



Losing Mr. Shrimp

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letsreadasia.org



FOREWORD

Dear Young Readers,
Welcome! I am pleased you
have chosen to read this
book.

Through this book, I want
you to start your journey
towards understanding
changes in the climate
around the coast of
Cambodia. As you read,
I hope you gain more
knowledge about the
impacts of climate



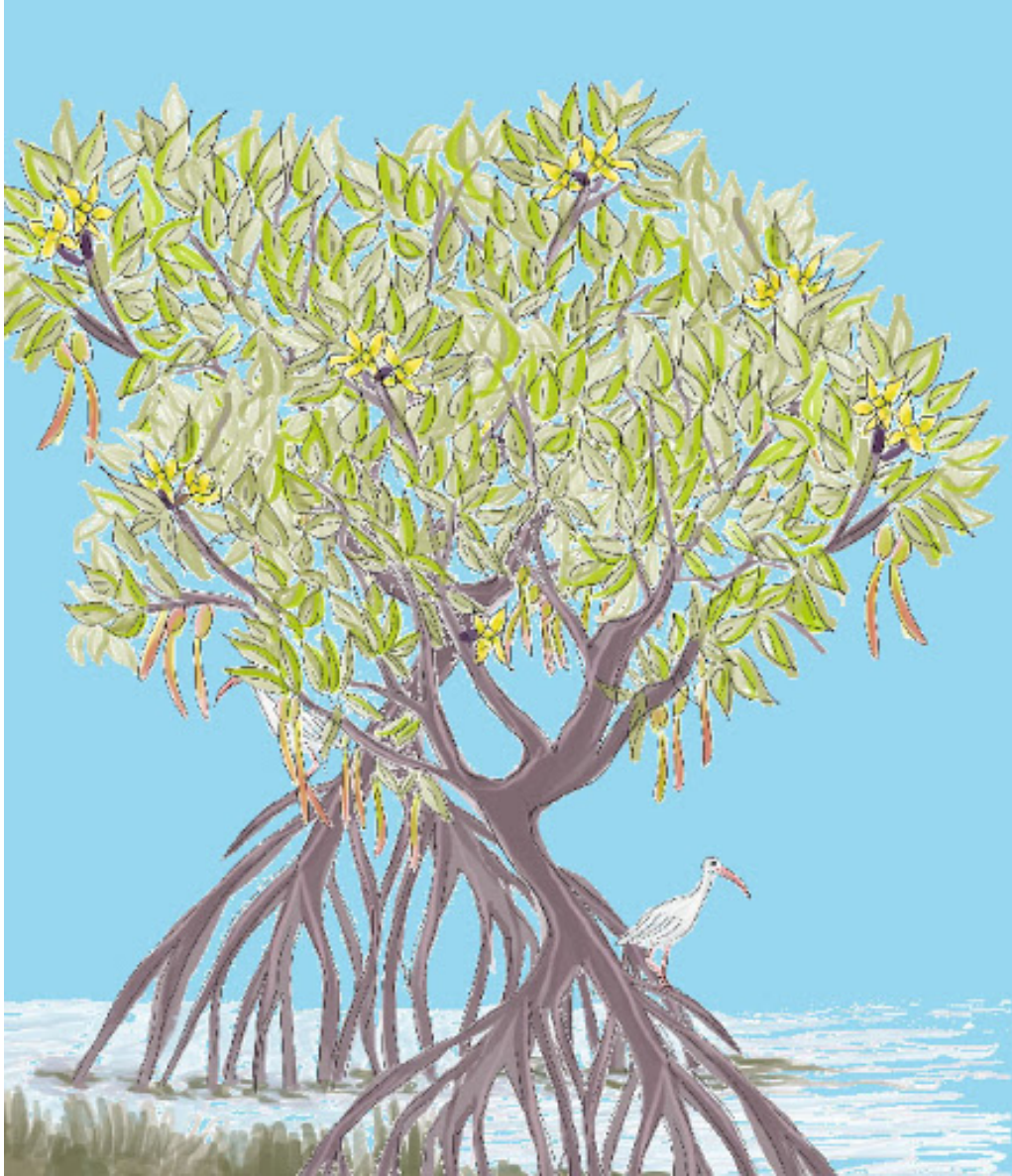
change on coastal fishing communities.

