



Global Conference

Tenure & User Rights in Fisheries 2018: Achieving Sustainable Development Goal by 2030

“Sustainable Community Fisheries Management: a Case in Cambodia”

by

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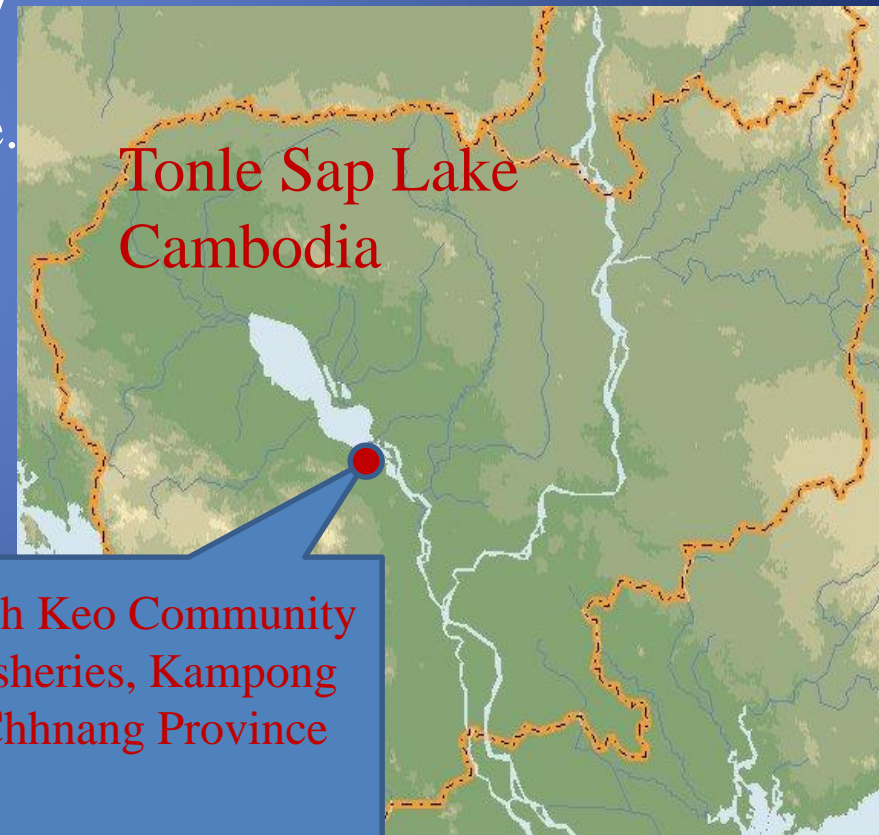
1. Introduction

1.1. Description of the Fisheries

- In Cambodia, small-scale fisheries are the major fishery which occupy almost the entire inland waters and in coastal area.
- Livelihood of millions of rural people highly depends on fisheries and its related activities.
- In 2001, small-scale fishers have been granted new user rights with the revised legal framework from the Cambodian government to fish in their exclusive fishing zones which would improve their livelihood and encourage their participation in sustainable fisheries management.

1.1. Description of the Fisheries

- Totally, 516 community fisheries have been established throughout inland and marine waters. There are 39 community fisheries in coastal area.
- This case study, Koh Keo community fisheries is located in lacustrine area and the floodplain of Tonle Sap Lake.



1.2 Economic Contribution and Social Implications of the Fishing Activity

- Community fishers capture annually about 70 species and the common fish species are carp cyprinid species.
- The fish is freshly consumed, sold in local village and provincial markets and may be processed to salted dried fish.
- None of the fish in this community is used for non-human consumption.



Mixed species



Climbing perch

1.2 Economic Contribution and Social Implications of the Fishing Activity (Cont.)

- At least 25% are women, essentially participated in fish processing and marketing.
- Fishing provides income of about 30% to most of the community fishers.
- Most of fishers are also farmers, so they do seasonal fishing and farming.
- Local fishers go to fish in lake and floodplain area in less than 10 Km away from home.



Ladies were preparing fish



Lady was fishing



Transporting fish catch to markets

1.2 Economic Contribution and Social Implications of the Fishing Activity (Cont.)

- Outside fisher can also access to the community fishing ground and have to respect rules and regulation of the local community fisheries.
- They used mechanized boat to go fishing.
- The community fishers utilise more than 10 types of small-scale traditional fishing gears. The most common gears are gillnet, fish trap, hook and lines.



Fish Trap in Tonle Sap Lake



Fishing boat in Tonle Sap, Cambodia
Photo by: Getty image

2. Management of the fishery and rights-based approach

- The fishery is managed under national fisheries legislation such as the law on fisheries, Royal Decree, sub decree on community fisheries, and other declaration.
- The fishery is also managed under rules and regulation which are participatorily formulated and adopted by local community fishers.
- The management measures are limited-number and size of gear, limited- mesh size, fishing in the defined community fishing boundary. No fishing in conservation area.
- The rights of community fisheries are defined in sub-decree on community fisheries and ministerial declaration on community fisheries management.
- Community fishers participated in law enforcement by fishery competent authority and local polices
- The conflict resolution and punishment comply with national fisheries law.

3. Contribution of the rights-based approach to achieving sustainability

- Since introduction of the new fishing rights, some species are under recovery, growing bigger and increasing abundant. Some decline in abundance and size. Fishing target multi-species.
- The number of fishers has increased. However, the community fisheries coordinate to decrease/limit number of fishing gears in the community.
- Characteristics of fishing boat remain unchanged with outboard engine.
- The community fishers join cooperation with local and national fishery authority to enforce fisheries law, rules and regulation.

3. Contribution of the rights-based approach to achieving sustainability (cont.)

- After introduction of new fishing rights, the community fishers have joint concern about the sustainability of fisheries resources, sharing opinion, and management action. This is to bring forward the social equality to the community fisheries.
- They can catch and eat more fish than during the time of the old fishing rights.



Joint making decision



Replanting aquatic forest



4. 4. Main Challenges and Way Forward

4.1 Challenges for the Fishery

- Capacity of the community fishers is limited.
- Poverty and livelihood constraint hamper the implementation of community fisheries management.
- Lack of fund for implementing community fishery action plan
- The community fisheries still depend on external technical and financial support for their operation
- Environmental degradation and climate change impact on community



Facilitating discussion in the community fisheries

4.2 Improving fishery sustainability in the future

- Strengthen the capacity of the community fisheries
- Improve national policy to move toward more self-operational community fisheries
- Improve national policy to improve and diversify livelihood of the community fisheries
- Fishery resources generally decline and fish habitat is gradually degraded due to internal and external impact.

Thank You
for Your Attention



Community Fisheries Village