment and land clearance, overexploitation of fish and wildlife resources, and the impact of exotic species on native flora and fauna. Upstream developments, particularly large-scale dam construction on the Mekong tributaries that could potentially impact annual flood levels, are also of major concern.

## Purpose of project

The TSCP aims at developing the management capacity for biodiversity conservation in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve (TSBR).

## Key results and reports

- Establishment of five management centres for the conservation of protected areas (2007)
- 284 families directly benefiting from the alternative sustainable livelihoods support (2007)
- 162 rangers, managers and technical staff trained and qualified in protected area management (2007)
- Completion of the Management Plan for Prek Toal (2007)
- Biodiversity database developed and monitoring report for 2003-2006 completed (2007)
- Technical and financial support and training provided for 52 rangers and custodians for law enforcement and regulations in the Core Areas (2007)

## Main activities

The TSCP is implemented through 12 main activities - five deal with capacity for management of biodiversity, three with development of biodiversity monitoring and management systems, three with promotion of environmental awareness, education and outreach, and one with staff training. The main project activities are as follows:

- develop comprehensive management plans covering an operational period of five years for each of the core areas
- establish biophysical profiles of the eight fish sanctuaries, including development of a management framework for biodiversity conservation in the buffer zone
- mark the boundaries of the three core areas
- identify subsistence activities that currently threaten biodiversity in and around the core areas, and develop alternative sustainable livelihoods develop and implement staff training
- develop and implement standardized procedures for the designation of protected sites in the reserve
- design and implement a system for biodiversity monitoring and management in the core areas and other key sites, focusing on globally significant species and populations
- establish a rapid response mechanism for seasonal protection of biodiversity
- develop a strategy for the control of exotic species and implement management trials
- develop and implement an environmental awareness, education and outreach program (EAEOP)
- provide environmental education centers
- integrate EAEOP into schools around the lake

## Contributing donor(s)

- **UNDP:** US\$630,000
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF):** US\$3,600,000
- **Asia Development Bank (ADB):** US\$540,000
- **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS):** (US\$200,000)
- **UN Volunteers:** US\$220,000

## Duration

December 2004-2011 (this project is under implementation)

## Total budget

US\$5,190,000

## Project Partners

**Executing agency:** Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC)

**Co-operating agencies:** Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve Secretariat, Ministry of Environment  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

## Project delivery

**2005:** US\$374,425 (UNDP/GEF)

**2006:** US\$745,508 (UNDP GEF)

**2007:** US\$712,674 (UNDP GEF)

## Location

Tone Sap Biosphere Reserve (TSBR) focusing on the core conservation areas of Prek Toal, Boueng Chhmar and Stung Sen

## Thematic Area

**Corporate Thematic Area:** Energy and Environment

**Cross-cutting themes:** Gender, Poverty Reduction, Governance

**UN Country Programme Outcome:** 3.5: Governments and local communities empowered to better manage biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides

## Millennium Development Goal

**Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

## Contact

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