CWDCC has chosen to help fishing communities, such as the village of Trapeang Sangkae, to respond to the effects of climate change by building community awareness about the environment, climate change and natural disasters; supporting fisheries; assisting conservation of coastal

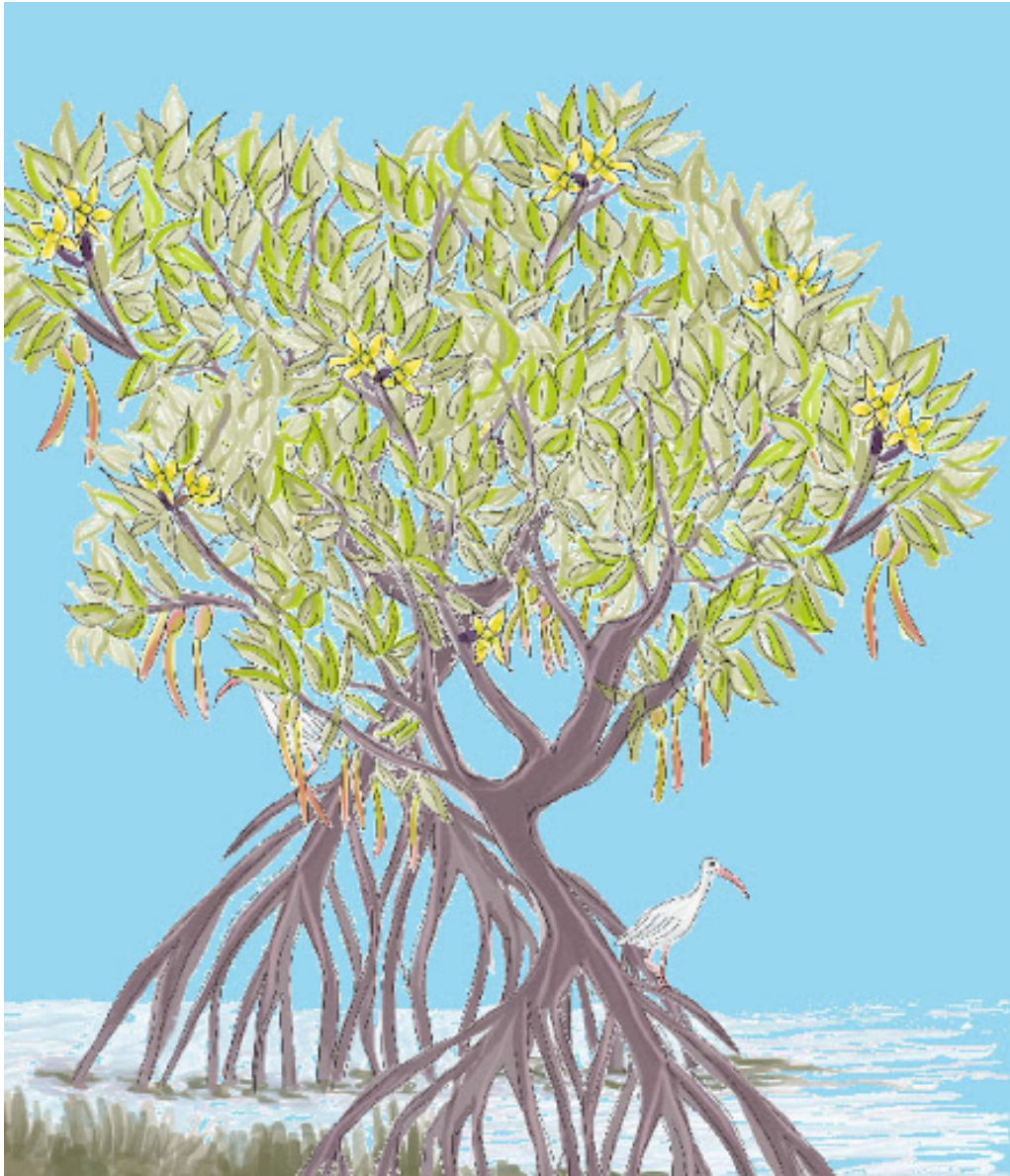


natural resources; investing in water supply, mangrove nurseries and an ecotourism centre.

