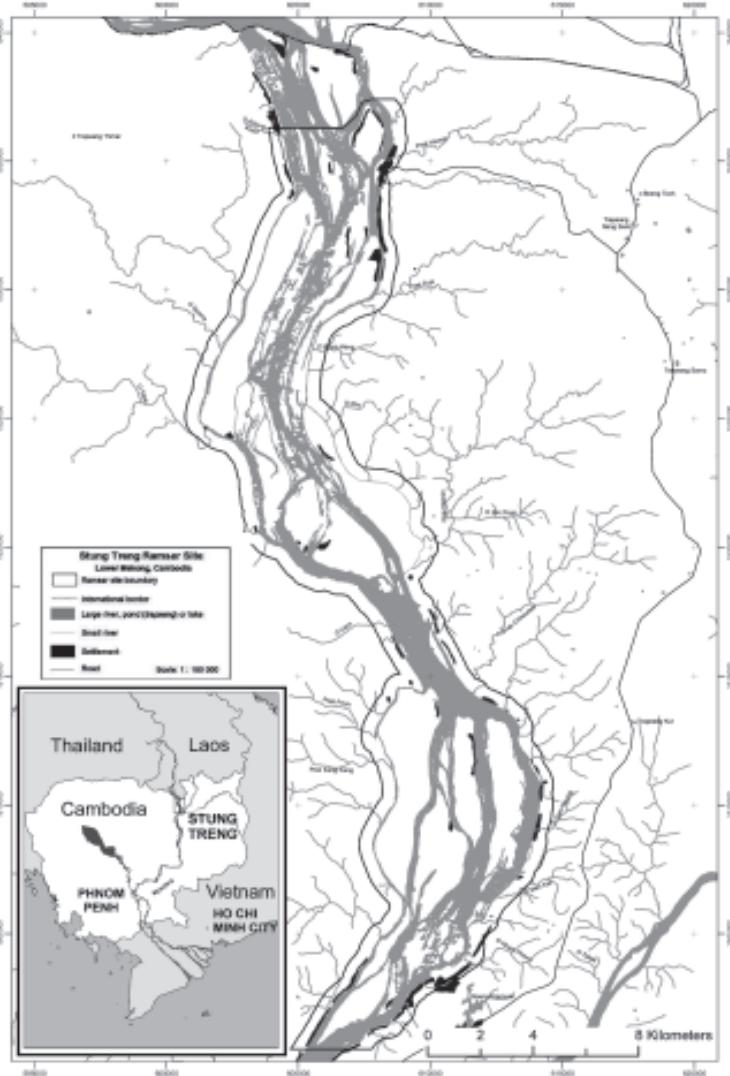


តិចលវោមសារន្តីទេស្តុទ

នទេមេគង្វូនខេត្តស្ទឹងក្រោងនៃប្រទេសកម្ពុជា តិចលវោមស៊ីមដែលមានសារ៖សំខាន់ជាម្មោគជាតិ និងដែល ពាន់ទួលស្ថាល់ ដោយភាគរដ្ឋាភិបាលកម្ពុជា និងអនុសញ្ញាបាសាន្តីពិកំបន់ដែីសីម។ កំបន់រាជសារនេះលាកសន្តើនៃ ប្រជែង៩១ គ.ម បើដួងទេមេគង្វូន នៅភាគខាងជើងនៃចំនួចប្រសួរភ្នំពេញ រាជធានីក្រោមរដ្ឋ ព្រៃតុម៉ោង នៅការមធ្យរិខិកដ្ឋឹកខ្មាគ់ អនុនៃជាជាន់ និងផ្លូវខ្សោចប្រកបដោយគ្រូស ដែលជាកន្លែងដ្ឋរកកោណ៍នៃប្រភេទស្ថីជារឿងដែលរាយការកំភាគកំហេង និងដែល មានដោយក្រោម។ ភាគខាងត្រូវតាមរដ្ឋនៃក្រុមកំពស់ទិន្នន័យមេគង្វូនបំពាលនៅភាគដោយឡើកសម្រាប់ប្រភេទនៅ ដែលរស់នៅក្នុងទីក និងមានតួនាទីពលមកលើការធ្វាស់ទី រដ្ឋវង្វួន និងធ្វើសំបុក ព្រមទាំងផ្តល់ជាធិជ្ជកសម្រាប់ ស្ថីជារឿងប្រភេទនៅក្នុងរដ្ឋរត្រាំង។

