

HOW DO WOMEN IN PREK TOAL VILLAGE (TONLE SAP BIOSPHERE RESERVE, CAMBODIA) PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM ECOTOURISM?

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Abstract

This study assesses how women in the floating village of Prek Toal in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, participate and benefit from the ecotourism activities in their area. The study also investigates women’s perspective on ecotourism within their community, how it affects their lives, and if they have expectations of current and future benefits or changes resulting from ecotourism.

This study is conducted in the context of current studies on livelihoods in the Tonle Sap region, including the recent technical report, “Influence of Built Structures on Local Livelihoods: Case Studies of Road Development, Irrigation, and Fishing Lots,”(ADB, 2007a) identifying ecotourism as one of the recommended livelihood options for villagers in fishing villages of the Tonle Sap. The study findings indicate that while fishing remains the main source of income, an overall decline in fish catch per household makes the people of these fishing communities particularly vulnerable. Promoting rural development that enables new livelihood alternatives is seen as a means to improve people’s livelihoods while reducing competition and pressure on the natural resource base, such as fisheries.

Focusing on women’s experience with ecotourism, this study is sensitive to the local context of a riparian community in the Tonle Sap region, and specifically in a fishing village, where women traditionally exercise diverging roles and appreciate different responsibilities from men. (FAO, 2003) Studies in the Tonle Sap region such as “Gender Roles in Natural Resource Management in the Tonle Sap Region”(1998) identify that current gender dynamics, which frame the control of resources and benefits can undermine women’s involvement in development activities.

This study considers the influence of current ecotourism activities upon women living in Prek Toal floating village located within the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. Research for this report was conducted in three locations, Phnom Pen, Siem Reap and Prek Toal village, Cambodia. Literature review and key informant interviews and discussions were conducted in Phnom Penh and fieldwork using participatory assessment tools was conducted in Prek Toal village.

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List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CAMC	Core Area Management Centre
CBVT	Community Based Village Tour
CDRI	Cambodian Development Research Institute
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
MoE	Ministry of Environment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
TAP	Tourist Assessment Process
TSCP	Tonle Sap Conservation Project
TIES	The International Ecotourism Society
TSSLP	Tonle Sap Sustainable Livelihoods Project
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

Conversion

4,000 Riel = about 1 US dollar

KEY TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

Buffer zone. A zone that usually surrounds or adjoins core areas, and is used for cooperative activities compatible with sound ecological practices, including environmental education, recreation, ecotourism, and research. In the Tonle Sap biosphere reserve, a buffer zone of about 5,400 square kilometers (km²) surrounds the core areas up to the outer limit of the flooded forest. (RGC, 2007)

Community Fishery- a new fishery management system in Cambodia whereby more than fifty per cent of fishing grounds that were once sectioned into privately operated fishing lots are now released for local community management and access.

Core areas -Securely protected sites for conserving biodiversity, monitoring minimally disturbed ecosystems, and undertaking research and other low-impact uses such as education. In the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, core areas are in Prek Toal (213 km²), Battambang; Boeng Tonle Chhmar (Moat Kla) (145.6 km²), Kampong Thom; and Stung Sen (63.5 km²), Kampong Thom. (RGC, 2007)

Ecotourism- Responsible travel to natural areas to conserve the environment as well as improving the welfare of the local people. (defined by TIES) (Gutierrez, et.al. 2005)

Fish Paste (prahoc)-a processed fish product traditionally made by women which involves fish peeling, application of ingredients, cutting the fish head and selling the processed fish

Fishing Lot-fishing ground leased to private operators for large, commercial-scale fishing activities with restricted public access during open fishing season.

Introduction

Ecotourism

Ecotourism as defined by the International Ecotourism Society (TIES) is ‘responsible travel to natural places that conserve the environment and improve the welfare of the local people.’ (Gutierrez et.al., 2005) Eco-tourism has been identified as an attractive approach to wetland management in Cambodia, providing economic rationale for conservation developing a sense of stewardship among local communities who benefit from tourism. (Siphan, 2000) For ecotourism to be successful and sustainable, projects must promote sustainable development by establishing a ‘durable productive base that allows local inhabitants and eco-tourist service providers to enjoy rising standards of living.’ (Barkin, 1996) Ecotourism must actively incorporate the local society through programs to meet their fundamental needs for income and employment as well as incorporating people in service planning and provisions.

Ecotourism can be seen as a sustainable development tool that benefits the local community, and participation in ecotourism activities can be used as a strategy to engage local people in land stewardship that directly contributes to their livelihoods. However, the benefits of ecotourism are not experienced equally by members of the community and past studies demonstrate that elites and particularly men, frequently co-opt and come to dominate community-based development efforts as well as benefits that accrue from tourism activities. (Scheyvens, 2000). Gayle Nelson, a former Gender Issues Advisor for the South Pacific Forum Secretariat, identifies that design stage gender analysis of ecotourism projects should discern the impacts upon men and women’s control of and access to, resources. During her work in the Pacific, Nelson observed that women and men have different responsibilities in relation to the environment, thus creating different sets of knowledge. The utilization of this knowledge, its spiritual meaning and value also diverge. Therefore, in order to provide tourists with a cultural view that integrates both men and women’s unique experience, both men and women should be incorporated in activities guiding environmental and cultural field trips. (Nelson, 2001)

Ecotourism in the Tonle Sap

The Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve is one of the most promising locations for ecotourism development in Cambodia’s protected areas based on its unique natural ecosystem supporting rich biodiversity, such as rare waterbird species that attracts birdwatchers from around the globe. The lake’s proximity to Angkor Wat also makes it an opportune place to create secondary destination spots for visitors who are not specialized birders, prolonging tourists’ time and expenditures in Cambodia.

Currently, there is limited tourism development around the Tonle Sap Lake although tourist agency operators suggest that up to 30 percent of the tourists visiting Angkor Wat also tour the lake. (Chu et. al., 2006) The priority of sustaining biodiversity around the lake limits options for development and visitation activities to small-scale activities. Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary represents the first ecotourism site integrated within the management of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. Currently, attractions for tour groups and individual travelers of Angkor Wat also include Chhong Khneas floating village, Gecko Environmental Center, as well as the recently established Kompung Phluk community-based tourism site.

Prek Toal Core Area Future Visitation

Ecotourism in the Prek Toal Core Area has blossomed since its inception, seeing increased visitation to the reserve each year. In 2006, the Core Area Management Center (CAMC) recorded 900 visitors entering the Sanctuary, observing a nine-fold increase since 2000 (See Fig.1). (Kheng 2007) Ministry of Environment (MoE) future visitation goals for Prek Toal anticipate 10,000 tourists per annum, which would fully support operation costs in the core area and ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts. (Bonheur, 2007)



Figure 1 Prek Toal Core Area Tourist Visitation. Source: (Bonheur 2003b; Kheng 2007)

Women in ecotourism

Current studies on livelihoods in the Tonle Sap region, including the recent technical report, “Influence of Built Structures on Local Livelihoods: Case Studies of Road Development, Irrigation, and Fishing Lots,”(ADB, 2007a) identifying ecotourism as one of the recommended livelihood options for villagers in fishing villages of the Tonle Sap. The study findings indicate that while fishing remains the main source of income, an overall decline in fish catch per household makes the people of these fishing communities particularly vulnerable. Promoting rural development that enables new livelihood alternatives is seen as a means to improve people’s livelihoods while reducing competition and pressure on the natural resource base, such as fisheries.

Focusing on women’s experience with ecotourism, this study is sensitive to the local context of a riparian community in the Tonle Sap region, and specifically in a fishing village, where women traditionally exercise diverging roles and appreciate different responsibilities from men. (FAO, 2003) Studies in the Tonle Sap region such as “Gender Roles in Natural Resource Management in the Tonle Sap Region”(1998) identify that current gender dynamics, which frame the control of resources and benefits can undermine women’s involvement in development activities.

Women’s participation in ecotourism presents an opportunity to reduce the pressure families experience to devote all household energy and resources into fishing and fishing-related activities by incorporating a supplementary source of revenue from serving tourists. Additionally, in fishing

villages of the Tonle Sap Lake, ecotourism potentially represents an alternative income generating activity, overriding (and possibly addressing) many of the constraints that can cripple women's capacity to take initiatives to improve their livelihoods and support their families. While gender roles are not static, and necessarily vary according to income levels and other factors (Ballard, et. al., 2007), women's current roles positioning them close to the household and within the village present opportunities for women to host and serve tourists in ways that complement their current activities and responsibilities.

Research Goal:

The main question of that this study will attempt to answer is:

How do the women in the village of Prek Toal within the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve participate and benefit from ecotourism?

To determine the influence of ecotourism on women in Prek Toal Village, this report will assess:

1. Women's participation in tourism.
2. Women's perceived benefits from tourism.
3. Women's perception of tourism in the future.

Research for this report was conducted in three locations, Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Prek Toal village, Cambodia. Literature review and key informant interviews and discussions were conducted in Phnom Penh. Fieldwork was conducted in Prek Toal village and additional representatives were interviewed in Siem Reap. The first part of the paper is devoted to an overview of the Tonle Sap Lake identifying the relevant issues of women's livelihoods and the conception of conservation and ecotourism in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve and specifically Prek Toal. The paper provides a review of the village study area and ecotourism activities before presenting the process and findings from the fieldwork study.

The Tonle Sap Lake and Women's Livelihoods



Figure 2 Map of Cambodia

The Tonle Sap Great Lake, located in the central floodplain of Cambodia is a dynamic wetland environment created by a unique hydrological system of seasonal flooding. The floodplain ecosystem establishes conditions for an abundance of natural resources supporting a landscape that promotes high biodiversity and provides livelihoods for at least 15 percent of the population and sustenance for the entire Cambodian society. The inland fisheries supported by the Tonle Sap Lake system form the backbone of Cambodian food security, however the people of the Tonle Sap Area experience the highest incidence of poverty in the country. (ADB, 2003) The rich environmental wealth does not equitably contribute to the welfare of the surrounding people and rather the highly profitable resources become a source of conflict among stakeholders, leading to violence in the recent past. Unequal access rights, growing population pressures, severe poverty, insufficient or nonexistent rights of land tenure, cultural and ethnic divisions and a badly weakened civil society are all factors degrading the natural and social fabric and undermining the sustainability of biodiversity and development in the area. (FACT, 2002)



Figure 4 Tonle Sap floodplain and six surrounding provinces. (Keskinen, 2003)

Women in fishing villages in the Tonle Sap

Cambodian women constitutionally are granted equal rights with men, but the societal status of women remains lower than that of men. (Keskinen, 2003) Surveys indicate that 32% of the women in Cambodia are illiterate with rural women twice as likely to be illiterate than urban women (Id). In the 2007 ADB report, “Promoting Gender Equality and Women Empowerment: GAD Activity for Enhancing the Role of Women in Inland Fisheries in Cambodia,” survey findings indicate literacy rates are higher for males than for females and more females than males never attend school. In fishing areas where health service are limited, men have greater access to health care than women and more of the household budget is spent on health care for men than women. (ADB, 2007b) Based on a historical legacy of conflict and civil war compounded with migration and movement, Cambodia has a young demography and in the adult population, there are a greater percentage of women than men leading to an estimated 29 percent of female-headed households. Based on a current Participatory Poverty Assessment by the Cambodian Development Resource Institute (CDRI), the majority of the women headed households in communities in the Tonle Sap Region are poor or destitute and women headed households are also more vulnerable to falling into poverty as a result of family member illness than other households. (Brandon, et. al., 2007)

In fishing villages along the Tone Sap Lake, studies identify that access to natural resources in the region differ between men and women and the consistent differences in livelihood activities necessarily influence gender-based opportunities. (ADB 2007b; FAO 2003; Keskinen 2003) Generally, women’s activities can include petty trade and exchange of labor, operating convenience stalls, tending to gardens as well as collecting various natural resources as well as making and selling handicrafts. Men’s time in fishing villages is predominantly consumed with fishing and fish labor, and therefore women become chiefly responsible for fish processing, as well as selling fish and agricultural products. (Keskinen, 2003) Studies, however, identify that in fishing villages with

limited access to agricultural land, a great percentage of women are not only involved in post-harvesting but also actively engaged in fishing. (FAO, 2003) Women fish individually or assist men, but gears and large equipment limit women’s capacity to do much of the “heavy” work in fishing. Women are not capable of manually using a fishing boat and therefore are mostly involved in small-scale fishing using smaller nets as well as to fish in more secure areas along the river and lake banks rather than deep within the flooded forest. (ADB, 2007b) Importantly, women are involved in a wide range of activities that contribute to the household income such that a report on “Gender Roles in Natural Resource Management in the Tonle Sap Region” (FAO, 1998) highlights that women have “triple” responsibility to engage not only in a variety of income generating activities but also to care and manage the household as well as participating in community-managing affairs.

