



**Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of
Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

REPORT

**SITE BASED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING REPORT IN KOH KONG
PROVINCE**

**KOH KONG, CAMBODIA
6 DECEMBER 2022**

Prepared by
**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES CONSERVATION
FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION
CAMBODIA**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT**



First published in Phrasamutchedi, Samut Prakan, Thailand in December 2022 by the SEAFDEC-UNEP-GEF Fisheries Refugia Project, Training Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

Copyright © 2022, SEAFDEC-UNEP-GEF Fisheries *Refugia* Project

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part and in any form for educational or non-profit purposes without special permission from the copyright holder provided acknowledgement of the source is made. The SEAFDEC-UNEP-GEF Fisheries *Refugia* Project would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses this publication as a source.

No use of this publication may be made for resale or for any other commercial purpose without prior permission in writing from the SEAFDEC Secretary-General at.

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
Training Department
P.O.Box 97, Phrasamutchedi, Samut Prakan, Thailand
Tel: (66) 2 425 6100
Fax: (66) 2 425 6110
<https://fisheries-refugia.org> and
<https://seafdec.or.th>

DISCLAIMER:

The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Global Environment Facility.

For citation purposes this document may be cited as:

FIA/Cambodia, 2022. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand, Report of Site Based Management Board Meeting Report In Koh Kong Province. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Training Department, Samut Prakan, Thailand; FR/REP/CAM113, 8 p.

1. Opening a meeting

1.1 The Site Base Management Board Meeting in Koh Kong province was organized by Fisheries Administration (FiA) of Cambodia collaborating with Koh Kong Provincial Hall Administration on 6 December 2022, funded by SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Fisheries *Refugia*.

1.2 The meeting was conducted in Koh Kong Provincial Hall Administration under presided by Mr. Sok Sothy, Deputy Governor of Koh Kong and as Chairperson of site base management board, which was attended by 26 participants from Provincial Hall Administration, Fisheries Administration, Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, Fisheries Administration Cantonment, Department of Environment, Department of Tourism, Department of Land Management, Urbanization Construction, and Cadastral, Kiri Sarkor District Administration, Mondol Sema District Administration, Sre Ambel District Administration, Koh Sdach Commune, Koh Kong Provincial Police, Koh Kong Provincial Military Police, Maritime Open Committee, Maritime Police, and NGOs (see Annex 1&3).

1.3 **Mr. Sok Sothy** welcomed all participants taking their opportunities to attend the meeting today and informed meeting that site base management board meeting in Koh Kong province was focusing on 4 agendas including 1) progress report of the management of Mackerel Refugia in Koh Kong Province; 2) Plan for closed season of short Mackerel at Peam Krasob; 3) Progress report of Management of Estuarine Terrapin (*Batagur affinis*) and Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) in Sre Ambel Channel System, Koh Kong province; and 4) Progress report of Establishment of Marine Fisheries Management area (MFMA) in Koh Sdach Archipelago, Koh Kong.

1.4 After that he declared to open a meeting from now.

2. Progress report made by Technical Working Group

2.1 **Mr. Ouk Vibol** expressed thanks very much to Mr. Sok Sothy and all members of Technical Working Group who are presented today. And then he reported to the meeting on 5-year management plan for mackerel refugia management at Peam Krasob, Koh Kong province that this management plan reached to finalize so far. He also informed the meeting that the management plan will be discussed further with relevant stakeholders on 9 December 2022 participating from district authorities, provincial departments, FiAC, and CFi in order to get more inputs from all participants.

2.2 He added that the Technical Working Group Meeting is conducted every 3 months. For next year, we will organize this meeting again by using national budget because fisheries refugia project ends this year.

2.3 **Mr. Leng Syvann** presented the progress report on plan for closed season of short mackerel at Peam Krasob, Koh Kong province. He informed the meeting that Department of Fisheries Conservation has worked closely with FiAC in Koh Kong province and community fisheries to manage mackerel refugia, especially during closed season of mackerel starting from 01 December 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Department of Fisheries Conservation has provided budgets from SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF/Fisheries Refugia to FiAC to patrol and disseminate during the closed season at the refugia site.

2.4 He added that, in 2020, 50 concrete boxes were deployed into the refugia site funded EU/Capture Fisheries Project. In 2021, 40 concrete boxes and 30 mooring buoys were deployed into refugia site funded the Department of Community Fisheries Development/FiA. In 2022, 60

concrete boxes and 4 concrete poles were installed and deployed into refugia site funded by the Department of Community Fisheries Development/FiA.

