**TCO Proposal**



Trailblazer Cambodia Organization

**Development of sustainable Community fish refuge mainly for poor aquatic resource dependent households**

**Project Proposal**

October 2014 – March 2015

**Submitted to:**

**February 28, 2014**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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| **Implementing Agency:** | Trailblazer Cambodia Organization (TCO)  Mr. Ung Chanrattana, Executive Director  Borei Seang Nam, Khna Thmei Village, Sangkat Chreav, Siem Reap Municipality, Siem Reap Province.  Email: [Chanrattana@hotmail.com](mailto:Chanrattana@hotmail.com), [tco.srp@gmail.com](mailto:tco.srp@gmail.com) Phone: +855 (0) 12 943 110. |
| **Name of Project:** | Development of Sustainable Community Fish Refuge for Poor Aquatic Resource Dependent Households |
| **Duration:** | October 2014 to March 2015 |
| **Location:** | One community Fish Refuge in each of three villages in Danrun commune, Sotr Nikum district, Siem Reap |
| **Objectives:** | Goal**:**  To improve community fish refuge in order to benefit dependent households’ living condition and to generate self-sustaining groups.  Specific objectives:  -To form one Community Fish Refuge in Santey village, Danrun commune, Sotr Nikum district |
| **Budget:** | USD 6000 (Six thousand dollars). |

# INTRODUCTION

## 1. Background

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in Asia. It has a population of more than 14 million. Siem Reap is one of the 24 provinces in Cambodia and is located to the northwest corner of the country.

The total land area of the Siem Reap province is 12,015 km2. The province is made up of 12 districts, 100 communes and 907 villages. Ministry of Planning statistics reports a total of 155,266 families (776,332 persons including 399,070 females) province wide. This number also includes 10,337 (1.3%) persons with disabilities and 349,620 (45%) persons living in deep poverty, giving a total of 69,924 families. There are also 59,861 (8%) women-headed households, accumulating a total of 9,070 families.

Community Fish Refuge requires management by local communities to ensure the demarcated areas are not fished illegally. The success of this type of conservation management varies from place to place and communities are often unable to perceive the connection between CFRs and increase fish productivity benefited across wide areas of rice fields. There is also limited understanding of potential benefits from enhanced management approaches and design specifications of CFRs. Furthermore, little is known about the ecosystem dynamics and inter-relationships of the three main system domains including CFR, connecting channels and rice fields.

## 2. Organization Background

Trailblazer Cambodia Organization (TCO) is a Non-Governmental, non-profit organization, established by a group of Cambodian agricultural and rural development specialists in August 2008. TCO was officially registered and recognized by the Ministry of Interior in August 2008 (Number: 1002). Both staff and volunteers have experience working within fisheries, development, and finance. They have skills within the community in regards to organizing and have supported communities in agricultural training and as workshops.

TCO believes that without the contribution of civil society such as NGOs and other development partners, the social development and poverty alleviation would suffer. As such, TCO is committed to alleviating poverty in the rural areas of Cambodia and improving the quality of life of Cambodian villagers and their families by coordinating with all stakeholders including civil society groups, government line agencies, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders at all levels.

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| Board Members | TCO is a registered local NGO with the Ministry of Interior. Our Board of Directors is outlined in the legislation.  1-Mrs PhoungMaly Nean: Director of Rachna Satrei/ Siem Reap NGO Network Committee  Mobile: (855) 12 387 778  Email: phoungmaly2000@gmail.com  2- Mr. Kunthear Ung : WASH Training Resource Centre Manager at Church World Service, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  Mobile: (855) 17 559 590  Email: kunthear.ung@cwscambodia.org  3- Mr. Sovandy Kim: Founder and Manager of Potential Computer School, Siem Reap  Mobile: 012 703 626  Email: kim\_sovanndy@yahoo.com  4- Dr. Amir Lakhani: PhD in Physics, University Professor 1977 to 1981 Universite De Sherbrook, Quebec, Canada, Director and co-owner of dental practices Allentown and Bethlehem Pennsylvania  Email: amir2@rcn.com  5-Mr. Chea Mong: Aquaculture technician at Fintrac in Kampong Thom province, Cambodia  Email: c\_m\_mong@yahoo.com  Phone: (855) 12 523 107 |

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| **Project types**  **/Activities** | **Place** | **Duration**  **(in the**  **past 3**  **year** | **Partners** | **Funding Source/**  **Chartiy** | **Status** |
| Rice Field Fishery Enhancement Project | Siem Reap | 4 years | WorldFish  Center | USAID | In progress |
| Aquatic Agriculture System | Siem Reap | 1 year | WorldFish | USAID | In progress |
| Kid dropped out pilot project | Siem Reap | 2 years | Starving No More | Charity | In progress |
| Vocational  Training/Life  Skills | Siem Reap | 1 year | Engelstoft Family Foundation | Charity | In progress |
| WASH Project | Siem Reap | 1 year | Charity Donors | Charity | In progress |

# Problem Statement

Community representatives, Commune Council (CC) members and community people have joined with TCO to update understanding of the situations for those living in the targeted areas. A number of areas were identified and discussed. The following six areas were prioritised: agriculture production/food security; non-agricultural income generation; marketing systems; health conditions; social awareness and social links; and environment/natural resource management. Details on the assessments in the areas of livelihood and environment/natural resource management are given below.

