

MORODOK

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



VISION

The Morodok organization envisions peaceful rural communities in Cambodia where people have equal rights and opportunity to manage and utilize natural resources in a sustainable fashion for the improvement of their quality of life.

MISSION

To improve living conditions, strengthen solidarity and create ownership for the poor people in the coastal communities of Cambodia through building their capacity, supporting their initiatives and facilitating dialogue between relevant actors.

OBJECTIVE

To promote community empowerment toward socio - economic development through enhancing capacity of community groups (CBO and Livelihood groups) to participate in local democratization and good governance processes.

VALUES

The MORODOK organization believes:

1. Transparency and accountability create trust amongst staff and stakeholders and lead to strong organizational management.
2. Capacity development enables organizations and communities to respond to the changing needs and sustainability.
3. Improving communities' livelihoods results from good collaboration between relevant actors.
4. Ownership encourages responsibility and leads to effectiveness and efficiency of performance.
5. Participation, initiative and gender equity enable us to mobilize all possible resources for sustainable development.



The Staff of Morodok



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*Cover photo: Community forestry group collecting non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Phnom
Top Cheang.*

In Khmer, “Morodok” means ‘heritage’, ‘inheritance’ or ‘legacy.’ According to Morodok’s By-Laws, it is also an acronym for a phrase meaning “ways towards progress with transparency for inheritance of the next generation.”

A Short History of Morodok

Morodok is a local NGO working with rural communities around Kampong Som Bay, Cambodia. It was previously a program of an international NGO, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). AFSC's Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Program (ISLP), commenced its work in Sre Ambel district, Koh Kong, in September 1997. At that time, the area was remote and insecure. The AFSC/ISLP originally provided a full range of services, including agriculture, irrigation, credit, health and educational programs. In 2001, the program narrowed its focus to concentrate on helping communities manage and protect their natural resources and improve their livelihood options.

By 2003, the ISLP was completely staffed by Cambodians; and in 2004, the ISLP adopted financial monitoring tools to enable staff to manage their own budget. In order to prepare for full localization, in 2008, AFSC organized a number of internal workshops and meetings for the ISLP staff to explore ideas on how to become a local organization. A three-year localization plan was prepared. Staff developed their future vision and mission, and began a transition process in which the program developed its identity, policies, By-Laws, governance structures, and organizational capacity. In April 2011, the ISLP program team registered as a local NGO under the name "Morodok."

AFSC handed over the program to Morodok as of 1 October 2011. A Handover Ceremony was held in Sre Ambel on 5th October 2011. Since then, Morodok continues to work in the region, encouraging community groups to assert their rights over the use of natural resources and livelihood improvement. Morodok staff work closely with leaders of community groups, helping them to promote community ownership in social enterprise development and claiming their community rights for sustainable natural resource management. Morodok continues to bring together community groups with local government officials and technical officers to help the community groups prepare applications and proposals which are then submitted to high-level government institutions to provide the community official rights over resource tenure, helping to create ownership for coastal communities in the Kampong Som Bay region of Cambodia.



In October 2011, AFSC officially handed over the project to the staff, who formed a new local NGO named "Morodok."

Message from the Executive Director



In 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic had a negative effect on Morodok's activities. The previous year, the remoteness of the area protected Morodok and its beneficiaries from the worst of the pandemic. But in 2021, the Covid-19 reached Sre Ambel, causing lockdowns and local travel restrictions. Morodok had to modify its strategy, shifting from direct physical meetings to communicating with community leaders and authorities through online meetings.

Nevertheless, Morodok continued its core work of supporting poor villagers' business initiatives and strengthening community networks on natural resource management. Across all its project activities, Morodok places attention on empowering women through leadership roles and actively involving them in the decision-making process.

Our new partnerships with WWF and FELM are helping to strengthen our work on community-based natural resource management, an important part of Morodok's current Strategic Plan. Bread for the World (Germany) continues to provide the bulk of the support for our work to improve living conditions, strengthen solidarity and create ownership for the poor people in the coastal communities of Cambodia. In 2022, Morodok will begin a new four-year project in cooperation with FELM, focusing on improving livelihoods, natural resources management, disaster risk reduction and climate change preparedness in coastal areas. Morodok would like to thank all its donor partners, local authorities, and especially the local communities with whom we work for their sustained cooperation and commitment to our common development goals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Brest', written in a cursive style.

