Building on local knowledge for Basin Development Plan

BDP Stakeholder Consultation

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Vientiane, Laos

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Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)








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1. What's CEPA ?

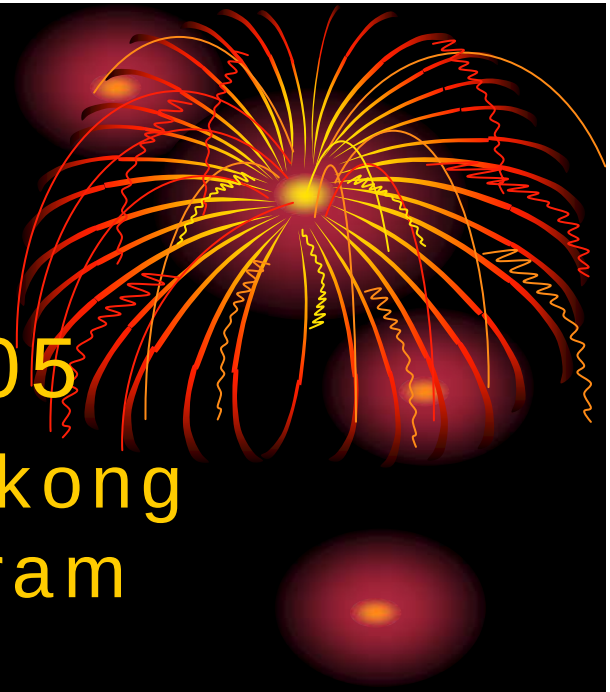
- Non government organization (NGO)

1. Sustainable Livelihood
   - Community Forestry
   - Community Fishery
   - Eco-Tourism

2. Advocacy for Sustainable Water Resource Management
   - Water Resource Management
   - Advocacy and Networking
   - Information and Communication

3. Human Resource Development
   - Environmental Activist Training
   - Community Training
   - Sala Phoum

2. Sala Phoum



- Project started in May 2005
  - CEPA & IUCN under the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Program (MWBP)
  - 94 local researchers (4 villages : Koh Langor, Veun Sean, Koh Sneng and Koh Khonden) in the RAMSAR site
  - 5 Research Assistants (RAs) from CEPA to help coordinate and document the research.

SALA PHOUM OBJECTIVES

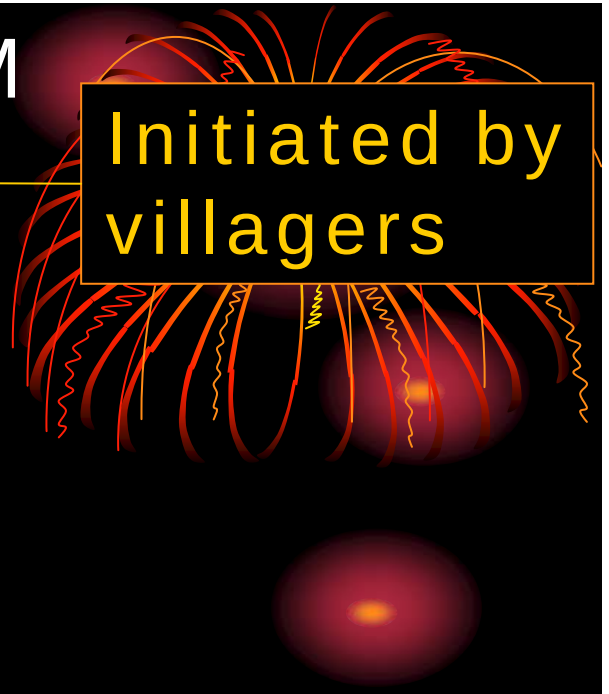
- To empower villagers and increase their awareness of the natural resources in their villages through conducting their own research,
- To describe and monitor changes in natural resources,
- To train villager-research teams to be able to work as a network in order to exchange knowledge within and between villages,
- and to compile and document local knowledge related to the natural resources in their villages.



SALA PHOUM FOCUS ON 3 MAIN TOPICS

- Fisheries (including fish species, traditional fishing gear, fish habitats, fish spawning grounds and migration routes);
- Flooded forest vegetation and herbal medicines and
- Sub-ecosystems

