

**NATURAL RESOURCES SYSTEMS PROGRAMME**  
***PROJECT REPORT***

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Communication strategies for fisheries conflict management.  
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### **Communication Strategies for Fisheries Conflict Management:**

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#### **Fisheries in Cambodia**

- Cambodia has a wealth of natural resources, including inland fisheries.
- Tonle Sap Lake is rich in fisheries.
- Fish production:
  - Inland fisheries produce between 290,000-430,000 tons per year
  - Fish contributes 5-10% of the GDP

#### **Revenue from fish exports**

- Revenue generated from inland fisheries is estimated at US\$150-US\$200 million a year. The retained value could be around US\$500 million, and about US\$30-50 million from the marine fish.
- The value of preserved, processed and exported fish, both inland and marine is estimated between \$34, 300,000 and \$40, 400,000.
- This abundance of aquatic resources is driven by the water from the Mekong River, which inundates the Mekong River catchments and the Tonle Sap Great Lake and increases the area of the lake from about 2,500sq km to over 12,500sq km.
- Four million people in Cambodia depend directly on inland fishing for their livelihoods and represent more than 50% of Cambodia's 13.5 million.
- Fish provides 40-90% of total protein intake in fishing villages. The annual per capita consumption is 13kg in upland areas and over 75kg around the Great Lake.
- Unlike many other countries where fish is a luxury affordable only to the rich, Cambodian fishery products are still accessible to even to the poorest sector of the country.
- Tonle Sap Lake is the biggest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia and is rich in fisheries. Around the lake there are fishing grounds allocated as fishing lots. The fishing lots have been in existence for more than 100 years now.
- The Great Lake/Tonle Sap fish catch accounts for 60% of inland fish production.
- In 2000, RGC reformed fisheries sector and released up to 56% of the existing lot areas for the purposes of community management.

### Fishing Categories in Cambodia

Categories	Condition of Accessibility	Duration of Fishing Operations	Fishing Ground
Fishing lots	Leased out through an auction Leased as a research fishing lot	Only in the open fishing season : - 1 October to 31 May for the fishing grounds located north of Phnom Penh- 1 November to 30 June for the fishing grounds located south of Phnom Penh	Inside the fishing lot area but outside the area that is set aside for open access
Middle Scale	Through a license for marine fisheries	Only in the open fishing season : - 1 October to 31 May for the fishing grounds located north of Phnom Penh- 1 November to 30 June for the fishing grounds located south of Phnom Penh	Public fisheries domain (The area outside the fishing lots, fish sanctuaries, and the protected inundated forest zones)
Family scale	Free	Whole year round.	Everywhere except inside the fishing lot during the open season, and inside the conservation area

### Main Stakeholders and Their Interests

Main Stakeholders	Resource Base	Function	Interests
Fisheries Department	All fishing grounds	Manage the fisheries resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue</li> <li>• Management</li> <li>• Research</li> </ul>
Lot owner, Lease/sub-leaseholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area of the fishing lot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concessionaire, private fishing right holders</li> <li>• Large-scale fishing operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximize income:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fish exploitation</li> <li>- Leasing out some areas</li> <li>- Selling fishing rights</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common access areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees of lot owner: protection services</li> <li>• Control some open access</li> <li>• De facto leaseholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue from:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Selling open access areas</li> <li>- Selling fishing rights</li> <li>- Check points in and outside the fishing lot</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common access area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selling open access area outside the fishing lot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income from selling open access</li> </ul>
Villagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common access areas</li> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Common property resources (CPR)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsistence fishing:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Own family labor</li> <li>- Small scale fishing gear</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food security</li> <li>• Income generation and subsistence from: CPR (fishing, farming, firewood, vegetable and wild animal gathering)</li> </ul>

### Main Sources of Conflicts from Resource Use amongst Stakeholders

Sources of Conflicts	Parties Involved	Trade-off	Effects on Fisheries
Sale of common access areas	Lot owners, military, community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit for lot owners and military</li> <li>• Reduced income of the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensive fishing activities taking place</li> <li>• More fish caught</li> </ul>
Extending the fishing lot boundary	Lot owners, community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit for lot owner and military</li> <li>• Reduced income of the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More flooded forest protected</li> <li>• More fish caught</li> </ul>
Closing water way	Lot owners, community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve fishing operation by lot owners</li> <li>• Disturb socioeconomic aspects of community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More fish caught</li> </ul>
Poaching inside the fishing lot	Individual fishermen , lot owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term benefit for the individual fishermen</li> <li>• Reduced catch of lot owners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illegal fishing gears used</li> <li>• More fish and habitat destroyed</li> </ul>
Agriculture activities inside the fishing lot	Community, lot owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term benefits of the community</li> <li>• Reduced fish productivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More flooded forest area converted as agriculture land</li> </ul>

### Case Studied Areas

#### **Anlong Raing**

Socioeconomic profile of the fisheries involved

- Anlong Raing is a floating village in Kg. Por Commune, Krakor District located in the west shore of the Tonle Sap lake.
- At present, Anlong Raing is home to 93 families with a total population of 431( 202 males and 229 females), of which 36 families are Vietnamese consist of 186 people ( 100 males and 86 females).
- All villagers are small-scale fishers.
- Villagers in Anlong Raing have no farmland. Fishing is their primary occupation

Infrastructure facilities

- This is a remote village No electricity in such a flooded forest
- Traveling by boat

Socioeconomic constraints

- Ninety-three families have only one occupation, affected by declining fisheries.

