



CASE STUDY OF CBET IN KOH PDAO AND SAMPIN

CSO establishment under CSPPM program
Funded by Oxfam GB based in Kratie



30 June 2008

Written by **Sun Mao**
CRDT Kratie, Cambodia

Introduction

Koh Pdao and Sampin village located on stretch of a longest and biggest island along the Mekong River in Kompong Cham commune, Sambo district of Kratie province. The distance between this village and Kratie province town are 44km, including traveling by car 36km and by boat 8km, and spend around 2h:30mn on traveling. These villages has border with Ampil Toek village to the north, Mekong River to the west, east and south. The area is rich of natural resources both under and over the land including gold mine, varieties of fishery and forestry resources, wild bird and animal, large mammal ...etc. Moreover, the area exist a main natural deep pools of the Mekong, called Koh Pdao pool, for reproduction of most fish species, and other rare wild animals such as giant cat fish, probarbus jullieni, sting ray, dolphin ...etc. The people are ordinary Khmer whose is living in traditional way of lifestyle depending on mostly the resource from the Mekong River. Currently, 405 families are residing in these two villages with total population of 2066 people including 1122 women. The majority of community's livelihood activities are dependent entirely on natural resource consumption. These livelihoods include fishing, planting crops, farming, raising livestock and logging from the forest in neighboring areas. Nearly 100% of the villagers practices subsistence farming due to there is very little rice and vegetable cultivation with relatively low yield, the villagers have no choice but fishing at the river which is prohibited the purpose of conservation effort. While natural resource along the river of fishery and forestry decreasing down, CRDT has started the project of livelihood development since 2006 in these villages with purposes to improve the better practice of technical agriculture application in order get them out of the river as to support the conservation effort of Irrawaddy dolphin.

While natural recourse around the area still exist a wonderful viewing and there are a lot of potential for eco-tourism, a community based eco-tourism committee was initiated by community, and commune council of Kompong Cham, at the same time that CRDT has received funding from Oxfam GB based in Kratie province under CSPPM program. The main purpose is to conserve the remained existing resources in the area and contribute to improving living condition of local people through tourism market service.

Establishment of CBET

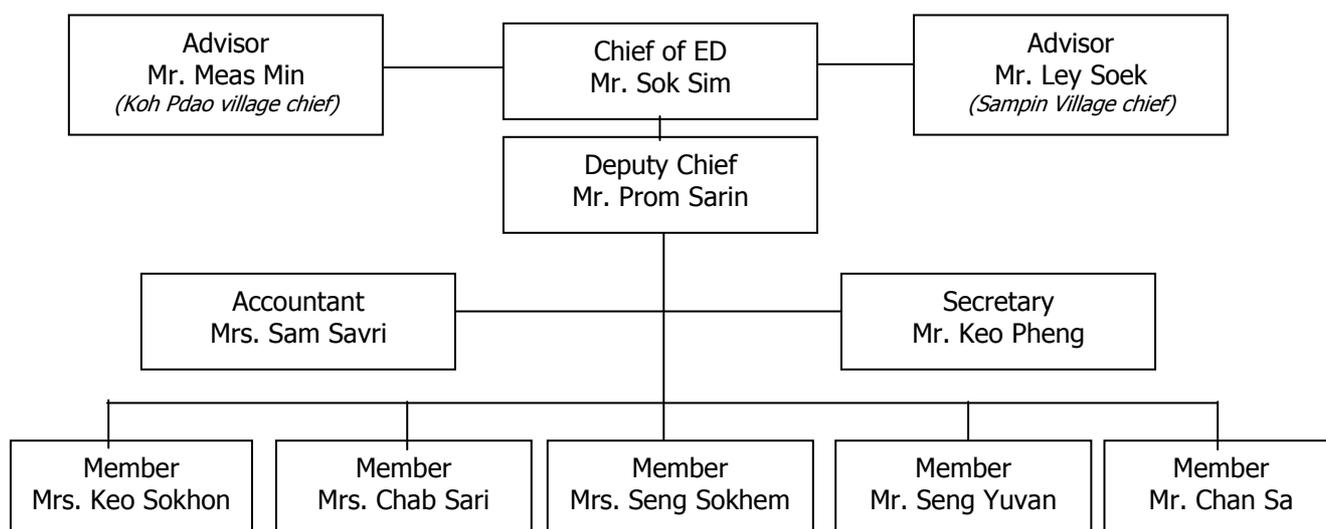
The meeting with commune council members was conducted by CRDT on 29th March 2008 to introduce the activities of CSO establishment, and find out possibility for collaboration to establish CSO in the commune, mainly creating CBET. On the 8th of April 2008, commune level meeting participated by two villages of Koh Pdao and Sampin was conducted to decide on establishment of CBET and then prepared the election to select executive members. By the meeting, nine executive members including 4 women of this CBET were assigned that excluding two advisors from a village chief and Sampin. This is fully a CSO at commune level that consist of 51 members including 34 women. The meeting was also decided their own name called "**Koh Pdao Mekong Eco-Tourism Committee**".