PROCESS OF SALA PHOUM



Initiated by villagers

CEPA & MWBP

Final Report & Publication

SALA PHOUM PROJECT

If correct

RESEARCH ASSISTANS

Review &correct reports

If incorrect

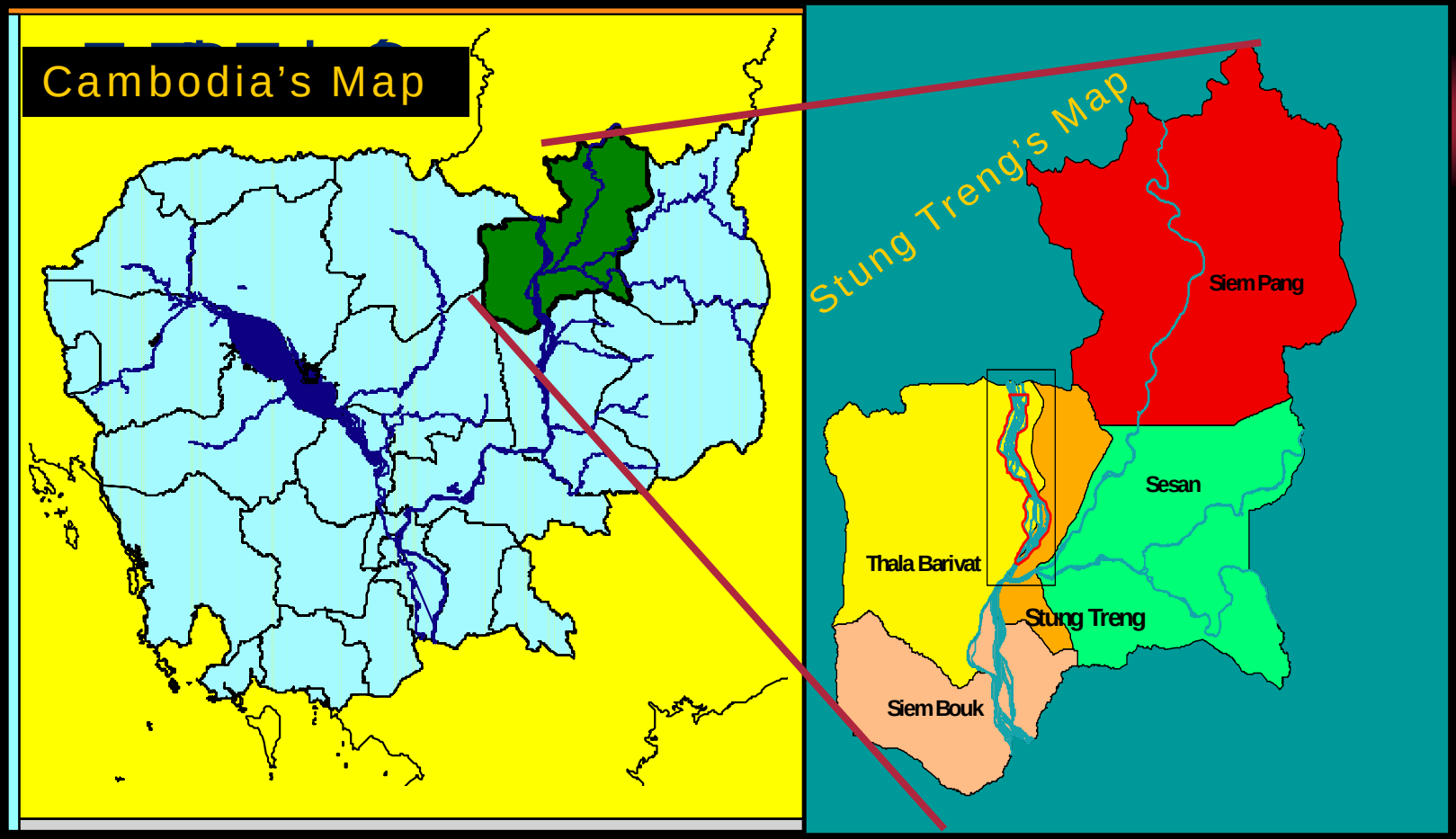
RESEARCHERS IN 4 VILLAGES

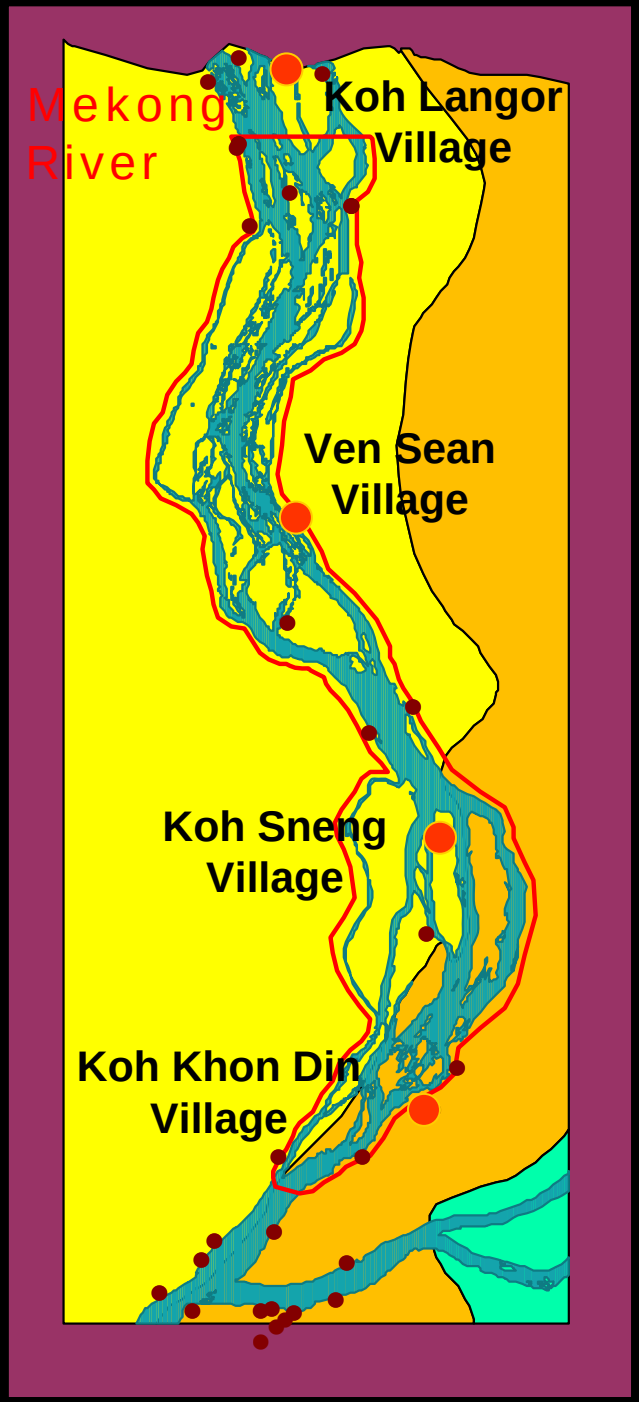
- Koh Langor
- Koh Sneng
- Veun Sean
- Koh Khonden

- Data collection
- Observation
- Group discussion
- Organize meeting
- Workshops
- Record
- Reports
- Photos

Extend projects to other places in Cambodia

LOCATION OF THE PROJECTS:




Mekong River
Koh Langor Village
Ven Sean Village
Koh Sneng Village
Koh Khon Din Village

Study Sites

Methodology

Participatory Approaches

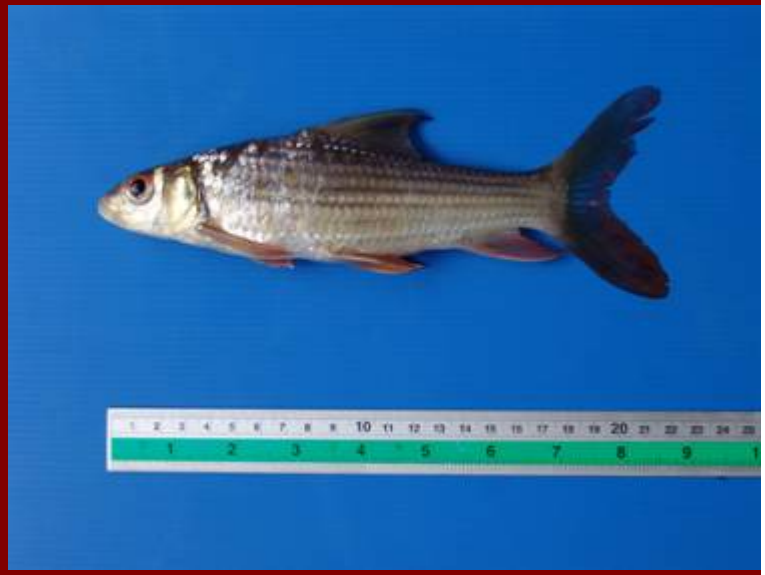
- Resource mapping
- Group discussions
- Interviews
- Questionnaire
- Observation
- Documentation

FACT FIDING...

Fish Results

Total number of fish species: 130

- Types of habitats
- Kinds of spawning grounds
- No. of migrating/non-migrating fish species:
- Status (common, rare, etc.)
- Food of fish
- Fish stock
- Fishing gear and season used
- Processing



Fishing Gears

- Rainy Season
  - hook and line
  - gill net
  - cylinder trap
  - drop-door trap
- Dry Season
  - hook and line
  - gill net
  - cast net

Plant Results

Total number of plant species: 36

- Kind of plant (vine, grass, etc.)
- Types of habitats
- Uses and processing
- Status (common, rare, etc.)

