Project partners

**NGO Partners**
- Oxfam
- Forum Syd
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- Conservation International (CI)
- Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
- North-eastern Rural Development Cambodia (NRD)
- Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)
- Save Cambodia’s Wildlife (SCW)
- Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)

**Government Partners**
- Fisheries Administration (FiA)
- Provincial Department of Environment (DoE)

**Funding Partner**
- Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP)

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Project locations

Mekong Fisheries Conservation: Strengthening Capacity and Governance project
Cambodia (2019–2022)
Background

One of WorldFish’s strategic goals (2017-2022) is to secure and enhance the work of small-scale fisheries to reduce poverty and ensure food security. This project aims to protect fisheries’ natural resources and aquatic biodiversity in the Lower Mekong Basin in Cambodia by improving the capacity and effectiveness of community organizations in fisheries management. This project will facilitate communities to develop their 5-year Action Plan and build on the success of a community-based fish conservation zone approach that was pilot tested through previous WorldFish and partner projects.

Organizational, management, technical knowledge, and alternative livelihood choices are currently lacking for local people involved in small-scale fishing. This project will provide support in these areas by prioritizing local capacity development through partnership building between different actors, bringing state, civil society, local people and the scientific community together.

Key project activities

- Implement a unique research and education approach called ‘Salaphoum’.
- Establish Learning Hubs with selected communities to provide a communal space that empowers villagers and partners to learn and share concepts of fish ecology.
- Develop practical guidelines and templates to guide the operation and implementation of sustainable fish management.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and partnerships between local communities to improve coordination and mobilization between various actors.

What is ‘Salaphoum’ research?

Salaphoum is an initiative that empowers local villagers to conduct research on natural resources and environmental change. It allows villagers to define their needs and have their priorities included in the communes’ decision-making process.

What is a ‘Learning Hub’?

A Learning Hub is a local community where good practices in sustainable fisheries management are being successfully implemented, and knowledge and lessons learned are shared with other communities.

Results by project end

- A community-led understanding of the significance of fish ecology brought about in selected communities in the Upper Mekong and Tonle Sap Lake by the Salaphoum research approach.

Project outcomes

- Community Learning Hubs functioning at four locations. Selected communities are chosen to scale-up the Learning Hubs’ achievements by teaching good practice fish management to other communities.
- At four locations in Cambodia, a sustainable model of community-led conservation planning and monitoring is being implemented with a focus on fish ecology.

50% of community-based organizations (CBOs) have an improved understanding of fish ecology and are applying it to biodiversity conservation in 10 years’ time.

20% of CBOs are implementing coordinated natural resource management and conservation strategies 10 years after the end period of the project.

30% of CBOs report the significant recovery of fisheries resources in 5 years.

* CBO’s include Community Fisheries (CFI), Community Fish Refuge (CFR) and Community Protected Area (CPA)