Institutional and legal framework

- DoF and PoF are enforcers at the local level

## **Tamou Leu**

Socioeconomic profile of the fisheries involved

- The Community Fisheries Committee of Tamol Leu, of 270 families, were established on 28 July 2002 with the help of the Australian Catholic Relief (ACR) in collaboration with the Provincial Fisheries Office of Kg. Chhnang, local authorities, and their fishers.
- Fishers comprise 80% of the villagers.
- All villagers have rice farmlands during dry season and catch fish in the stream, pond, etc.
- Canal/Dike Committee versus Community Fisheries
- Illegal fishers versus Community Fisheries
- Lotus fields/Plantations owners versus Community Fisheries
- Fishing ground conflicts

## **Fisheries Conflicts in the Study Areas**

### **Types of conflicts perceived by fishers**

- Utilization of the natural resources
- Technology (illegal fishing gears)
- Institutions involved in fisheries management
- Environmental issue

### **Anlong Raing village**

- Fishing ground conflicts
- Outside fishers versus Community Fisheries
- Fishing lot operation versus Community Fisheries
- Illegal fishers versus Community Fisheries

### **Tamou Leu village**

- Canal/dike committee vs Community Fisheries
- Illegal fisher vs Community Fisheries
- Lotus fields/ plantations ownership vs Community Fisheries
- Fishing ground conflict

### **Stakeholders involved in fisheries conflicts**

- Police, fisheries officers, etc.
- Authorities
- NGOs
- Fishers, both rich and poor
- Fishers (insiders and outsiders)
- Fishing lot owners
- Canal/dike committee
- Farmers (lotus planters)
- Flooded forest cutters
- Fisheries officers, relevant government institutions

### Highlights of the Communication Strategies for Fisheries Conflict Management from the International Workshop

Who?	Why?	What?	How?
<b>NGOs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help to provide training and technical support and advice</li> <li>• Help to push for regulations/laws related to fishery passed.</li> <li>• Advocating for local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The concepts of Community Fishers not yet clearly understood</li> <li>• Community Fisheries not yet recognized fully by National Fisheries Department</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search for NGOs operating in the fishery to help on the fisheries</li> <li>• Through mass media</li> <li>• Networking</li> </ul>
<b>Family Fishers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce illegal fishing activities</li> <li>• Solicit understanding on the importance of community fisheries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning fishing ground</li> <li>• Limit the use of fishing tools</li> <li>• Why illegal fishing gears</li> <li>• Why forest cutting, burning, and hunting</li> <li>• Population increasing</li> <li>• Decreasing natural resources</li> <li>• Establishment of Community Fishers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops at grass-roots, provincial and national level</li> <li>• Leaflets/brochures/flyers</li> </ul>
<b>Gov't officials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be more accountable and responsible</li> <li>• Enact laws and regulations, and enforce existing ones, supportive of community fishers and long-term sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for laws/regulations</li> <li>• Need to implement the law more effectively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop at provincial and national levels</li> <li>• Radio/ TV and newspapers</li> <li>• NGO support</li> </ul>
<b>Media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate information widely that encourages conflict resolution and hold government accountable to the problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishery laws</li> <li>• Importance of natural resources</li> <li>• "Success stories" in conflict management</li> <li>• Examples of illegal activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct contact</li> <li>• Through national and international NGOs</li> <li>• Parliamentary members' meeting</li> <li>• Relevant institutions</li> </ul>

### **Lessons Learned**

- More than 60% of local people in Pursat Province and Kampong Chhnang have to radio.
- Access to TV has increased in the communities.
- Use of call phone has increased in urban and rural areas. There was this case where a member of the local community made a phone call to a radio station to call government attention on the bad road in the village; a few months later, the Prime Minister sent a mission to study the problem until the rehabilitation of the road.
- Fisheries reform in 2000 was made due to increased media coverage on fisheries issues provided by local people, NGOs and local government.
- NGOs organized provincial meetings to provide a forum for local authorities, government officials, local community and NGOs to meet and discuss fisheries issues.
- The fisheries laws are in place, but enforcement is weak.
- The fisheries reform happened due to political interests, not out of well-planned policies.
- Lack of political will led to poor reform in fisheries and put the CF in a dilemma. Some government officials had a conflict of interest with CF, were unwilling to institute full reform, and often blamed the CF for not doing a good job.
- Some government officials were behind illegal fishers and even confronted the communities.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

- Develop a policy for CF and other policies for improving fisheries management
- Provide more forums to fisheries stakeholders through meetings, workshops and seminars at the provincial and national levels.
- Promote fisheries issues in media, newspapers and other communication means.
- Strengthen law enforcement in fisheries management to prevent fisheries conflicts.
- Share information on fisheries conflict with stakeholders in fisheries.