Executive Director

Acronyms used in this report

- CBET Community-based ecotourism
- CBO Community-based organization
- CPA Community protected area
- CRF Community revolving fund

Project Achievements in 2021

Strengthening Community Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management around Kampong Som Bay

Much of the rural population living around Kampong Som Bay depend on natural resources to supplement their livelihoods. Most subsist on traditional farming, but rely also on fish and other aquatic resources and a range of forest products.

Although Cambodia is rapidly developing, in some rural areas poverty is becoming more entrenched as inequities in asset ownership and access to common property become more problematic, populations grow, traditional income activities decline, and ecosystems fall into disrepair. Effective approaches to socio-economic development and conservation are needed.

Morodok promotes community-based natural resource management and livelihood development as ways to increase local empowerment, to improve the sustainability of rural livelihoods, and to achieve both environmental and development objectives.

The "Strengthening Community Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management around Kampong Som Bay" project encompasses all Morodok's work under the current program phase. It is funded primarily by Bread for the World, based in Germany, with other funders covering the cost of smaller project elements within the larger project.

The project's objective is that

"Poor people in 14 communes around Kampong Som Bay have improved food security through improved natural resource management practices, access to community finance, and diversification of their sources of livelihood."

Morodok works with over 1,000 poor people, organized into around 150 interest groups, the majority (70%) of which are women. The interest groups are typically crop growing, small business and fisheries producer groups or savings groups, with a shared interest and living in the same location. In each of the 14 target communes, the interest groups can access community-owned revolving funds to start-up, scale-up or restart their entrepreneur projects. Each group is required to develop internal rules, regulations and business plans.

Marketing of the community products is assisted by a community business network, which helps producers to follow common production standards and standardized packaging and to find markets for their products. Morodok is now assisting the business network to gain official status as an agricultural cooperative.



Meeting to reflect on the work of 14 community revolving fund committees and prepare plans for 2021.

Morodok also works with 19 community-based organizations (CBOs) working on natural resource management covering 56,239 ha, including: 8 community fisheries, 4 community forests, and 7 community protected areas. These groups operate in accordance with the requirements of the Fisheries Administration, Forestry Administration and Environment Ministry, respectively. The groups include around 180 elected



Meeting to elect the Phnom Top Cheang Community Protected Area Committee for 2020 to 2024

leaders (of which around 30% are women). About 14,340 people (including 7,670 women and girls) are members of the CBOs and indirectly or directly benefit from sustainable use of natural resources, eco-tourism, fisheries, and collection of non-timber forest products.

A new three-year phase of the project began in April 2020. The project has three intended outcomes:

- Entrepreneurial capacities of smallholder producers to produce and trade market-oriented products are enhanced.
- The ability of smallholder producers to access community finance is improved.
- The sustainable natural resource management practices of 19 CBOs in 14 communes around Kampong Som Bay are improved

As of December 2021, the project has so far achieved the following results:

- ✓ 675 of the 1,018 families belonging to the producer groups (i.e. 66%) have already diversified their sources of livelihoods through successful livelihood projects. These 675 families belong to 96 producer groups, all of which had completed their projects and financial reports and made a profit, totaling USD 482,379 (or average of USD 715 per family). 77% of the producer group members are women.
- ✓ 1,018 members from 123 producer groups received loans from the community revolving funds (CRFs) to expand their businesses, through loans averaging USD 154 per member. 61 CRF committee members, including 40 women, received training.
- ✓ 13 CBOs have had their management plans approved by the authorities and are implementing annual action plans to protect the natural resources in their area.

During the next project phase, Morodok intends to help further develop the community structures, bringing together the livelihood interest groups, community revolving funds, and community business network to form agricultural cooperatives. The agricultural cooperatives will be set up in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, and will be eligible for government support and tax exemption, thereby ensuring the sustainability of the cooperatives.

Strengthening Community Based Organizations for Natural Resource Management & Sustainable Livelihoods

In April 2020, Morodok began a new project, with funding renewed annually by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which aims to strengthen Morodok's work with 3 community forests and 2 community protected areas. It is part of WWF's project on "Leading the Change: Civil Society, Rights & Environment."

Community forests are registered with the Forestry Administration, whereas community protected areas are registered with the Ministry of Environment. The community-based organizations (CBOs) administering these areas sustainably manage the natural resources for the good of the community.

