

SAVING OUR REEFS

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
OF FISHERIES IN CAMBODIA



SYNOPSIS

Thida and Sokha are friends in the same class at school. They live on an island in Cambodia, and are excited to go snorkelling for the first time.

When they get in the water, however, they are disappointed at what they see. The corals are damaged, and there are few fish. When they raise the problem with the grown ups, they only encounter resistance.

Will they be able to convince their community to protect their natural resources?



Sokha

He is a 14 years old and a high school student. He is first in his class, and is eager to learn. He is excited to go snorkelling because he is excited to learn about the environment around his island



Thida

15 years old, and a high school student. Her parents are fishers, and she is very adventurous. She is excited to go snorkelling because she read about coral reefs in a book.



Grandfather

He was a fisherman when he was younger. He is sad when he sees people fishing because he knows that it was easier to catch fish in his day and there was less pollution. He is eager to protect the environment.



HI THIDA, ARE YOU EXCITED TO GO SNORKELLING?

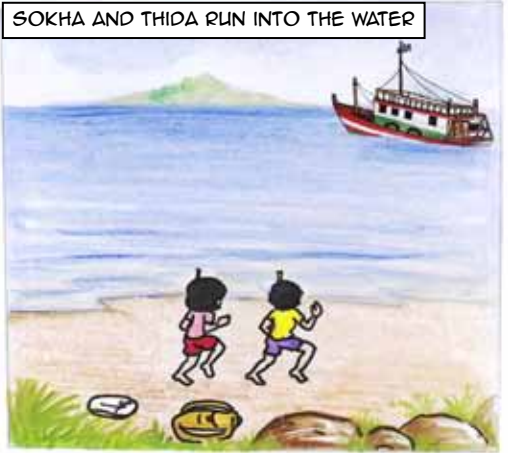


YES, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE FISH AND CORALS!



ME TOO! LET'S GET IN THE WATER!

SOKHA AND THIDA RUN INTO THE WATER



AFTER AFEW MINLUTES THEY GET CONCERNED



BECAUSE THE REEF IS NOT WHAT THEY EXPECTED



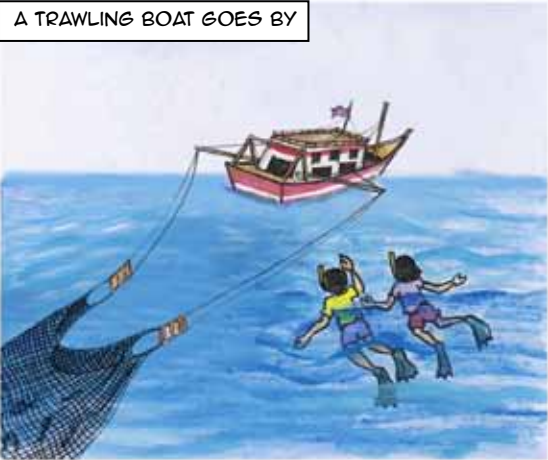


THIDA, CAN YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? MOST CORAL ARE BROKEN AND MANY FISH ARE DEAD!



YES I SEE IT, BUT I AM CONFUSED. WHERE ARE ALL THE FISH?

A TRAWLING BOAT GOES BY



FISHERMEN THROW PLASTIC BAGS AND DISCARDED NETS INTO THE WATER



LOOK THE FISHERMEN ARE DESTROYING THE CORAL! THAT MUST BE WHY EVERYTHING IS DEAD! LET'S GO TALK TO THEM TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.



SOKHA AND THIDA SWIM TOWARDS THE FISHING BOAT



THE FISHERMEN ARE SURPRISED TO SEE TWO CHILDREN IN THE WATER



HELLO FISHERMEN! DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR NETS ARE DAMAGING THE CORAL AND CATCHING FISH SO SMALL THAT YOU WON'T EVEN WANT TO EAT THEM?



SO WHAT? IT IS HARD TO CATCH FISH THESE DAYS SO WE NEED TO DO THIS TYPE OF FISHING TO CATCH ENOUGH FISH TO EAT AND SELL AT THE MARKET.



BUT BY DOING THIS, YOU WILL MAKE IT EVEN HARDER TO CATCH FISH IN THE FUTURE! YOU ARE KILLING THE HABITAT OF THE FISH, AND YOU ARE REMOVING BABY FISH SO THAT THEY WILL NOT GROW UP TO BE BIGGER FISH.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW? YOU ARE JUST STUPID CHILDREN! GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE CATCH YOU TOO!



THE CHILDREN QUICKLY SWIM AWAY TO THE BEACH



YES, THEY HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. LET'S GO TALK TO MY GRANDFATHER TO SEE IF HE CAN HELP.

THOSE FISHERMEN WERE REALLY RUDE!

LATER, AT SOKHA'S GRANDPARENTS HOUSE



HELLO GRANDSON!

HELLO GRANDFATHER!



WE WENT SNORKELLING YESTERDAY TO GO LOOK AT THE REEF, BUT ALL WE COULD SEE WAS DEAD FISH AND BROKEN CORAL



YES THAT IS VERY SAD. I REMEMBER WHEN I USED TO GO FISHING THERE WHEN I WAS A BOY, I USED TO CATCH VERY LARGE FISH ALL THE TIME. WHEN I SWAM IN THE WATER, I COULD SEE.....



.....BIG TURTLES, DUGONGS, DOLPHINS AND LOTS OF CORAL. NOW THE FISHERMEN ONLY CATCH SMALL FISH.

