



**TONLE SAP CONSERVATION
PROJECT (TSCP)**

UNDP/GEF Project No. 00038552



**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
1 October - 31 December 2005**

(QPR No. 4)

**Prepared for
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and

Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve Secretariat

**31 December 2005
Phnom Penh**

The Tonle Sap Conservation Project (TSCP) is integrated within Component 3 of the Tonle Sap Environmental Management Project (TSEMP). This report serves the dual purpose of reporting TSCP activities to the donor agencies (UNDP/GEF) and to the Project Management and Coordination Office (PMCO) responsible for reporting on the overall TSEMP. It follows the format specified by the PMCO, as follows:

1. Brief summary of work accomplished during past three months, including professional inputs to-date and counterpart support
2. Brief summary of work planned for the upcoming three months, with indication of key milestones to be achieved in current phase of work
3. Key issues
4. Brief set of conclusions (related to key issues/problems) and recommendations, if any
5. Output accomplishment and achievement of activities

1. Brief Summary of Work Accomplished During Past Three Months

Work during the reporting period focussed on: 1) implementation of technical activities per the approved schedule in the Inception Report; 2) preparation of draft training programmes for Ranger and technical and management staff by the National and International Training Specialists; 3) startup of the work of the National Livelihoods Specialist, and recruitment of an International Livelihoods Specialist; 4) selection of the International and National Environmental Education Specialists; 5) continuation of conservation planning for the Prek Toal Core Area, and initiation of planning for the Boeung Chhmar and Stung Sen Core Areas; 6) completion of a comprehensive second draft of a report on the status of biodiversity in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve prepared by the Biodiversity Monitoring Subcontractor; and 7) review and implementation of the procurement plan.

Professional inputs during the quarter were provided by the National Project Manager (Hourt Khieu), the International Team Leader (Richard Salter), the National Training Specialist (Choub Paris) and the International Training Specialist (Charles Vanpraet), the National Livelihoods Specialist (Hour Lim Chhun) and the Biodiversity Monitoring Subcontractor (WCS). Two Interns, Ms. Nhem Nyta and Ms. Kong Srey Mom, also worked with the Project during the quarter. Counterpart inputs were provided primarily by staff of the Ministry of Environment and Department of Fisheries PIOs at national level and by staff of the provincial Environment and Fisheries PIUs.

Specific activities included the following (personnel primarily responsible are indicated in parentheses):

1.1 Management of Contractor, Consultant and Other Technical Inputs

- liaised with the Biodiversity Monitoring Subcontractor regarding initial implementation of subcontracted activities (International Team Leader/National Project Manager).
- briefed National Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist Hour Lim Chhun on his start of work as of 1 November, assisted with work planning, and provided oversight to initial fact-finding work conducted in the office and the TSBR's three Core Areas (National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- assisted UNDP with the identification and direct selection of an International Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist, Ms. Beatte Pinisch, following rejection of offers by the top two candidates selected through the regular UNDP advertizing and interview process (International Team Leader).
- participated in interviews and selection of an International Environmental Education Specialist, Klaus Berkmuller, and National Environmental Education Specialists, Toeur Veasna and Ung Bunthoen. Planned start of work is 4 January 2006 (National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- assisted the Environmental Education Documentation Assistant, Ms. Nhem Nyta, with start-up through completion of three months work on review of Ministry of Education, Youth and

Sports syllabus materials dealing with environmental issues, and reviewed outputs and final reporting (International Team Leader, National Project Manager).