<u>Gender Divisions of Labor</u>	
(Results compiled from survey data in the Tonle Sap Region)	
<i>Fishing</i>	Mostly men
<i>Fish-related activities</i>	Mostly older women
•Preparing fishing implements/cages	
•Fish processing (making past; smoking)	
•Fish trade	
<i>Non-fish trade</i>	Exclusively women
<i>Handicrafts</i>	Exclusively women
<i>Reproductive work</i>	Exclusively women
•Cooking, child and elderly care, household maintenance	
Source: BP Resurreccion, 2005.	

Figure 5 Gender Divisions of labor in the Tonle Sap Region

Women in fishing villages traditionally face challenges related to a lack of access to tools and credit, compounded with less decision-making power and training opportunities (FAO, 2003). Tarr identifies that problematic access to Cambodia’s freshwater fisheries additionally affect poor women differently from poor men. (Tarr, 2003) Fisheries reforms have taken strides to improve the situation, releasing privately operated fishing lots to community management in order to increase public access and control of fishing grounds. However remaining private fishing lots still restrict access to the best stock and in fishing areas that have been released for “open access,” both access and benefits are distributed unevenly. Additionally households interviewed in the 2007 CDRI Participatory Poverty Assessment, report a decline in fish resources, a greater amount of time spent fishing and consequently, the need to intensify fishing activities. Poorer people experience the greatest challenges in finding fish. Consequently, considering women’s traditional role in processing fish for sale and sustenance, the increasing amount of time devoted to fish-finding places additional strain upon women’s, and particularly poorer women’s, ability to support family food

consumption. Chuum adds that the pressure to find fish means that poorer women often join their husbands in finding fish, which can lead to an older daughter missing schooling opportunities to adopt many of her mother's responsibilities caring for the children. (Tarr, 2003) Thus, gender-centric livelihood obstacles heighten women's level of vulnerability in the community and make female-headed households particularly susceptible to falling into poverty.

Women in the fishing village of Prek Toal

In the village of Prek Toal, fishing continues to be the main source of household income and the main occupation of both women and men despite the declining fish catch per household. (ADB, 2007a) The continuing operation of Fishing Lot No. 2 restricts the access of local villagers to the most productive fishing grounds, but the fishing lot also provides employment opportunities for lower income women, such as fish processing. However these employment opportunities are dwindling based on the increasing use of outside labor and processing machines.

The release of Fishing Lot No. 3 to community fishery management is observed to increase access for local villagers, 90 percent of whom are part of the Community Fishery, increasing opportunities to secure sustenance and income from fishing. (Chhun, 2005) However better off households are seen to appreciate the greatest benefits from the reforms because they have resources to upgrade and modernize their gear to intensify fishing. The intensive large-scale fishing continues in the face of community fishery regulations to permit only small scale harvesting. (ADB, 2007a) These findings count against women, and particularly women heads of households, who continue to rely on small-scale fishing.

The Tonle Sap Lake: Conservation and Ecotourism

The Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve

The Tonle Sap Lake was designated as a multiple-use protected area in 1993 in an effort to maintain the ecologically and economically important resources of the lake was recognized within the United Nations Environment (UNESCO) world network of Biosphere Reserves in 1997 and the subsequent establishment of the lake of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve within national legislation in 2001, can be seen as a remedial step promoting natural and human sustainability within the context of the area's volatile political and societal conditions. The comprehensive agenda of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme determine that the area will fulfill three main functions: (i) Conservation—contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation (ii) Development—foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable (iii) Logistic support—support for demonstration projects, environmental education and training, research and monitoring related to local, regional, national and global issues of conservation and sustainable development. The Reserve status also establishes three land use zones including a core area for long-term protection and conservation with limited access granted for scientific research and monitoring, a buffer zone where human settlements are permitted and sustainable fisheries are managed in compliance with conservation goals of the Biosphere Reserve, and a transitional zone where agricultural and other economic development activities are managed to reduce detrimental impacts upon the other zones. Within the Cambodian Royal Decree, Reserve status was granted with qualifications countering the usual principles of the UNESCO programme. (MRC, 2000) The Royal Decree is thus signed with the agreement for the

continuation of commercial fishing lot operations and development of ecotourism ventures within the core areas. (RGC, 2001) (See Annex 1)

The decision to permit ecotourism within the core areas of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve counters the UNESCO standards designed to ensure sustainable conservation efforts in ecosystems with rich and unique biodiversity. The Cambodian government's allowance of economic ventures within the bounds of the protected areas presents challenges towards ensuring sustainable conservation in protected areas. However ecotourism also potentially creates opportunities to harmonize natural resource protection with improvements for local inhabitants.

Prek Toal Core Area and Ecotourism

One of the three selected core areas for the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve is Prek Toal, encompassing an area of 21,342 hectare on the northwestern shore of the Tonle Sap. (See Annex 1) A fishing lot overlaps the entire surface of the Core Area and four villages are located to the north of the protected area in the buffer zone. (See Annex 2) Key reasons for the selection of the Core Area include the unique biota and flooded forest compared to other locations around the lake floodplain, as well as the potential for tourism. (Kosal, 1998)

In the 1990s, aerial, ground and interview surveys established the breeding colonies of endemic and endangered bird populations in the area. (WCS, 2006) Surrounding communities posed a serious threaten the birds' survival due to the local villagers' heavy exploitation of eggs and chicks. Efforts in 1997 on the part of the government to restrict waterbird hunting coupled with conservation awareness work by the International Conservation Organization greatly reduced the collection, however in 2001, the seizure of a one boat containing 1,400 poached cormorant eggs sparked the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to start the Tonle Sap Program, training and employing a conservation team compose of local villagers and many former bird collectors to conduct near year-round monitoring and conservation at the nesting sites. (Goes, 2005) In collaboration with the field conservation efforts on the part of WCS, Osmose--a non-profit organization already promoting Prek Toal bird conservation and conducting small bird watching tours to the preserve--started a program of environmental awareness and community development.

The MoE has promoted ecotourism in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve Core Area of Prek Toal since 1999 following the 1998 report, "Potential for Ecotourism in the Tonle Sap Area, Cambodia" produced by the Mekong River Commission Secretariat and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which concluded that Prek Toal offered the best attractions for foreign visitors on the lake. The report indicated that ecotourism in Prek Toal could gross up to 2 million US dollars at full scale with up to 200,000 dollars benefiting the local community's annually. (Bonheur, 2003b)

Prek Toal Core Area ecotourism is managed as part of the conservation program run by the Core Area Management Center (CAMC) under the MoE. Eco-tourists entering the Core Area must first check in at the CAMC station prior to entering the Core Area to pay an entrance fee and enable monitoring of tourist numbers entering the sanctuary. The intention is that in the future tourist revenues to support the sustainable management and conservation of the Prek Toal Core Area. However current revenues are insufficient with the majority of annual revenues directed to the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the remaining revenues are allocated for the cost of conservation staff, promotion, administration as well as upgrading facilities. (Bonheur, 2007)

Study Area

Prek Toal Village

Prek Toal Village is a small fishing village located within Koh Chiveang Commune, Aek Phnom District, Battambang Province adjacent to the north of Prek Toal Core Area and contiguous Anlong Taoor village. (See Annex 2)

Public buildings and services in the village and Core Area related or linked to ecotourism activities:

- **Core Area Management Centre (CAMC) (1)**
- **Floating Tourist Reception and Information Centre (1)**
- **Floating environmental education centre, (constructed and operated by Osmose) (1)**
- **Elevated platforms located adjacent to the main colony locations (17)**
- **Homestay accommodation (1)**
- **General stores (several)**
- **Petrol stations (3)**
- **Restaurants (2)**
- **Handicraft workshop (1)**
- **Daily boat transportation service: (traveling to Battambang and Chhong Khneas)**

(Chhun and Salter, 2007)

Prek Toal Village Socio-economic Indicators	
Households	497
Women	1351
Average Household Income	984 USD/year
Average Years of Schooling	3 years
Average Household Size	5.6

Figure 6 Prek Toal Village characteristics and household assets. (ADB, 2007a)

The main occupation of people in the surrounding villages of the core is fishing coupled with the associated activities of marketing, transportation, smoking and drying. (Goes, 2005) Additionally people are employed in fish raising and crocodile raising. Agricultural production and livestock are not suited to the region based on the seasonal flooding, but some villagers grow small-scale vegetable gardens. Some people are employed in boat transportation services. The few larger operations in town that include large scale fishing, ice making, boat transportation, and tourist lodging, are dominated by a few wealthier families. (Id) People are also occupied as grocery store and petrol station owners or as floating vendors.

Prek Toal Ecotourism

Current ecotourism activities in the Prek Toal area involve both guided tours to the bird sanctuary and community-based village tours in Prek Toal floating village. There is no current road access to Prek Toal and therefore tours access the sanctuary via motorboat departing from Phnom Krom docks, about 30 minutes van-ride from Siem Reap.

Tours visiting the bird sanctuary incorporate 27 rangers hired from the local villages, supported and trained by the WCS. (Goes 2005; Kheng 2007) Ecotourism is not the main activity of the rangers, whose primary responsibility is to monitor and patrol the Core Area. In response to the increasing

number of tourists over the last few years, other community members have been recruited by the MoE to guide bird sanctuary tours during the months of March and April when the water recedes to a level not suitable for motorboats. (Kheng, 2007) Flags are now in place to direct the village paddlers along selected routes to reach the bird observation sites, enabling them to find the way and reducing the disruption to the area. Both the rangers and the villagers receive compensation from tourists entering the Core Area. (Id)

Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary Tours

Osmose continues to be the single greatest tour operator guiding tourists into Prek Toal Core Area, however currently the combined competitors take the other sixty percent of the tours to the Bird Sanctuary. Renting a boat costs as much as 80 dollars for a foreigner in addition to the Core Area fee and cost of the tour guide. Renting a boat directly from a boat operator is not easy for tourists to arrange on their own based on the distance and access to the Phnom Krom docks; therefore most tourists go through a tour agency. Hotels also help facilitate trips, often directly contacting the CAMC to arrange for their guests to receive bird watching transportation by one of the 25 rangers or the 49 village paddlers recruited by the CAMC. (Kheng, 2007) Tours arranged for direct access to the core are about half the price of Osmose tours. (Bonheur, 2007)

Osmose Prek Toal Tours

Guiding visitors to the sanctuary since 1999, Osmose is the primary local tour operator directing 30 percent of nature tours into Prek Toal Core Area (Chu, et. al. 2006). The non-governmental organization's mission of sustainable conservation produces an ecotourism experience integrating bird watching with visits to the organization's community development initiatives (Sambath, 2007). It is the only operator coordinating ecotourism expeditions that incorporate Prek Toal Community-Based floating village tours. Currently Osmose has ten guides that have been trained to conduct ecotourism trips into the Sanctuary. This enables Osmose to ensure a professional and environmentally sensitive experience however the limited number of guides places severe constraints on the number of tours Osmose is able to provide. Osmose cites increasing competition from other tour companies directly accessing the Bird Sanctuary through the CAMC. (Bricout, 2007)

To accommodate the rapidly growing number of tourists entering the sanctuary, Osmose trained local paddlers to create a paddler network directing visitors into the core. This group of paddlers is separate from the CAMC list of recruited local paddlers. (Butler 2007; Kheng 2007)

Additionally, Osmose recently designed a Community-Based Village Tour (CBVT) in 2002. Osmose identifies that the tour was developed using a participatory process with the villagers and that the tour is currently managed and organized by the community. The CBVT started taking Osmose guests beginning last year. Tourists can buy tickets directly from the village for 7.5 dollars per two people and observe village attractions. Tour revenues are then shared among the participating villagers. (Bricout 2007; Butler 2007; Sambath 2007)

The educational and local development program aspects of Osmose initiative are complementary and integrated within ecotourism activities. During tours, clients are provided information about local projects to encourage sustainable conservation and reduce poverty with the expectation that in turn, tourists will also heighten public awareness, promoting Osmose tours to other potential guests and thus increasing tourist numbers and revenue.