ខែត្រូវឱ្យរួមជាឌ្ឋុចខែត្រូវឱ្យរួម

ទិន្នន័យកំបន់រាជសារនេះ ត្រូវបានទទួលស្ថាល់ នៅថ្ងៃការ និងក្រុមកំបន់អ្នកជាតិ បាមានគុណភាពខ្ពស់ និងអនុម័យដល់ប្រជាផន្នៅថ្ងៃការ កំបន់ដែីសីមទាំងនេះ តិចលវោមស៊ីមនិងរឿង សម្រាប់ទេស្តុទេស្តុ និងភាគរយប័ត្រ ព្រមទាំងផ្តល់ជីកាសសម្រាប់ការរួចរាលិជ្នូរធម្ម និង ចំណួលជាយិយប័ណ្ណបរទេសដែងដោរ។ ប្រភេទ ត្រីជារឿងដែលធ្វើឱ្យរបាយការណ៍ និងដែលមានសារ៖ សំខាន់ខាងពាណិជ្ជកម្ម និង ភាគរយប័ត្រ ដូចជា **ត្រីក្រោល** (*Henicorhynchus siamensis*) ធ្វើឱ្យមាស់ទី ដោយសារការធ្វាស់ប្រុនបច្ចុប្បន្នប្រចាំរដ្ឋរា។ មុខរបរ ចិត្តូមជើកដែលធ្វើកលើកំបន់ដែីសីម ទាក់ទងនិង ការរបើបានដែលជារឿងប័ណ្ណបរទេសបែង ហើយអត្ថិភាព និងទិន្នន័យការពេងមុខរបរទាំងនេះ ពីងឺជ្នូរទៅលើ ក្នុងមាន និងសម្អាតការក្នុងការបំរួចបំនួនពាណិជ្ជកម្ម និងផ្នែកជំនួយដែលរាជធានីក្រោមដើរដី។



រូបទី ១. ដែនទិន្នន័យការទទួលស្ថាល់ទេស្តុទេស្តុទេស្តុ នៅថ្ងៃទេមេគង្វូន នៅក្រោមរាជសារនេះ និងប្រទេសកម្ពុជា។ ដែលស្ថិតនៅភាគខាងត្រូវឱ្យរួមជាឌ្ឋុចខែត្រូវឱ្យរួម និងបច្ចុប្បន្ននេះ អនុនៃជីវិត ដែលស្ថិតនៅជាប់ព្រំប្រទល់ប្រទេស និងជាធិជ្ជកសម្រាប់បំផុត ដែលជាប់ព្រំប្រទល់ប្រទេស និងជាធិជ្ជកសម្រាប់បំផុត ស្ថិតនៅក្រោមទំនំទេស្តុទេស្តុទេស្តុ។

¹ Timmins, R. J. (2006). An assessment of the biodiversity conservation significance of the Mekong Ramsar site, Stung Treng, Cambodia. Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Programme, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