The project objective is that "Rural communities of 5 community-based organizations (CBOs) around Kampong Som Bay sustainably manage forests and reduce human pressure on natural resources through climate-adaptive livelihood initiatives."

The project aims to build the organizational and technical capacities of the 5 CBOs for effective forest management and to increase household income through processing non-timber forest products (NTFP) and other livelihood activities. 1,057 households belong to the CBOs and stand to benefit from the project while protecting 5,521 hectares of forest.

The project has two intended outcomes:

- firstly, that the 5 CBOs have used their improved capacities to improve the implementation of management plans regarding the protection and sustainable natural resource management;
- secondly, that the community forest and community protected area members have increased household income through participation in value-addition NTFP processing to access greater markets and agricultural production value chains.

The following are some of the project's achievements in 2021:

- ✓ The Neakta Thmarprung community forest in Kampong Seila commune completed the 8 steps of management planning and received approval from MAFF for their plans.
- ✓ The CBOs improved their performance through regular patrolling and better engagement with local authorities and officials. The CBOs raised requests with officials that have now been integrated into the Commune Investment Plans; namely: 1) Intervention support from local authorities and officials when tackling illegal cases in the CBOs' protected areas, 2) Support for boundary demarcation of CBOs' protected areas, and 3) Establishment of Community Based Ecotourism (CBET).
- ✓ The project organized technical refresher training on processing of rattan and bamboo for groups in Krang Art village, and facilitated a business network meeting for honey collecting groups in Srae Ambel and Dang Peng communes. Among 45 producers (including 38 women), 44% of these producers were successful in increasing their incomes compared to the previous year (2020).

Community Wetlands & Mangrove Management around Kampong Som Bay

In April 2020, Morodok began a 21-month project, funded by FELM, which aims to strengthen Morodok's work with 5 community protected areas (CPAs) and to reduce the destruction of mangrove forests. FELM is an agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland which works to promote human dignity and justice around the world.

The CPAs are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment and are managed by local communities. The CPAs consist mainly of mangroves, which are important for carbon sequestration, fish breeding, fish nutrients, and coastline protection. The 5 CPAs supported by the project cover 4,205 hectares, and are managed by 777 households (consisting of 3,890 family members) from 15 villages. The communities are poor, and rely on small-scale agriculture and collection of non-timber forest products for survival.

The project helps to build the capacity of the CPA committees to protect the natural environment, to help the CPAs to network with the authorities and each other, and to build awareness of natural resource management in the wider community.

The project has three intended outcomes:

- firstly, that the 5 CPA communities have used their improved capacities to prepare and implement management plans regarding the protection and sustainable management of natural resources;
- secondly, that community members have used their increased awareness to become actively involved in sustainable management of natural resources; and
- thirdly, that CPA community leaders have improved coordination with environment officials, local authorities, and other CBOs for better law enforcement.

The following are some of the project's achievements in 2021:

- ✓ The CPA committees improved their ability to protect and manage the natural environment and were active in preventing violations, taking action on 20 cases of deforestation and wildlife poaching by themselves. The local authorities and environment officials became more active in joining patrols and responding to violations (compared to before the project started), responding to 3 cases of violations referred to them by the CPAs and forcing the deforesters to sign agreements to not re-offend or to face court action. 2 CPAs began community-based ecotourism (CBET) initiatives, which added value to preservation of the environment.
- ✓ The 5 CPAs became more active in patrolling (compared to before the project started), although the COVID pandemic and related travel restrictions reduced the number of patrols in 2021 compared to 2020. Village awareness events had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. 2 CPAs were active in collecting membership fees, increasing a sense of ownership and sustainability.
- ✓ The 5 CPAs actively participated in the CPA network to discuss their network workplans and strategy to strengthen the protection and management of the natural resources in Kampong Som Bay. The 5 CPA committees improved their coordination with environment officials and local authorities.

