



CAMBODIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM



2009 Annual Report



Executive Director's Statement

2009 was a crucial time for CRDT, responding to both internal and external changes. The management was restructured in order to distribute management responsibility and to empower local staff. We had to adapt to external changes like the government's decentralization reform, and simultaneously to respond to donors' requirements of aid effectiveness during massive global economic downturn.

We focused on organizational development and strategies to improve good practice and ensure long term sustainability of the organization. As a result, a 5-year strategic plan and annual budget was developed, the implementation strategy was updated, the monitoring & evaluation framework was established, and publicity was improved. Also, with our commitment to support staff development, staff capacity building has been promoted through both training courses and long-term study opportunities.

Work with our strategic partners WWF and WCS has deepened this year, with all activities coordinated and a lot of information shared. CRDT has been trusted as a management member of CCBEN and the NGO Network in Kratie. Moreover, we improved collaboration with governmental agencies, working closely at provincial, district and commune level. CRDT is keen to work with relevant partners for the sake of coordinated, effective development.

2009 was a year of success, significant change and vital transitions for long-term sustainability. Such triumph would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the Management Committee, the Organizational Development Advisor and all the field staff and volunteers.

My appreciation to the Board of Directors for your active role to support and provide focus for the Management Committee. And a huge thank-you to our partners, donors and friends for supporting our organization and our strategic goals.

Or Channy CRDT Executive Director

CRDT is a leading local NGO in North-East Cambodia that has grown from 5 volunteers and 2 founding volunteer advisors to more than 30 staff operating in 3 provinces, 5 districts, 11 communes and 36 villages. It has grown from having an annual operating budget of under \$3000 in 2001, to over \$350 000 in 2009. This achievement is incredible and would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of the founders and all staff.

Chairman's Statement

2009 was a fantastic year in terms of both project execution and the shaping of foundations for the future. It saw us improve governance and operational infrastructure with the full functionality of the Board of Directors, develop policy and procedure across the spectrum, and develop best practice in line with international organizations. We underwent a management restructure, and with this came a large focus on capacity building, with an intensive program of both internal and external staff training. This year 3 staff members were supported to gain international scholarships to study masters' degrees overseas. We produced a 5-year strategic plan and introduced a new project implementation strategy. These are landmark achievements during a global financial crisis, ensuring CRDT's steady progress in the right direction.

On behalf of the Board and myself, I would like to express our appreciation to the Executive Director, his Management Team and all staff for their outstanding efforts, turning in excellent results. I would especially thank the Organizational Development Advisor for her support to the Management Committee. I would also like to recognize the valuable support and contributions of our donors, friends, volunteers, beneficiaries and local authorities for their confidence and partnership.

Mao Savin Chairman of the Board of Directors

We want a Cambodia free of poverty and environmental degradation

Our mission is to improve food security, incomes, and living standards of subsistence rural communities while supporting environmental conservation throughout Cambodia

CRDT aims to increase food security by improving agricultural techniques and animal husbandry whilst diversifying income bases. This in turn reduces natural resource dependency and therefore environmental degradation, and also enables beneficiaries to engage in conservation efforts. In Stung Treng the average number of days per month spent in the forest dropped from 12 to 5.6 and in Monduliri and the Kratie Mekong area it reduced by 4.8 days and 2.1 days respectively. The average number of days spent fishing on the river decreased by 6.3 days in the Kratie Mekong area and 4.5 in Monduliri, and in Stung Treng the average days per month came down from 18.6 to 9.7, a reduction of 8.9 days.

CRDT's livelihood activities address fundamental needs of hunger and nutrition. Over 99% of beneficiaries in all 4 of the projects feel that their health has improved as a result of CRDT's interventions, due to greater nutrition or increased disposable income, which is a startling achievement. Furthermore, CRDT's livelihood support reduces the vulnerability of families and communities, to problems such as the reduction of fish stocks, deforestation, and climate change.

