

MORODOK

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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MORODOK ORGANIZATION

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 towards socio-economic development through enhancing the capacity of community groups (CBOs 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 changing needs and enhances 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.



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Cover photo: Activities of the fishery processing group, seafood processing in Thma Sa commune.

Back cover: Officials and community members planting mangroves together in a community protected area.

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.”

Introduction

Morodok is a continuation of development activities formerly known as the Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Program (ISLP) implemented by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), which launched the program in 1997. In the early 2000s, the program narrowed its focus to increasing solidarity, improving livelihoods, and improving community participation in the protection of natural resources and natural resources environment management (NREM). In April 2011, the ISLP program team registered as a local NGO under the name "Morodok."

Throughout its history, as a local organization, Morodok has worked to facilitate community groups to take ownership of their development, through working with technical officials and other development partners to prepare proposals to submit to local authorities and local professional bodies. Morodok focuses on supporting poor villagers whose livelihoods rely on traditional uses of natural resources, such as fishing, shifting cultivation, and harvesting of non-timber forest products. Morodok facilitates community consultations about livelihood options, such as the small-scale processing of fishery resources and non-timber forest products, as well as providing ecotourism services. Morodok has established small to medium-sized business interest groups and strengthened community networks to generate income and improve their livelihoods, with a focus on promoting the participation of women and youth in leadership roles. Morodok helps strengthen the capacity of community committee members to understand natural resource management policies, and encourages them to participate in good governance and the sub-national democratic processes.

Morodok helps strengthen community networks around Kampong Som Bay through ensuring support for the organization of various public forums (such as network meetings and workshops) for community members to raise concerns with local authorities and technical officials and to discuss ways to resolve conflicts or disputes over the use of resources in forest areas, fisheries, and environmental protected areas.

More recently, Morodok has begun work on the topics of disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and mitigation home gardening and nutrition, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities.



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

Focus of Morodok's Work in 2023

In 2023, Morodok contributed to poverty reduction through working with representatives of 878 families, 72% of whom were women, supporting 4,153 family members in 14 communes in the Kampong Som Bay area. The project area covers parts of 5 districts, including 3 districts in Koh Kong province and 2 districts in Preah Sihanouk province. Morodok aims to help poor people whose livelihoods depend on earning income from planting crops, raising animals, fishing, and processing fishery products and non-timber forest products. In 2023, the main tasks were as follows:

1. Strengthen the livelihood activities of interest groups and the community revolving funds, and support a fishery processing network and product marketing networks, fishing communities and community business centers.
2. Support improved food security for poor households through home-grown vegetable gardens and promote gender equality to promote women's participation in socio-economic development.
3. Strengthen awareness of the rights of people with disabilities in the community to earn a living and promote their participation in community development.
4. Coordinate community committees to implement management measures to protect the sustainability of natural resources in collaboration with local authorities and technical officials.
5. Promote community awareness of the laws, policies, and rights of communities in the protection of natural resources.
6. Coordinate community committees to participate in the development of regional disaster risk management plans and submit proposals to district authorities for support.
7. Raise awareness of climate change and participate in the preparation of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Budget Sources

During the period January to December 2023, Morodok worked with three foreign funding partners to achieve the above-mentioned objectives:

1. Brot für die Welt Evangelisches Entwicklung e. V. (BfdW / Protestant Development Service) contributes to the funding of all program activities in the 14 communes.
2. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) focuses on community capacity building, natural resource management, ecotourism, and non-timber forest product processing in 5 environmental protected areas and community forests.
3. Felm (an agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland) focuses on improving livelihoods, food security, natural resource management, and climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management in 8 communes of the coastal area.