2.5 He expressed that the purpose of deploying concrete boxes are to prevent trawlers from fishing, to increase artificial reef and spawning habitat for animal species, and to preserve brood stock.

2.6 **Mr. Som Sitha**, Project Manager of WCS, presented progress report on Management of Estuarine Terrapin (*Batagur affinis*) and Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) in Sre Ambil Channel System, Koh Kong province. His presentation was two sections; first section was talking about Management of Estuarine Terrapin (*Batagur affinis*) and second section was focusing on the management of Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) (See Annex 2).

2.7 He informed the meeting that Estuarine Terrapin is endangered species classified by Red List of IUCN. WCS provided budgets to work protection and conservation of that specie in Sre Ambil Channel System which is main habitat only for its living and spawning. To ensure sustainable management of turtle species, WCS prepared action plan for its management including turtle nest protection, releasing program, monitoring, and saving and collaboration with local authorities. To ensure effective that turtle specie, WCS has created community fisheries and promote the livelihood of the community fisheries through the enhancement of alternative livelihood such as aquaculture and animal husbandry.

2.8 After **Mr. Som Sitha** also reported about the management of local crocodile specie and it is also endangered species classified by Red List of IUCN. He added that WCS granted funds for the crocodile specie management such as dissemination and education, establishment of community fisheries, law enforcement strengthening, and crocodile nest and habitat protection, and research activities.

2.9 **Mr. Pich Phoung Ponnareay**, Project Coordinator of MPA of FFI-Cambodia reported the process of establishment of Marine Fisheries Management Area in Koh Sdach Archipelago, Koh Kong province. He informed the meeting that so far, the project finished research studies, mapping, and even finished conducting a stakeholder consultation meeting at district and local level on zoning division for management and boundary demarcation. This meeting was invited to attend from FiA, FiAC, local authorities, private sector as well as community fisheries (See Annex 2).

2.10 He added that the project has worked closely with FiAC in Koh Kong and community fisheries through strengthening patrolling, dissemination and education, and capacity building of CFis member and FiAC's officers.

3. Discussion

3.1 **Mr. Chairperson of the meeting** supported and agreed the progress report done by technical working group and he opened a floor for discussion.

3.2 **Mr. Lang Kiri** proposed the meeting to consider wooden poles to be deployed into the refugai sites rather than concrete boxes because those wooden poles are advantage for fishermen to practice green mussel aquaculture there.

3.3 **Mr. Sok Chan Kresnha** raised that the concrete boxes have been installed into the refugia site, affecting business doing of fishers there. He proposed to deploy wooden poles into the

refugia site because these poles are advantage for community fisheries doing a green mussel aquaculture.

3.4 Mr. Ouk Vibol replied that it did not affect a business doing of fishermen because the refugia site is very huge and the concrete boxes were deployed in the small number.

3.5 Mr. Chairperson of the meeting supported raising to deploy the wooden poles into the refugia site rather than the concrete boxes and he proposed the meeting to consider this case that is very important for fishermen to make a business on green mussel aquaculture.

3.6 After he informed the meeting that he was interested in Royal Turtle Releasing Program along Srey Ambel Channel, now he saw the turtle in the weight of 32kg. This is due to active participation from provincial, district, and local authorities as well as development partners.

3.7 Mr. Ouk Vibol informed the meeting that why it is needed to protect the Royal Turtle based on Royal Decree, Sub-decree, and Proclamation on endangered species. On other hand, these turtles are living along Sre Ambel Channel only, and 167 turtles have been released into the natural channel so far.

3.8 Mr. Ek Sam An has a question that what does the crocodile weight?

3.9 Mr. Som Sitha replied that the crocodile weights to 157kg

3.10 Mr. In Hull informed the meeting that there are the two kinds of this specie, freshwater and marine. In fact, there is only specie, it is *Crocodylus simensis*. It is 3meter length and weights from 300-400kg. For Cambodia, it weights from 200-300kg. In 2019, fishermen caught 170kg by gillnet.

3.11 Mr. Prak Vichet the establishment of marine fisheries management area affects to development company

3.12 Mr. Ouk Vibol replied that this establishment does not have an impact to the company and the company can invest in this site, exception for conservation zone. Generally, the size of conservation zone is too small.