Phou Teng, Executive Director Children and Women Development Center in Cambodia (CWDCC) Kampot Province, Cambodia.



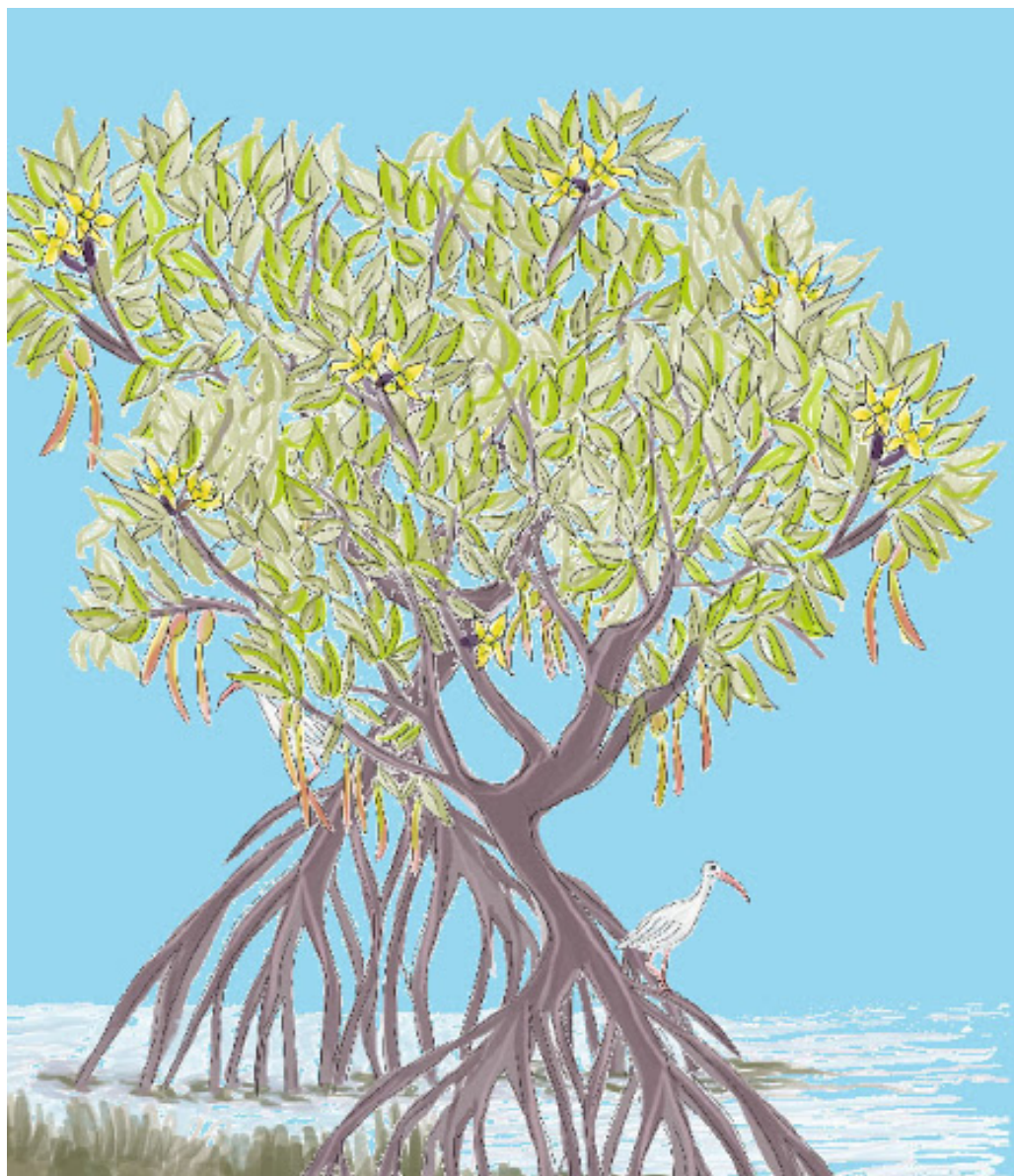
'Promoting the voice of children and involving them in the decision-making process is fundamental to meaningful climate change adaptation. . . . It is strongly recommended that children, school officials, the government and development partners work together to integrate climate change and disaster risk management concepts into the primary



