



គម្ពីរមន្ត្រីសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា
Cambodian Center for Human Rights



Terms of Reference
Social and Environmental Impact Assessment:
From perspective of Community Fisheries in Kampot and Kep Province
and Civil Society in Cambodia.

Background:

Kampot is located along the coastal region of Cambodia and is among one of the largest seagrass beds in the South China Sea. Out of the 435km of Cambodian coastline, Kampot covers 66.5km of it and has a total area of 4873km². Mangroves fringe the coastline and small patches of coral reef can be found. The seagrass bed in Kampot is among the most extensive coastal ecosystems and stretches approximately 50km along the Kampot coastline, extending through Kep and further past the Vietnamese border in Hat Yien. Some of the seagrass extends along the coastline of Phu Quoc. Overall, the seagrass along this stretch of coastline and Phu Quoc island is growing as large patchy areas within close proximity to each other, which are all ecologically inter-related and can be considered as parts of the same seagrass ecosystem.

Seagrass meadows are incredibly important coastal ecosystems. They provide spawning and nursery areas for many species, sequester large amounts of carbon and provide significant support to local livelihoods. Its importance and value to local livelihoods, and its significance in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation are not properly understood and are consequently not sufficiently taken into account in development planning. Refed to the seagrass surveys in Kampot made by the International Union For Conservation of Nature (IUCN) during the monsoon season (May-July) 2013 founded that 11 seagrass species and covers an area of 8,435.80 hectares and is relatively healthy with a moderate to good status. Anthropogenic threats to the seagrass bed include destructive fishing practices, coastal development, sedimentation, pollution and mariculture. The most significant threat is the construction of a seaport directly on the seagrass bed, which could cause severe sedimentation throughout the whole seagrass bed destroying large habitat areas. Without immediate long-term monitoring and conservation efforts to mitigate the threats, the seagrass bed may be under too poor conditions to adapt to the future impacts of climate change or largely wiped out before climate change impacts become noticed. Coastal livelihoods will be at risk if action is not taken soon.

Furthermore, with increased CO₂ released into the atmosphere influencing global warming, it has been estimated that seagrass worldwide fixate 1% of the total carbon fixed in the ocean but store 12% (UNEP, 2004 & Mat Bjork et al, 2008). This is largely because seagrass decompose at a slow rate. Seagrass beds are economically valued as one of the most important ecosystems in the world, approximately \$3.8 trillion USD worldwide. As a whole seagrass beds are vital to sustaining biodiversity and the economy of the region (UNEP, 2004).

In Kampot and Kep province, livelihood of Community Fisheries depends on access to and control over their land and natural resources, in particular fisheries were threatening by new state-led and commercial development project, for instance, the New Kampot Town Development. With confirmation of OMNI Kampot Development, the development of New Kampot Town will cover 4,158 hectares of new fill-up land, as an artificial island in Kampot (Teuk Chhou district) and Kep city of Kep province. Media report stated that company representatives identify as being with a company, and the company itself refers to itself primarily as a real estate developer. It has two nearly identical websites (<http://www.pallasbrilliantinvestment.com/> &

<http://pallasinvestmentgroup.com/partners/>) and reportedly has \$23 billion on hand for the Kampot project, and yet nothing is known of its history or its previous projects.

Should the construction start, the new artificial island will affect more than 6,000 hectares of marine resources, most of which are the sources of livelihoods of more than 5,504 families (1,455 female), especially members of the 5 coastal Community Fisheries – out of 14 in Kampot and Kep provinces. There are a number of other ongoing projects.

Large scale development projects without properly and transparency of the Social Environmental Impact Assessment will have directly negative impacts underway and rapidly destroying and degrading significant areas of this precious resource before its real value to the people in Kampot and Kep province and the rest of Cambodia are fully understood. Based on these concerns, and after the discussion with the Community Fisheries since February 2019, community members as well as commune and sub-national authorities required stronger evidence to proof and support related impacts on sustainable livelihood, environmental sustainability, and tenure security, which are aligned with a matter of food security and sustainable development over land and natural resources.

A Social Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) assignment responds to a pressing need for coordinated community and civil society action to challenge ongoing and new state-led and commercial development on the Kampot and Kep province coastlines that threaten the access to and control over land and natural resources of coastal Community Fisheries. Children and Women Development Centre in Cambodia (CWDC), Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) in collaboration with ActionAid Cambodia (AAC) for implementation of the project “Securing access to and control over land and natural resource for vulnerable Community Fisheries in the coastal areas of Cambodia”, funded by the European Commission (EC) for 36 month period (2020-2022) has proposed this assessment to serve as evidence to challenge the finding of the official EIA reports and if necessary, advocate for sustainable community-led fishery resources management, which are protected under the Constitution of Cambodia, 2001 Land Law, Law on Fisheries, Law on Protected Areas and other relevant provisions and land policies.