Osmose in Prek Toal: an integrated ecotourism program

Osmose operates with 3 floating villages surrounding the Prek Toal Core Area: Prek Toal, Kbal Taol and Pak Kantiel. The organization addresses conservation, environmental education, ecotourism, and local development to promote sustainable environmental protection, local people's welfare and poverty reduction in the area. (Osmose, a undated)

Education

Many children in Prek Toal and Anlong Taor do not go to school for financially related reasons and no environmental instruction is included within school curriculum. Osmose environmental education activities currently engage a total of 1,200 children from the three villages receive instruction. Twenty local teachers have been trained to teach the environmental education. (Sambath 2007; Butler 2007)

Local development program

Osmose local development program began in 2002 to assist to the neediest villagers within Prek Toal, Kbaol and Pak Kantiel villages. Some of the needy villagers identified, received paddleboats and many of these individuals participate in ecotourism as paddlers for bird sanctuary tours. Currently Osmose has a network of 18 families with paddleboats.(Sambath, 2007)

Thirty-eight floating garden were initially constructed with Osmose support and the brochure identifies that there are now 50 gardens total, however the Local Site Coordinator indicates that there are currently only 6 households in Prek Toal with floating gardens. (Id)

The Osmose water hyacinth project began in 2004 with a group of 16 women. The project was identified as a development option after village interviews found water hyacinth were already being utilized to make hammocks in the village. Funds from a Belgian Cooperation were placed towards the construction of a floating workshop and 28 women from poor families were selected for training. The chosen women included female-heads of households. (Osmose, b undated) The Local Site Coordinator identifies that there are currently 21 women working in the water hyacinth handicraft project with two women located at the workshop at all times. Recently, a night market in Siem Reap has been established in the hopes of increasing handicraft sales. (Sambath, 2007)

New projects

Osmose is currently engaged in a tour guide training program with five local villagers. Tour guides are given two classes a week to instruct them in English and guiding skill and knowledge specific to the Prek Toal site. The intention is that in the future, local Prek Toal villagers will be to participate in guiding Osmose trips, increasing the involvement and responsibilities of the community in the ecotourism activities. (Sambath, 2007)

A grant from the UNDP Tonle Sap Conservation Project (TSCP) supports Osmose activities of ecotourism and community development as part of the project goal to promote the sustainability of Core Area management. Current pilot projects include mushroom production, distribution of water filters and the development of new ecotourism activities in Pak Kantiel, which will be designed following the Prek Toal model.

The aim of Osmose ecotourism endeavors in Prek Toal are for tourist receipts to cover the ecotourism operations and make them self-sufficient in addition to contributing to the community programs. (Butler, 2007) However, a single tour ticket currently covers only half of the price of an

Osmose tours and the majority of the revenues must go toward enhancing staff capacity and staff salaries. Funding for other programs thus rely on other revenue means including: membership fees, publication sales, and donations from individuals, international organizations and private companies and foundations.

Methodology and Data Collection

Background

The fieldwork methodology for this study was designed using Tourism Assessment Process (TAP) guidelines from “Linking Communities, Tourism, and Conservation: A Tourism Assessment Process” as well as participatory assessment tools identified by the Department for International Development (DFID). (Sattaur 2001) The tools and models were adapted and modified to accommodate the focus of the study as well as the timeframe and resources available.

The research instruments selected for this study were chosen based on their specific design to incorporate people’s perceptions, attitudes, and experiences. The TAP framework is helpful in designing fieldwork to identify resident’s attitudes towards tourism as well as concerns and underlying issues that may affect the way tourism influences the people and the community. Participatory assessments have been utilized in the 2007 Participatory Poverty Assessment of the Tonle Sap produced by the CDRI. (Ballard, et.al., 2007) and participatory assessment tools are frequently incorporated within socio-economic livelihood surveys in the region. It is important to identify that the selected study instruments, do not promote the extraction of specific measurements and numerical data, but rather promote qualitative assessment to provide an opportunity for women to share their opinions and lives.

Analysis for the study focused on the participatory assessment at the village level, but additionally included key-informant interviews from CDRI, SNV (Netherlands Development Organization), Osmose, WCS, TSCP and MoE for background and study site information.

Site Sampling

Fieldwork assessment tools used in the study included individual interviews, focus group discussion combined with a mapping exercise and one tour exercise:

Type of Interaction	Unit
FGD	9 participants
Individual Interviews	13 participants
Key Representative Interviews	4
Discussions and Meetings	Opportunities
Sample Tour	1

Figure 7 Table of fieldwork activities and participants.

Individual Interviews

Individual interviews were conducted with villagers using an interpreter. The interviews were designed as open-ended questionnaires and were occasionally complemented with discussion involving women and their daughters. Interviews were thirty minutes to forty minutes in length.

Individual interviews were conducted with Prek Toal village women working or assisted by the NGO, Osmose, as well as women who did not participate in Osmose ecotourism or local development program activities. Women of various ages, education levels, and marital situation were included in the survey. The fieldwork attempted to incorporate villagers in a range of socio-economic circumstances.

Interviews were designed as open-ended questionnaires, additionally supplemented with discussion involving women with their daughters.

Interviews in Prek Toal also were conducted with the Prek Toal Village Head, TSCP volunteers, Osmose site coordinator. Osmose's Project Director as well as Management Advisor were interviewed in the Siem Reap.

Individual Interviews: Age and Marital Status Composition

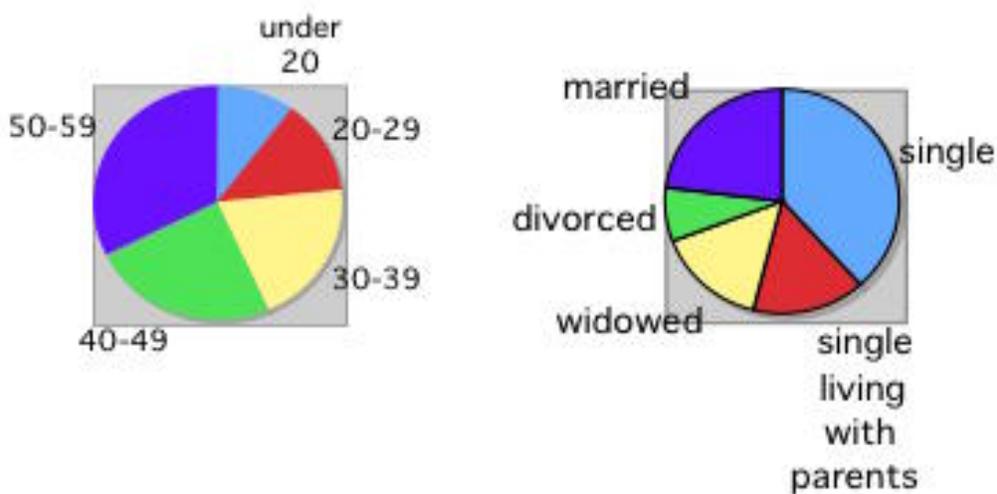


Figure 8 Individual Interviews: Age and Marital Status Composition

Focus Group Discussion

One focus group discussion and exercise was conducted with women involved in Osmose ecotourism and community development activities. The focus group activity was designed to get a general picture of how women working in tourism in Prek Toal perceived tourism in their community and how it influenced their lives.



Figure 9 Focus Group Age Range and Marital Status

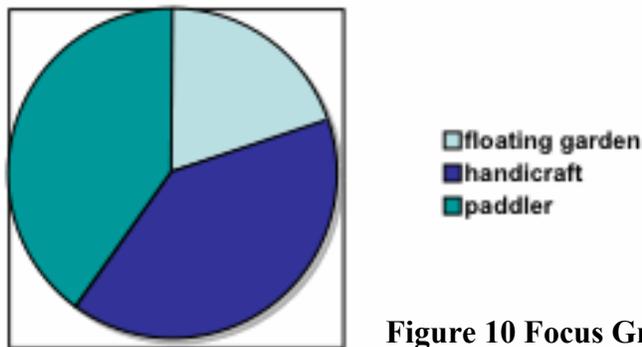


Figure 10 Focus Group Occupations

Mapping Exercise

Discussions coupled with a mapping exercise, attempted to extract places the villagers identified were important in Prek Toal versus places tourists visited. The women were encouraged to identify where women worked and where they did not go as well as where tourists did not visit. The purpose was to extract women's understanding of how tourists experienced their village and how a tourist's knowledge about the village related to local women's own views and values of the place they lived. While the researcher observed that only younger women actively participated in drawing, older women contributed ideas and inputs verbally and therefore were not excluded from the mapping process.

Sample Tour

Two training tour guides were assigned to conduct a mock tour exercise. The tour guides were requested to choose a place that they wanted to share with tourists and demonstrate how they wished to present the place to tourists. The exercise was intended to explore what women thought was important for visitors to see and learn when they came to Prek Toal and how they wanted to share the village with tourists.

Observations

Observations in both Siem Reap and Prek Toal as well as informal conversations in Prek Toal village enhanced the researcher's knowledge and understanding of tourism and site-specific conditions and livelihoods.

Documentation

All interviews and fieldwork exercises were recorded using field notes. The field notes were then reviewed each day and entered onto a computer.

Synthesis of Findings¹

Findings for this study were analyzed and compiled in relation to the key questions for this research including:

1. Women's participation in tourism.
2. Women's perceived benefits from tourism.
3. Women's perception of tourism in the future

The findings were then assessed in relation to literature and key informant findings with the intention of broadening the value and relevance of individual experiences.

Constraints

The limited timeframe for research represents the most fundamental constraint upon the fieldwork process and findings. More time would have enabled a larger survey to incorporate more participants as well as potentially returning for additional interventions with subjects. Financial constraints presented another fundamental restriction upon research that also impacted the available timeframe of research.

The seasonal time period of research also meant that fieldwork was not conducted during birding season, which prevented the opportunity to observe ecotourism activities in action and get additional perspective from tourists and tour guides.

A prominent research barrier during the study was language as the researcher had a very limited knowledge of the Khmer language. Accessing and coordinating an available interpreter proved to be a difficult undertaking. The fieldwork did not have the assistance of a Vietnamese interpreter and therefore, while the survey recognizes the significant presence and contribution of this ethnic community within Prek Toal village, members of this minority ethnic group could not be incorporated into the survey.

The researcher's lack of formal training in participatory assessment techniques coupled with no opportunity to practice the techniques at another site with the chosen interpreter, limited efficiency and affectivity during fieldwork.

¹ The study acknowledges the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) as an effective framework to analyze livelihoods and their development. (ADB, 2004) However the current study is not comprehensive enough to use this framework effectively.

The information gathering process was susceptible to information leakages due to interviews being translated and documented using field notes. Interview field notes were reviewed each day and entered onto a computer, in an attempt to reduce leakages.

In the field, Osmose officers, TSCP volunteers, as well as villagers involved in Osmose activities-particularly the hired boat paddler-assisted in identifying the greater proportion of women selected for interviews. The extent to which this selection process affected the survey composition is difficult to quantify. A proportion of the interviewees were identified based on field observation, by the researcher.

Results

Participation

The majority of women interviewed from Prek Toal village generate income from tourists through participation with Osmose's program.

Women involved in Osmose activities identified working in handicrafts, paddling boats for community-based village tours, working with floating gardens, training to be tour guides, and working as Osmose officers in the environmental education program for village children.

Handicrafts

There are currently 21 women working in the water hyacinth handicraft project with two women located at the workshop at all times. A handicraft worker identified that she learned her skill from Indonesian craft experts brought in by Osmose and that crafts are sold in the workshop as well as being sold in a night market in Siem Reap.

The women participating in the handicraft production were employed from September through February and during this time they could generate 50 US dollars per month. The expectation is that the new market will allow goods to be sold in Siem Reap during the dry season, which will enable the craft women to be employed for a longer period and increase their revenues.

Paddlers

Women paddlers identified that they participated in the Community-Based Village Tour (CBVT). The tour was pre-arranged based on tourist preference and Osmose's guidelines. Tours usually included visiting the handicraft workshop, floating gardens, and fish or crocodile farms. Additionally, tours took guests to see the village diver, who made his income fetching valuable items from the water.

Floating Gardeners

Floating gardeners who have constructed their gardens with the financial and technical assistance of Osmose, are visited by tourists during the CBVT. Tourists often tip the gardeners during their visits, which contributes to the household income and the up-keep of the garden. Selling fruits and vegetables to other villagers represented the main source of income from the garden, generating about 1000 to 2000 Riel per day (one quarter to one half US dollar).

Other tourist service

Women not participating in Osmose local development program also identified serving tourists. These women participated in the local tourism industry by lodging visitors, providing meals, or selling food and other goods.

Direct Participation	Linked Participation
Paddler to see the bird sanctuary	Grocery store operator
Paddler in the Community–Based Village Tour	Floating food/goods vendors
Handicraft maker	Food service for guests at CAMC
Floating gardener	
Homestay accommodation	

Figure 12 Women’s Participation in Prek Toal Ecotourism

Local women’s opportunities to participate in ecotourism activities in Prek Toal are determined by whether a Prek Toal tour visits the village.

There are two components to Prek Toal ecotourism, the bird sanctuary and the floating village. Women describe participating in ecotourism as paddlers for the sanctuary tours, but the majority of women describe participating in village activities as floating gardeners, village paddlers, and handicraft workers. Additionally one woman provides accommodation for tourists in the village.

