

**Tree planting port Summary**

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| **Name of Project** | Arbor Day (Tree planting) |
| **Date** | July 17, 2022 |
| **Program** | Partnership |
| **Location** | Oddar Meanchey province |
| **Lead by** | Mr.Nop Sokha  Assist by Mrs. Soun Samnieng and Ros Chansophea |
| **Participants (types of**  **partners)** | Value base partners (monks, Buddhists and Indigenous Peoples, Muslims, and Christians) |
| **Number of Participants**  **(Total, female, Youth, Minority, and disability)** | **Total= 84**  Women: 46, Men: 38, Muslims: 6, Christians: 74, Youth: 42 |
| **Indirect beneficiaries through collaboration with Monk Community Forest** | Total: 1517 people |

1. **Activities Details**

The Arbor Day tree planting event was formed by the Monk community forest (MFC), in cooperation with PBO and other interested partners working together as co-committee members to support the initiative. The event focused on the theme “Together Planting Trees for Life and for the Planet”. There was a huge showing of solidarity and cooperation, partners Danmission Cambodia (DAN), Cambodia Youth Network (CYN), Ponlok Khmer (PKH) and Peace Bridges (PBO) mobilized its resources and networks towards three common goals: **1)-** To increase participation in the restoration of forest cover.**2)-** To contribute to reducing global warming and climate change and **3)-** To promote and cultivate a love of natural resources among all faith actors around The Monk Community Forest Sanctuary in Oddar-Meanchey province. PBO also worked to promote Interfaith Dialogue between main religious leaders from Buddhist, Christian, and Ethnic Minority beliefs on Natural Resources Protection and Conservation.

**II- Outputs**

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| National and International Partners and Community Forest Network members | 18 |
| Monk | 260 |
| Buddhists and Indigenous Peoples | 1,127 |
| Christians | 74 |
| Muslims | 6 |
| civil servants | 50 |
| **Total** | **1517** |

A total of 6,500 species of rosewood, wood for construction, and fruit seedlings were planted and procession from Samrong to Monk Community Forest: 60 vehicles.

**Participants testimony:**

Mr. Sokhom primary interest is how this activity can benefit the six thousand hectares Tonle-Sap Lake, which can be accessed from the forest. It is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia and rich in fish resources. His next goal is to bring the team members back here again to gain more experiences and connect to nature and test forest food. Hence, he does whatever he can to protect the environment (natural resources) as part of his life.

Daniel is thankful this event demonstrates the interfaith and environmental protection contributions in my hometown community We do not do anything superstitious, mostly our activities include children picking up trash and cleaning the church grounds. This event prompts me to consider what more the my pastor and fellow church members can do. Maybe we can collaborate with other faith such as Buddhist and Muslims to promote environmental protection.

**Deputy Governor of Oddar Meanchey Province** said thanks to the Venerable Tho Thuros for taking the leadership to promote natural resources protection. Today four clergy members from diverse faiths joined with the local authorities from our respectful unit, along with so many enthusiastic young men and women, Cambodia’s next generation. We all will directly or indirectly benefit from the achievements of planting tree saplings today. And hopefully, twenty or thirty years later, the young people will continue to benefit from our tree cultivation today. All the young people, national and international guests, who traveled far and wide to be here today, will benefit from strong determination to care for the forest. Remember the Khmer saying: **When you drink water, think of the source, when you take safe refuge under a tree, think of the grower.**

