



Protecting the Biodiversity of the Tonle Sap

Raising Awareness

Raising awareness is important to creating change regarding the management of waste and usage of single use Plastic in those communities along the Tonle Sap.



WATER FESTIVALS

Coordinated to coincide with the rising and falling of the Tonle Sap, Water Falling and Water Rising Festivals have been utilized as an awareness campaign against Plastic. This is meant to be done in a fun way with selected communities along the Lake. The Festivals generally include:

- Clean Ups
- Some celebration or educational entertainment to kick off the event
- The inclusion of Youth Groups and Schools to increase education with young people who live in these areas
- Engagement with local village Sangkats to encourage continued problem solving for proper waste and plastic removal from the Lake going forward





ECO WARRIOR WORKSHOPS

Workshops Discuss:

What is Waste

How Plastic is made

Why it is dangerous to burn or dispose of waste and Plastic into the Lake

Implementing the 5Rs

How long Plastic remains on the Planet

How to properly sort waste and Plastic

We have provided these workshops to Youth Groups, local Sangkats, schools and village committee members.



RICE FOR PLASTIC

Created during COVID, Rice for Plastic was developed as a pilot program to continue awareness campaigns that had already been started prior to COVID.

- Families that were part of the program exchanged their properly sorted household Plastic for 5kg of rice.
- An additional 5kg of rice was given to those families that collected environmental plastic.

This was a valuable program during COVID however as a long term campaign it does not discourage the participants involved to reduce their overall usage of Plastic.





What is Happening Now

Awareness is vitally important in the water communities but needs to be backed up with proper infrastructure to allow for better waste management practices.

Chong Kneas in an agreement with GAEA now has a large roll off bin and weekly collectins to provide waste disposal for vendors near the tourism building.

This is the first time that any type of waste management has been implemented this community.



In conjunction with the roll off bin, a Plastic Recycling and Sorting Center has been established. This building will eventually be used to hold and export properly sorted plastic from the households living on the Lake in a program called **Harvest Plastic**.



There is still much work to do in this community and other villages along the Lake to get rid of the Plastic that has been left behind after the Lake waters recede due to lack of proper systems in place to remove Plastic and waste from the villages.





Ongoing Challenges

- Lack of proper waste management systems for all Lake communities.
- The need for massive reduction of single use Plastic usage.
- Lack of outlets in Cambodia to repurpose collected Plastic.
- A need for stricter sub-decrees requiring Lake communities to implement waste management programs and disallowing certain single use plastic items to be used in the Kingdom.

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