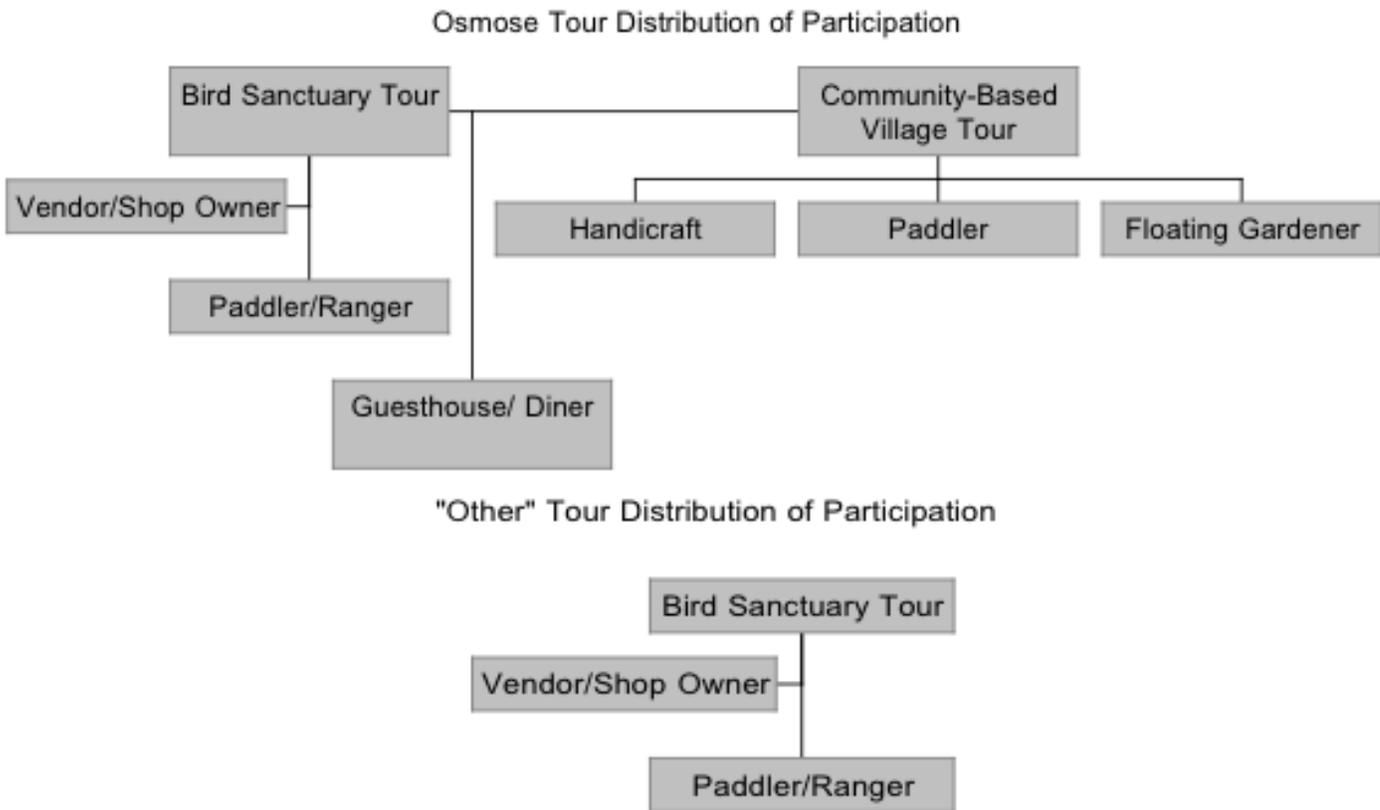


Figure 13 Eco-Tour Distribution of Participation

Grocery store owners and boat vendors identified sporadic business from tourists or rangers taking people on tours. Business was inconsistent based on a tour guide’s choice to purchase products from the women or elsewhere. An ice seller, for instance, identified that sometimes the guides purchase ice from her but often they go directly to the village ice factory. A grocery store owner indicated that tourists and rangers occasionally purchase water and canned fish before taking tours to the core.

Seasonal nature of bird watching in Prek Toal Core Area limits employment opportunities and the extent of participation.

The main bird watching season falls between November and March. Women in various occupations describe the seasonal duration of their activities around this birding schedule.

Number of Tourists Visiting Prek Toal by Season

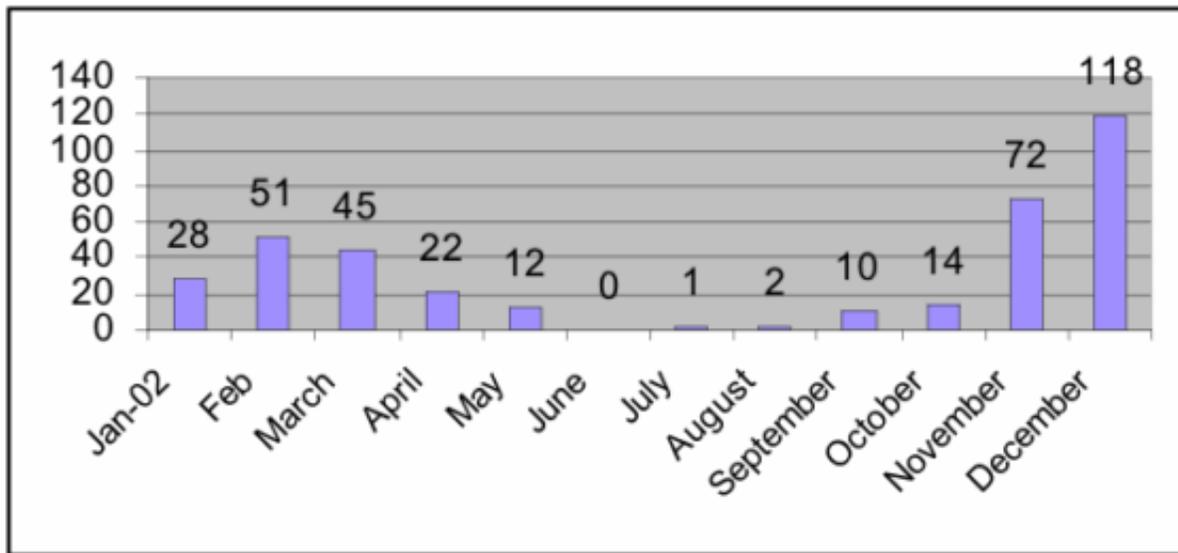


Figure 14 Tourists Visiting Prek Toal by Season (Bonheur, 2003a)

Paddlers indicated that they might paddle tourists to see the birds twice a year during the months of January and February. At this time of year the women described accompanying a motorboat into the core and then, to reduce disturbance to the nesting birds, tourists would be taken closer to the nesting sites using the paddleboats. During a year a woman could expect 10,000 Riel from her service.

The women participating in the handicraft production were employed from September through February and during this time they could generate 50 US dollars per month.

Women's opportunities to participate in ecotourism are restricted by the physical demands of paddling into the bird sanctuary.

Women working with Osmose identified that women could not participate in paddling visitors into the core area and that this was a man's job. Men were designated for paddling into the boat sanctuary based on their physical ability to paddle faster than women.

Women paddle to locations near the lake and not deep inside the forest. For one time a woman can receive 5 dollars. Men going deeper into the core can earn 10 dollars for the day. In January and February women paddlers describe joining motorboats into the Core Area during the wet season and then paddling tourists closer to the birds. However due to the large paddler network, one paddler might only go once or twice a year. Other women identified that they paddled slower and therefore could serve as paddlers for the CBVT. The paddlers took turns providing tours and therefore, one paddler identified that during a month she may only have the opportunity to paddle one or two times.

Participation in tourism supplements women's other income generating activities.

Many older women's participation in ecotourism was coupled with employment in fish processing activities that represented their main method of generating income. They described purchasing fish from the fishing lot or moneylenders, processing the fish to make fish paste, and then selling the fish paste back.

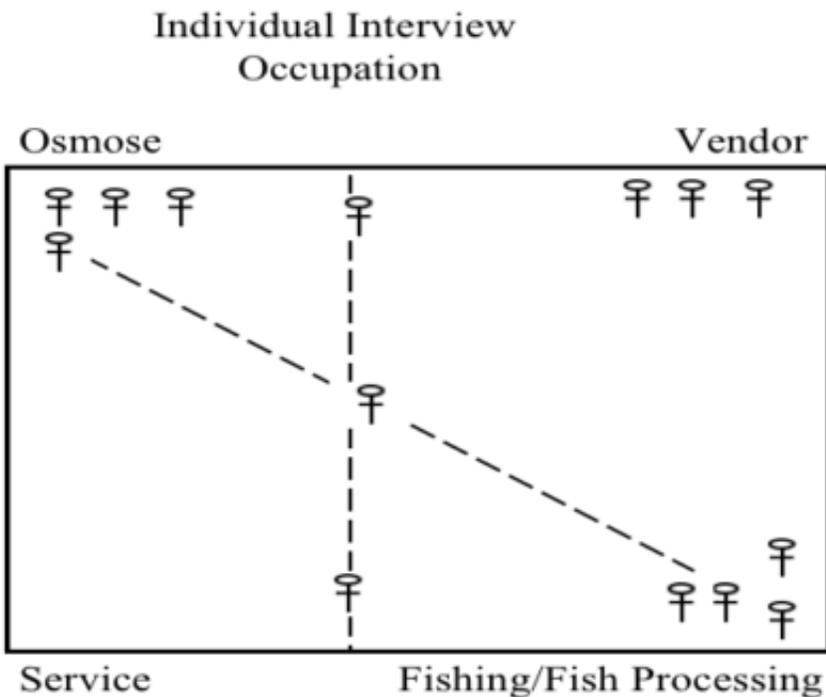


Figure 15 Individual Interview: Occupation

One woman indicated that during the dry season when school was in session, she sold porridge to students. The seasonal nature of her tourist service and other income-generating activity therefore complemented one another.

The women providing homestay described assisting her husband with fishing activities in the dry season when less tourist business. She described that she would join her husband for up to two days at a time. During the wet season when she receives the most tourists, the money from her business goes toward household expenses but during the fishing season, the money from fishing covers household expenses.

Capital in the form of physical and financial assets as well as skills are limiting factors determining Prek Toal village women's participation in tourism.

Only one woman identified lodging tourists and she was identified by other villagers, confirmed by Osmose and TSCP representatives, as the only tourist accommodation besides the CAMC. She indicated that she is the only household with the carrying capacity and filtered water to accommodate guests. Other villagers identified that her husband was a commercial fisherman who subleased fishing lots, positioning the family as one of the richer families in the area. Additionally the woman described that not very many people in Prek Toal village had the ability or capacity to do her occupation and therefore she cited that her job is in particular demand. She currently is

training her daughters to prepare them for similar work and the younger girls set the table and serve the tourists while the oldest has begun to cook.

An ice seller and female head of household indicated an interest in selling to tourists and considers shifting from ice to selling soft drinks and fruits. She has limited financial assets to devote to the transfer largely because she is currently financially assisting other relatives who are sick.

Most women in Prek Toal village do not participate in tourism.

Women who did not work with Osmose often could not identify women that they knew who worked with tourists or could not identify women that they had observed benefiting from tourist activity. A woman who owned a floating garden observed that some poor people were lucky to be selected by Osmose or an NGO to help conduct activities that related to tourism, while many poor people in the village fell deeper and deeper into debt because they could not buy adequate fishing gear that would enable them to catch fish to support themselves.

A part-time fisherwoman described that the primary occupation for women in the village was making fish paste. She described that during the months of January and February there were a lot of fish and two or three women could expect to process 600 kilograms per day and make 50,000 to 60,000 Riel, or about 15 dollars. In March and April, fish processing continued but the fish were not as plentiful and the same production might be every two or three days. Many women set small gill nets near the village in September and October, but she indicated that they must remove their nets in November and December when the fishing lot owner closes the fishing grounds to the public.

Perceived Benefits

Tourists visit places local women value as well as gaining awareness of the “real” conditions in the village.

Mapping Exercise

The FGD mapping exercise indicated that tourists visited many of the important places in and around Prek Toal village as well as the Core Area Bird Sanctuary. Places tourists visit include the floating garden, fish farm, crocodile farm, and handicraft workshop, in addition to seeing the sanctuary birds. Most of these places corresponded with places where women indicated that they worked.

Places that were indicated as important but not visited included the pagoda, health center, commune council building and village development council, and spirit house. The women did not specifically indicate that they did not visit the bird sanctuary but did indicate that they did not travel outside the village.

Awareness of poverty

Women involved with tourists and not involved with tourists noticed visiting guests were made aware of the condition of poverty in the village. Women pointed out that they observed tourists directly contributing to these families. Women however indicated that this assistance was not consistent among all tourists.

Women’s revenues related to tourism go toward essential household expenses of food and children, including schooling fees.

Women identify that the money they earn working with tourists is directed towards food and childcare. Additionally, poorer women experiencing debt, use their earnings to repay the moneylenders and other villagers. Women's earnings provide a buffer during times of hardship when there is low fish catch or during the closed fishing season when Fishing Lot Number 2 cuts fishing access to local villagers. The funds also cover expenses related to sickness in the immediate family or among close relatives.

Women describe their additional contribution to household income through ecotourism activities, increases their control in some aspects of household expenditures.

Women identify that while big expenditures are negotiated between themselves and their husbands and many times these larger expenses require "getting permission" from their spouses, income from ecotourism provides them with an element of financial autonomy by enhancing their contribution to the household budget to have greater control over smaller household expenditures.