Project Activities Implemented in 2023

Throughout 2023, Morodok coordinated with local communities and their leaders, in close collaboration with local authorities and technical authorities, to enhance participation in the implementation of livelihood projects and the management of natural resources. The main activities implemented in 2023 were as follows:

Program Component 1: Livelihoods

Outcome 1: Improving business options, revenue, and food security

Output 1.1: Strengthening livelihood groups and community revolving funds, and supporting food processing networks and community marketing networks

- 1.1.1. The staff organized a training course on food processing techniques for representatives of poor families in 5 communes of 3 districts. 30 beneficiaries started small businesses (including 20 women and 2 persons with disabilities). Staff provided equipment for labeling and packaging to a network of 5 production groups and supported participation of 18 persons (including 11 women and a person with disabilities) in an annual business forum and provincial trade fair.
- 1.1.2. The staff organized marketing training for Community Business Center (CBC) members, facilitated two annual business planning meetings in 5 communes in Srae Ambel, Botum Sakor and Stueng Hav districts, and provided packaging materials to the CBC groups. 24 CBC representatives from 8 CBCs participated in the one-day training and annual business planning meetings.
- 1.1.3. Staff held meetings with representatives of the community revolving funds (CRFs) on capital management and development of annual funding plans and policies, involving 28 participants from 14 communes in Srae Ambel, Kampong Seila, Botum Sakor, and Stueng Hav districts. 56 livelihood interest group representatives (including 36 women) also received training.
- 1.1.4. In accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Morodok staff facilitated group meetings among members of the CRFs and CBCs to discuss the concept of establishing 3 agricultural cooperatives in Srae Ambel, Botum Sakor and Stueng Hav districts. Besides this, Morodok provided 3 solar dryers for the producer group networks in Chrouy Svay, Chi Kha Kraom, and Thma Sa communes. There were 45 representatives of CRFs and CBCs (including 30 women) that benefited from these project activities.



Workshop for 14 community revolving fund (CRF) committees to reflect on good practices and lessons learned and to prepare plans for the next year.

Output 1.2: Improving food security of poor households through home vegetable and organic gardening initiatives.

- 1.2.1. Staff facilitated 2 home gardening training sessions and provided home gardening materials to representatives of poor families in 12 villages of 11 communes in Srae Ambel, Botum Sakor and Kampong Seila districts. 80 participants received nutrition awareness training (including 45 women and 5 families of people with disabilities).
- 1.2.2. Staff continued to promote home gardening establishment and awareness of the importance of fresh nutritious vegetables, as well as supplied vegetable seeds to poor families (who have “ID Poor” cards) and provided gardening materials for homes in 12 villages of 11 communes in Srae Ambel, Botum Sakor and Kampong Seila districts.

Case Story: Mr. Sok Tith, 64 years old, Prey Prosith village



“I am a farmer with a disability and with four children (2 boys and 2 girls),” says Mr. Tith. “In the past, we were poor with our sources of income depending on paddy rice and non-timber forest products, and I did not have enough food to eat and insufficient nutrition.

“Later, I participated in Morodok’s awareness raising and training about the importance of food security, nutrition, and how to plant a home garden. Then I grew vegetables like cucumber, watermelon, and cabbage. I now have more food, nutrition, and additional sources of income. I will share my experiences and good practices with my neighbors regarding the importance of nutrition from the home garden, which is now also one of the supplementary sources of income for my family.”

Output 1.3: The rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs) to access livelihoods, to participate, and to be involved in decision-making are understood and exercised by PwDs and community groups

- 1.3.1. 13 staff members of the Morodok organization received a three-day training course on the definition of disability, types of disability, and the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the Morodok office, led by Mr. Srey Chan from the Disability Action Council. Afterwards, the staff disseminated information on the definition of PwD and disability categories and the main contents of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to 123 persons in 12 villages in Srae Ambel, Botum Sakor and Kampong Seila districts.

- 1.3.2. Staff met with 40 families of PwDs in 12 villages in Srae Ambel, Botum Sakor and Kampong Seila districts to discuss needs and to identify appropriate livelihood activities for people with disabilities. Staff provided follow-up counseling and guidance to the PwDs on their needs and gave support to appropriate livelihood activities such as animal husbandry and home vegetable gardening.

Output 1.4: Supplying solar dryers to process food products

- 1.4.1. The staff organized a public request for bids for the supply of solar dryer equipment, and selected a supplier from among the seven bids received.
- 1.4.2. Morodok purchased 3 solar dryers and related equipment and distributed them to three community business centers (CBCs).
- 1.4.3. Staff organized training for the 3 CBCs on solar dryer use and maintenance. 15 beneficiaries (including 11 women) were trained in operating the solar dryers.