ធម្មជាទំនាក់រូបការងារ

- ព្រះសាខន គិតថាកន្លែងមួយក្នុងចំណោមកន្លែងមួយចំនួនក្នុងដែលមានសារ៖សំខាន់ខាងដ៏ធ្វើកដីវា៖ចម្លៃទៅក្នុងកំបង់រាយសារនេះ និងដែលស្ថិតក្រោមត្និពលអប្បបរមាតិសកម្មភាពមុនស្សី ។
- សត្វស្អាបជាប្រចើនប្រកេទដែលមានសារ៖សំខាន់យ៉ាងខ្លាំងសម្រាប់ការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍បានអារម្មណ៍ និងប្រកេទសំបុត្រទៅព្រះសាខន ។
- មានការទទួលស្ថាប់អំពីកំឡុងដ៏នឹងដីវា៖ចម្លៃជាប្រចើនដែលមុនស្សីប្រើប្រាស់សម្រាប់គោលដៅនៃការចិញ្ញីមជីវិត និងសេដ្ឋកិច្ចទៅក្នុង និងទៅក្នុងប្រចើន ជាតិសេសត្រី (រូបទី ២) ។
- អ្នកត្រួតពិនិត្យដ៏ដីខ្លាំងសំខាន់យ៉ាងខ្លាំងដែលប្រកេទបានប្រើប្រាស់សម្រាប់ផ្លូវជាប្រាក់ ត្រូវបានត្រួតពិនិត្យនិងប្រកេទផ្សេងៗទៀត ។
- អ្នកប្រើប្រាស់ធនធានជ្រើសទិញឯកញាប់ និងធ្វើដំណើរទេទូទាំងកំបង់រាយសារ និងហូសកំបង់នេះទៅក្នុងការដំឡើងការពារជាប្រចើន ដោយកប់ចាប់ពីការចល់តាមឈ្មោះដីមួយនៃការចល់តាមឈ្មោះដីមួយនៃការប្រើប្រាស់សម្រាប់ក្រុងសហគមន៍ ឧទាហរណ៍ ការតាំងទិន្នន័យ និងការពិនិត្យប្រចើន ។
- ទម្រង់នៃការប្រើប្រាស់ធនធានស្សីថ្មីនេះ មានត្និពលដោយប្រយោលមកលើទីនៃម្រកសំខាន់ៗ ទៅក្នុងកំបង់ព្រះសាខន ដែលជាធិកន្លែងសំខាន់សម្រាប់ដែលរាយការកំបង់កំហែង (តារាងទី ១) ។
- ការរំវានដោយអចេកនា ដូចជាសត្វថ្មី និងសត្វចិញ្ញី ដែលប្រជាពលរដ្ឋក្នុងមូលដ្ឋានទាំងអស់ជាមួយ កំពុងដែលត្និពលមកលើទីនៃម្រកនានាដែលមានសារ៖សំខាន់សម្រាប់សត្វស្អាបដែលធ្វើសំបុត្របើក្នុងលខ្សោច (រូមទាំងសត្វរំពេទនេះ ដែលជាសត្វនៃការកំបង់កំហែងទៅក្នុងកំបង់ប្រចើន) ។
- សាកែយបែកងដែលពុំឆ្លាប់មានពីមុនមក កំពុងកំបង់កំហែងចំពោះដំណើរដោយមួយជាតិ និងអេក្រូឡូសិធន៍ ទៅក្នុងកំបង់ព្រះសាខន ជាតិសេសនៃក្នុងរដ្ឋរំពោះ ។
- ការដាក់កំបង់ព្រះសាខន និងបរិណែដីវិញ្ញុកំបង់នេះ ទៅជាកំបង់ហាមចូល (ដែលបម្លានឱក) នៅថ្ងៃខែឆ្នាំណូល នៅថ្ងៃខែឆ្នាំណូល បើដ៏ដីក្នុងការដំឡើង និងសេដ្ឋកិច្ចស្សី ។
- ការហាមយាត់សកម្មភាពនៃការ និងមានត្និពលចូលរាយមកលើការចិញ្ញីមជីវិត ជាតិសេសសម្រាប់អ្នកត្រួតពិនិត្យ ។
- ការដាក់កំហិត/ហាមយាត់ការចេញចូលក្នុងគោលដៅមិនមែននៃការប្រើប្រាស់ និងមានត្និពលកិច្ចចុំបុំណូលបាន និងបានការចិញ្ញីមជីវិត ។
- ភាពភ្នាក់ដីធ្វើ គិតថា "កភ្នាក់ម្រោយ" គឺនឹងនៃសកម្មភាពក្រោកសិដ្ឋាន និងសកម្មភាពថ្មី នៅក្នុងកំបង់សុខប្រចាំសប្តាហ៍ ។
- អ្នកបាក់កំនួននៅក្នុងមូលដ្ឋានគូរប្រកេទបានរួមបញ្ចូលទៅក្នុងការកសាងដែនការ ការគ្រប់គ្រង និងតាមដានកិច្ចផ្តើមអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ ។

អនុវត្តន៍សរុបចំណាមុខត្រួតពិនិត្យនៃការងារ

កំបង់ដីសិមនានេះក្នុងកំបង់រាយសារខេត្តស្សីនៃក្រសួង ជាតិសេសនៃក្នុងសំណើកំបង់សុខប្រចាំសប្តាហ៍ គិតថាក្នុងក្នុងកំបង់រាយសារខេត្តស្សី និងក្នុងកំបង់សុខប្រចាំសប្តាហ៍ និងការកសាងដែនការ និងការគ្រប់គ្រង និងតាមដានកិច្ចផ្តើមអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ នៃការងារ និងការងារប្រកេទ នៅក្នុងដំណាក់ការនានាដែរវិញ្ញុដីវិករបស់វា។