The woman running the tourist homestay identified that large expenses for boat and house repairs and ceremonial expenses involve discussion and "permission" from her husband, however now that she runs her own business she is able to make more decisions on spending, particularly in relation to lodging expenditures.

Local women perceive that most opportunities for local people to serve tourists are good options for women.

Women are the main participants in Osmose ecotourism activities. Handicrafts and gardening are traditionally women's tasks and paddling in the village for CBVT tours enables women to participate close to their homes.

The guesthouse keeper identified that she enjoys her work. She cites that women cannot work as fishermen and a business at home is good for a lady to run.

Mothers and young women living with their parents perceive that tourism activities in the village create new income generating opportunity suitable for young women.

Young women still living at home indicated that there were few opportunities for young women to generate income in Prek Toal village. Young women identified that other women work at home or in small fishing activities but identified that more opportunities were open for young men, working as labor in the fishing lot or going into the forest to work. According to the young women, fishing and forest jobs were not suitable and were too hard.

Working in tourism jobs provided by Osmose enabled the girls to generate income for their families. The money was primarily allocated for family expenses and little of the money expenditure was based on the young women's own decisions. Two young women working with Osmose that were interviewed indicated that the money they earned went toward repaying their family's debts. The girls identified that their work was busy and hard but that any activity generating money was good. While ecotourism created a new occupation for these young girls, it did not detract from their ambitions to escape Prek Toal and find work with relatives in Phnom Penh.

Mothers indicated that they hoped that their daughters could find opportunities to work with tourists. The woman owning the guesthouse was already training her young daughters for similar business.

Many young women perceive that their lack of English language skills limits their capacity to serve tourists.

Younger women interviewed, identified language skills as a barrier to serving tourists. The two training tour guides cited that there were no opportunities for them to learn English outside the two training classes they received a week. Two other young women working through Osmose and directly working with tourists on their visit to the village identified that the language barrier crippled their capacity to provide service. For this reason the young women identified that they wanted to learn English. The woman working watching the handicraft workshop indicated however that she has no time to devote to learning English because her job always keeps her busy.

Women receiving the greatest benefits from serving tourists in Prek Toal receive technical and/or financial assistance from Osmose.

Handicraft workers described that they had received technical instruction in making water hyacinth crafts from Indonesian specialists facilitated by Osmose. Their future hopes of making crafts of a more marketable and modern design, hinge upon the Osmose budget and ability to provide more instructors. Floating gardeners described that they received technical assistance in constructing their gardens and that bamboo frames for the gardens were provided for many families. Osmose recently started training local tour guide who receive guide instruction and English courses. Osmose paddle boaters for the Sanctuary and village tours received their boats from Osmose.

The guesthouse keeper described that she started her business with the assistance of Osmose and received funding from Osmose until last year. The price of accommodation was determined by Osmose co-founder, Natalie Goes. One mosquito net per night is a set at two dollars and meals are 3 dollars for foreigners and 2 dollars for Khmer.

One woman identified that while she did not foresee that she would have an opportunity to work with tourists due to her poor health, she hopes Osmose's instruction and assistance will provide her daughter with opportunities to serve tourists in the future.

Future Expectations

Local women foresee that tourist numbers will increase and so too will the benefits from tourism for villagers. They anticipate new openings to serve tourists as floating vendors or by offering accommodation, but are skeptical about their capacity to capture these opportunities due to their lack of financial and social capital.

Local women expect the village to develop and expect to see an increasing number of tourists visiting their area. The potential jobs that they cite include ones that they have observed other villagers already taking part in such as selling to food to tourists as floating vendor. Some also consider providing accommodation. The women however emphasize that they do not have the means to convert their current lifestyles to serve tourists. The women also identify that the currently established business in town employs within the family. Family members monopolize much of the business linked to the guesthouse providing the food and provisions for guests. The accommodation also already has ties with Osmose and therefore has a strong market link to tourists. The other women indicated that the brief amount of time tourists spend in the village makes it difficult to profit from their business if they are not linked to tours or tour operators.

The Potential for Prek Toal Women Eco-Tour Guides

Two young women were included within the village survey as examples of participants in an Osmose pilot project to train tour guides. These women will potentially enable greater villager involvement in the facilitation of tours, moving toward greater community-based participation in Prek Toal ecotourism.

Participation

The pilot project was described by Osmose's site coordinator, Ban Sambath, as a trial training program. Twenty villagers applied for the training and five adult villagers, three men and two women, were selected to participate. The initial training plan included instruction for two hours every day. Due to the limited availability of instructors, only two two-hour classes are currently offered each week. Classes include English instruction along with a curriculum designed specifically for Osmose Prek Toal tours including: history of the village and knowledge of the local environment. There is no date set for the completion of training and it is uncertain when guides will begin to provide tours. The limited training schedule is identified as a major weakness of the project, presenting a serious obstacle in preparing guides for service.

Perceived Benefits:

The two girls cited that village people were involved with tourism and that enabled the activities to help with poverty reduction. The tourism activity in the village could not, however, support people's livelihoods. Individuals working with tourists cannot support their families and therefore must find another job.

Benefits of Tour Guiding

Learning English is a major reason and benefit for becoming a tour guide.

The young women's interest in becoming tour guides is based on their desire to learn English and hope that as guides they will be able to speak as well as 'foreigners.' They articulated that English was the most important factor in learning to become a guide as well as learning to history and other information about the village. However the girls identified that they do not know where to study English in the village outside of the tour guiding classes.

The women described that they are interested in tour guiding because they want to explain the village situation to visitors and let them know about Khmer culture and living conditions in Prek Toal. The interviewees are happy with the job, although they are not yet working as guides and they identify that they interested in the job whether the income is more or less.

Money generated once the women start working as guides will go toward their family food needs but the women also express that they will put money toward learning English. The money earned was the women's to spend, however they emphasized that it was necessary to ask permission from their parents before spending.

Perception of the Future

Future of tour guiding

Limited training opportunities and language skills are seen as obstacles toward becoming a tour guide.

The women are still unsure about their future as tour guides and possibly will not become tour guides. They are aware that they have limited language skills and classes are infrequent and often an English course will end before a text is complete because teachers leave.

Future of tourism in Prek Toal

The tour guides believed that tourism and development should increase in the future, prioritizing people's welfare first with environmental concerns and conservation measures secondary.

The women believe that local people will generate more money from tourism in the future and that the village will develop. They suggest that some fishermen will stop fishing to work with tourists. The young women identify Chhong Khneas, a floating village attraction on the Lake, is developing and although there are many problems with site, including smelly water and waste in the water, the women still feel that the village is better than Prek Toal. It was made clear that generating money in the Prek Toal village is the first priority in the eyes of these women, and environmental concerns and conservation measures are secondary.

Conclusion

Prek Toal Women Participating in Ecotourism

Ecotourism activities in Prek Toal center on bird watching in the Prek Toal Core Area and tourist visitation is predominantly focused around a few months within the wet season. Local women identify that paddling deep into the bird sanctuary is strictly a man's job based on men's faster paddling abilities. However women take tourists to viewing spots closer to the village as well as joining motorboats into the Core Area to then paddle tourists closer to the birds.

In addition to bird sanctuary tours, Osmose ecotourism trips include a tour of Prek Toal floating village. Opportunities to participate in ecotourism through Osmose include many village-based activities that allow women to work close to their homes, enabling them to participate in addition to household responsibilities. The tasks are not dangerous and generally less physically demanding and are observed by local women to provide suitable occupations for village women. Handicrafts and gardening are traditionally women's tasks and paddling in the village for CBVT tours enables women to participate close to their homes. The guesthouse keeper in Prek Toal village identified that she enjoys her work. She cites that women cannot work as fishermen and that running a business at home is "good for a lady".

Prek Toal Women Benefiting from Ecotourism

Prek Toal women observe that tourism in their area assists the poor, improves village development and creates jobs for women. They identify that tourists are visiting places that are important to women in the community and that tourists are able to see special attractions such as the threatened birds but additionally tourists who visit the village become aware of the condition of the local people. Women working with Osmose ecotourism identify benefits including supplemental income that helps to pay for fundamental expenses such as food and childcare.

Ecotourism activities through Osmose local development program additionally provide new job openings for younger women. Young women interviewed identified that there are limited opportunities for young women to generate income and while many young men can find employment working as laborers in the fishing lot and in the forests, these jobs are not considered suitable as well as being too physically demanding for girls. Young women training to become local guides observed that a key benefit of training was the opportunity to learn English. However, while young women appreciated the additional income, not all young women were content with their occupations and ecotourism opportunities now and in the future did not curtail their ambitions to migrate to the cities with the promise of better jobs and a better life.

Prek Toal Women's Future Expectations

Prek Toal women believe there will be more tourists and more people will receive money from tourism in the future. Women anticipate new opportunities to work serving tourists as accommodation or food vendors, however there is a general acknowledgement that while tourist numbers are increasing, the growth has been gradual and women are not clear when it will be economically viable for them to allocate resources to transition into other tourist service. Both women participating and not participating in ecotourism currently identify that their financial and technical capacity is a limiting factor restricting their capacity to expand and enhance their personal benefits from tourism.

Ecotourism as an Alternative Livelihood

The ability for ecotourism to serve as a livelihood option is greatly limited by the capacity of Osmose, as the entity managing village ecotourism activities, to continue to financially and technically assist villagers in the operation of projects. Women in Prek Toal are heavily dependent on Osmose to facilitate tourism for their benefit. This creates a serious limitation on the capacity of ecotourism to provide sustainable development considering that a single entity dominates all village-based activities and thus largely determines the fate of the project. Currently Osmose identifies that they face many challenges in assisting villagers in Prek Toal and financial constraints mean that they do not have long-term plans and strategies. The organization cites that ecotourism involving the community is still in the very early stages and that the Local Development Program to establish new opportunities for villager employment began in 2003. The handicraft group began in 2004 while the CBVT has only just begun to guide guests on tours. (Bricout, 2007) The newness of these projects necessarily means that it will take time for them to truly establish a stable foundation of participants. For instance, Osmose has discovered that in many cases, families who are selected to participate in activities are willing to begin projects and participate in activities but quickly become discouraged if they do not receive income immediately. Osmose specifically sights challenges working with women in the handicraft workshop, however it is also noted that villagers observed that many people who had started floating gardens failed and as of now there are only six floating gardens in Prek Toal. (Sambath, 2007)

The ability for ecotourism to contribute to people's welfare returns inherently to the tourists and the dollars they contribute.

The potential for ecotourism to complement conservation and improve livelihoods is dependent upon how effectively projects are designed to incorporate local communities. The ways in which ventures impact the control and access to resources for different individuals therefore influences how ecotourism contributes to the overall process of local development (Scheyvens, 2000). Eco- and community based tourism models are conceptually appealing and the integration of these

models is often attempted based on the common values and objectives of each formula. However, while conceptually ecotourism is an effective mechanism to achieve sustainable development and provide livelihood options, international examples consistently demonstrate that community based ecotourism models fail due to a lack of effective marketing (Makela, 2007). Without sufficient visitors, low financial returns make activities untenable. Thus, the critical flaw in many NGO attempts to establish ecotourism, as a revenue-generating strategy ensuring the self-sustainability of conservation and development efforts is a lack familiarity with the tourism and marketing business. Too frequently projects designed to be self-sustaining result in projects that are extremely unstable and vulnerable based on financial and capital resources as well as being heavily dependent on external assistance. (Id) External donorship may keep operations afloat, but dependency can necessarily compromise a mission's longevity as well as cripple the capacity of local community's to accept greater control and management of operations.

Osmose is currently experiencing the challenges of business marketing that are identified to be the downfall of so many development-minded NGOs. Other tourists companies and tourist agents currently dominate the traffic to Prek Toal, taking 60 percent of the market. (Chu et. al, 2006) The project manager herself admits that as an NGO, Osmose is fragile to the onslaught of more savvy tour agencies. Although Osmose is the pioneer of ecotourism in the Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary and is the only agency actively managing village-based activities, Osmose is just one entity within a growing number of tour agencies attempting to capture the torrent of tourists flocking to Siem Reap and venturing into the Tonle Sap every year. In an unregulated market, such a small NGO has a limited capacity to determine other companies' practices and efforts to incorporate the community into ecotourism.

Recent strategies to enhance both community participation as well as marketing capacity do shed light upon the opportunity for women in Prek Toal to continue to increase the benefits they receive from ecotourism activities in the future. A night market in Siem Reap now provides handicraft workers an opportunity to sell their products in the hub of Angkor Wat tourism, providing the women with a venue that can enhance sales as well as provide additional advertising for Prek Toal ecotourism. The market is struggling to get off the ground, but for the handicraft women of Prek Toal the success of this market could potentially ensure them year-round employment and security.