Program Component 2: Natural Resources Management

Outcome 2: Protecting natural resources in collaboration with local authorities and technical officials

Output 2.1: Protecting community protected areas (CPAs) in collaboration with local authorities and technical officials

- 2.1.1. Morodok staff assisted 8 CPAs to develop management plans and annual action plans. The development of the management plans included the following steps: inventory registration and boundary demarcation; agreement preparation; and approval of draft management plans. 16 CPA committee members joined meetings to prepare the action plans, and to monitor and evaluate the progress of the implementation of the plans. Morodok staff also helped the 8 CPAs to organize leadership meetings and to participate in committee forums. 16 CPA committee members (including 2 women) participated in the leadership forum to reflect and discuss experiences and to learn from each other.
- 2.1.2. Morodok facilitated village level awareness raising on the community's role and responsibility for natural resource management in 8 communes of Srae Ambel and Botum Sak districts.



Developing the annual work plan for the Phnom Top Cheang Community Protected Area

- 2.1.3. Morodok facilitated representatives of each CPA to prepare a list of issues and to hold a network meeting with technical officials and local authorities to discuss the issues. 17 CPA representatives (including 3 women) from 8 CPAs in Srae Ambel and Botum Sak districts were involved.
- 2.1.4. Morodok supported the 8 CPA committees to prepare and implement monthly patrols in 8 communes in Srae Ambel and Botum Sak districts. The project provided life jackets, walkie-talkie radios, GPS devices, and cameras to each CPA. Records and reports were prepared on the number of illegal cases encountered and actions taken.

Output 2.2: Strengthening community fisheries groups (CFi) to implement management plans in collaboration with local authorities and technical officials

- 2.2.1. Morodok supported CFi members to develop management plans and annual action plans. The participants were 21 Cfi representatives (including 5 women) from Stueng Hav, Chrouy Svay and Srae Ambel communes in Srae Ambel district and from Thma Sa, Anduong Teuk, and Kandaol communes in Botum Sak district.
 - Morodok supported CFi members in Chrouy Svay and Srae Ambel communes to prepare community development steps, management plans, and agreements.
 - Morodok supported and facilitated the election of two new Cfi committees in Chrouy Svay and Chi Kha Kraom communes. A total of 75 community members participated in the elections.
 - Morodok supported 6 CFis to hold two annual reflection meetings to discuss experiences and learn from each other. 36 Cfi committee members (including 7 women) joined the reflections.
- 2.2.2. Morodok supported and facilitated local CFi committees to implement village level awareness sessions on the roles and responsibilities of local communities in natural resource management. The awareness raising covered 11 villages in 7 fishing communities.
- 2.2.3. Morodok supported 13 CFi representatives (including 2 women) to attend 2 meetings with technical officials to raise and discuss issues regarding fisheries resource management.
- 2.2.4. Morodok supported 8 fishing communities to conduct 12 monthly patrols. 40 community members (including 3 women) were involved. Records and reports were made on the number of illegal activities encountered and actions taken. Morodok provided patrol equipment such as life jackets, walkie-talkie radios, GPS, and cameras to each community.



Members of the bamboo rattan processing team learn how to process NTFP.

Program Component 3: Climate Change & Disaster Risk

Outcome 3: Communities develop climate change adaptation measures and disaster risk management plans