តើគិច្ចការពារជាកំណត់ខ្លួនទេ? សម្រាប់ប្រព័ន្ធដែលមាន

នៅពេលគិតគុរអំពីដល់ប៉ះពាល់បណ្តាលពីធំប្រើប្រាស់នៅក្នុងការគ្រប់គ្រងមកលើក្រុមមនុស្សនានាដែលមាន ត្រូវឃនុនក្នុងក្រុមមនុស្សនានា និងដែលប្រើប្រាស់យុទ្ធសាស្ត្រខុសគ្មានការបិទ្ទីមជីវិក (តារាងទី ២) គេអាចមើល ឈើញច្បាស់ថា អ្នកក្រដាយកេតិធននៃគ្រោះខ្លាំងជាន់គេ ដោយសារវិធានការហាមយាត់ទាត់។ ការហាមយាត់ទាំង ស្រុងមិនមែនជាតិធំប្រើប្រាស់នៅទេ សម្រាប់ការគ្រប់គ្រង កំបងដែលស្ថិតីឡើងសម្រាប់អភិវឌ្ឍ ដោយសារតែដល់ប៉ះពាល់អវិជ្ជមានមកលើការចិត្តឱ្យមជីវិករបស់អ្នកដែលស្អែកឡើងនៅក្នុងកំបងទាំងនេះ។ អនុវត្តមន្ត្រគ្រប់គ្រង ការអភិវឌ្ឍគ្រូគ្រោះតែផ្តាច់បានដោយការដាក់កំហិតលើការប្រើប្រាស់នៅក្នុងអំឡុងពេលសំខាន់ៗសម្រាប់ដីរះចម្លៃ ដូចជាអ្នកស្រួល ពង្រីក ដោយអនុញ្ញាតឱ្យមានសកម្មភាពដែលធានាផិរិន្តភាព ធ្វើឡើងនៅក្នុងរដ្ឋូរដៃរឿងឡើក ដើម្បីជាការធានភាព ពេញលេញនៅអភិវឌ្ឍសីវិធម៌ កិច្ចការពារមួយក្រុម គិតជាសំណើ (តារាងទី ៣) ដែលធ្វើឱ្យមានកូល្យភាពរវាងក្រុមគ្រប់គ្រង ដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍដីរះចម្លៃជាមួយក្រុមគ្រប់គ្រងបិទ្ទីមជីវិករបស់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋ។

តារាងទី ២: ដល់ប៉ះពាល់លើការចិត្តឱ្យមជីវិកបណ្តាលពីអនុវត្តមន្ត្រអភិវឌ្ឍមួយចំនួនដែលអាចអនុវត្ត។ ចំណាត់ថ្នាក់ត្រូវឃនុន ត្រូវឃនុនដើម្បីដែលបានបង្ហាញនៅក្នុងការគ្រប់គ្រងទៅតាមមុខរបរចំណាំ: គ្រប់គ្រាន់ . ធ្វើក្រោះ និងសកម្មភាពក្រោកសិក្សាន មធ្យម . ធ្វើក្រោះ ដោយការចិត្តឱ្យមជីវិករបស់អ្នក នៅក្នុងការគ្រប់គ្រងទៅតាមការកំណត់ដោយ Timmins (2006).

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ក្រ	មធ្យម . ខ្ពស់	ទាប	ពិស់មួយ ទាប អាចឈាន់ដល់ ខ្ពស់

តារាងទី ៣: ដល់ប៉ះពាល់ដែលអាចកើតពីអនុវត្តមន្ត្រអភិវឌ្ឍ មកលើទាំងដីរះចម្លៃ និងការចិត្តឱ្យមជីវិករបស់អ្នក ក្រិតក្រដាយកេតិធននៃគ្រោះខ្លាំងគេ ហាមយាត់ការប្រើប្រាស់ទាំងស្រុង តាមការកំណត់ដោយ Timmins (2006).

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POLICY BRIEF

Integrating biodiversity and livelihoods into protected areas planning:

A case study of the implications of the proposed Preah Sakhon Core Zone
on local livelihoods, Stung Treng Ramsar Site, Cambodia



International Union for Conservation of Nature

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Summary

Managing natural resources for both biodiversity and livelihoods (of the rural poor in particular) is possible if an integrated, participatory approach is taken to understand their linkages, inter-dependence and the implications of conservation interventions, such as applying proposed zoning regulations.

Introduction

Wetlands contain biodiversity of exceptional conservation significance, with many unique ecosystems and a wide array of regionally and globally-threatened species. At the same time they typically form an essential component of local, national and even regional economies, as well as underpinning the livelihoods of local communities. Wetland resources and services are often particularly important to poorer and more vulnerable households, who lack alternative sources of income and subsistence and have weak access to basic services. Yet, despite their importance, wetlands are under increasing pressure. Wetland degradation and loss poses a severe threat to both development and conservation goals, and impacts disproportionately on some of the world's poorest communities.

The under-valuation of wetlands, especially of their biodiversity and livelihood values, in decision-making remains one of the major factors underpinning their degradation. When decisions are made to invest

funds, or to manage conservation sites, they rarely take note of the combined biological, ecological, livelihoods or economic value of wetlands. There are seen to be few costs to wetland loss, and few benefits to wetland conservation, and where biodiversity conservation does go forward, it sometimes takes precedence over livelihood needs.