The pilot tour guide-training program additionally is a small step towards integrating the community more fully in ecotourism activities. Additionally, training a local team of tour guides could resolve Osmose's chronic lack of available eco-tour guides for their trips, which sometimes leads Osmose to cancel trips. (Sambath, 2007) At the moment a group of ten Siem Reap tour guides are trained to provide Osmose's trips, however Osmose cannot ensure them full-time employment and thus they juggle Prek Toal tours with other tours and are not always available. Currently the limited amount of time devoted to training and classes greatly hinders the capacity of the project to move forward, however for the women in training, this is one of their only opportunities to learn English and they are looking forward to the benefits of sharing their community with guests.

The development of the Stay-Another-Day² initiative in Siem Reap to improve the marketing of 'destination friendly' locations and importantly serves to increase Osmose's ability to advertise and

²Stay-Another-Day is an initiative through the International Finance Corporations Mekong Private Sector and funded by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

reach tourists. A brochure describing local tourist locations promoting cultural, social, and environmental sustainability is distributed around Siem Reap and currently provides tourists with information about Osmose's activities and contacts. A 'user-friendly' website of locations is also being revised to provide a one-stop location for all tourists' informational needs. Another important component of the initiative in linking tourists to destinations is by increasing local hotel staff awareness of socially conscious locations through 'familiarity' tours to the sites. (Thy, 2007) However, while Stay-Another-Day is a mechanism to link tourists to Osmose's program, representatives of the initiative indicate that hotels face challenges in channeling potential customers to Osmose due to a recent relocation of the main office out of the center of Siem Reap.

The aforementioned marketing and community involvement strategies pave the way for local women in Prek Toal to appreciate greater levels of participation and increasing benefits from ecotourism activities in their area. However Osmose still faces additional obstacles in securing and increasing tourist numbers to ensure the sustainability of the NGO's ecotourism activities. The Project Director cites challenges in coordinating the organization's ecotourism efforts with Core Area management efforts on the part the MoE. Currently, the lack of tourist quotas for entry into the Core Area coupled with fluctuating Core Area entry fees, wreak havoc on the ability of Osmose to establish a consistent tourist market. Recent spikes in Core Area entrance fees, for instance, required Osmose to dramatically raise their ticket prices leading to a sharp drop in tourist numbers. This severely hurt Osmose revenues and can be seen as a setback towards the goal of ecotourism revenues fueling Osmose Prek Toal development activities.

Future Expectations of Ecotourism in Prek Toal

It is unclear whether quotas for entry into the Core Area will be established and enforced, recent efforts on the part of the UNDP-funded TSCP provide an opportunity to revive ecotourism activities in Prek Toal and establish greater collaboration among the government-NGO-private sector stakeholders. With the mandate to construct a new Core Area Management Plan, TSCP is seeking to enhance ecotourism facilities offered and managed by the MoE, including information centers and visitor accommodation. Additionally, the TSCP has contracted Osmose, as the established local development and ecotourism organization in Prek Toal, to re-apply a similar ecotourism model in the nearby community of Pak Kantiel. (Chhun and Salter, 2007) Potentially, expanding and improving ecotourism at Prek Toal, will encourage greater numbers of tour groups to visit the area and spend a greater amount of time in the village.

While TSCP efforts for conservation management attempt to incorporate community stakeholders through a general 'benefit sharing' approach, there are currently no articulated goals as to the level of involvement and incorporation of community members. (Salter, 2007) Current plans focus on enhancing local livelihoods and encouraging sustainable local development projects, but the project places little emphasis on ecotourism as a mechanism to create additional livelihood options. The Project Director, Neou Bonheur, deemphasizes the role of ecotourism in sustainable development efforts identifying that ecotourism cannot provide sufficient livelihood opportunities for villagers and the greater concern with ecotourism in the area is rather the potentially negative impacts of activities upon the natural ecology and upon local people. (Bonheur, 2007) For instance, local people may perceive growing opportunities to benefit from ecotourism and change their lifestyles only to find that they cannot provide sufficient income for themselves or their families.

Other stakeholders involved in ecotourism in Prek Toal including WCS Cambodia's Country Coordinator, Joe Walston, share Bonheur's views on ecotourism. Walston cites that ecotourism too

often “over-promises and under-delivers” as a mechanism for sustainable development and therefore expectations of ecotourism must be lowered to identify ways to channel ecotourism revenues to local populations through direct employment. WCS, for instance, seeks to enhance local community involvement in conservation efforts through the direct employment of local Rangers who currently monitor birds and additionally escort tourists to visit the Core Area. While the WCS seeks to support local development as it is intricately connected to the sustainability of conservation efforts, the WCS does not manage ecotourism activities in Prek Toal and it is unlikely that the organization will direct additional resources towards greater local community involvement in ecotourism activities.

Women in Prek Toal village participate in ecotourism activities within their community and women in Prek Toal express that they are happy when “visitors” come to the village, hoping to see greater numbers of ‘guests’ in the future. However, many additional opportunities women perceive to serve tourists at the present moment or in the near future, require financial and technical assets that many women in Prek Toal do not have. Further, women currently participating in Osmose ecotourism activities are heavily reliant upon Osmose’s efforts to continue providing additional support. While greater tourist numbers will necessarily increase local community development at some level, it is still too early to tell how successful Osmose’s new strategies to increase community participation and marketing capacity will be. The effects of the new Prek Toal Core Area Management Plan upon both ecotourism and community development are also uncertain. Therefore, while ecotourism in Prek Toal is currently contributing to the welfare of a number of women in the village, it is important to be cautious suggesting the extent to which ecotourism can provide additional alternative livelihood opportunities as well as the extent to which ecotourism can be seen as a mechanism to overcome an overall decline in fish catch per household.

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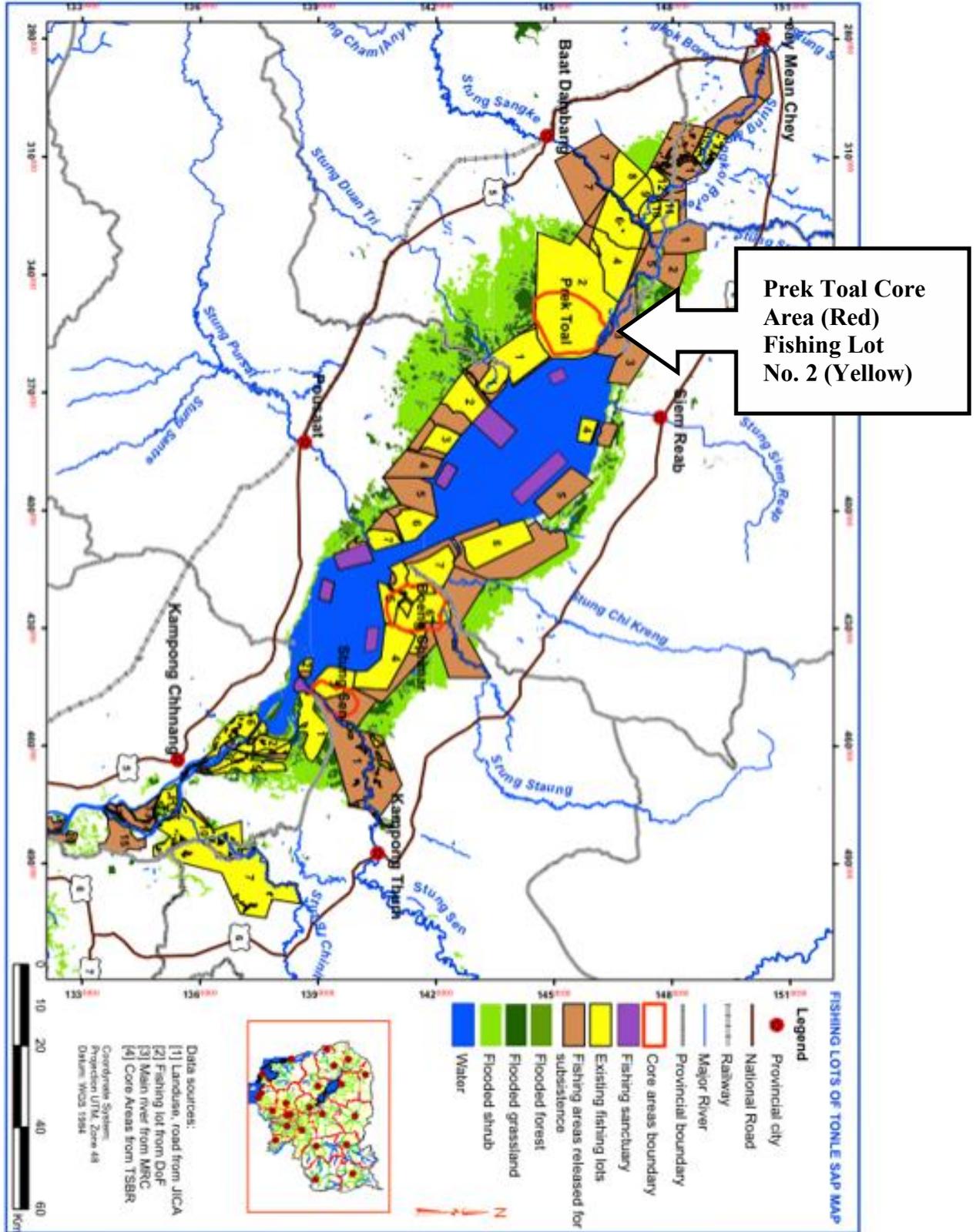
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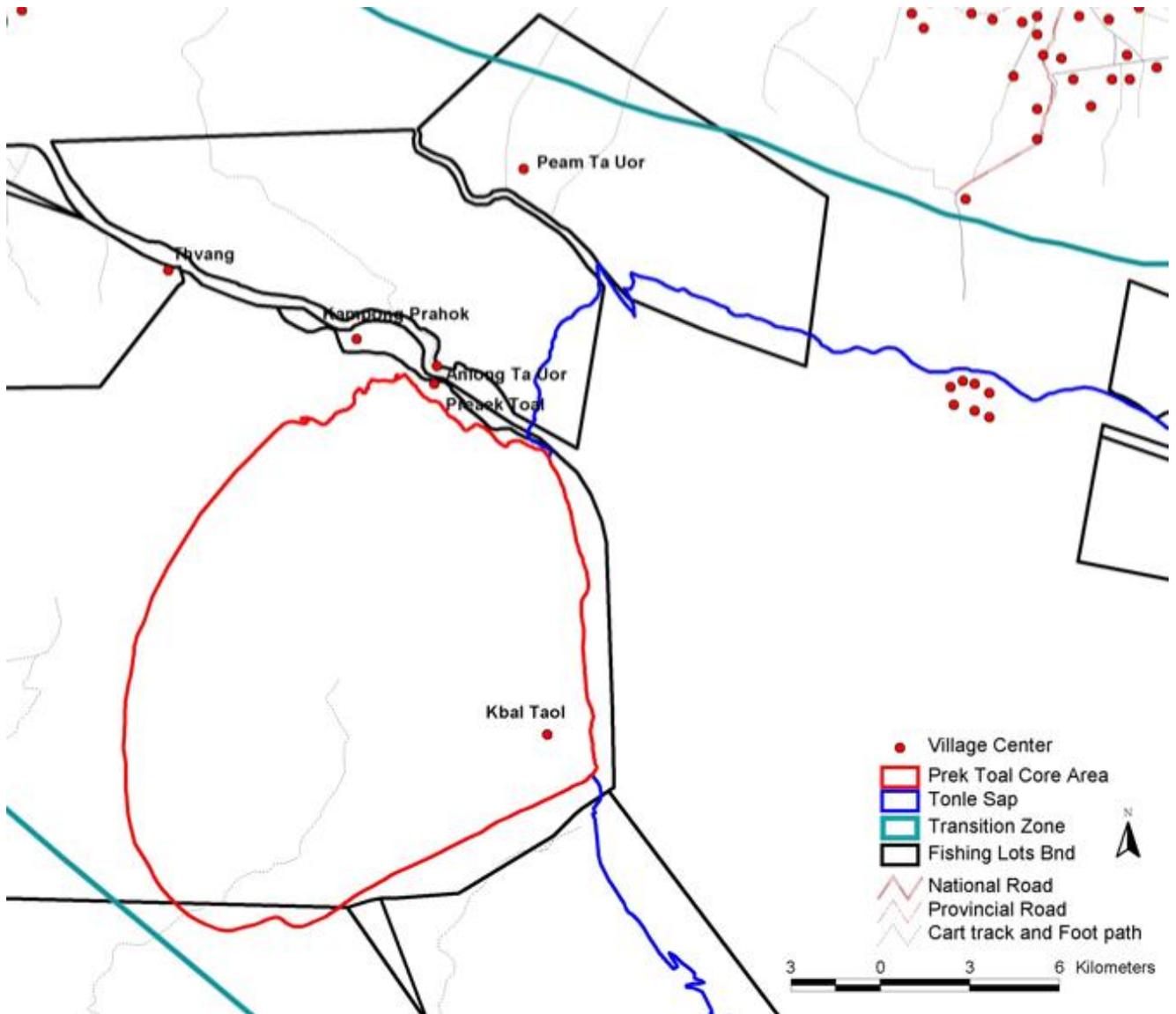
Annex 1

Fishing Lots and Core Areas of Tonle Sap Lake



Annex 2

Prek Toal Administrative Boundaries



Annex 3

Sample Tour

More than a bird sanctuary; Prek Toal is a total Tonle Sap lake experience!