- assisted the Training Documentation Assistant, Ms. Kong Srey Mom, with start-up of work on assisting the International and National Training Specialists with the preparation of training materials (International Team Leader, National Project Manager).
- provided oversight, assistance and review to the work of the National and International Training Specialists, Choub Paris and Charles Vanpraet, and initiated arrangements for a one-year (renewable) contract extension for the National Training Specialist (National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- liaised with UNDP and UNV regarding incorporation of UNV support to "Sustainable Livelihoods through Community Volunteerism in the Tonle Sap Region" into TSCP's sustainable livelihoods activities in the Core Areas, and finalization of documentation for submission to UNV for funding approval (National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- liaised with MoE PIO regarding incorporation of PIO and PIU management and technical staff into the TSCP activities framework/Work Breakdown Structure (International Team Leader, National Project Manager, Head of MoE PIO).

1.2 Area-based Management

- prepared a comprehensive second draft of the report "The Biodiversity of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve: 2005 Status Review" and circulated for review (Biodiversity Monitoring Subcontractor). Provided additional technical inputs and comments (International Team Leader).
- finalized list of biodiversity monitoring equipment required for Prek Toal Core Area and pursued procurement arrangements (Biodiversity Monitoring Subcontractor, National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- conducted week-long field surveys and stakeholder consultations in the Prek Toal Core Area as part of the management planning process (International Team Leader, Head of MoE PIO, Fisheries Liaison).
- conducted a half-day scoping meeting in Phnom Penh for initial identification of resource use issues and management priorities in Prek Toal Core Area (International Team Leader, Head of MoE PIO).
- conducted a day long Planning Workshop in Prek Toal, designed to obtain stakeholder inputs on resource use issues and management priorities (National Project Manager, International Team Leader, Fisheries Liaison, National Livelihoods Specialist, MoE PIO staff).
- conducted consultations with NGOs (Leucaena, Osmose, Sam Veasna Centre), researchers (regarding water snake harvesting, development of ecotourism), tourist guides and individual tourists to obtain additional perspectives on resource use and management issues in the Prek Toal area (International Team Leader).
- participated in the official opening of the Prek Toal Core Area Management Centre (National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- conducted second inspection of the three floating centres constructed in Phnom Penh, and intended for location in Pursat and Kampong Chhnang Provinces and Stung Sen Core Area in Q1 2006 (Head of MoE PIO, National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- liaised with MoE PIO and Kampong Thom PIU staff to coordinate initial planning (equipment procurement, staffing) for the Stung Sen and Boeung Chhmar Core Areas (Head of MoE PIO, Head of Kampong Thom PIU, National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- conducted field assessments of current ecological conditions on and around the lake (Phnom Penh to Chhong Khnies by boat [twice], Chhong Khnies to Phnom Penh by boat [twice], Siem Reap to Phnom Penh by air [once], Siem Reap to Phnom Penh by road [once], Chhong Khnies to Kampong Phluk and return by boat [once]), in preparation for management planning in the Buffer Zone and fish sanctuaries (International Team Leader).

- participated in National Conference on Natural Resources Management for Poverty Reduction (organized by the National Assembly in collaboration with UNDP), which included a session on the Tonle Sap and a presentation by the TSCP National Project Director (NPD, International Team Leader).

1.3 Training

- organized and conducted a half-day workshop in Phnom Penh (9 November), to solicit feedback on training priorities and initial plans for training implementation (National Project Manager, National and International Training Specialists, International Team Leader).
- completed preparation of comprehensive (draft) training materials for management and technical level staff, and prepared preliminary training schedules and cost estimates (International and National Training Specialists).
- consulted with Royal University of Phnom Penh regarding their potential role in delivering and certifying management and technical level training (International and National Training Specialists, National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- circulated draft management and technical level training materials for review by TSBRS PIO Training and Awareness Coordinator, Head of MoE PIO, Head of Kampong Thom PIU and RUPP (International Team Leader).
- completed preparation of comprehensive (draft) training materials for Ranger-level staff, prepared preliminary training schedules and cost estimates, and identified potential trainers (National and International Training Specialists).
- circulated Ranger-level training materials for review by TSBRS PIO Training and Awareness Coordinator, Head of MoE PIO, Head of Kampong Thom PIU and WCS (International Team Leader).
- prepared Terms of Reference for Training Assistant, TSBRS PIO, preparatory to training programme delivery (International Team Leader, National Training Specialist).