Beneficiaries built more than 320 fishponds across our project villages in 2009, and harvested thousands of kilos of fish from them. The new smaller design of fishpond made aquaculture more accessible to poor families, and fish farming has fast become one of CRDT's most sought after activities, raising the average disposable income of a family by an average of 46% despite the trend being that people consume much more than they sell. Other than increasing income and access to a source of protein, this activity reduces the need to use exploitative fishing methods such as gillnets in the areas of high biodiversity that CRDT works.

The same is true across all of CRDT's livelihood activities. 100% of vegetable beneficiaries in all 4 of the project areas felt their health has improved as a result of the increased nutrition from heightened vegetable consumption. 2009 has been the first year that CRDT have been able to support sustainable pig-raising. Previously the activity was high-risk due to the high proportion of pig deaths, but now helped by the collaborative support of livelihood groups, it is quickly developing into a highly profitable activity. The average yearly disposable income generated from this activity was \$140.27 per beneficiary. Chicken raising added an average of \$122.71 to a family's disposable income, duck raising \$75.50, vegetable growing came in at \$136.40 and the most profitable in 2009 was fish farming, bringing in an average of \$268.97.

Due to its success of improving agricultural techniques 2009 has seen CRDT focussing more heavily on how beneficiaries can generate income from surplus agricultural produce. The project teams underwent training in Market Value Chain Analysis and have been working on improving value chains, and enabling farmers to have better access to local markets through creating market networks.

Fish farming raised the disposable income of a family by an average of 46%

CRDT works through the establishment of community-based livelihood groups (CBOs), through which development activities can be supported and sustained. In 2009, CRDT supported 94 CBOs. Groups provide support structures for villagers to transfer skills, solve problems and ensure local ownership. CRDT work through Extension Workers who motivate other farmers, ensure implementation is at a high standard, and monitor the progress of the group. On top of livelihood trainings, CRDT build capacity in management, micro-finance and bookkeeping, to enable the groups to sustain activity independently after the project has ended. Additionally, trainings in proposal-writing builds the capability of the groups to apply for further funding.

CBOs create statutes, elect executive committees, and are registered with the Commune Councils. CRDT train the CBOs in rights and how to get their voice heard, as well as how to participate in local government planning processes. In 2009, 32 CBOs participated in Commune Development Planning, ensuring that local government plans represent the needs of disadvantaged farmers.



The Environmental Education team worked tirelessly to raise awareness at the local level of the environmental impact of natural resource exploitation and the importance of conserving the dolphins and their habitats.

CRDT's graphic artist designed posters and flipcharts for trainings and signposts showing how to prevent environmental degradation in villages. Over 4000 people attended village night shows in 5 communes in Kratie and Stung Treng, promoting environmental thinking along with sustainable livelihoods through songs, movies, drama and dance sessions. Feedback from these shows has been overwhelmingly positive; beneficiaries can identify with the issues depicted and want to take action in their real lives! 300 copies of CRDT's storybook, highlighting the interlinkage between livelihoods, natural resources and the environment, have been distributed to communities and schoolchildren.



Water Sanitation & Hygiene

Clean water makes a huge difference to families in rural Cambodia as using dirty water for drinking, cooking and washing is one of the main causes of ill health in the region. CRDT support the provision of clean water supplies for domestic purposes, and irrigation systems for agriculture.

CRDT has installed almost 400 rainwater collectors, many more than were originally proposed, but due to their popularity in all project sites more were provided. In many cases villagers used their own financial support to increase the size of their existing tanks. 16 open wells were built, allowing communities access to water in and out of the rainy season. In some areas CRDT found that due to the already numerous open wells it was advantageous to refurbish existing ones that had fallen into disrepair, teaching the villagers how to do this themselves in case they need further repairs. 48 river hand pump systems were installed and are now being used for irrigation and livestock. All save valuable time and energy carrying water up the steep embankments of the Mekong. Many beneficiaries mentioned that access to clean water is one of the main benefits of CRDT's work, with a large impact on health indicators.