4. Closing a meeting

4.1 Mr. Sok Sothy thanked all participants very much, taking their opportunities to join that meeting today and get fruitful results, and then he declared to close the meeting at 5:30pm

ANNEX 1: List of Participants in Site Based Management Board Meeting in Koh Kong province on 6 December 2022

No.	Name	Sex	Title	Organization	Telephone
1	Sok Sothy	M	Deputy Governor of Koh Kong	Koh Kong Provincial Hall Administration	012263642
2	Ouk Vibol	M	Director	DFC/FiA	012908121
3	Leng Sy Vann	M	Deputy Director	DFC/FiA	017446373
4	Lang Kiri	M	Deputy Director	DoA in Koh Kong	012494269
5	Hor Thou	M	Head of Division	Koh Kong Provincial Hall Administration	0888788088
6	Hean Meurng	M	Officer	PDoE in Koh Kong	068219313
7	Va Sotepy	F	Officer	DFC/FiA	085237616
8	Phoung Pich Ponnareay	M	MPA Project Coordinator	FFI-Cambodia	017521577
9	Seng Bunna	M	Acting Head	Koh Kong FiAC	016771768
10	Sok Chan Kresna	M	Director	Department of Tourism	015677616
11	Chan Ravi Ya	M	Head of Statistic Division	Koh Kong Provincial Police	0717777750
12	Seng Bunna	M	Vice Head	Koh Kong FiAC	016885709
13	Prum Rithy	M	Vice Commander	Maritime Police	015943366
14	Ek Sam An	F	Vice Commander	Sea Open Unit	070318914
15	Kim Sokha	M	Head of Division	DFC/FiA	012784687
16	Phon Sothun	M	Vice Commander	Koh Kong Military Police	093366007
17	Srey Sopha	F	2 nd Vice Chief	Kho Sdach Commune	0886967699
18	Oung Som Orun	M	Head of Administration Division	Koh Kong Provincial Hall Administration	086848727
19	Kao Monirith	M	Deputy Director	Marine Fisheries Administration Inspectorate/FiA	012583828
20	Lang Kimtha	M	Head of Division	Department of Land Management, Urbanization Construction, and Cadastral	011886414
21	Hean Beurn	M	Officer	National Park/Department of Environment	068219393
22	Chea Chankanha	M	Governor	Srey Ambil District Hall Administration	015233238
23	Prak Vicheth	M	Governor	Mondol Sema District Administration	016485285
24	In Hul	M	Deputy Director	DFC/FiA	017556607
25	Bun Sam Bo	F	Deputy Director	Department of Tourism	015308999
26	Kin Sam Nang	F	Vice Chief of Division	DFC/FiA	077411136

ANNEX 2: Schedule for Site Based Management Board Meeting in Koh Kong province on 6 December 2022

Date/Time	Description	Responsible person
5 December 2022		

09:00am-4:00pm	Leaving Phnom Penh for Koh Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ouk Vibol • Mr. Leng Sy Vann • Mr. Va Sotepy • Mr. Kim Sokha • Mr. Kao Monirith
06 December 2022		
8:00am- 8:30am	Registration	Ms. Va Sotepy Officer of DFC/FiA
8:30am- 8:45am	Open meeting	Mr. Sok Sothy Deputy Governor of Koh Kong and Head of TWG for Marine Protection and Conservation Area
8:45am- 9:00am	Snack break	All
9:00am- 9:45am	Progress report on mackerel refugia management at Peam Krasob, Koh Kong	Mr. Ouk Vibol Director of Department of Fisheries Conservation
9:45am- 10:45am	Plan for closed season of short mackerel at Peam Krasob, Koh Kong province	Mr. Leng Sy Vann Deputy Director of Department of Fisheries Conservation Mr. Seng Bunna Vice Director of Koh Kong FiAC
10:45am-11:15am	Progress report of Management of Estuarine Terrapin (<i>Batagur affinis</i>) and Siamese crocodile (<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>) in Sre Ambil Channel System, Koh Kong province and Discussion	Mr. In Hul Deputy Director of Department of Fisheries Conservation and Counterpart Officer with WCS- Cambodia Mr. Som Sitha Project Manager of WSC - Cambodia
11:15am-12:00am	Progress report of Process of Establishment of Marine Fisheries Management area (MFMA) in Koh Sdach Archipelago, Koh Kong and Discussion	Mr. Pich Phoung Ponnareay Project Coordinator of MPA, FFI-Cambodia
12:00pm-2:00pm	Lunch break	All
2:00pm -5:00pm	Discussion on Questions and Answers	Mr. Sok Sothy Deputy Governor of Koh Kong
5:00pm-5:30pm	Closing a meeting	Mr. Sok Sothy Deputy Governor of Koh Kong
7 December 2022		
9:00am -1:30pm	Leaving Koh Kong for Phnom Penh	All

ANNEX 3: Participants' Photos in Site Based Management Board Meeting in Koh Kong province on 16 December 2022