**IV- Reflection**

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| **What went well?** | The participants of the event came from all works of life, from different ethnicities, from different religions and beliefs, but we were ONE and we had ONE goal in common and that was Planting Trees for Our Life and Our Only Earth. A total of **6,500** trees were planted in the Monk Community Forest in a strong sense of love, care, and protection.  During the **interfaith dialogue workshop**, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and indigenous representatives shared about their faith link to environmental protection, focusing on the theme **Religious Role for a Green Earth** Each faith actors shared about how their understanding of God and creation influences their commitment to promote environmental protection and to mobilize their faith followers to engage in forest protection or replanting trees.  All participants, especially the youth, enjoyed this campaign. For many of them it was their first overnight stay in the forest. Along with the hard work at planting trees for a better future, they meet new, like-hearted people from all over Cambodia. They were inspired by hearing their faith elders putting aside differences and coming together to engage in an interfaith dialogue and a shared green earth vision. Perhaps of greatest value was the participants personal reflection on how they could be involved in restoring the God’s creation, making a commitment to replant trees and reduce plastic in a personal way, and to return home and share this message with their family and friends. They hope to take part in this kind of event for many years to come. |
| **What were difficult/challenges?** | In real practice, there were some challenges for the Cambodia’s Youth Network (CYN) on the logistics of managing such a large group of volunteers to move the trees to the planting site as well as other important details..  Upon reflection, it was not a coherent plan laid out before hand on the division of tasks among the members and partners. A clearer division of who is responsible to organize which task would have helped the event run more smoothly.  For example, when planning the next event:   1. There is a clear division of tasks, and who is responsible to facilitate which activity. 2. There is a tutorial for first-time tree planters on the techniques of correctly planting a tree. 3. There is an accurate agenda for the MC to follow and all guest speaker’s names listed. |
| **What would we do differently next time? Trainer team reflection every end of each unit** | * Make sure everyone on the committee is clearabout their task responsibilities so they can lead their target group. * Minute taker should record the details and process of how to complete tasks in the event, in this way it is easier for leaders to manage it with their target group who came from diverse backgrounds. * The committee should assign specific tasks to the right group. For example, there was a large group of photographers recording the event. It would have been helpful if one group was assigned the lead and they could have divided up the cameramen to cover specific areas of action. In that way, there wouldn’t be an overabundance of photos on one particular part of the event while others were missed completely. They can work as a group for finalizing the photos and video of the events. * Request that the news agency to contact the committee before showing up at the event. This would give the committee the time needed to invite the speakers and get their permission, before the event, to be filmed and rebroadcast. * The committee should have on opportunity to meet and confer with the MC of the event, to review the agenda and give coaching suggestions, so that he/she can lead the event smoothly. * The PBO team should be in communication with their volunteers before the event about the event. |
| **What are the next steps after this event?)**  **(Bullet points)** | * Documenting all relevant information, and what should be done differently to improve future events. * According to PBO’s current situation most of the staff are women so PBO lacks the strong force to manage the materiel and facilitate large crowds. PBO plans to recruit volunteers to assist for future events. |

**V- Cross-cutting issues**

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| Do No Harm | Solution/Intervention |
| PBO team created a list of “DOs and Don’ts” for participants to avoid doing during the event:  - Don’t hunt the wildlife or buy wooden furniture.  - Do not gather or disturb or collect natural resources found in the forest (for example: do not pick forest flowers and other plants in MFC).  - Do not leave your valuables unattended, carry them with you al all times.  - Do not consume beer and other alcohol beverages.  - Do not discriminate against others who are different then you. Avoid heated debates or proselytizing participants who have a different faith belief or political creed than your own. | PBO team announced these rules to all participants in advance. |
| Inclusivity & Gender Equality | Solution/Intervention |
| * PBO is sensitive to promoting gender equality among all participants, and is especially sensitive to encouraging women’s engagement. | PBO team announced this policy to all participants in advance. |
| * Child Protection Policy | Solution/Intervention |
| Make sure with all participant’s attendance is not affected by their children’s care at home. Proper arrangements must be made to ensure that there is a responsible caretaker for their children while they are joining the event with PBO. | PBO team announced this policy to all participants in advance. |
| PSHEA Policy​ | Solution/Intervention |
| Participants of prohibited from using sexual harassment words or pictures in all communication. | PBO team announced this policy to all participants in advance. |

**VI- Appendix**

<https://bit.ly/3JlRHtP> / <https://bit.ly/3OR5iu7> / <https://bit.ly/3vvJgGE> / <https://bit.ly/3cTqaUd>