With 185 toilets constructed in 2009, CRDT feel their mission to improve health and reduce pollution through sanitation is well on target. As more and more families get toilets more families understand the benefits, and it remains one of CRDT's most popular activities. Toilet beneficiaries also receive training in sanitation and hygiene to ensure this activity has maximum impact on the health of the communities. Many beneficiaries mentioned that access to clean water is one of the reasons they feel much healthier now.

50 biodigestors providing clean, renewable energy

The majority of rural Cambodians are dependent on firewood, which is labour-intensive, produces smoke which causes health problems and contributes to deforestation. CRDT support the development of biogas, which is a clean, renewable energy source created from animal waste. This technology has had a positive effect on the lives of women, in that domestic activities are easier and time is saved on cooking and collecting firewood. It also produces a rich organic fertiliser to improve crop yields. Around 50 biodigestors were completed in the year 2009, bringing the total number to nearly 200. Although initially a difficult idea to explain and sell to remote villagers, as soon as the benefits are demonstrated this activity becomes very popular. Solar powered lighting has also been installed in 13 houses in the Kratie Mekong area.

276 tourists, our best year so far

Developing ecotourism opportunities increases and diversifies income for rural people, thereby providing motivation to conserve local natural and cultural resources. CRDT have a total of 84 beneficiaries in the two island sites of Koh Pdao in Kratie and Koh Preah in Stung Treng and in 2009 they received 276 tourists, our best year so far.

Visitors on CRDT's Community Development Tours have the opportunity to see the islands by bike, ox cart or boat, experience the dolphins in their natural habitat, swim in the Mekong, stay in local homes and sample the cuisine, see the local natural attractions and wildlife, take cooking lessons, see traditional dance shows and to just relax and enjoy the scenery. Leaflets were developed and distributed for the first time in 2009.

The Community Development Tours provide visitors an opportunity to travel up the Mekong River from Kratie Town and visit the communities we work in. It gives a glimpse of how Cambodians live in the countryside and how our "Dolphins for Development" project actually works. Visitors are able to travel with the CRDT Field Teams to visit our beneficiaries, learn about their lives and stories, and stay in their homes as a guest.

If you want to take part in our community development tours please contact us! (See reverse for details).

Through the message of environmental education CRDT hopes to reduce the amount of plastic and other waste that ends up in the dolphin deep pools. 96 bamboo rubbish bins were distributed in Mekong villages in 2009, bringing the total number of rubbish bins provided by the organisation up to 289.

December 2009 saw 193 people from the Mekong projects clearing up their communities, including students, teachers, the Village Development Committee, the Village Chief, and even members of the Commune Council. The events aimed to change the waste management behavior in the villages, as well as to create a cleaner environment. Another waste management activity is to make compost from biodigester slurry, which reduces pollution and produces rich organic fertilizer. 34 compost pits were dug in 2009, and 9 incinerators constructed, designed to reduce particulate pollution and for the communities to burn non-organic waste efficiently.

Over 99% of beneficiaries in all 4 of the projects feel that their health has improved as a result of CRDT's interventions