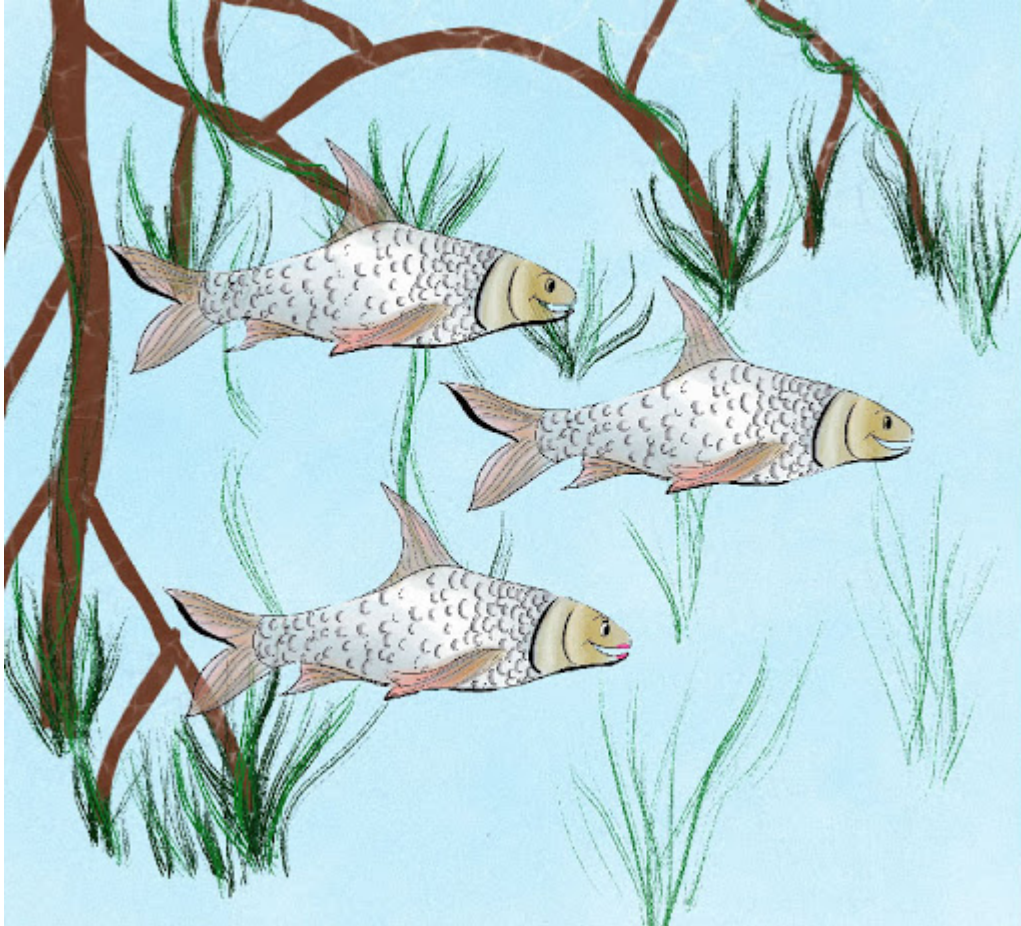
and secondary school curriculum.

Children often don't know what to do when heavy rains, strong winds or lightning come. Since the children spend most of their day in school, separated from parents, knowledge and skills on these matters are important for children to respond to climate change and disasters.'

- CWDCC Mapping



and Situation Analysis:
Climate Change in Coastal
Communities of Kampot
Province



The mangrove swamp of Trapeang Sangke was a special place. It contained a nursery for fish and shrimp. The baby fish loved the nursery, which protected them from big waves and predators.



Their teacher, Mr. Shrimp,
loved to jump into the fresh
air.



