



## CASE STUDY OF CBET AT KOH PREAS



CSO establishment under CSPPM program  
Funded by Oxfam GB based in Stung Treng

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*Written by Sun Mao  
CRDT Stung Treng, Cambodia*

### Introduction

Koh Preas village located on an island along the Mekong River in Koh Preas commune, Saimbok district of Stung Treng province. The distance between this village and Stung Treng town are 31km, and spending time on traveling by boat, approximately 3 hours. This village has no border with other villages only the Mekong River around with very beautiful viewing. The area is rich of natural resources both under and over the land including varieties of fishery and forestry resources, wild bird and animal...etc. Moreover, the area exist a main natural deep pools of the Mekong, called Koh Konsat pool, for reproduction of most rare 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, 286 families are residing in this village with total population of 1376 people including 728 women. The majority of community's livelihood activities are dependent almost entirely on natural resource consumption including fishing, planting crops, raising livestock and logging from the forest in neighboring areas. Nearly 100% of the villagers practices subsistence farming that there is very little rice and vegetable cultivation with relatively low yield, the villagers have no choice but fishing at the river. While natural resource along the river of fishery and forestry decreasing down, CRDT has started the project of livelihood development since 2006 in this village 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.

In order to support further conservation and livelihood development, while natural recourse around this area still exist a wonderful viewing, the CRDT project supported by Oxfam GB based in Stung Treng in cooperation with local people and especially commune council was established a committee of Community Based Eco-tourism (CBET). The main purpose is to conserve all existing resource and develop living condition through tourism market.

### Establishment of CBET

While the village meeting was conducted by CRDT on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2008 to introduce the activities of CSO establishment, most people seem very interested but some feel hesitated. The next meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2008 comes to decision making and do election to select executive members. By the meeting, seven executive members including 3 women of this CBET were assigned but excluding two advisors from a village chief and a commune council member. This is still a micro-group at commune level that consist of 23 members including 16 women and very supportive from commune council and its own members.



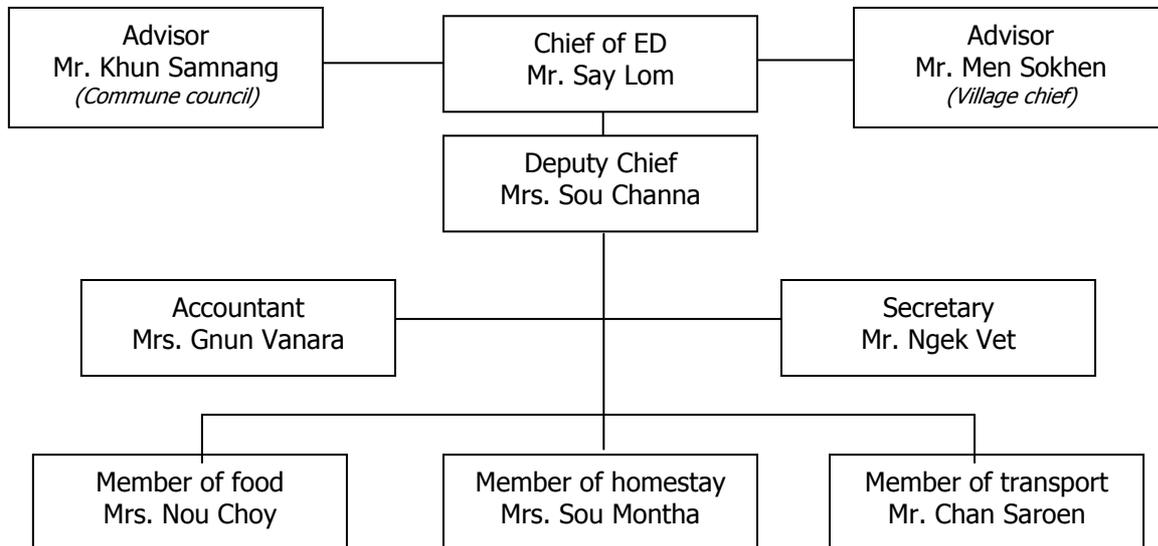
*Meeting to introduce project activities*



*Candidates for election of executive members*

## Management System

The executive members were managed by one chief, one deputy chief, one accountant, one secretary and three 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 three service categories that are home stay, food and transportation.



## Activities and Achievements

After the executive members were assigned after the election on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2008, most of activities are capacity building for executive members. Those are attending a tour study to different area that has similar activities of Community based eco-tourism in Kompong Speu and Koh Kong from 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, organized by CRDT. From 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2008, attending training workshop by Oxfam GB in Stung Treng on basic proposal writing for commune council and CSPPM small grant. Currently, this Micro-group is working in a close collaboration with commune council of Koh Preas to develop by-law and internal statute to get register as an official group, and also developing a simple proposal to submit for a small grant from CSPPM program. Furthermore, both ED members and their own members are currently very active in raising their purpose of activities to encourage more people participate in the group.



Attend presentation in CBET Chambok during study tour, K.spue



Exploring tourism potential with Chiphat CBET, Study tour Koh Kong

## **Conclusion**

The Koh Preas CBET is a very young Micro-group, just established over a month ago, but has been very active in many activities regarding to capacity building. The most successful of this Micro-group is a small group but at commune level and very supportive by local authority, especially commune council. The main reason is we selected one of commune members as an advisor, so that he could learn and attend many activities in this group such as developing internal statute, writing proposal...etc. Currently, due to increasing capacity of ED members, normal members and local authority that encourage more people in the village want to attend this group activity. By this achievement, in the next few months, the group will register as an CSO at commune level that have over 35 members.

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