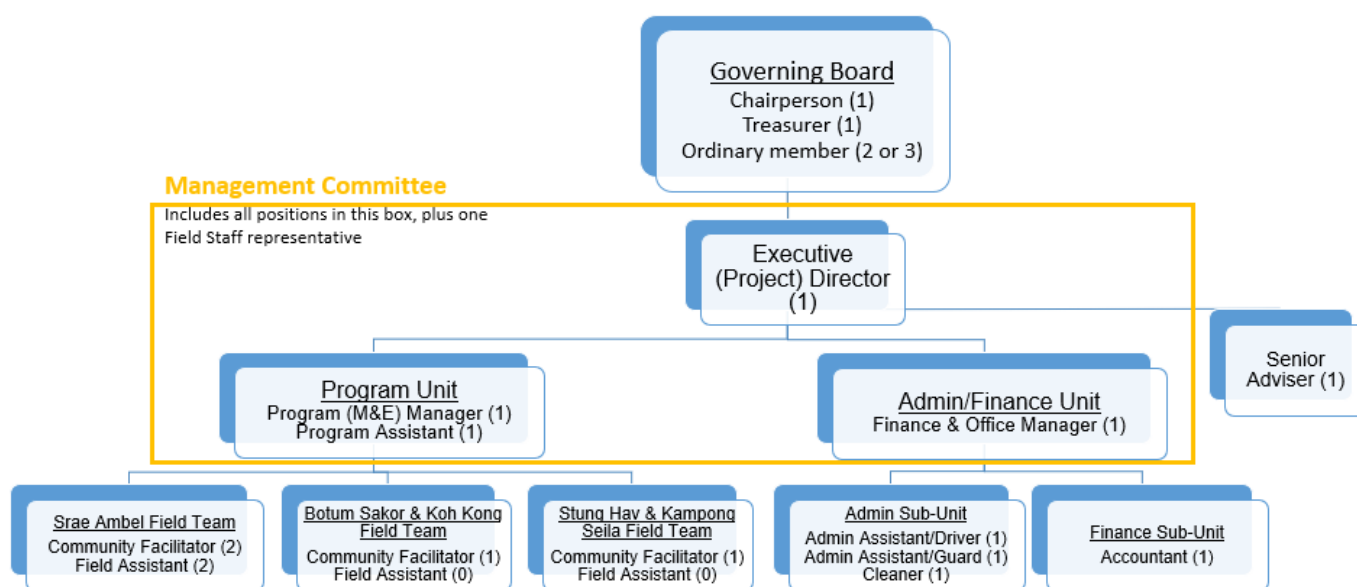
Output 3.1: Disaster risk management plans developed and submitted to district level for approval

- 3.1.1. Staff disseminated disaster risk management concepts and supported the development of disaster risk management plans in 6 communes: Kampong Seila and Ou Bak Roteh communes in Kampong Seila district of Preah Sihanouk province; Chi Kha Leu and Chrouy Svay communes in Srae Ambel district of Koh Kong province; and Kandaol and Anduong Teuk communes in Botum Sakor district of Koh Kong province.
- 3.1.2. Staff facilitated the implementation of disaster risk reduction pilot measures through supporting mangrove planting in protected areas. 127 people participated (including 31 women, 13 local authorities, 2 technical officials, 45 young adults, and 1 person with disabilities).

Output 3.2: Communities participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation

- 3.2.1 Morodok organized a comprehensive training workshop on climate change adaptation and mitigation for a diverse group of participants, including committee members from 5 community protected areas, 3 community forests, and 7 community fisheries. Following the workshop Morodok supported the planting of mangrove trees and promoted the importance of reforestation, protection from strong winds and erosion, and protection of fish habitats. Morodok also showcased wood-saving stoves at the Morodok office.

Morodok Organisational Chart



Conclusions and Lessons Learned

During the reporting period, Morodok staff observed that:

- The role of women in leadership has a significant impact on the successful development of small enterprises.
- The contribution of technical officials in supporting community groups is important in building capacity towards growth and ensuring the sustainability of the community development process.
- Capacity building is important to help community leaders achieve their basic duties, for example overseeing the implementation of natural resource management plans and policies.
- Due to declining marine fisheries resources, some fisherfolk are in debt to commercial banks after taking out loans to supplement their non-fishing livelihoods, such as planting crops and raising livestock.

Based on the experience of implementing the program in 2023, Morodok staff identified the following lessons learned:

- Although the living standards of the poor have improved, their livelihoods still depend mainly on the use of natural resources in protected areas. This leads to regular conflicts for which dispute resolution mechanisms must be established.
- Although the revenue of the interest groups has improved, the capacity and technology of the producers are still low and do not meet the market demand. Therefore, modern technical training must be provided to the production teams on a regular basis.
- Although community revolving funds are an important mechanism with the potential to enhance the livelihoods of the producer networks, they have not been able to provide sufficient capital to some business groups, such as ecotourism and production processes that use dryers and processing plants. These businesses require the business community to provide specialized financial services to expand their business.
- Although the capacity of community leaders has been enhanced and supported to support the economic development of the community, the community leaders still need the support of professional institutions and local authorities to carry out their duties and responsibilities, to address their concerns, and to support their projects. Therefore, it is important to submit projects to the authorities for incorporation into the District Integration Plans.