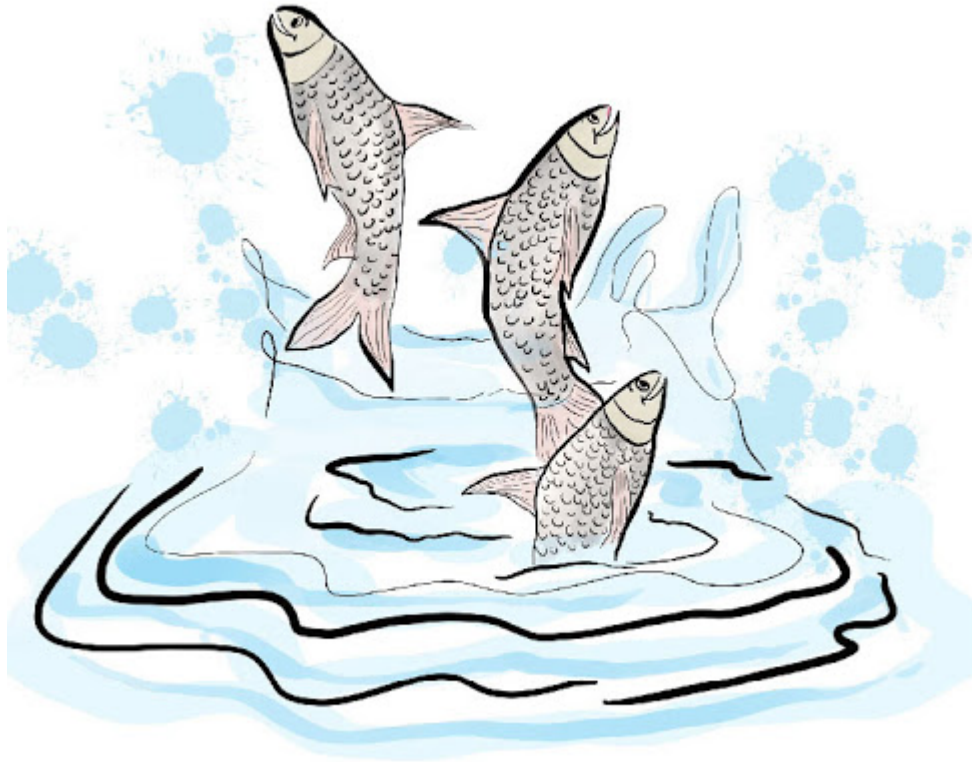
The baby fish were fascinated by Mr. Shrimp's unique abilities. They wanted to jump too.

'Mr. Shrimp, could you teach us to jump like you?' they asked.



'Of course,' Mr. Shrimp said.
'It's easy. Close your eyes
and think of all the things
that make you dance with
delight. When you are so
filled with joy that you can
hardly bear it, you will find
yourself jumping up in the
air!'

Soon all the fish were jumping in and out of the water.





Vary and Srey Mom lived in the fishing village nearby. They loved to walk over the bridge along the mangrove forests, pretending to be patrol officers keeping an eye on the woods. They had seen the adults in the village do this many times.



On one such walk, they were surprised when they saw the fish jumping in and out of the water. They approached the fish and asked, 'Hello little fish, why are you jumping? How are you jumping?'

"We are jumping for joy!" the fish replied. "Our teacher, Mr. Shrimp, taught us how to do it. Just close your eyes and think of all the things that make you dance with



delight. When you are so filled with joy that you can hardly bear it, you will find yourself jumping up in the air!"



The next evening, when Srey Mom and Vary made their way to the mangrove swamp, they were horrified to see that the mangrove trees had been cut down and the nursery destroyed.



They frantically searched the waters for their friends. Eventually, they found one of the baby fish.

'What happened?' they inquired. "Where are your friends and Mr. Shrimp?"



The fish recounted the sad events of the previous night. 'Two men came in the dead of night and cut down our nursery! They also took Mr. Shrimp, his family, and the other fish. I only survived because I hid in the seagrass!'



Srey Mom and Vary were furious! They could not believe that the mangrove trees had been illegally cut down.



Srey Mom cried, 'What will we do Vary? Can two girls make any difference at all?'



Vary was more hopeful.

"There must be a way to stop this from ever happening again!" she replied. "Let's ask teacher our teacher, Ly Chhay. She will have some advice for us."



The girls ran to Ly Chhay's house to share what they had seen. Ly Chhay listened patiently.

'I am so glad that you girls came to me! Of course, I will help you. However, keep in mind that for real change, you will have to be patient and persistent.'