The meeting at commune level to select executive member of CBET hold in Kompong Cham center

Management System

The executive members were managed by one chief, one deputy chief, one accountant, one secretary and five general members. The key overall responsibilities are: ED chief will be responsible for overall leading, managing, planning, implementing and monitoring the activities, Deputy chief will be assistant to chief, Accountant will be responsible for managing budget and income, budget plan and expenditure, Secretary will be responsible for recording meeting minute and keeping documents, and general members will be responsible for five service categories that are home stay, food, transportation, local guide and handicraft. Furthermore, two advisors from village chief of Koh Pdao and Sampin will be responsible for advising in overall management, implementation and monitoring in all stages.



Activities and Achievements

Since the executive members were assigned from the election on the 8th of April 2008, many activities have been done over the expectation including capacity building for executive members and beneficiaries by village workshop and study tour to different provinces, develop internal statute and by-law, get a registration as an official CSO from commune council and under processing to an approval from provincial governor of Kratie province, won a bidding at district level for around 4000 USD on the project of Eco-tourism development project in Kompong Cham commune under NRML fund donated by DINIDA.

The main achievements of this CBET are:

- Finish draft internal statute and by-law by discussion meeting with all beneficiaries
- Attend training and workshop on tourism development by CRDT, Tourism Department of Kratie province, CCBEN, Mekong Discovery Trail...etc.
- Get approval from commune council as an official CSO and under registration from provincial governor of Kratie province.
- Win a bidding of Eco-tourism project under NRML fund amount 4000 USD, and currently under implementing this project which facilitated by commune council of Kompong Cham and CRDT project staff.
- Finish benefit sharing among the community by meeting with all beneficiaries.
- Under preparing service for tourists such as home stay, food, transport, local guide...etc.
- Under CRDT advertisement program of tour for this CBET, currently tourists coming gradually to visit their community, around 10 tourists every month.



Attend national workshop in PP on CBET by CCBEN



Learn experiences from other CBET, Chambok, K.spue



Visit eco-tourism site at Chambok during study tour



Visit eco-tourism site at Chipat during study tour, Koh Kong

Conclusion

The CBET of Koh Pdao and Sampin are still very young, only three months old, having less experience in running the activities. But due to a close collaboration and under supervision from commune council and full support from CRDT for both technical implementation and materials, this CSO can achieve many actions, especially winning a bid for Eco-tourism project under NRML fund supported by DINIDA in 2008. And one the most successful in this CSO is strong relationship between each member, trust each other, honestly, very supportive by the community and Executive members assigned by public election. Otherwise, all any issues among their members need to be discussed openly and find out solution together, that is also part of a good success. In the near future, this CSO plan organizing a standard service for tourists such as a nice home stay, clean food, transportation and good service of local guide to receive all kinds of tourists from both inside and outside the country.

One of a lesson learned during activity implementation are benefit sharing among their members. This should set clear policy, guideline of each kind of service that generate incomes for both the committee and community and should be decided by all members in a meeting. The benefit sharing is sensitive issue in the CSO that may cause a serious problem among its members. So, a clear mechanism of benefit sharing should be studied from previous CSOs in different area and discussed to set a clear strategies before conducting with the community.