Research Purpose:

The SEIA will serve as basis for evidence-based advocacy for communities, CBOs and networks to shadow the findings from official SEIA Reports (public or non-public reports) to plan and conduct advocacy for sustainable community-led fishery resources management and resilient livelihood of the community members. The research shall maximize participation of community and CBO/CSO as well as local competent authorities.

Research Objectives:

The research aims at assessing the following:

- Analyze and compare cost benefits (economy, social, physical, and environmental) of development projects versus community-led fishery resources management.
- Provide information and recommendations on the sustainable economic and environmental consequences from the approved development projects.
- Provide information and recommendations to community members, community fisheries, Networks and relevant CSOs to draw appropriate advocacy agenda and actions with relevant stakeholders.
- Explore appropriate alternatives and mitigation measures to inform key stakeholders including national and sub-national, development companies especially CBOs.

Scope of the Research

The research will study development projects within the Project target communities, including Kampong Samaky, Trapaing Sangke, Prek Tnoat and Trapaing Ropov Community Fisheries in

Kampot Province and Kampong Tralach, Phum Thmey and Kep Community Fisheries in Kep Province.

This will review 7 community's livelihood contexts: communities who relies on productive land for agriculture and fishery resources. The study focuses on practical evidence and a comparative review of differences in economic, social, physical, and environmental costs and benefits. This study shall take into account of every stakeholder, particularly on the perspective of community members and shall be fully informed by The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and the UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights.

Key Responsibilities:

The execution of service requires the Consultant Team to work closely with target communities, CBOs, networks, sub-national, national authorities, expertise, NGOs, academia, and the companies. The main tasks include, but are not limited to, the followings:

- Design research methodologies and identify stakeholders who could provide meaningful and comprehensive inputs into the study and maximize participation of target community into the study process.
- Desk-review of existing EIA reports (public and/or non-public documents), investment documents, laws and policies to substantiate as evidence and supporting documents.
- Identify sample selection and data collection methodologies and plan.
- Conduct comparative economic, social, physical, and environmental cost and benefit analysis, by ensuring taking side on the perspective of community members and shall be fully informed by The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and the UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights.
- Produce a PowerPoint presentation in Khmer and English for presentation purpose to community and relevant stakeholders
- Hold consultative meeting(s) with relevant stakeholder at community and other level, including academia, field experts, company, authority to discuss the initial findings, and solicit more inputs at different level.
- Produce a final report (15-25 pages) in Khmer and English (ready to publish version).
- Produce a briefing note (2-4 pages) in Khmer and English (ready to publish version).
- Provide all raw materials (data, photo, list of interviewees, etc.) to AAC.
- Reporting outlines shall well serve the objectives of the research as mentioned.

Experience and qualification:

The Researcher team should have demonstrated competencies as below:

- Have comprehensive experiences conducting the EIA and/or cost benefit analysis.
- In-dept knowledge, skills and have experiences in community participatory action research.
- Post graduate degree in Rural Development Studies, Economy, Sociology or Anthropology or related field.
- Comprehensive knowledges and well understanding of community development, economic, social, and political context in Cambodia, community fishery and natural resources management and costal livelihoods and local governance.
- Knowledge of land tenure security in coastal area is a plus.
- Strong analytical, writing, training and community facilitation skills.

This opportunity is open to both Cambodian and foreign national; however, AAC will not provide additional interpretation/translation cost.

Timeframe of the research:

The research shall be started in August and concluded in October 2020.

No.	Activities	Outputs
1	Develop research/study protocol and seek AAC and project team's agreement.	Inception report or research protocol report
2	Develop research questionnaire and tools and ensure community participation into the process. Conduct training to data collection team if necessary.	Tools and questions, training if necessary
3	Data collection, processing and analysis.	Fieldwork report
4	Develop initial findings and presentation and conduct community and stakeholder consultation(s) as agreed in the protocol and timeframe.	Consultation session(s)
5	Finalizing and submit final reports and briefing note.	First draft report

Budget and payment:

Total budget: EUR 8,000 (tax inclusive). Payment will be made in 3 installments.

How to Apply and Deadline:

The application (in group or individual) shall submit the following documents:

- Research design/protocol based on the given ToR, including proposed budget breakdown and timeframe.
- Individual CV of the lead researcher and team members
- Company detail, if registered company
- Sample of previous similar research report conducted by the lead researcher, at least one.

Submit the application to: [E-mail: cambodia.job@actionaid.org](mailto:cambodia.job@actionaid.org)

Deadline: 08th July 2020

For more information about the research please contact:

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