1.4 Sustainable Livelihoods

- completed initial review of background information and issues identification (National Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist, International Team Leader).
- conducted initial meetings with PIO and PIU staff (National Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist, National Project Manager).
- conducted reconnaissance visits to Prek Toal, Stung Sen and Boeung Chhmar Core Areas (National Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist).
- participated in Core Area Management Planning Workshop in Prek Toal and reported on livelihoods issues (National Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist).

1.5 Environmental Education and Awareness

- continued liaison with the Component 1 National Environmental Education and Awareness Campaign team to ensure cooperation and synthesis in planning and implementation of environmental education activities (International Team Leader, National Project Manager).
- completed review and translation of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports curricula dealing with environment at Grades 10-12 level, including both teacher and student materials and focussing on Grade 11 Earth and Environmental Science (Environmental Education Documentation Assistant, with oversight by International Team Leader).
- reviewed and revised Terms of Reference for PIU Environmental Education Officers (National Project Manager, International Team Leader).
- liaised with Heads of MoE and TSBRS PIOs regarding preliminary planning for EAEO development and delivery.

1.6 Project Management

- continued implementation of routine office and project management tasks in support of TSCP technical activities (National Project Manager, Project Assistant).
- developed a leaflet (Khmer and English versions) describing the Project and activities being implemented.
- managed payment and reporting of performance incentives to project counterparts (National Project Manager, Project Assistant).
- developed guidelines for payment of travel allowances to project counterparts (National Project Manager).
- reviewed procurement procedures and developed a system for improved management of procurement scheduling and tracking (National Project Manager).
- conducted Project Management Team meetings on 3 November and 8 December (Project Director, National Project Manager, Head of MoE PIO, International Team Leader).
- participated in mid-term review of the Tonle Sap Environmental Management Project (National Project Manager, International Team Leader).

2. Brief Summary of Work Planned for the Upcoming Three Months

Work to be continued (C) or initiated (I) during first quarter 2006 is as follows:

Output 3.1 Capacity for management of biodiversity in the Core Areas is increased

Activity 3.1.1 Establishment and equipment of Protected Area Management Centres and Core Area Management Centres

Task 1. advise on development of CAMCs and additional floating centres (C)

Task 2. incorporate use of CAMCs in protected area management plans (C)

Activity 3.1.2 Development of Core Area management plans

Task 1. develop stakeholder list (C)

Task 2. review boundaries with stakeholders (C)

Task 3. prepare/implement Core Area management plans and other management prescriptions (C)

Activity 3.1.3 Development and implementation of a strategy to enforce laws and regulations in and around the Core Areas

Task 1. prepare a comprehensive review of legislation, regulations and international conventions relevant to the protection of biodiversity in the TSBR, and propose additional measures to be taken (I)

Activity 3.1.4 Identification of income generation activities that directly threaten biodiversity in the core areas, and development of alternative livelihoods to modify these activities

Task 1. prepare a comprehensive review of livelihood activities currently being undertaken in the Core Areas (C)

Task 2. formulate a strategy to develop and support biodiversity-friendly livelihoods on a sustainable basis (C)

Activity 3.1.5 Development and implementation of staff training in protected area management

Task 4. review training materials and agree on delivery modalities (C)

Task 5. deliver training to Ranger staff (I)

Activity 3.1.6 Development and implementation of standardized procedures for the designation of protected sites within the TSBR

Task 1. review legal status of currently designated areas (I)

Task 2. develop criteria for identifying gaps and deficiencies in the current system of protected sites within the TSBR (I)

Task 3. proposed additional sites and other protective measures required (I)

Output 3.2 Systems for monitoring and management of biodiversity are developed

Activity 3.2.1 Design and implementation of a biodiversity monitoring programme for the TSBR

