

**Regional Workshop on  
Facilitating Fisheries Activity Information  
Gathering through Introduction of Community-  
based Resources Management/  
Co-management in Southeast Asian Region on  
22nd-24th October 2019,  
Sakon Nakhon Province, Thailand.**

**“Experiences from the Implementation of  
Community Fisheries (CFi) Co-Management,  
Lessons Learnt from Chong Kheas CFi in  
Siem Reap Province, Cambodia”**

by

Sopha Lieng, Fisheries Administration, Cambodia

Email: [liengsopha@gmail.com](mailto:liengsopha@gmail.com)

## **Outline for the Presentation**

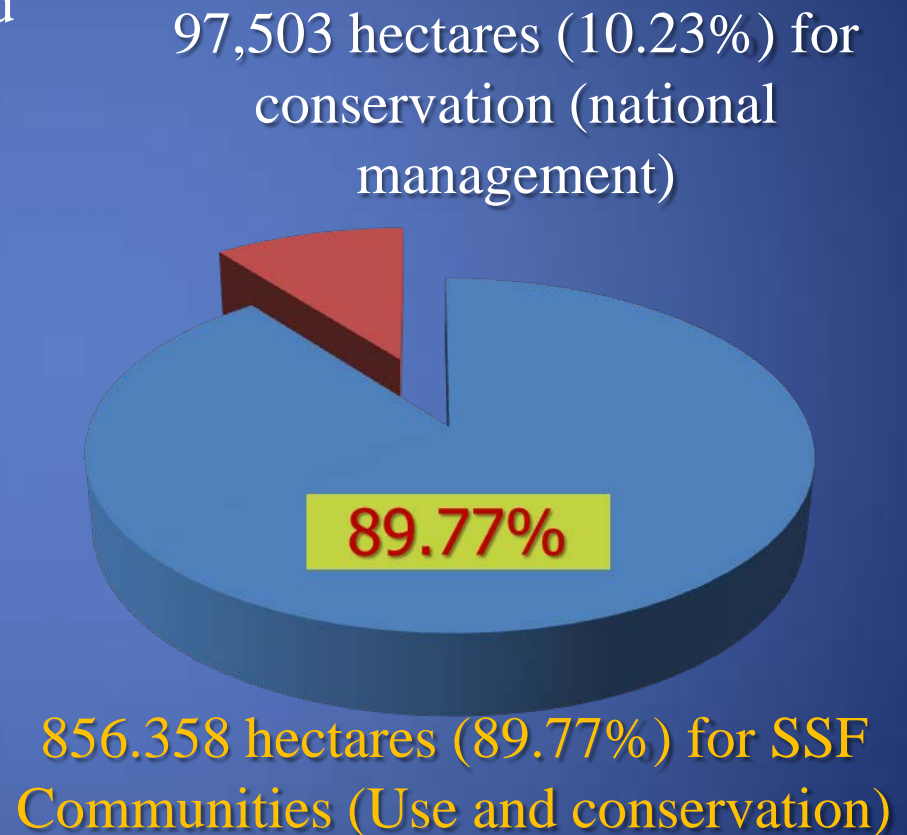
1. General Context of Small-Scale fisheries (SSFs) in Cambodia
2. Legal System for Managing SSFs.
3. The Effectiveness and Lessons learnt
4. Main challenges and the way forward
  - 4.1. Challenges
  - 4.2. Way forward

## **1. General Context of Small-scale fisheries in Cambodia**

- In 2018, there are 679,106 small-scale fishers in 516 fisheries communities, the main fisheries in the inland and marine waters using 117,207 fishing boats (83,115 motorized boats and 34,092 non-motorized boats).
- Livelihood of millions of rural people highly depends on fisheries and its related activities.
- In 2000, 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 utilization, management and conservation of fisheries resources.

# 1. General Context of Small-scale fisheries in Cambodia (Cont.)

- At least 80% of fishing ground is under management of SSF fishing community.
- Coastal community fisheries area 141,207 ha. With 41 SSF communities.
- 856.358 hectares in inland waters for SSF Communities



## 2. Legal System for Managing SSF.

- Participation of local SSFs in fisheries management, development and implementation is very important for sustainable fisheries resources.
- SSF Community shall develop by-laws, internal regulations, management plans, maps of their community fishing areas and agreements recognized by the competent authorities in accordance with provisions of Sub-Decree for Cfi management.



Joint making decision



Replanting aquatic forest



## 2. Legal System for Managing SSF. (cont.)

- The fishery is managed under national fisheries legislation such as the law on fisheries, Royal Decree, sub decree on community fisheries, and other declarations, internal rules and regulation of local SSFs .
- Community fishers participate in law enforcement with fishery competent authority and local polices.
- The management measures are limited-number and size of gear, limited- mesh size, fishing in the defined community fishing boundary. No fishing is allowed in conservation area.



## 2. Legal System for Managing SSF. (cont.)

- The fisheries is managed by Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries (TURFs) to bring forward the participation and responsibility and social equality under the policy of decentralization and de-concentration of the management authority.
- The fishery is also managed under local SSFs' rules and regulation which are anticipatorily formulated and adopted by local community fishers and relevant stakeholders.
- The rights of community fishers are defined in sub-decree on community fisheries and ministerial declaration on community fisheries management.



Mixed small species

## 2. Legal System for Managing SSF. (cont.)

- Encourage participation of women, and least 35% are women, essentially participated in fish processing and marketing.
- The common practice of traditional fishing is respected by the ministerial declaration.



Ladies were preparing fish



Lady was fishing



Transporting fish catch to markets



## 2. Legal System for Managing SSF. (cont.)

- The tenure and user rights are transferred to SSFs communities through agreement between the government and SSFs communities for a designated fishing area (sub decree, 2005).
- The SSFs communities have the roles, duty and responsibility according to internal rules and regulation and other relevant legal framework.



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

## **2. Legal System for Managing SSF. (cont.)**

- FiA monitor, control and evaluate the implementation of SSFs communities (Article 23, Sub decree 2005).
- The agreement can be terminated according to the report on the results of a review and evaluation by the respective provincial/municipal Fisheries Office, conducted with the participation of the community fisheries committee, of the process of implementing management of the community fishing area (article 26, sub decree 2005).
- The conflict is solved in accordance with fisheries and other related laws. A solution is done first at low level. If it can not solved, finally go to court.



### 3. The Effectiveness and Lessons Learnt (cont.)

- Development of Cfi come with a capacity building support, for instance CFI Chong Khneas got a support from SEAFDEC and others.



### 3. The Effectiveness and Lessons Learnt (cont.)





### 3. The Effectiveness and Lessons Learnt (cont.)



### 3. The Effectiveness and Lessons Learnt (cont.)

Cfi Conservation area



Eco-tourism development





### 3. The Effectiveness and Lessons Learnt

- Since introduction of the new fishing rights, SSFs are more active participate and take responsibility in sustainable management of fisheries resources.
- SSFs can eat more fish and more income.
- Women pay important roles fish processing, and marketing.
- The community fishers join cooperation with local and national fishery authority to enforce fisheries law, rules and regulation.

## 4. Main Challenges and Way Forward

### 4.1 Challenges

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

Facilitating  
discussion in the  
community fisheries





## 4.2 the way forward

- Strengthen the capacity of the SSFs community fisheries
- Improve national policy to move toward more self-operational SSFs community fisheries.
- Improve national policy to improve and diversify livelihood of the SSFs communities and encourage their participation.

Meeting to discuss planning for fishery conservation.



Thank You  
for Your Attention



SSFs Village