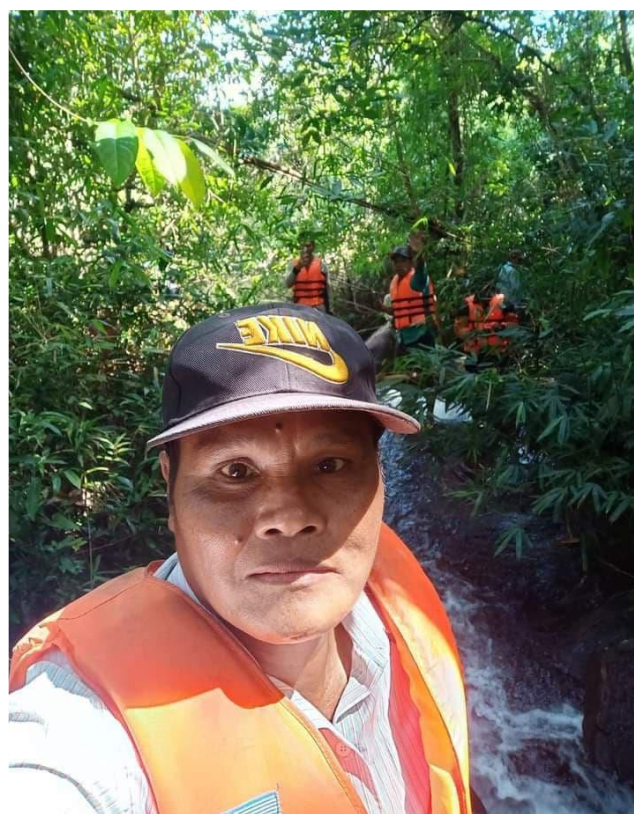
Case Study in Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Based on a community interview conducted in March 2021

Morodok has been cooperating with the community and officials in Andong Teuk commune, Botum Sakor district, Koh Kong province, since 2009. Andong Teuk commune covers 5 villages: Ta Meak, Proteal, Ta Ok, Chi Treh, and Prey villages.

In 2011, a Community Protected Area was established in this commune to sustainably protect natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. Most people in this community depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. The community protected area was officially recognized in 2016 with a total protected area of 2,876 hectares. There are 2,702 community members (including 1,335 women). They elected a committee of 11 members (of which four are women), to lead the protection of mangroves and natural resources in the area.

Previously, people in the community lacked awareness of the sustainable use of natural resources. Mangrove forests were cut down, and the land had been encroached upon. Some local resources had been lost, such as flooded forests which are home to spawning fish. Other resources have been lost due to local climate change, as there is not as much rain as before and the weather is hotter.



Mr. Dy Channara with a patrol in the community protected area.

Mr. Dy Channara is a community leader elected by community members to lead the sustainable protection of natural resources in the Community Protected Area. He says:

“When I first led the community it was difficult for me, as I lacked knowledge in leadership, management skills, and ability to communicate with relevant actors. I faced lack of cooperation and criticism of my leadership from community members.

“But due to my love of natural resources, I strived to lead the Community Protected Area committee. With the encouragement and support of the Morodok Organization, I attended various training seminars which increased my knowledge and boosted my confidence. After the training, I was able to organize meetings with the committee, local authorities and technical officials, and explain the community statutes to community members. Moreover, I am now able to seek support from these stakeholders to help solve various problems that occur in the community, such as acts of deforestation, encroachment on community land, illegal hunting, illegal fishing, and so on.”

Although community leaders such as Mr. Dy Channara are now better able to lead the community, their capacity is still limited, and they still struggle to educate community members about the protection of natural resources. Mr. Dy Channara added that he still

needed to increase his knowledge, and requested assistance in the implementation of various activities to achieve the Community Protected Area goals. He requested the committee receive funding for planting trees in degraded areas, patrol equipment, border posts, training on ecotourism and CPA legal requirements, and suggestions on how to raise funds within the community.

"If in the future natural resources are conserved, maintained, and restored, and members are aware of the need to protect and sustainably use natural resources, then there will be increased resources, reduced disaster risk, and increased community income. People can make a living."

Finally, Mr. Dy Channara expressed his determination and excitement to think of the day when the big goal will be achieved, to make the natural resources beautiful, and the community members to fully understand the importance of protecting natural resources for future generations.



The patrol team consists of community members and technical officials from the Ministry of Environment.



Mr. Dy Channara addresses the community at their six-monthly meeting.