Agriculture Production / Food Security: Agriculture cultivation is the main activity of the farmers but currently they still do not produce enough crops to support their own family. Most families have the skills and the means to grow only one crop per year (rice). Water resources are very limited due to poor conditions of the irrigation systems. Farmers have only one option, to depend on water during the rainy season, thus limiting their agriculture cultivation to one season. Livestock production is also low due to farmer’s lack of skills and means to improve yield. Food shortages of the poorest families range from four to six months of the year. Limited awareness and capacity among villagers and their leaders on emergency preparedness leave them vulnerable to lose their assets during times of drought and floods.

Farmer’s limited access to good quality seeds also factor of low production yield. Many seeds are imported without quality control, so farmers may unknowingly purchase seeds that are spoiled or expired. There is very limited engagement with seed quality control issues amongst relevant institutions.

Environment / Natural Resources Management: Community members have very limited knowledge about the environmental factors and sustainable natural resources management. There is a lack of awareness about good agricultural practices to take quality care of the environment. For many villagers their daily income is generated from cutting timbers, making charcoal, and cutting trees for firewood; thus depleting the forests of its resources. At the same time there is an increased use of poisons and other types of traps for protected wildlife. Improper use of fertilizers and pesticides is leading to poor soil conditions and increasing the risk of people to becoming infected by these chemicals. Fishing and hunting is restricted by law during some months of the season but these restrictions are poorly enforced.

# Strategies and Methodologies of TCO

Approaches to augment productivity vary from the relatively inexpensive imposition of seasonally protected areas to restrictions on fishing at certain times of the year; to the more costly application of fish attracting in ‘brush parks’; and the more expensive modifications of the wetland and rice field areas by excavation and/or embankment construction, stocking of fry and possibly fertilization of the water area.

There has been successful research and development work done in the region and the current interest and momentum of the national government led by FiA is poised to support and increase rice field fishery production.

*Capacity Building*: Various approaches will be used such as technical support, training and encouraging participatory decision making. Communities will be invited to conduct livelihood situation analyses in their villages to identify terms of contribution from rice fields for a fisheries investigation. Communities will receive encouragement to form links with CCs and government institutions in order to receive skills training and empowered roles within CFRs research and development.

*Participation in the Local Planning Process (LPP)*: Commune Council and CFR committees will be encouraged and supported in the LPP process in order to ensure that their priorities are incorporated into the Commune Investment Plan (CIP). This approach can help empower the communities and ensure sustainability.

# Outputs and Activities

In order to achieve the proposed project outputs TCO plans to implement the following main activities:

## 4.1 Output 1: Forming and mobilizing community fish refuge:

The key predicted outputs from the first year to project phase out represents resource mobilization, site identification, training and assistance to set up monitoring and evaluation framework e.g. baseline, livelihood, biological monitoring and conducting livelihood surveys.

* 1. ***Participate in stakeholder workshops***: TCO will assist to organize and attend workshops.
  2. ***Disseminate full formations of CFRs***: TCO uses typologies of different systems, and their relevance to potential improvements, which may lead to enhanced availability of ‘free’ fish and other aquatic animals in the rice fields.

## Output 2: Ideal intervention:

**Develop collaboration agreement:** The TCO staff will visit directly three sites to conduct consultation meetings with the CFR community groups and visit RFF/CFR sites for final information.

* 1. ***Develop detailed action plan:*** The detailed action plan will be produced with one selected CFR by using a participatory approach. TCO will be participating with local community representatives to assess RFF technical interventions; and enhancement prioritizations relative to CFRs, typologies, biological systems.
  2. ***Conduction of half-day training to CFR committees:***

The CFR committee and local authorities from each of the three CFRs will receive half-day training events.

***Conduction of meetings and awareness:*** The meeting with CFR members, rice field owners, and local authorities, is to ensure that intervention activities in the three RFF spatial domains are familiar to, and satisfied, by CFR members, hosts of the rice fields and by supporting local authorities.

***Physical enhancement and modification***: TCO coordinates and consults with FiAC to learn and channel approaches which may improve agricultural productivity four our FRS. The final decision will incorporate detailed action and a number of possible improvements.

## Output 3: Conduct training on Livelihood included: Composting, herbal pesticide and the growing process were implemented with organic/ chemical free standard

Most of TCO staff members are skill in horticulture and livestock; therefore, they’ll coordinate the training on organic agriculture in order to promote the income generation to the target beneficiaries.

## 4.4 Coordination meetings

* 1. ***Orientation meeting:*** Following consultation the orientation meeting will inform relevant stakeholders of all the activities to be completed by the project in the province.
  2. ***Organize internal meetings weekly/monthly:*** TCO will handle meetings to update our staff on project progress.
  3. **Annual rotation meeting:** TCO will also host the annual regional meeting for RFF projects. The purpose of the meetings is to focus on sharing project progress, findings, problems, solution taken, and annual work plans.

# Report

Reports will be submitted in accordance with the reporting system. TCO shall also provide updated progress and key notes weekly and monthly.

# STAFFING AND ARRANGEMENTS

Proposed staff arrangement and titles:

* Project Director: he/she will work part time job (9%) to oversee project implementation and overall management.
* Field Facilitation: 1 position, he/she will work part time job (40%) and be responsible for implementing the project activities in assigned fields of the CFR for field data collection and community works (Training, meetings, interventions, and physical modification).