Strategic Plan 2023-2028

In 2022, Morodok developed a new Strategic Plan for the period 2023 to 2028. The Development Goal to which the new program phase will contribute is that:

“Communities in the coastal area of south-western Cambodia are more resilient through improved livelihoods, natural resources management, and disaster risk reduction.”

In support of this goal, the program focuses on 3 Outcomes:

OUTCOME 1: The food security of poor village families targeted by the program is improved.

OUTCOME 2: Communities in 14 communes surrounding Kampong Som Bay have protected fisheries, forests and other natural resources in cooperation with government authorities.

OUTCOME 3: Communities in 14 communes surrounding Kampong Som Bay have devised measures for Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in cooperation with commune councils.

Morodok’s theory of change is that:

If Morodok provides community leaders with appropriate training and resources and facilitates cooperation between community leaders and local officials,

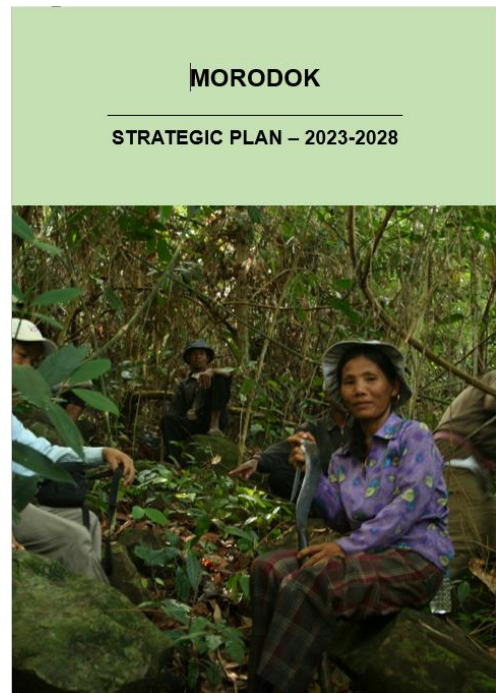
then community leaders will use this training and resources to facilitate community action for better livelihood development, natural resource management, disaster management and climate adaptation in cooperation with local authorities;

because the community leaders are people who devote their time and effort to improving the situation of their community and environment and will be keen to apply the training and resources received.

Although there are negative economic, institutional and environmental forces that may affect these efforts, the communities themselves are the ones most motivated and best able to identify and implement solutions to their problems.

Local authorities have a legal duty to assist the community’s efforts, based on the relevant laws and regulations, and need to be involved in the process.

The project areas for the new phase are unchanged and 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
- CFI Community Fisheries
- CFo Community Forest
- CPA Community Protected Area
- CPA Community-based organisations with co-funding from WWF are underlined

Financial Report

STATEMENTS OF FUND RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND FUND BALANCE For the Year 2023

FUND RECEIPT	USD	KHR'000
Grants income	253,275	1,040,960
Other income	169	694
Total receipts	253,444	1,041,654
DISBURSEMENTS		
Operation disbursements		
Livelihoods & Food Security	52,792	216,973
Natural Resource Management	55,140	226,624
Climate Adaptation & Disaster Risk	5,397	22,183
Project Direct Cost	29,029	119,309
Field Personnel Salaries & Benefits	78,923	324,375
Admin/Finance Personnel Cost	38,631	158,772
Monitoring & Evaluation	11,681	48,009
Administration Costs	9,589	39,411
Total Operation Disbursements	281,182	1,155,657
Deficit /Receipts for the Year	(27,738)	(114,003)
Fund Balance Brought forward	94,676	389,117
FUND BALANCE	66,938	275,115
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	66,938	275,115
	66,938	275,115