Strategic Plan 2020-2024

The Goal of Morodok for the period 2020 to 2024 is that:

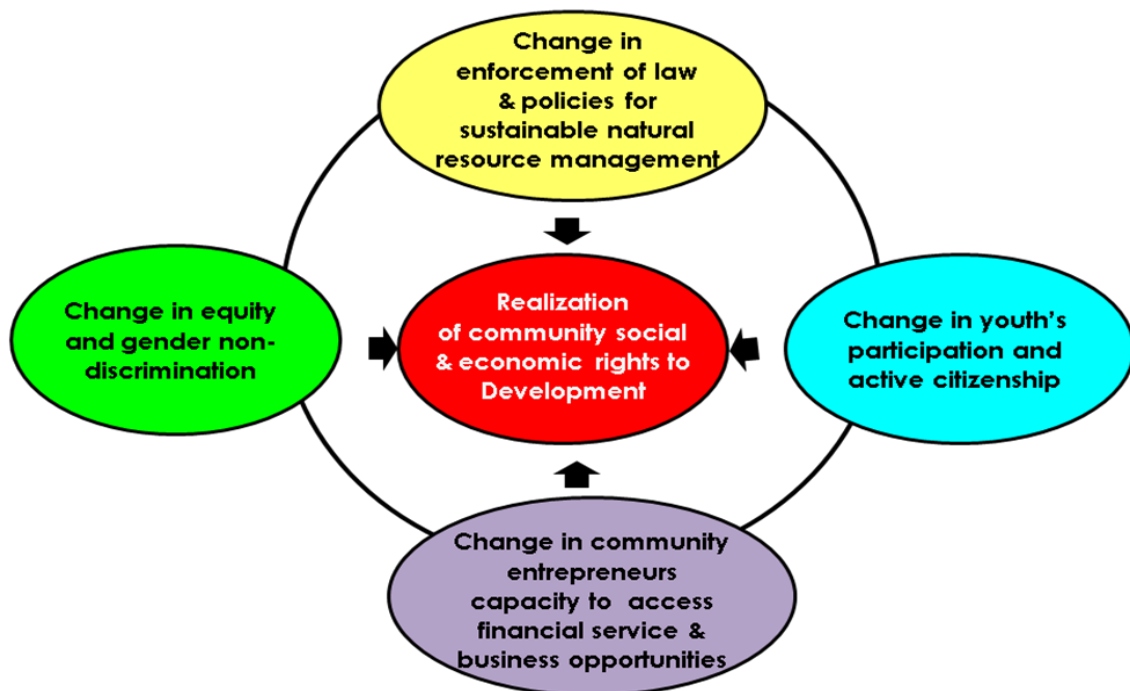
“Rural communities improve their sustainable use of natural resources and engage in climate-adaptive livelihoods in order to increase their income.”

The program has 3 intended outcomes:

1. Entrepreneurial capacities of smallholder producers to produce and trade market-oriented products are enhanced.
2. The ability of smallholder producers to access to community finance is improved.
3. CBO leaders with enhanced capacity work proactively in strong networks to advocate for law and policy enforcement supporting sustainable natural resource management, development and governance.

