Key Lessons learnt from the “Communication Outreach Project between the Peoples of Songkhla Lake Basin & Tonle Sap Lake”

TSL  SLB
Sin Viseth  Chatchai Ratanachai
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Ou Touch  Jettawan Krutaraniyom
Saing Rola  Wiwat Sutiwipakorn

@ Sofitel Hotel, Bangkok, 20 May 2019
**TSB**  
Basin area: 86,000 km$^2$  
(in Thailand: 4,200 km$^2$)  
Lake area:  
2,700 km$^2$ (dry season)  
14,900 km$^2$ (wet season)

**SLB**  
Basin area: 8,495 km$^2$  
Lake area: 1,040 km$^2$
Activities in the two sister lakes (SLB)

- The project provided a 3-year platform whereby peoples of the two lakes can share knowledge & exchange experiences.

- They conducted local activities in Thale Noi, Tahin, Chong Feun (SLB), and Battambang (TSL), centering around 3 challenging issues of Fishery governance, Women empowerment, and Climate Change adaptation.
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* Selected the youth team to be trained in climate change adaptation & coping plan
* Produced videos for project PR & awareness campaign
Activities in the two sister lakes (SLB)

➢ They conducted local activities in Thale Noi, Tahin, Chong Feun (SLB), and Battambang (TSL), centering around 3 challenging issues of Fishery governance, Women empowerment, and Climate Change adaptation.

* Improved community learning center
* Identified women team and conducted training for various income earning skills
* Continued improving community products centering around sugar palm fruits & trees
Activities in the two sister lakes (SLB)

➢ They conducted local activities in Thale Noi, Tahin, Chong Feun (SLB), and Battambang (TSL), centering around 3 challenging issues of Fishery governance, Women empowerment, and Climate Change adaptation.

* Identified fishermen and conducted training for sustainable fishery
* Continued activities in community fish depo where fishermen can negotiate for higher price
* Continued efforts to campaign against destructive fishing gears
Activities in the two sister lakes (TSL)

➢ They conducted local activities in Thale Noi, Tahin, Chong Feun (SLB), and Battambang (TSL), centering around 3 challenging issues of **Fishery governance, Women empowerment, and Climate Change adaptation.**

Implementation of the Pilot Project in Sdei Krom Rohal Sourng concerns all 3 issues: **Fishery governance, Women empowerment, & Climate Change adaptation.**
Activities in the two sister lakes (TSL)

• Improved capacity building on community management, financial management, and VDO production to community members and local authorities (including commune and district level)

• 4 trainings on IWRM to the community members and people around the Tonle Sap Lake
Activities in the two sister lakes (TSL)

- Developed Atlas book
- Supported patrolling activities (related to fisheries and flooded forest)
- Planted trees at the community conservation area
Activities in the two sister lakes (TSL)

video production & awareness campaigns
Key Lessons learnt during exchange visits:

- Periodically, exchange visits and workshops were conducted. Experiences have also been exchanged by other means of communication.
Key Lessons learnt during exchange visits:
Key Lessons learnt during exchange visits:
Key Lessons learnt: Conclusion

- The two lakes are excellent areas for exploring and understanding human vs. environment interaction and development.

- Through discussions, we identified 3 issues which need to be improved: governance, livelihoods, and sustainability.

- We proposed doing so via enhancing 5 community capitals.
From 3 local activities:
➢ Fishery governance,
➢ Women empowerment,
➢ Climate Change adaptation,

We identified the need to enhance 5 community capitals

5 capitals

Natural
land, water, biodiversity, environment, wildlife, etc.

Social
Network, access to services, participation in decision making, etc.

Human
Skill, education, knowledge & info, capacity to work, health, etc.

Financial
savings, credits, wages, pensions, remittances, subsidy, etc.

Infrastructural
transport, shelter, communication, water, energy, etc.
Natural capital

- Seasonal change in water level in TSL & 3-water system in SL provide unique features, rich biodiversity & ecosystem service.
- $10^9$ cubic meters in SL & $80 \times 10^9$ in TSL provide rich habitat for fauna, thus excellent food resource.
- Pristine Prek Toal Ramsar site vs. developed but deteriorated Thale Noi Ramsar site. Two sister lakes should learn from each other.
- Node-Na-Le (Sugar Palm – Paddy farms – Lake)
- Both lakes and peoples of the lakes are vulnerable to climate change impacts. Education & preparedness are extremely necessary.
Financial capital

- Formation of the fishermen saving group (cooperative) in SL is remarkable, making community members financially secure; it deserves to be regarded as a model for other similar communities.

- Government subsidies in various forms are common in both lakes, especially after natural disasters or when hit by unusual market price fluctuation. This is justified, especially for poor farmers & fishermen.

Financial savings, credits, wages, pensions, remittances, subsidy, etc.
Human capital

- Skills / education need to be improved.
- Access to health services need to be improved.
- A few knowledge transfers were organized during the exchange visits: how to make value-added products from fish and palm sugar.
Infrastructural capital

- Infrastructures for transport, energy, water & sanitation need to be improved.
Social capital

- **TSA** - an efficient formal govt. organization in TSL …vs…
- **SLBC** - a non-statutory people organization in SLB

The two sister lakes should learn from each other.

- Development of women groups in SLB is commendable and should be regarded as a model for other similar communities.
- Networks within two basins & vicinity & between SL & TLS must be strengthened – need continual help from govt.
Sustainable livelihood framework

Vulnerability context:
- shocks
- trends
- Seasonality

Livelihood assets:

Transforming structures & processes:
- levels of government-communities
- laws & policies
- culture
- Institution
- Funding

Livelihood outcomes:
- more income
- improved well-beings
- reduced vulnerability
- improved food security
- more sustainable use of natural resources

In order to achieve:

Continuing activities in TSL

• The project activities and budget are fully completed, but the TSL integrated some activities of the project into its action plan under government fund. The activities include:

✓ Continuing and extending the fish catch monitoring into 10 Tonle Sap tributaries surrounding the Lake;

✓ Planning to update the Atlas Book project covering in the Lake;
Continuing activities in TSL

✓ Continuing activities related to healthy lake covering on (1) study on biodiversity in Tonle Chmar; (2) water quality analysis; and (3) monitoring on the lake hydrology.

✓ Studying on climate change impact on community livelihoods.
Some pics of the activities in TSL
Final conclusion:

➢ This project is highly cost-effective: lessons learnt & outcomes were **beyond** initial expectation.

➢ Through this project, communities have learnt

• How to improve their livelihoods.
• How to improve lake governance.
• How to make their lakes sustainable?

➢ Learning by sharing experiences and doing by themselves is more efficient than being told what to do by authorities.
Final conclusion:

- People-to-people linkage between two sister lakes is mutually beneficial and outcomes are beyond expectation. It should receive further funding, so as to make it sustainable.

Thank You