Task 3. prepare standardized biodiversity monitoring protocol (C)

Task 4. conduct field surveys and prepare annual reports (I)

Activity 3.2.2 Establishment of a rapid response mechanism for seasonal protection of biodiversity

Task 1. review current waterbird colony/biodiversity protection measures (C)

Task 2. prepare forecast of resource requirements (C)

Task 3. prepare, implement and report on first annual plan (C)

Task 4. assess, adapt and incorporate biodiversity protection measures in planning and budgeting (I)

Activity 3.2.3 Development of a strategy for the control of exotic species

Task 1. conduct a comprehensive review of current status and impacts of non-indigenous flora and fauna within the TSBR (I)

Output 3.3 Awareness, education and outreach on biodiversity conservation in the TSBR are promoted

Activity 3.3.1 Development and implementation of an environmental awareness, education and outreach programme

Task 1. conduct a review of previous, ongoing and planned programming (I)

Task 2. identify additional programming required (I)

Task 3. prepare a comprehensive Environmental Awareness, Education and Outreach Programme(I)

Activity 3.3.2 Provision of environmental education centres

Task 1. ensure that CAMCs/floating centres provide facilities for environmental education delivery (C)

Task 2. develop materials and train staff (I)

Task 3. review GECKO programming and align with Task 2 (I)

Task 4. monitor the CAMCs/floating centres to ensure that they are efficient and effective (I)

Activity 3.3.3 Integration of EAEOP into selected schools

Task 1. review school curricula and identify entry points for environmental education and awareness materials (I)

Task 2. identify target school districts and cluster schools for the integration of EAEOP materials (I)

Task 3. identify materials suitable for primary and secondary schools in EAEOP development and in the training of PIU staff in its delivery (I)

Project Management

Activities Coordination

- participation in PIO/PIU quarterly meeting (3 January 2006)
- organization and reporting on monthly Project Management Meetings (preliminary schedule 5 January, 2 February, 2 March 2006)
- participation in Project Steering Committee Meeting (19 January 2006)
- field trip to all provinces to initiate participation of PIU Environmental Education Officers and provincial and Core Area (Stung Sen and Boeung Chhmar) Ranger staff, including review of Terms of Reference and payment schedules (10-13 January 2006)

- opening ceremony for Stung Sen CAMC (to be organized by TSEMP)

Personnel

- mobilization of Environmental Education Officers (PIUs) and Rangers (PIUs, Stung Sen and Boeung Chhmar Core Areas)
- mobilization of Training Assistant (TSBRS PIO)

Procurement, Budget and Finance

- transfer operating funds to provincial bank accounts (by each month end)
- follow-up on procurement plan for Prek Toal CAMC and biodiversity monitoring activities
- follow-up on all other items due per procurement plan
- annual update of equipment inventory and submission to UNDP
- delivery of third Project vehicle
- annual budget revision and submission to UNDP for approval
- year-end financial audit

Reporting

- preparation of Q1 2006 Progress Report (including budget reporting)

3. Key Issues

3.1. Integration of Government Staff

The TSEMP has established Project Implementation Offices in Ministry of Environment, Department of Fisheries and Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve Secretariat at national level, and Project Implementation Units in Departments of Environment and Departments of Fisheries at provincial level in the five provinces bordering the lake. These counterpart offices have been in place since well in advance of TSCP implementation, leading to some “frustration” on their part while waiting for the TSCP to become operational. This problem remains to date, although it is slowly being overcome as project activities are initiated and PIO and PIU staff are assigned Project-related responsibilities.