At the north of Tonle Sap lake, Prek Toal is a fabulous place for seeing wildlife and birds in the dry season December - March.

The visitor can also get an experience of the fascinating life of the floating villages as well We use a Government run boat which has books to aid identification of the thousands of water birds to be found here.

4am start for the drive to Chhong Khneas floating village; where we board a boat to take us across the great Tonle Sap Lake to Prek Toal village. We transfer to a government boat at the environment centre.

Early in the season we can take a boat right into the heart of the mangroves to a tree top hide. We can see the thousands of storks and other birds nesting in the trees. As the water levels drop during the season; we see the birds fishing on the lake in vast numbers. It is one of the wonders of South East Asia.

We return to Siem reap in the afternoon.

NOTE: The bird sanctuary has upgraded facilities to include new boats As a consequence there has been an increase in cost.

Cost to be confirmed before booking

Cost \$90 Per Person depending on numbers on tour

Depart 04:00 From your hotel

Food Lunch supplied Ticketing \$5 The admission fee of \$25 is included in the price

Return 5pm

Return time is flexible

Please let us know at time of booking if you need to return at a specific time i.e. for onward flight etc

Tour runs from December to end of March

- Tour price includes transport guiding, collection and return to your hotel.
- The boats used are semi covered tourist boats with seating and buoyancy aids
- All Prek Toal tours are subject to the bird reserve being open.

During the main fishing season the reserve can be closed at short notice; as fishing takes priority.

- In the event of any cancellation for this reason all advance payments will be refunded.

Annex 4

Osmose Tour



Visit Prek Toal

With
OSMOSe

Discover the wonders of the Tonle Sap Great Lake, its ecological and human stakes and witness the Osmose project in action...

5:30 am- Pick up from your hotel to Siem Reap harbour.

6:30 am- Boat trip to cross the northern part of the Lake to Prek Toal village.

8:30-12:30 am- Enjoy birdwatching from a boat gliding through the flooded-forest, guided by a specialist of the area. Thousands of birds come each year to breed during the dry season making the area the most important in South-East Asia for endangered species such as Storks, Adjutants, Pelicans and Ibis.

12:30-16:30 pm- Village and project. After a typical lunch of fresh fish, the afternoon is dedicated to a visit to the village (crocodile farms, fishing techniques, pagoda) and presentation of the oSMoSe project (environmental classes, floating gardens, water hyacinth handicraft).

18h00- Arrival in Siem Reap.

Price for one-day trip

US \$80 per adult

US \$40 per child (under 12)

This includes:

- >All transportation from/to your hotel
- >Entrance fee to the bird reserve
- >Osmose certified guide
- >Breakfast and lunch
- >Water
- >Membership to Osmose association for one year

Conditions

- >Booking minimum 48 hours in advance
- >Prices apply to groups of minimum 4 visitors
- >Visits for less than 4 persons can be arranged upon request
- >Best birding period: November to March

Spirit

All proceeds support Osmose's environmental; education and sustainable development programs in the floating villages.

Birdwatching days, half-day trips and overnight stays can be arranged on request.

Annex 5

Training tour guide interview

Prek Toal Village, Koh Chiveang Commune, Aek Phnom District, Battambang Province.

Interpreted by Ek Heng and recorded by researcher in field notes.

May 13, 2007

Interviewees: two training tour guides

What do you know and think about tourism?

How does tourism help the community?

a) Tourism provides benefits.

Paddlers, floating gardeners and handicraft workers can generate income.

b) Very rarely tourists come to family's shop to buy soft drinks and water

Most people buy food at Ravi's house so it is rare for them to go to family store

What work did you do before and why did you decide to participate in the tour guide training program?

Unsure about the future of tour guiding

Maybe will not become a tour guide

Only learn English for a short period

Complete half the book and stop and teacher leaves

What will you do if you do not become a tour guide or what occupation did you have before and now?

b) Work in family grocery store

a) Osmose officer working in the environmental education program

The biggest challenge in working with tourists?

English constraint

Even if we become tour guides we are concerned that we are not as experienced as other tour guides

Why do you want to become a tour guide?

Want to learn English, explain village situation to visitors and let them know about Khmer culture and living conditions in village

How would you show or share Prek Toal with me if I was a tourist?

Introduce more detail inside each place

Tour guides only know 50 percent of each place

Would get information from the people responsible for each place visited

What do you think about a job as a tour guide? Do you think it is a good job and does it pay well?

Happy with job even though not a tour guide yet

Like the job whether the income is more or less
Wants to speak English as good as a foreigner

To be a tour guide is English the most important factor?

English is the most important
Want to speak English and learn history
Nowhere in the village to study English

If you were to take me to one place that you thought was really important and unique in the village, where would you take me?

Bird area in core
Biology of area makes it important
Far place are located in the core and near place at the mouth of river
Cannot access because the water is too shallow and the boat might get stuck

Where is another place that you would take me since the bird areas are off limits due to low water conditions?

Diver
Only diver in area and can dive a long time and find valuable items
Birds are the primary place to visit and the most important in personal opinion but it is not possible to access viewing places
Diver is not the first priority but want to help him generate income because he is a widow and has few ways to support his livelihood

What will you do with the money that you generate from guide work?

When become guide the income will go to the family for food and to learn English
Money generated from tour guiding is mine to spend but must ask permission from my parents before spending

What do you think about tourists coming to Prek Toal in the future?

There will be more tourists
Local people will generate more money
Village will develop
Fishermen will stop fishing to work with tourists
The more people involved in tourists activities means more jobs for local people

How do tourists help people?

People involved with tourists means that tourist activity is helping with poverty reduction but it cannot support people's livelihoods
People working with tourists only, cannot support their family and must get another job

What changes in the future with tourism do you think could help Prek Toal develop?

Chhong Khneas is developing well.
There are many problems with site including smelly water and waste in water but it is better than Prek Toal.
Prek Toal should develop in the same way because people are living better in Chhong Khneas even though there are negative environmental effects.
Environmental concerns and conservation measures can come later.

The first priority is money
No money no everything

Mock-tour to see the Diver

Facilitated by training tour guides

May 14, 2007

Researcher: Why is it important to take tourists to see the diver in the village?

He can dive a long time in the water and find valuable things.

Fishermen in the village can dive a long time.

For people who cannot swim and fall in the water, the diver can save them or retrieve bodies

Guides: How old were you when you started diving?

14

How many children?

one child

lives alone and sometimes child visits.

Besides diving do you have another job?

No other job

Main job is diving because no other skill or capital.

dive up to 10 meters

dive for 2-3 minutes.

How much income do you generate from diving?

The amount is not exact but more or less depending on item.

Things that are important bring in more money than things that are less important.

For cheap items, receive 1000 Reel

Gold or wrist watches, receive 35,000 Reel

Rich people will give up to 50,000 Reel

Will you change jobs?

Will not change jobs because do not know other jobs and has no capital

Diver gets income immediately

No budget and does not know where to find another job and does not know another job

Only diver in village so everyone and tourists ask for service so there are lots of customers

During the wet season there are more than in the dry season

Other businesses require capital and human resources

Why does your son not live with you?

Son wants to get a good job and save for marriage.

Diver wants to get married for good health.

After getting married will have good health.

What is the story about your wife?

Wife was a chief of a women's association in the Pol Pot regime

Went on "mission" in 1979 and the diver lost her and could never find her

Diver lost wife before girls were born

With a wife there is someone to cook and a wife can take care of you day and night
No one to cook at home and no one to take care of you
It is too hard to take care of himself living alone

Researcher: How does Osmose tell you to do tours and present the diver?

Osmose just says to gather information and Osmose will compile the information and return it to the guides to learn and use

Diver is a very special skill

If someone lost something or someone dies in the water, the diver can find the body
He can generate income and support himself using his skill

Osmose's representatives is located in Siem Reap and came just briefly to talk about the guide position.

Training tour guides are responsible for collecting information about places in the village. After the information is gathered, Osmose will return to demonstrate how to explain the village.

Tourists are not interested in everything so there is a need to focus on special things and make sure that tourists can understand easily.

After all the lessons are completed guides will practice in the village with tourists while Osmose staff observe.

Researcher: When you give the tours will you be able to tell the tourists what you want and share some parts of the village the way you want?

The first time we will follow the way Osmose demonstrates, but after that we will share whatever we want. We will not always do it the same way because the tour will change if there are new things in the village.

Annex 6

Prek Toal Village Field Guide

I. Thematic Focus and Research Questions

- a. Thematic Focus
 - b. Research Questions
 - c. References in preparation for fieldwork activities
 - II. Site sampling technique
 - III. Study Process
 - a. Itinerary
 - b. Sequence
 - i. Preparation
 - ii. Introduction
 - iii. FGD and Individual Interview
 - IV. Checklist of issues and methods for FGD
 - V. Checklist of issues and methods for individual interviews
 - VI. Documentation
 - a. Field Notes
 - b. Map
 - c. Photographs
 - VII. Roles and Responsibilities
 - VIII. Material to take along to the field
-

I. Thematic Focus and Research Questions

a. Thematic Focus

Statement of Problem

How do the women in the village of Prek Toal within the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve participate and benefit from ecotourism?

The purpose of study is to determine the role of Prek Toal village women in ecotourism activities within their community. The study also investigates women's perspective on tourism within their community, how it affects their lives, and if they have expectations of current and future benefits or changes resulting from tourism. This analysis creates an entry point into a discussion of ecotourism as a sustainable development strategy and the affectivity of ecotourism as an appropriate alternative livelihood for women in the village of Prek Toal.

i. Influence of ecotourism on women in Prek Toal Village

1. Women's participation in tourism
2. Women's perceived benefits from tourism
3. Women's perception of tourism in the future

b. Research Questions (guiding template, adjust and extend as needed)

i. **Socio-Economic Profile**

1. Marital Status
2. Members of your family?
3. Years of formal education?
4. How does your household generate income?
 - a. What ways does your house make money to support the family?
5. What activities are you engaged in within the household?
6. Do you work with tourists?

- a. What is the history of your involvement with tourism?
 - b. How did you start the job and how long have you done the work?
- ii. **Existing tourism presence:**
 - 1. How do tourists help the community?
 - 2. How do tourists help you?
 - 3. What challenges do you face in helping tourists or what challenges does the community face in working with tourists?
 - 4. What challenges do women face in working with tourists?
- iii. **Existing Opinion:**
 - 1. What can you tell me about tourists visiting Prek Toal village?
 - 2. Why do tourists visit Prek Toal?
 - 3. Why do you think that they should visit Prek Toal?
 - 4. What is special about Prek Toal?
 - 5. What do you think about working with tourists? How do you like your job?
 - 6. What changes have you noticed in the village as a result of tourists' visit here?
 - 7. How do you think tourists change the village?
 - 8. Do you think there will be more tourists in the future and how will this change the village?
 - 9. What are problems related to tourists or what things do you notice that are less helpful?
 - a. Do you notice trash or do you feel that tourists could help more?
- iv. **Stakeholder recommendations:**
 - 1. How can tourists and tourism help you and the village more?
 - 2. Are there place that you would like tourists to remember or places that they should go that you feel are important?

Survey and questionnaire approach using guidelines from following references:

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Proofing and advising from:

Eric Baran, Richard Friend, Pelle Gatke, Anne-Maria Makela, Ouk Soriya

- II. Site Sampling Technique
 - Four types of interactions at the community level during this study:

FGD, individual interviews, interviews with key village representatives, discussions and meetings (chat with villagers, meeting with TSCP field team members, etc.) and sample tours.

Type of Interaction	Unit
FGD	1 FGD/ >5 villagers
Individual Interviews	> 10
Key Representative Interviews	opportunities
Discussions and Meetings	opportunities
Sample Tour	Opportunities

FGD

Survey Sample Criteria:

Women

Young

Old

Various Occupations-all involved in Osrose Eco-tourism activities

Focus Group Participants

Name	Age	Eco-tourism	Years	Marital status	Children	Education
Kit Luit	52	Floating garden	6	Married	5 boys	No school
Chim Sa Luit	52	Retired handicraft	2	Married	3 boys, 2 girls	No school
Kun Lum Ong	23	Handicraft		Single		5
Saylum Orng	21	Handicraft	5	Single		5
Sek Chan Thea	18	Handicraft		Single		9 & studying
Chaun Penh	40	Paddler		Married	1 boy, 2 girls	3
Phek Hing	48	Paddler		Married	1 boy, 3 girls	No School
Kek Straymum	18	Paddler/ floating garden		Single		3
Leng Seang	18	Paddler	1	Single		5

Individual Interviews

Survey Sample Criteria:

Individual interviews will be conducted with women in the village. Women working or assisted by village NGO, Osmose, will be interviewed as well as women who have no relation to Osmose local development program activities. Women of various ages, education levels, and marital situation will be included. The fieldwork will attempt to incorporate villagers in a broad range of socio-economic circumstances to better reflect the range of socio-economic conditions within the village.