The IUCN – World Conservation Union project ***Strengthening pro-poor wetland conservation through integrated biodiversity and livelihood assessment***, funded by the UK Darwin Initiative, is developing an integrated assessment methodology to fully value wetland systems and ways of presenting the information to decision-makers. Coordinated by the IUCN Species Programme and working with IUCN offices in Cambodia and Viet Nam, the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Programme, and *in partnership with the Department of Nature Conservation and Protection (DNCP) of the Cambodian Ministry of Environment*, the project has carried out an integrated assessment of the Stung Treng Ramsar Site in Cambodia, focusing on the impacts to the livelihoods of local communities of proposed management zones within the Ramsar site (Timmins 2006¹).

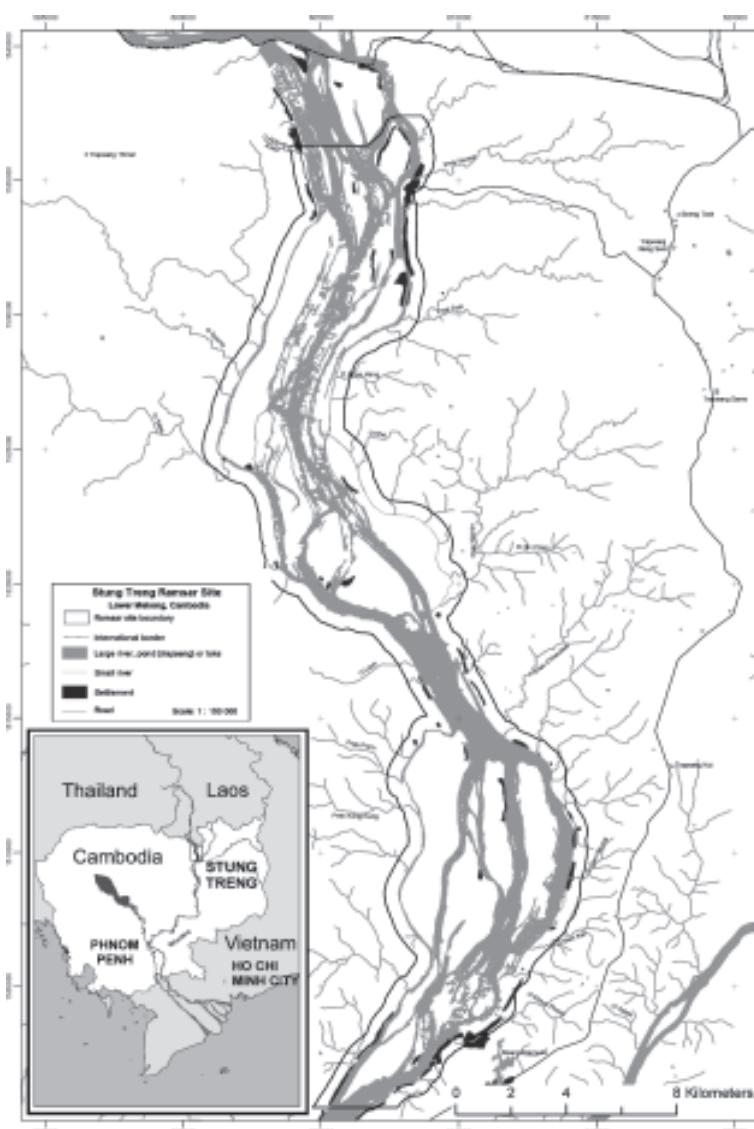


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Stung Treng Ramsar Site on the Lower Mekong, south of the Lao border. At present, the Transboundary Anlong Cheuuteal deep pool, a key habitat for the Critically endangered Irrawaddy Dolphin is outside the Stung Treng Ramsar site.

The Stung Treng Ramsar Site

The Mekong River in Stung Treng Province, Cambodia, is a wetland of international importance recognized both by the Royal

¹ Timmins, R. J. (2006). An assessment of the biodiversity conservation significance of the Mekong Ramsar site, Stung Treng, Cambodia. Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Programme, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Government of Cambodia and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Ramsar site encompasses a 41km section of the Mekong from slightly North of the confluence of the Sekong and the Mekong rivers, to just South of the Lao PDR border (see Fig. 1, below). Within the Ramsar site there is a complex mosaic of wetland habitats and vegetation types, including seasonally inundated forest, channel bushland and woodland, sandbars, deep pools, and pebble beaches/banks, that host a range of threatened and rare species. The seasonal variation in water levels of the Mekong provides unique niches for a range of aquatic species, influencing migrations, spawning or nesting periods, and providing dry season refugia for many species.

For biodiversity and livelihoods

The Ramsar site is recognized nationally and internationally for its unique biodiversity value and the role it plays in maintaining a range of important ecosystem services in the wider Mekong. The wetlands of Stung Treng provide drinking water and sanitation for local people. They are also vital for food security and nutrition, and provide opportunities for trade and exchange. Many economically and nutritionally important fish species' migrations, e.g. *Trey Riel* (*Henicorhynchus siamensis*), are triggered by seasonal hydrological changes. Wetland livelihoods are characterised by the use of a wide range of resources; their viability and sustainability relies upon this availability and the ability to convert these resources into livelihood outcomes.