Continuing constraints to fully integrating government staff in the Project include:

- the need to pay salary supplements to secure staff participation. The funding available for this is capped by the amount formally agreed during the Inception Period, and is further constrained by UNDP’s expressed intent to phase out salary supplement schemes;
- limited training and formal qualifications of government staff in the disciplines required. This can be overcome to some extent by pairing government staff with National and International Specialists working on the Project, and providing relevant training opportunities; and,
- the use of National Specialists to provide local expertise and specialist inputs to the Project. This problem was carefully considered during the Inception Period and a number of planned National Specialist positions were converted to government counterpart positions. Little flexibility remains for further conversions. However, judicious pairing of National Specialists with government counterparts can be expected to have a positive impact on capacity development.

While some progress has been made in integrating PIO and PIU staff into TSCP activities, this issue will require continuing attention and periodic review.

3.2 Design and Maintenance of CAMCs

The Prek Toal CAMC has been designed and constructed with due consideration to minimizing environmental impacts and incorporation of environmentally friendly technology (although the waste disposal system still requires further work). It will continue to be important to incorporate these

considerations in the construction and operation of facilities for Boeung Chhmar and Stung Sen Core Areas and for Pursat and Kampong Chhnang provinces. Appropriate generation of energy requirements (funding has been earmarked for solar energy systems) and treatment and disposal of solid and liquid wastes (preferably through use of composting systems) remain the primary issues that need to be monitored.

Routine maintenance of all buildings will be required to ensure that they operate as required, and to prolong their lifespan to the maximum possible extent.

3.3 UNV Support to Sustainable Livelihoods Activities

Merging of the planned TSCP sustainable livelihoods activities with proposed UNV support will result in a budget increment of US\$218,000. Benefits will include:

- improved flexibility in how the \$80,000 in TSCP funding currently available for implementation of sustainable livelihoods activities can be managed (likely resulting in a higher proportion of direct expenditure on livelihoods activities);
- establishment of a long-term (three year) advisory presence (UNV) in each of the Core Areas; and
- additional funding available for sustainable livelihoods activities support (\$60,000), community member exchange visits (\$18,000) and training (\$15,000).

The required documentation has now been completed and is awaiting donor and UNV approval.

4. Brief Set of Conclusions (related to key issues/problems) and Recommendations

In terms of immediate/pending implementation considerations, it is recommended that:

- integration of government staff into the Project should continue to be a priority, but balanced against the need for high quality and timely outputs;
- the incorporation of environmentally friendly technologies and design considerations continue to be incorporated in the Core Area Management Centres and the additional floating centres, and that these be highlighted in the environmental education and awareness programming to be delivered from these Centres; and
- maintenance programming for the Core Area Management Centres and additional floating centres be developed and implemented soonest possible.

5. Output Accomplishment and Achievement of Activities

Activity	Achievements to Date	Issues Encountered
Component 3. Building Management Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in the TSBR		
<i>Output 3.1 Capacity for management of biodiversity in the Core Areas is increased</i>		
3.1.1 Establishment and equipment of Protected Area Management Centres and Core Area Management Centres (jointly with TSEMP)	<p>Construction of the Core Area Management Centre at Prek Toal has been completed and the building officially opened. Construction of the CAMC at Boeung Chhmar is pending.</p> <p>Floating centres have been designed for location in Stung Sen Core Area and in Kampong Chhnang and Pursat Provinces. Construction is substantially complete and relocation from Phnom Penh to the destination sites has been initiated.</p> <p>MoE has been consulted with regard to environmental standards related to building construction.</p> <p>Designs have been reviewed with regard to adequacy for delivery of environmental</p>	<p>Types of facilities, their designs and selection of location.</p> <p>Lists of equipment required to support planned facilities.</p> <p>Allocation of funding for environmental education programming, equipment, and power generation, waste management and water treatment systems.</p> <p>Responsibility for maintenance of facilities and development and implementation of routine maintenance programmes.</p>