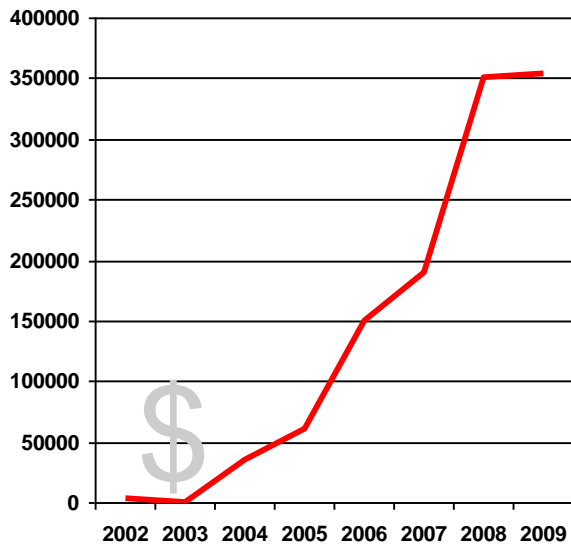
Renewable Energy

Ecotourism

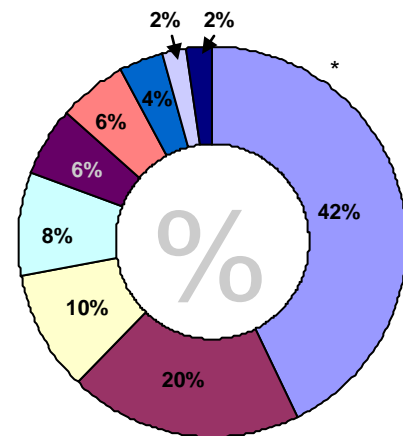
Waste Management

Balance brought forward from 2008		<u>\$106,084</u>
Income	Total Income	<u>\$435,126</u>
Expense		
	Total Expense	<u>\$353,982</u>
Net Ordinary Income		\$81,144
Other Income		
Interest Income		<u>\$1,625</u>
Total Other Income		<u>\$1,625</u>
Net Other Income		<u>\$1,625</u>
	Net Income	<u>\$82,769</u>

Operating Budget 2002 - 2009



Spending by Project Activity



- Alternative Livelihoods
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Renewable Energy
- Community Empowerment
- Ecotourism
- Environmental Education
- Consultancy
- Waste Management
- Other

* Implementation costs only



Andong Kraleng Mondulkiri



Case Study

In the past Mrs. Ngeous Nheouk, a member of an indigenous Phnong community, was laughed at by her neighbours for spending so much time in her vegetable garden, but after some bumper yields her previous critics started to sit up and take notice. Now many of her fellow villagers are growing their own vegetables for consumption and income generation, reducing time spent working in the forest and benefiting their health. She said: "Before, I had it hard, I had to spend a lot of time in the forest collecting wild vegetables and resin to sell. From that money I could buy 25 to 30Kg of rice, and that wouldn't feed my family for a whole year!" She goes on to say: "I had very good vegetable yields last year, and I managed to make some money and have plenty to eat. From September 2008 to May 2009 I made over 1,140,000 Riel and had 190kg of vegetables for home consumption".

In the previous years, she didn't know anything about the marketing, or selling of vegetables, but after CRDT training, she now knows more about vegetable prices and market needs.

"I have to spend a week in the forest looking for everything I need, and there are obstacles like wildlife, malaria, and if it's raining...cooperating with CRDT means I never have to travel far from home and I've had time to increase the size of my home garden. I have more time to take care of my family and enough rice and vegetables to eat, and have some money left over for saving. My family are healthier and we have more money".

Looking Ahead: 2010

- New project site: Eastern Channels of the Kratie Mekong.
- With partner WWF: A large biogas project in Kratie and Stung Treng Provinces. Feasibility study with GERES.
- Cooperation Committee for Cambodia's NGOs GPP: Working towards NGO good practice qualification for the Code of Ethical Principles and Minimum Standards for NGOs in Cambodia.
- Social Enterprise: Development of other business strands in order to generate funds for our long-term sustainability.



CWF is an English-language centre, set up to provide sustainable funding for CRDT's important work. Participants

get the opportunity to experience life in Cambodia and gain teaching experience, while volunteering their time to teach conversational English in the capital city, Phnom Penh. Teaching English fulfils the need for Cambodian people to communicate in the international language in various aspects of life, and the income generated goes to support the development of rural communities. There is further information and contact details on the website:

What Can You Do?

www.volunteerincambodia.org

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