An integrated assessment conservation of proposed management zones

As part of the process of developing a conservation management strategy for the Ramsar site, the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP) commissioned a baseline biodiversity study (Timmings 2006) that also proposed a number of special management zones (see Fig. 2) to protect populations of threatened animals and their habitats. The Preah Sakhon Core Zone (termed a *sanctuary* in Timmings *ibid.*) is one of the most remote areas in the Ramsar site, with no permanent settlements and one of the lowest levels of human use. It also appeared to be the area with the highest concentration of breeding River Terns *Sterna aurantia*, a regionally-threatened wetland bird, and also one of, if not the only area where cormorants and darters breed. Timmings (*ibid.*) recommended that if designated as a sanctuary, human access to the area should be restricted (essentially a 'no-go' area), and dogs and livestock totally excluded. It was also proposed that the area be designated as a fish sanctuary, where fishing activities would not be permitted, as in the dry season it has small pools, small channels and a few larger pools that are important fish refuges.

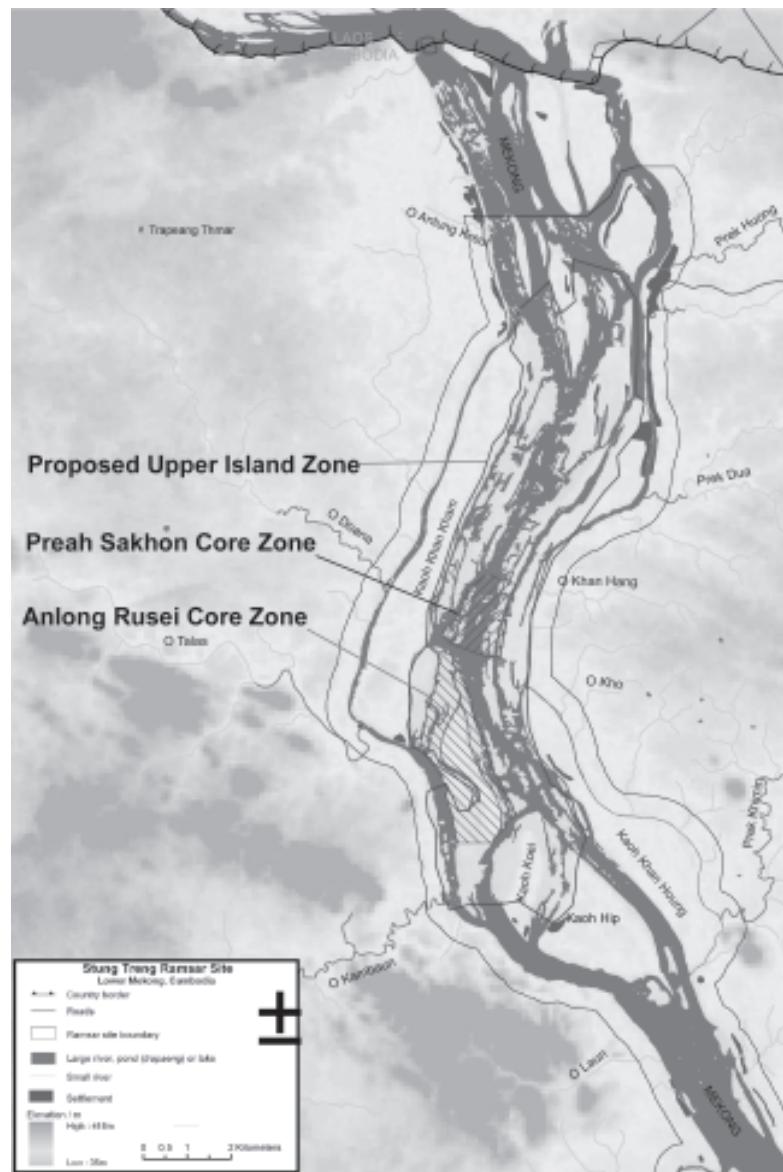


Figure 2. Map of the Stung Treng Ramsar Site, Cambodia, showing the Upper Island management zone proposed by Timmins (2006) and the Preah Sakhon and Anlong Rusei Core Zones.

The Stung Treng Ramsar Site was selected as one of two demonstration sites for the ***Strengthening pro-poor wetland conservation using integrated biodiversity and livelihoods assessment*** project (Darwall *et al.*, in prep.²) recognises the intricate link between wetland resources, biodiversity and livelihoods, and is developing an assessment methodology that fully values both bio-diversity and the livelihood needs of the poorest in the communities that depend on the wetland resources.