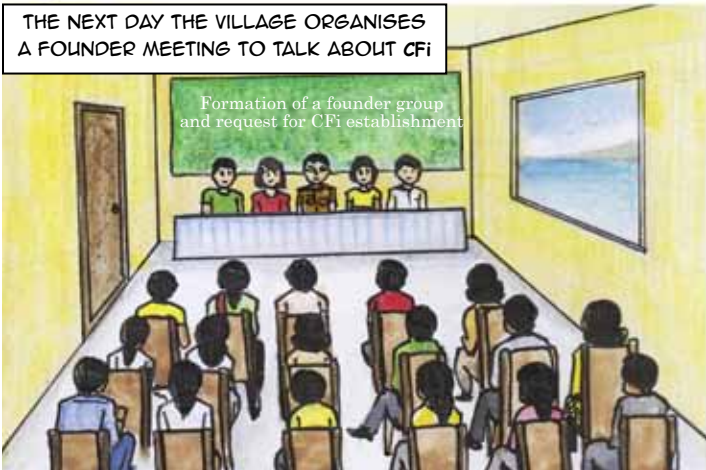


WHAT CAN WE DO TO FIX THIS? WHO IS GOING TO PROTECT THE REEF?

ONE OF MY SONS LIVES IN A VILLAGE WHERE THERE IS AN GROUP CALLED A COMMUNITY FISHERY (CFI) THAT PROTECTS THE REEF. THE COMMUNITY PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER TO DECIDE HOW TO PROTECT THE FISH SO THAT FISHERMEN CAN CONTINUE TO CATCH SUSTAINABLY.



THAT'S A GREAT IDEA. LET'S GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM TO SEE IF THEY CAN HELP US!



THE NEXT DAY THE VILLAGE ORGANISES A FOUNDER MEETING TO TALK ABOUT CFI

Formation of a founder group and request for CFI establishment



CFI'S CAN BE VERY USEFUL FOR COMMUNITIES. ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN CONTROL THEIR OWN RESOURCES.

Government Fisheries Officer



IMPROVED YIELDS FOR FISHERMAN



STOPPING ILLEGAL FISHING SUCH AS DYNAMITE FISHING AND TRAWLING IN SHALLOW AREA



CREATING NO-TAKE ZONES





Founding assembly and CFi Committee election



A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE CHIEF DECLARES THAT THEY WILL CREATE A COMMITTEE THAT WILL APPLY TO THE GOVERNMENT TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL CFi.

MANY YEARS LATER, SOKHA AND THIDA GO SNOKELING AGAIN ON THE REEF..



WOW, THAT CAN SEE REEF IS BEAUTIFUL! I SAW MANY BIG FISH AND LOTS OF COLOURFUL CORAL!

YES, THANKS TO THE CFi, THIS REEF IS NOW PROTECTED AND SO THE FISH AND CORAL HAVE RETURNED.



"WE CAN ALL HELP TO PROTECT THE REEF SO THAT THE NEXT GENERATION CAN ENJOY IT TOO!"

What is a Community Fishery (CFi)?

A CFi is a group of local people of one or more villages who voluntarily join together in order to i) manage, conserve, develop and use fisheries resources in a sustainable way and ii) protect the rights and benefit of Khmer people.

The government can allocate for traditional uses part of the marine and freshwater fisheries domain of the state to communities or groups of citizens living inside or nearby— these citizens form a CFi.

A CFi is managed by an elected CFi Committee supported by a larger group of CFi members.

The area is set aside for ‘family fishing’ using small-scale and traditional fishing techniques such as simple traps, nets and handlines.

All medium scale and industrial fishing, including trawling, are banned in the CFi, as are all modern fishing gears. CFi members set their own rules about fishing equipment in alignment with existing fisheries laws. Illegal fishing gears are strictly prohibited, for example fishing with poisons or explosives, light-fishing, electro-fishing, spearfishing and fishing whilst using SCUBA or surface supplied air.

All Cambodian citizens have the right to form CFis in their own areas on a voluntary basis. This follows a stepwise process which is outlined in government policy:



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



The Green Protectors are an environmental youth group based on Koh Sdach, Cambodia. They aim to raise awareness of issues in coastal communities such as pollution and overfishing. Through creating innovative materials such as short films and comic books, the Green Protectors hope to inspire a generation of young Khmers to protect their natural resources.



Shallow Waters is a marine conservation social enterprise working toward a community led coral reef management programme on the beautiful Koh Sdach island, Cambodia. Through education, capacity building, and awareness raising, Shallow Waters' aim is to enable communities to take charge of their natural resources with the goal of reconciling biodiversity conservation with sustainable development.



Fauna & Flora International (FFI) protects threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, are based on sound science and take account of human needs. Operating in more than 40 developing countries worldwide, FFI saves species from extinction and habitats from destruction, while improving the livelihoods of local people. Founded in 1903, FFI is the world's longest established international conservation body. FFI has been active in Cambodia since 1996.

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Artwork: Our Books Cambodia

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank Sorn Srenh, Megan Clavier and the members of the Green protectors for their creative input, as well as Berry Mulligan, Chea Phallin, Yos Katank, Deap Polin, Kim Sokha, Sarah Wilson and Luca Budello for editing.

Fauna & Flora International benefits from the support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (<http://www.fpa2.com>)

Shallow Waters benefits from the support of The Rufford Foundation (<http://www.rufford.org/>)