On-site Interview participants

Location: Prek Toal Village Dates: May 11 2007-May 14-2007

Name	Age	Marital Status	Children	Education	Eco-tourism Activity	Interview Date
Leng Seang	18	Single	2 sisters	5	Boat paddler	May 11
Sen Snay	19	Single		5	handicraft	May 11
Bun Ravi	35	Married	1 boy 4 girls	7	Guesthouse/ restaurant owner	May 11
Sien San	42	Married	1 boy 8 girls	None	none	May 12
Daughter Sien San		Single		5	Osmose Env. Edu. class	May 12
Cheum Pichrath	23	Single	Siblings 1 brother 6 sisters	9	Osmose officer/ training tour guide	May 12
Veasna	22	Single	Siblings 3 brothers 2 sisters	9	Training tour guide	May 12
Diver (male)		Widowed	1 boy		CBVT diver	May 13
Noun Num	44	Divorced	1 deceased		Ice seller	May 13
Le Nam	57	Widow	1 boy 2 girls	1		May 13
Khorn Saborn- Daughter of Le Nam	27	Single	Siblings- 1 brother 1 sister	5		May 13
San Utsapea	40	Single		5	CAMC cook/ house cleaner	May 13
Kea Vanna- PT Village Council Head						May 13
Roum Proun	59	Widow	5 children 3 deceased	A few weeks	Grocery	May 13

			1 girl 1 boy			
Ouk Veasna-TSCP						May 13
Rith Roeun	47	Single-living with one individual	1 adopted		Morning boat vendor	May 14
Chea Samonn	28	Married	2 girls			May 14

Fieldwork participation

Fieldwork Survey Composition:

Osmose officers, TSCP volunteers, as well as villagers involved in Osmose activities-particularly the hired boat paddler-assisted in identifying the greater proportion of women selected for interviews. The extent to which this selection process affected the survey composition is difficult to quantify. A proportion of the interviews were identified based on field observation, by the researcher.

Widows and single women were included within the survey. Young women under 25 along with married women and older women were also selected. Due to time and financial constraints, the fieldwork did not have the assistance of a Vietnamese interpreter and therefore, while the survey recognizes the significant presence and contribution of this ethnic community within Prek Toal village, members of this minority ethnic group could not be incorporated into the survey.

Eco-tourism involvement among fieldwork participants:

Eco-tourism Activity	Number of Villagers
Training Tour Guide	2
Boat Paddler	4
Water Hyacinth Handicraft artisan	5
Floating Garden	2
Lodging (accommodation)	2
Vendor/Grocer	3
Other	1 (diver)

III. Study Process

Itinerary

Activity	Description	Date
Prepare Field Survey	Prepare questions Review suggestions	
Travel	Bus to Siem Reap	May 9
Meeting	Nick Butler-Osmose	May 10
Preparation	Collect Materials for FGD and Interviews as well as field supplies	May 10
Meeting	Review Plan with Ek Heng-Interpreter	May 10

Departure	Bus/Boat to Prek Toal	May 11
Arrival	Check in	May 11
Meeting/Scheduling	Mao and Sambath Representing UNDP team for TSCP	May11
Tour	CBVT mock tour	May 11
Visit/Interview	Visit Handicraft Workshop and conduct 2 villager interviews	May 11
Visit/Interview	Visit Ravi's Guesthouse and interview	May 11
De-Briefing	Review Plan and Overview with Heng	May 11
Focus Group Exercise	Meet with 9 village women for map exercise and group discussion	May 12
Interview	Meet with villager	May 12
Interview	Meet with 2 training Osmose tour guides	May 12
Visit/Interview	Visit Floating Garden and interview villager	May 12
De-Briefing	Meet with Heng	May 12
Mock Tour	Visit village Diver with training tour guides to observe and discuss tour	May 13
Interview	Meet with villager	May 13
Interview	Meet with two villagers-widow and daughter	May 13
Interview	Villager	May 13
Coordinate	Attempt meeting with village/commune leader	May 13
Interview	Village Council Head	May 13
Interview	Villager	May 13
De-Briefing	Schedule/Plan with Heng	May 13
Interview/Discuss	Ouk Veasna-TSCP representative	May 13
Interview	Attempt to meet Ranger	May 14
Interview	Villager	May 14
Departure	Boat back to Siem Reap	May 14
Arrival/Interview	Traveling Villager	May 14
Meeting	Osmose-Francoise Bricout	May 14
Departure	Bus to Phnom Penh	May 14

Sequence

Preparation

Introduction

FGD and Interviews are conducted informally using open-question format. Every interviewee is informed of the researcher's student-status as well as the intent and purpose of the project. Interviewees are asked permission to use the information from the interview as well as their name within the written report. Subjects are asked permission to take a photograph that can be used in the project presentation and documentation.

IV. Checklist of Issues and Methods for FGD

Arrival

Welcome

Water and cake distributed for participants

Introductions

Researcher

Background

Project Objectives and Focus Group Purpose

Participants

Name

Age

School

Marital Status

Children

Ecotourism activity

Brainstorming

Map Exercise

Open-ended questions and discussion

Wrap-up

Thank you

Photograph

Scarves distributed to participants

V. Checklist of Issues and Methods for Individual Interviews

Pre-Interview Scheduling (optional)

Arrival

Introduction

Researcher

Background

Project Objectives and Focus Group Purpose

Understanding of shared information

Permission for interview

Participants

Name

Age

School

Marital Status

Children/siblings

Open-ended questionaire

Informal discussion

Wrap-up

Thank you

Photograph

Scarf distributed to participant

VI. Documentation

a. field notes

b. map

c. photographs

VII. Roles and Responsibilities

Researcher

Preparing fieldwork survey

Contacting and arranging interpreter

Contacting and arranging lodging, transportation, and meals

Collecting fieldwork materials

Arranging Fieldwork Schedule

Identifying objectives and timeframe with TSCP volunteers and Osmose
Interviews, FGD, and mock-tour design and execution
Collecting and recording fieldwork data
Reviewing and verifying data with interpreter and TSCP volunteer and Osmose

Compensation

Interpreter

Discussing fieldwork contract
Assist with communication and arrangement of transportation, lodging and food
Assist with Fieldwork Schedule arrangements
 Communicating with boat paddler
 Communicating with villagers
Translating
 Village transportation
 Interviews
 FGD
 Mock-tour
Reviewing and verifying fieldwork data with researcher
Reviewing and adjusting fieldwork contract

TSCP Volunteer

Introductory meeting with researcher and interpreter
 Provide site information
 Arrange fieldwork schedule
 Arrange village transportation
Contacting villagers
 Arranging meeting place/time for FGD

IX. **Materials to take along to the field**

- a. Large piece of paper
- b. Marker pens
- c. Rubber band
- d. Plastic bag
- e. Scarves
- f. Camera
- g. Computer
- h. USB drive
- i. Bottled water
- j. Cakes
- k. Field notebook
- l. Bread-for breakfast

Annex 7

ISP Timeline

Event	Details	Location	Date	Time
Arrival	Plane from Hanoi	Phnom Penh	April 25	~1pm
Meeting	Eric Baran- Advisor WorldFish	FA	April 26	10am
Meeting	So Nam- Fisheries Administration	FA	April 27	4pm
Research	Review Documents Web Search	FA/other	April 28-29	
Coordinate	Email Contacts Arrange/Confirm Interviews		April 28-29	
Meeting	Richard Friend- WorldFish	WorldFish	May 1	1030am
Meeting	Joe Walston-WCS	WCS office	May 3	1030am
Forum	Infrastructure on Livelihoods Presentation	Phnom Penh		
Research	Collect documents	CDRI library	May 4	330pm
Meeting	E. Baran	FA	May 4	6pm
Meeting	M. Kosal - WorldFish	WorldFish	May 7	830am
Meeting	Hap Navy	FA	May 7	10am
Meeting	Heng-Interpreter	FA	May 7	1030am
Prepare Field Survey	Review Documents and Projects	FA	May 7	Prepare Field Survey
Meeting	Yin Soriya- CCBEN-MoT		May 7	1pm
Prepare Field Survey	Prepare Questions and review sample livelihood questionnaire		May 7	
Coordinate	Schedule/Confirm Interviews		May 8	
Shop	Buy Gifts for Interviewees	Central Market	May 8	1230am
Meeting	Anne-Maria Makela-SNV	Java Café	May 8	430pm
Meeting	Long Kheng-MoE	MoE office	May 9	9am

Meeting	Brett Brandon-CDRI	CDRI office	May 9	1030am
Travel	Bus to Siem Reap	Central Market	May 9	1230pm
Arrive	Check in at guesthouse and debriefing with interpreter	Rosa's Guesthouse Siem Reap	May 9	630pm-8pm
Prepare Field Survey	Prepare questions Review suggestions	Siem Reap	May 9	9-11pm
Prepare Field Survey	Prepare questions Review suggestions	Siem Reap	May 10	
Meeting	David Thompson-TSEMP C2	FAO/UNDP office, Siem Reap	May 10	1pm
Meeting/Research	TSEMP C2 Team	FAO/UNDP	May 10	230pm-430pm
Meeting	Nick Butler-Osmose	Sam Veasna Wildlife Ctr.	May 10	5pm
Prepare Field Survey	Prepare questions Collect material and supplies	Siem Reap	May 10	7pm-10pm
Meeting	Review Plan with Heng	Guesthouse	May 10	10pm
Departure	Bus/Boat to Prek Toal	Guesthouse	May 11	6am
Arrival	Check in	CAMC	May 11	9am
Meeting/Interview/Scheduling	Mao Meas and Ban Sambath-TSCP and Osmose	CAMC	May 11	10am
Tour	CBVT mock tour	Prek Toal	May 11	2pm
Visit/Interview	Visit Handicraft Workshop- 2 villager interviews	Handicraft Workshop	May 11	3pm
Visit/Interview	Visit Ravi's Guesthouse and interview	Ravi's House	May 11	5pm
De-Briefing	Review Plan and Overview with Heng	CAMC	May 11	8pm
Focus Group Exercise	Meet with 9 village women for map exercise and FGD	Floating Home	May 12	8am
Interview	Meet with villager	Floating	May 12	1030am

		Home		
Interview	Meet with 2 training Osmose tour guides		May 12	230pm
Visit/Interview	Visit Floating Garden and interview villager	Floating Home	May 12	430pm
De-Briefing	Meet with Heng	CAMC	May 12	7pm
Mock Tour	Visit village Diver with training tour guides to observe and discuss tour	Floating home	May 13	8am
Interview	Meet with villager	Floating Home	May 13	10am
Interview	Meet with two villagers-widow and daughter	Floating Home	May 13	11am
Interview	Villager	CAMC	May 13	2pm
Coordinate	Attempt meeting-village/commune leader		May 13	3pm
Interview	Village Head	Floating Home	May 13	330pm
Interview	Villager	Grocery store	May 13	430pm
De-Briefing	Schedule/Plan with Heng	CAMC	May 13	7pm
Interview/Discuss	Veasna-TSCP representative	CAMC	May 13	9pm
Interview	Attempt to meet Ranger	CAMC	May 14	6am
Interview	Villager	CAMC	May 14	7am
Depart	Boat back to Siem Reap	CAMC	May 14	8am
Arrival/Interview	Traveling Villager	Siem Reap	May 14	1030am
Meeting	Osmose-Francoise	Osmose office	May 14	1045am
Depart	Bus to Phnom Penh	Siem Reap	May 14	12pm
Arrival	Phnom Penh	Central Market	May 14	7pm
Coordinate/compile Field Work Data	Schedule Meetings		May 14	
Coordinate/Compile Field Work Data	Schedule and Confirm meetings	FA	May 15	morning
Schedule	interview with TSCP	Java Express	May 15	Morning

Research	Review literature	FA	May15	Afternoon
Interview	Richard Salter Team Leader and Hour Lim Chhun Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist TSCP	MRC office Phnom Penh	May 15	4pm
Research/compile notes	Review literature and compile interview notes	Java Express	May 15	6pm
Meeting	Asian Trails Company tour agent	Asian Trails Phnom Penh	May 16	9am
Schedule Interviews		FA	May 16	1030am
Interview	Hourn Thy- Stay-Another-Day	ISCM/MPDF	May 16	5pm
Interview	Roy Fenn-ADB	ADB	May 17	915am
Interview	Collect Documents from Long Kheng	MoE	May 17	1030am
Interview	Dr. Bonheur- TSCP Director/TSBR Secretariat	MRC	May 18	3pm
Prepare Report		Phnom Penh	May 19-22	
Depart	Bus to Can Tho	Phnom Penh	May 23	7am
Arrival	Check in	Can Tho	May 23	10pm
ISP Presentation	Final Presentation	Can Tho University	May 25	8am