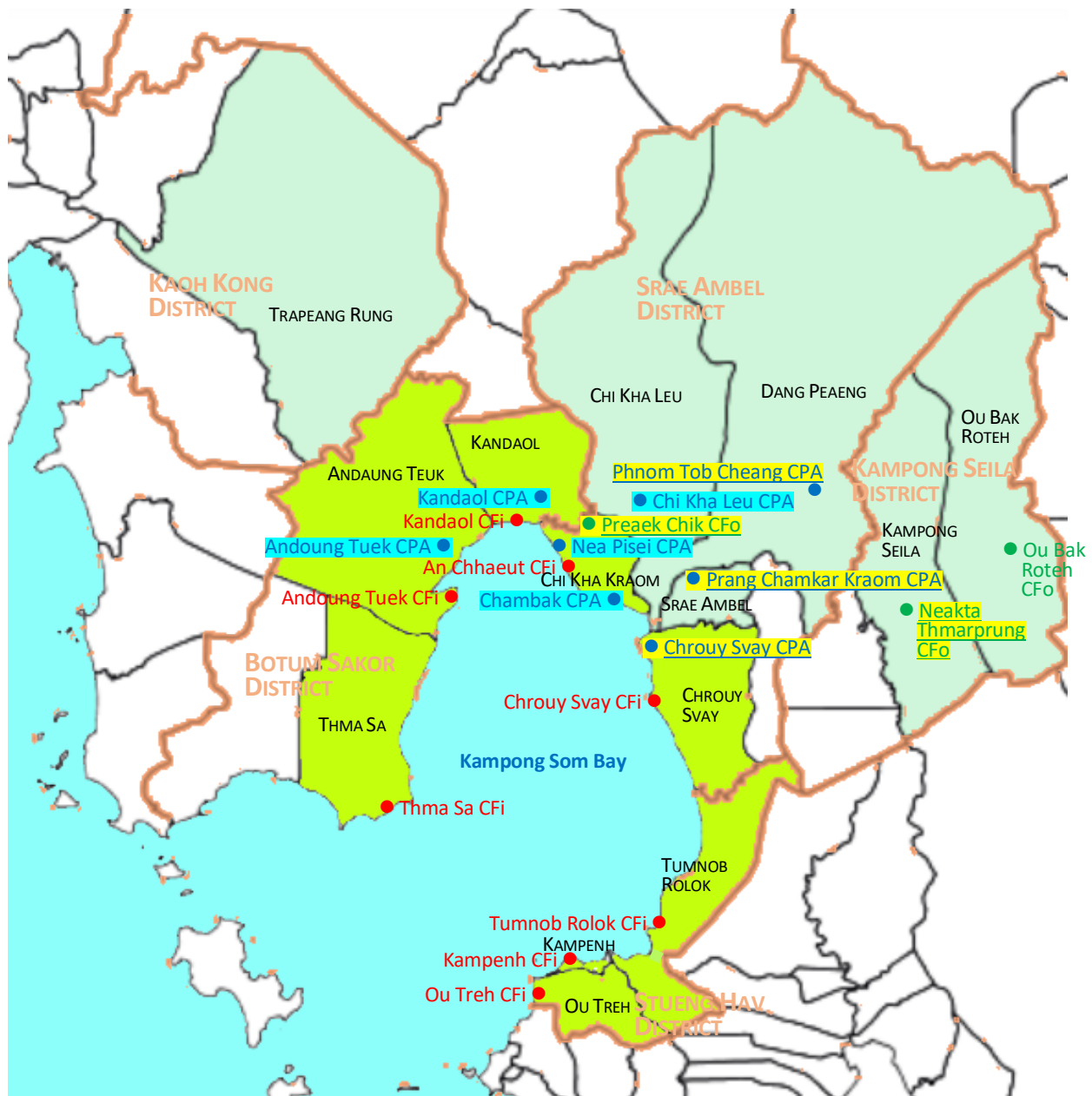
To achieve the above intended outcomes, Morodok will build its capacity to bring about five interrelated dimensions of change, as described in the diagram below.

The Five Dimensions of Change



Morodok continues to operate in 14 communes in 5 districts: Stung Hav, Kampong Seila, Sre Ambel, Botum Sakor, and Koh Kong. Morodok has withdrawn support from well-established projects such as rice banks, buffalo banks, and has phased in new communes. The project areas are shown on the following map:

Morodok Target Areas and Community-Based Organisations



Legend

- Communes funded only by Bread for the World
- Communes with co-funding from FELM, commencing 2022
- CFI Community Fisheries
- CFo Community Forest
- CPA Community Protected Area
- CPA Community-based organisations with co-funding from WWF in 2021 (yellow highlighted)
- CPA Community-based organisations with co-funding from FELM in 2021 (blue highlighted)

Financial Report

Statement of Income and Expenses For the Years Ending 31 December 2021 & 31 December 2020

	2021 USD	2020 USD
INCOME		
Grants income	153,984	165,193
Interest & other income	72	42
	154,056	165,236
EXPENSES		
Personnel costs	86,274	85,963
Program costs	49,530	54,124
Coordination costs	17,786	18,187
Equipment & other expenses	394	6,920
	153,984	165,194
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	72	42

Statement of financial position As at 31 December 2021 & 31 December 2020

	2021 USD	2020 USD
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	74,042	103,215
Other receivables	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	74,042	103,215
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Deferred grants	19,082	68,681
Balance of previous BfdW project	18,979	-
Accrued expenses	979	-
Taxes payable	647	251
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	39,687	68,932
FUND BALANCE		
Fund balance, beginning	34,283	34,241
Excess of income over expenses	71	42
	34,354	34,283
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	74,042	103,215

The above financial statement is pending verification by the auditor.