Concerns were raised about the potential implications of the proposed conservation management zoning on the livelihoods of communities within the Ramsar site, and an assessment following the methodology developed by the Darwin Initiative project was undertaken to evaluate the implications of the proposed zoning plans, focusing on the proposed Preah Sakhon core zone. The results of the integrated assessment (Lopez *et al.*, in prep.³) show that there are alternative options for management that take into account the livelihood needs of local communities whilst meeting biodiversity targets. The recommendations and management options for Preah Sakhon, a proposed core zone within the Stung Treng Ramsar Site are presented here.

Assessment approach

A range of participatory qualitative and quantitative tools and techniques were employed in the integrated biodiversity, livelihoods and economic assessment with the emphasis being on qualitative methods. The Darwin Toolkit (Darwall *et al.*, in prep) was used as the source methodology for the assessment. The team sought a range of opinions across gender, generational and wealth lines. At each level of enquiry, detailed data were collected, with each level directing and informing the next.

The approach required three different areas of focus due to the local context, these were:

- Village based
- Resource based
- Settlement based

Representatives from over one hundred and fifty households were interviewed across five villages, one pioneering settlement, and a number of permanent and temporary camps including those established by fishers. Direct biodiversity observations were made to support the identification of species critical to livelihoods highlighted through the assessment.

The approach focused on identifying key resource users, their wealth status, the main resources harvested and reasons for current resource use patterns, key livelihood species, the economic contribution of these resources to livelihoods, implications of general patterns of resource use on biodiversity within the proposed zone, and finally, options for management.

Key assessment findings

- Preah Sakhon is one of the few remaining biodiversity hotspots within the Ramsar site that is subject to minimal anthropogenic influence.
- A range of bird species of high conservation significance are confirmed to be nesting in Preah Sakhon.
- There is considerable livelihood and economic values associated with the human use of biodiversity, especially fisheries, in and around Preah Sakhon (see Fig. 2).
- Poorer people are most dependent on common property resources, such as fish, aquatic plants and other wetland species.

² Darwall, W., Emerton, L., McIvor, A., Bambaradeniya, C. (in prep.). A Toolkit for Integrated Wetland Assessment. Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, World Conservation Union (IUCN) Species Programme, Cambridge.

³ Lopez, Dubois, A., M., Bhattacharai, M., Kong, K.S., and Thuon, T. (in prep.). An integrated assessment of the biodiversity, livelihood and economic implications of the proposed special management zones in the Stung Treng Ramsar Site, Cambodia. Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, World Conservation Union (IUCN) Species Programme, Cambridge.

- Resource users are highly mobile and move throughout the Ramsar site and beyond. These movements take a number of forms, from the seasonal *Trey Riel* fishery, to the pioneering activities adopted by many of the poorest in communities e.g., those settling channel islands such as Koh Kon Kham (adjacent to the west of Preah Sakhon) for farming and fishing.
- Current resource use patterns indirectly affect critical habitats within Preah Sakhon that are important for threatened biodiversity (see Table 1).
- Unintentional disturbance, such as from dogs and livestock introduced by local people, is impacting habitats of sandbar nesting species (including regionally-threatened River Tern).
- Invasive filamentous green alga threatens the ecology and natural processes in Preah Sakhon, especially in the dry season.
- Designating Preah Sakhon and its perimeter as a no-go area (sanctuary) is questionable from an economic, social, cultural and biodiversity perspective.
- Banning fishing will have serious impacts on livelihoods, especially of the poorest.
- Limiting/banning access for non-fishing purposes will have minimal impact on livelihoods.
- Landlessness is a key ‘driver’ of off-farm and pioneering activities in the Preah Sakhon core zone.
- Local stakeholders should be included in planning, management and monitoring of conservation initiatives.

Management recommendations and conclusions

The wetlands of the Stung Treng Ramsar site, especially within the proposed Preah Sakhon core zone, form the foundation of food security and nutrition for many people, especially of the poorest. At the same time, the wetland complex within the Preah Sakhon proposed core zone is important for a range of critical biodiversity species at various stages of their lifecycle.