'A decade ago the situation was much worse," she explained. "The mangrove forests and the fish were almost gone. The community realized that they needed to take action. They decided to stop cutting trees and overfishing. But a few people continue to cut down mangrove trees illegally.'

"Why do they do that?" Vary asked.





"Often they do it to earn an income and feed their families," Ly Chhay replied.



'While the adults of the community look for ways to stop such activities, would you like to help me educate people about the importance of mangrove forests and seagrass?'



The girls were excited. They had always wanted to be part of the community's efforts to protect the environment.

They squealed in delight, 'When can we start?'



Ly Chhay looked out of the window and noticed that dark clouds were forming in the sky. 'Girls, It is getting dark outside. Go home and rest today, we can work on a plan tomorrow.'



'Take an umbrella. The weather is so unpredictable nowadays; it can rain heavily even in January!'



That night the girls went to bed excited.

Srey Mom dreamt about becoming an environmental activist when she grew up.



Vary dreamt of her fish friends, and the words they had taught her:

Close your eyes and think of all the things that make you dance with delight. When you are so filled with joy that you can hardly bear it, you will find yourself jumping up in the air!

The End



Did you know . . .

Mangrove swamps and seagrass act as natural nurseries for young fish by protecting them from attacks and strong currents.

Mangrove swamps also help minimize coastal erosion from storms, reduce seawater contamination by filtering pollutants, and function as a carbon sink.



Did you know . . .

Higher sea temperatures caused by climate change can cause oxygen levels in the water to decrease. Low oxygen levels can make it difficult for certain marine life to survive.



Did you know . . .

Many people in the fishing communities in Kampot are of Cham descent. Trapeang Sangke is part of one such community.

Over the last few years, the quality and quantity of fish in the area has declined drastically due to climate change and overfishing. This has negatively affected the local communities and the ecosystem.



Did you know . . .

The community members recognized that they had to manage their natural resources sustainably.

In 2008, the coastal communities and the government decided that they would fish responsibly in Trapeang Sangke.

Elected community members regularly patrol the areas to reduce illegal



fishing and logging of the mangrove forest.



Did you know . . .

Logging of the mangrove forest is illegal, and there are clear laws controlling fishing methods and zones. Nevertheless, poor community members sometimes cut the mangrove trees to make charcoal, or go fishing where they are not allowed. They do this because they do not have other means to support their families.



Did you know . . .

Most of the community members earn an income by fishing and growing rice. About a quarter of the population runs small businesses like grocery stores, and a third, earn an income by working in clothing factories, construction sites and other people's farms.

Fishermen and women usually earn up to 10 USD a



day.



Did you know . . .

According to some community leaders, three out of four people in the community actively engage in environment conservation.

Fishery protection committees do their best to educate the community on the value of sustainable fishing and mangrove conservation.



A SAVVY KID'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE



ACTIVITY 1:

Using a piece of paper, record how the day feels every day, for a week. What is the temperature? Is it raining? Is it cloudy? (Ask an adult for assistance with words to describe the day.)

Day 1: Day 2: Day 3: Day 4:
Day 5: Day 6: Day 7:



Did you notice that the weather varies from day to day, some days are hotter than others, it rains on some days and not on others?

Climate is the average weather in a place over a long period of time. While the weather can vary every day, climate takes much longer to change – decades, centuries, or even millennia.



SO, WHAT IS DIFFERENT NOW?

ACTIVITY 2: On your next visit to an elderly relative's house, ask them two questions:

What did the village or community look like when you were my age? How was the climate different then?



Changes in the climate have always occurred. In the past, most of these changes happened naturally. Now, however, burning of fossil fuels, large scale deforestation and other human activities have increased the amount of harmful gases, like carbon dioxide, released into the atmosphere. Human activities are now key contributors to climate

change.





WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

The earth is heating up at a much faster rate than ever before, resulting in things like changes in rain patterns and increased extreme weather events, such as storms.

ACTIVITY 3:

Can you guess some other impacts of climate change? Ask an adult for assistance.

H_AT_AV_ S R_SI_G SE_ LE_ _



LS M_LTING OF _C_ CA_S

Answers: Heatwaves Rise in
sea levels Melting ice caps



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS?