Activity	Achievements to Date	Issues Encountered
	education and awareness. Tasks, scheduling and responsibilities have been incorporated in the Work Breakdown Structure.	
3.1.2 Development of Core Area management plans	Tasks, scheduling and responsibilities have been incorporated in the Work Breakdown Structure. Development of a five year Management Plan for Prek Toal Core Area is in progress. Preliminary planning for Boeung Chhmar and Stung Sen Core Areas has been initiated.	Need for fast-tracking of timing to maximize use of international advisory inputs.
3.1.3 Development and implementation of a strategy to enforce laws and regulations in and around the Core Areas	Tasks, scheduling and responsibilities have been incorporated in the Work Breakdown Structure. Start-up is scheduled for Q1 2006.	
3.1.4 Identification of income-generating activities that directly threaten biodiversity in the Core Areas, and development of alternative livelihoods to modify these activities	Tasks, scheduling and responsibilities have been incorporated in the Work Breakdown Structure. Work has been initiated by a National Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist. Three months of International Specialist inputs have been scheduled for 2006 and the Specialist has been selected.	Uncertainty as to the scope and timing of new ADB Sustainable Livelihoods Project currently under formulation.
3.1.5 Development and implementation of staff training in protected area management	Tasks, scheduling and responsibilities have been incorporated in the Work Breakdown Structure. Training Specialists started work in mid-August 2005. Draft training programmes have been prepared and are currently under review.	Decisions on timing and modalities of training remain to be taken.
3.1.6 Development and implementation of standardized procedures for the designation of protected sites within the TSBR	Tasks, scheduling and responsibilities have been incorporated in the Work Breakdown Structure. Start-up is scheduled for Q1 2006.	
<i>3.2 Systems for monitoring and management of biodiversity are developed.</i>		
3.2.1 Design and implementation of a biodiversity monitoring programme for the TSBR	Contractual arrangements have been finalized and Biodiversity Monitoring Subcontractor has initiated work.	Activities requiring airphoto and mapping products from TSEMP Component 1 will be delayed due to delays in this Component.
3.2.2 Establishment of a rapid response mechanism for seasonal protection of biodiversity	Tasks have been incorporated in Biodiversity Monitoring Subcontract. Subcontractor has initiated work.	Task completion has slipped due to delays in finalizing Biodiversity Monitoring Subcontract. However, these will be rectified during Q1 2006.
3.2.3 Development of a strategy for the control of exotic species, and implementation of management trials	Tasks have been incorporated in Biodiversity Monitoring Contract. Start-up is scheduled for Q1 2006.	
<i>3.3 Awareness, education and outreach on biodiversity conservation in the TSBR are promoted.</i>		
3.3.1 Development and implementation of an environmental awareness, education and outreach programme	Tasks, scheduling and responsibilities have been incorporated in Work Breakdown Structure. Start-up is scheduled for Q1 2006.	
3.3.2 Provision of environmental	Tasks, scheduling and responsibilities have been incorporated in Work Breakdown	Planning ongoing as to how requirements will be satisfied by

Activity	Achievements to Date	Issues Encountered
education centres	<p>Structure. See also 3.1.1 above.</p> <p>Existing Gecko Centre in Siem Reap is currently being supported by Project funds and will be incorporated in EAEOP.</p>	<p>construction of facilities identified under Activity 3.1.1.</p>
3.3.3 Integration of EAEOP into selected schools around the TSBR	<p>Tasks, scheduling and responsibilities have been incorporated in Work Breakdown Structure. Start-up is scheduled for Q1 2006.</p>	

Annex 1. Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CAMC	Core Area Management Centre
CNMC	Cambodia National Mekong Committee
DoF	Department of Fisheries
EAEOP	Environmental Awareness, Education and Outreach Program
GECKO	GECKO Environment Centre, Chong Kneas
GEF	Global Environment Facility
<i>i.e.</i>	that is
MoE	Ministry of Environment
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
No.	Number
PIO	Project Implementation Office
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMCO	Project Management and Coordination Office
Q	Quarter
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
TSBR	Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve
TSCP	Tonle Sap Conservation Project
TSEMP	Tonle Sap Environmental Management Project
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNV	United Nations Volunteers