3. Achievement...

- Books
- Posters
- Pictures
- Case studies



Achievement …

- Villagers have more knowledge of natural resources.
- Villagers be able to do research by themselves.
- Researchers have share experiences to the people in other areas.
- After research, villagers be able to use data to plan natural resource conservation management into commune council
- Increased knowledge gives the villagers more ownership and control over their resources.

Achievement …

- Villagers known the changes in fish stock
- Villager known migrating/non-migrating fish
- Villager known kinds of fish/plant species in their area and
- They have documents for new generation



4. Villager Research

- Practicalism
- Inside Researcher
- Known deeply on NRM system in their village
- Extend knowledge to community & villager
- Information sharing with local community, government, academic, researcher and scientists.
- Useful for decentralization Planning
- Sustainable in community (Micro level)
- Documentation

Expert & Academic

- Theory
- Outside researcher
- Desk Study more then field
- Extend knowledge to academic, researchers and student
- Gap information about NRM system
- Centralization Planning
- Sustainable in the macro level
- Documentation



5. Lessons Learned

Research Assistants

- Good communication with partners.
- Get knowledge from researchers.
- Knowing local languages develops trust with the villagers and makes the work better.
- Known life styles of people living
- Understood power relation in the target villages
- Known seasonal works of people



Lessons Learned:

Village Researchers

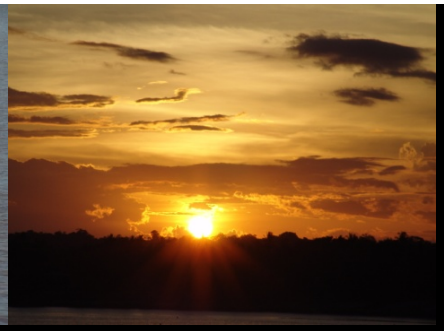
- It is good opportunity for villagers to share knowledge with the young generation.
- They can discuss and agree with each other on the acceptable answers.
- They have confidence to debate about aquatic resources with Fishery Aministration's staffs.
- They can negotiate with stakeholders
- Women have chance to research like men.
- Experiences can be shared between regions through workshops and meetings.



6. Recommendations: Call for supporting from stakeholders MRC-BDP

- Add case studies for previous places include study on wildlife and birds
- Expand research to other areas in RAMSAR site and Mekong tributaries in Stung Treng & countries
- Network with other villagers those from other countries

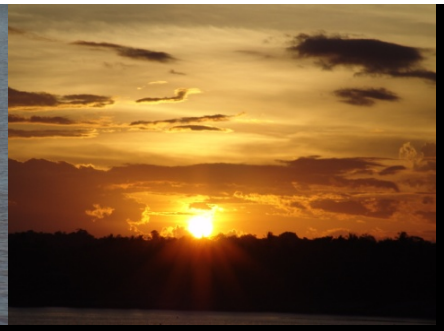




6. Recommendations: Call for supporting from stakeholders MRC-BDP

- Develop strategies and policies in managing wetland and fishery resources in the RAMSAR Site & Wetland
- Decision makers to develop and implement policies to manage Mekong's riverine system to mitigate impacts of large scale development in the region
- Strengthen regional network to cooperate with governments to develop and implement policies to manage the Mekong River within the region

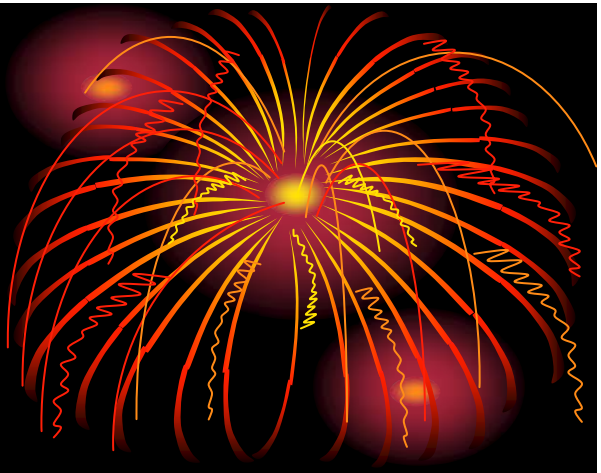




7. Perspective of civil society for MRC's role and responsibility

- Decentralization : in the Mekong Region
- Decentralization planning
- Civil Society can positively engage and work in partnership of the implementation of BDP
- Civil Society could potential provide alternative options/ mechanism to enhance better outcomes
- Civil society has unique expertise connecting people to various stakeholders e.g, policy makers, bilateral bodies, private sectors, governments, etc

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION



What's happen for our Mekong River in the future ?