Table 1: Calendar showing the overlapping uses of the Preah Sakhon core zone for livelihoods (resource harvesting) and for selected species of conservation concern. Notes: SPD – Spot Billed Duck, GTK–Great Thick-knee, OD – Oriental Darter. Poverty: P – Poor, M – Medium, E – Enough.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Livelihoods	<i>Fishing Trey Riel</i> Grades 1 and 2						→					
	<i>Camping Long term</i> <i>Short term</i>						→					→
	<i>Poverty</i>	P	P	P	P	PME	PME	PME	P	P	P	P
	<i>Mollusc harvesting</i>					→						
	<i>Gastropod collection</i>	→										→
Biodiversity	<i>Bird breeding</i>			SPD			→			OD		
	<i>Fish - average catch (Kg)</i>	2.5	4	6	10	6	30	25	2.0	1.5	1.5	4.5
Economics - daily averages	<i>Fish - average price (Riel per Kg)</i>	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,665	1,666	5,000	6,000	6,000	5,000
	<i>Fish - average income (Riel)</i>	7,500	1,200	1,800	30,000	18,000	50,000	41,650	10,000	9,000	9,000	22,500
Management recommendations	<i>Fishing</i>	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
	<i>Camping</i>			NO					NO			
	<i>Bird harvesting</i>			NO					NO			
	<i>Molluscs</i>	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK						

Many people depending on resources from the proposed Preah Sakhon Core Zone are considered ‘poor’ and are subject to a lack of access to basic health care services, poor access to safe drinking water, low agricultural productivity, a lack of access to state extension services, weak links to markets, poor communications and limited income generating opportunities. Existing communities will continue to be highly migratory for both off-farm and on-farm activities. With an increasing population density and declining resource base, migration continues to be driven by constraints on resource and land access and availability.

The poor and landless are the most reliant upon the resources of Preah Sakhon and other common property areas in the upper island zone, especially for fishing, which constitutes the main source of household income and nutrition. Exclusion of local communities from the proposed special management zones will have extensive negative impacts on the livelihood strategies of the poorest people within the Ramsar site.

Is total protection an option?

When considering the impact of management options on groups from different wealth classes employing a range of livelihood strategies (Table 2), it is clear that the poorest will be affected most by exclusion measures. Total exclusion is not a viable option for managing the proposed conservation zones due to the negative impacts on the livelihoods of those currently using these areas. Conservation management interventions should instead aim to restrict access during periods critical for biodiversity, such as breeding seasons whilst at other times allowing sustainable activities with due consideration to sustaining ecological integrity. Limited protection is proposed (see Table 3) that balances the needs of biodiversity conservation with the livelihood needs of people.

Table 2: Livelihood impacts from a range of potential conservation interventions. Wealth Classes according to main occupation: Enough - Paddy and off farm activities; Medium - Paddy and plantation and fishing; Poor - Fishing only

Options Wealth class	Option 1 Total protection - no access	Option 2 Limited protection - restricted access	Option 3 No protection - open access
Enough	LOW	LOW	LOW
Medium	LOW - MEDIUM	LOW	LOW Initially to potentially MEDIUM
Poor	MEDIUM - HIGH	LOW	LOW Initially to potentially HIGH

Table 3: Potential impacts of conservation interventions on both biodiversity and the livelihoods of the poorest. ‘No access’ as defined by Timmins (2006).

Options Importance	Option 1 Total protection - ‘no access’	Option 2 Limited protection - restricted access	Option 3 No protection - open access
Biodiversity	☺ ☺ ☺ Subject to illegal activities	☺ ☺	
Livelihood impact on fishing (poorest)		☺ ☺	☺ ☺ ☺ In the short term

Policy recommendations

Stakeholder participation in wetland conservation initiatives is highly desirable given the high incidence of poverty, high levels of resource exploitation, and the proximity of local and migratory communities to key biodiversity areas within the Stung Treng Ramsar Site. Efforts to implement initiatives without local participation in assessment, planning, management, monitoring and enforcement are likely to fail as a consequence of the negative impacts of management interventions on livelihoods.

The Ramsar implementing authority should seek advice and input from community fisheries organizations where they exist, and ensure representation from surrounding communities including those from outside of the authorities' jurisdiction (such as Koh Khon Kham), in the planning and management of Preah Sakhon. It is vital to engage local government to gain their endorsement and support for management regimes.

The high incidence of poverty in wetland areas, especially in households highly dependent on fishing, coupled with a lack of viable livelihood alternatives, make it of utmost importance to link conservation with the continuation or development of income generating activities, awareness raising, and the investigation of alternative livelihood options.

Critical areas for biodiversity (refugia) are often areas of minimal anthropogenic influence. Preah Sakhon is one example of such an area. The Darwin integrated assessment revealed the complex inter-relationships between resource users and biodiversity. The reality in the case of Stung Treng, in common with many wetland areas, is the fact that pioneering settlements (usually established by the poorest) are often the greatest threat to biodiversity. By applying an integrated assessment approach, as piloted through the Darwin Initiative project, together with an understanding of the relationships between resource availability, biodiversity, and temporal changes in resource use patterns, effective management solutions that sustain livelihoods whilst conserving biodiversity are possible.

International Union for Conservation of Nature

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