Spread of diseases
Changes in seasons effect local farmers and their ability to grow food
Damage to the economy, transportation and infrastructure after extreme weather events
Changes in the natural environment causing habitat loss and loss of animal species



CLIMATE CHANGE IN TRAPEANG SANGKE

Trapeang Sangke Fishery Community is a conservation and learning area in the community of the same name, located in Kampot, Cambodia. It was created to preserve the area's natural resources - the mangrove swamps, the coast, native fish and marine life.

The community operates on



the principals of ecotourism and climate change adaptation.

Approximately 5000-6000 people visit Trapeang Sangke every year.

WHAT IS ECO-TOURISM?

Eco-tourism is directed towards bringing together conservation and conscious travel while supporting local communities with the aim of minimizing negative



impacts.



PEOPLE OF TRAPEANG
SANGKE TELL US ABOUT
HOW CLIMATE CHANGE
HAS AFFECTED THE
COMMUNITY:

The farmers are unable to grow food. The days are hotter and people can't work because of the heat. Men and women of the community have to leave their families and go to the city to work. People have to work longer hours to



get enough fish to sustain themselves. It's sticky and very uncomfortable in the hot season.



THE BIG

WORDS DICTIONARY សម្រង់
ពាក្យសម្គាល់

Hey, kids! How many of
these word meanings can
you find? តើប្អូនអាចរកនិយមន័យ
នៃពាក្យខាងក្រោមបានប៉ុន្មាន

Adaptation ការបន្ស៊ាំ

Atmosphere ប្រិយោស

Carbon Sink អាងស្តុកកាបូន

Catastrophic គ្រោះមហន្តរាយ

Century សតវត្សរ៍ Cham

ជនជាតិខ្មែរតស្លាម Coastal

តំបន់ឆ្នេរ Conscious ប្រកបដោយ



មនសិការ Consensus ជាមួយ
Consequence ផលវិបាក
Conservation ការអភិរក្ស
Contamination ការបំពុល ឬ
ធ្វើឲ្យកខ្វក់ Decade ទសវត្សរ៍
Deforestation ការកាប់បំផ្លាញ
ព្រៃឈើ Fossil Fuels ប្រេងឥន្ធនៈ
ផូស៊ីល Habitat ដែនជម្រក
Millennium សហស្សវត្សរ៍ Native
ដើម Species ពូជ Sustainable
និរន្តរភាព Swamp វាលល្បាប់ភក់
Transportation គមនាគមន៍



HOW THE BOOK CAME TO BE...

This book was produced with funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Technical Assistance Project - Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning – supported by the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) of Climate Investment Funds (CIF).

Plan International Cambodia and its partner CWDC



(Children and Women Development Center in Cambodia) worked to build awareness about climate change in the coastal communities of Kampot province. They also supported patrolling activities, and funded investments in ecotourism infrastructure to sustain livelihoods and provide incentives for environment conservation in the target



project areas. The project lasted 19 months under the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning – Civil Society Support Mechanism (MCRDP-CSSM).

Information about Trapeang Sangke, shared in the yellow boxes of this book, was collected from project start-up (2015) vulnerability reduction assessments (VRAs) and research



(2017) conducted by an independent consultant, comprising of focus group discussions, surveys and interviews with men, women and children of the community.



USEFUL LINKS

www.nationalgeographic.com/family Child-friendly information on a range of topics about the natural world

climatekids.nasa.gov/big-questions NASA's child-friendly guide to climate change

www.camclimate.org.kh/km Cambodia's Official Climate Change Website (Khmer)

www.camclimate.org.kh/en



Cambodia's Official Climate Change Website (English)

dictionary.cambridge.org

Great website to help with word meanings

www.everyculture.com

Awesome website to learn about cultures around the world

<https://www.facebook.com/kampotmangrove.forest>

Trapeang Sangke's Facebook page



*All links were active at the time of publication. **The links provided a base for the non-fiction sections



This book was written by volunteers from Plan International Cambodia and CWDCC (Children and Women Development Center in Cambodia, www.cwdcc.org) as part of the ADB project to mainstream climate change into development planning. The illustrations were done by N. Joseph.

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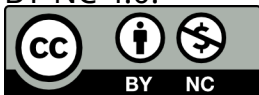
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Original Story

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