Prepared by:

Community Empowerment and Development Team

In Brief Report

On

Participatory Community-Based Natural Resource Mapping and Documentation of Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary (Phnom Chi), Kampong Thom and Kratie Province

Date: July 2019

Supported By
Community Empowerment and Development Team (CEDT)

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2. **Ministry of Environment and Kompong Thom and Kratie Provincial Department of Environment** for a warm and great collaboration and giving permission to the team to conduct field meetings as well as to collect the information/data.

3. **Local authorities (commune and village chief)** for strong cooperation by working closely and allowing the team to implement this Activity.

4. **Local community** for actively participating in the processes such as planning management and implementation with the team very successfully even though the infrastructure accessing and the road condition is not good.

5. **Community Lawyering Team (CLT)** who had spent abundant effort to mobilize community people, meetings management and collect the primary information in community natural resources management area.
Part 1: Community Empowerment and Development Team (CEDT)

1. Introduction

Community Empowerment and Development Team (CEDT) is a Cambodian non-government organization established in May 2009, working toward to strengthen poor communities in both urban and rural areas, to improve their housing conditions, security of tenure and ultimately realize their housing rights including community empowerment through awareness raising and participatory community planning. The process begins by creating a comprehensive sketch mapping, GIS mapping, collect relevant legal supporting documents, develop community profile, community empowerment, provide technical support for housing solutions and infrastructure; prepare the communities land use planning, and sustainable natural resource management.

So far, CEDT had provided the capacity building and coaching to community people on the Geographic Information System (GIS), especially on how to gather Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) with community profile documented and produced as report on “Field visit and data collection in Phnom Chi”, October 2018. Remarkably, community envision to apply for collaborative management area in the purpose of enriching the efficiency, natural resource conservation and enhance the community’s livelihoods who mostly based on the non-timber forests products (NTFPs) and the eco-tourism. This is the second step of identified processes to explore the potential figures to contribute to establishing an eco-tourism in order to fascinate the investors after a successful collaborative management of those two communities.

To ensure working effectiveness, the team took all images and aspects of each target area and its boundary UTM, as well as collected all information in details from local communities who well-known target's background and situation and involved in the process.

A. Objectives

As mentioned above, this is the 2nd step to figure out and document the potential resources of Phnom Chi area in order to support the future collaborative management development processes. There are three identified objectives:

1. Provide the capacity building on Global Positioning System (GPS), resource/data recording, field photography, and projection on map (sketch map).

2. Implement activities with the community in order to identify the potential resource for eco-tourism and conservation.

3. Document and submit the findings to relevant agencies (Ministry of Environment) for evidentially reconsidering Phnom Chi to be a collaborative management area.
2. Target Geographic Information

Phnom Chi locates in the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary of Kampong Thom and Kratie Province. It is covering 3 villages and 2 areas, and there are about 3,830 people living. In this community, there are many local residents and some people migrant from other provinces. There are Kong Meas in Community Protected Area of Krang Village and Prasat Tekmou in community forestry of Tonsaong Thlak village, which no approving by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries yet. However, Kong Meas Community Protected Area was recognized by the Prakas from Ministry of Environment on 17 January 2019. This Phnom Chi covers 4,515 hectares to be collaborative management area.

3. Methodology

In fact, it is very complicated and difficult to access in the Phnom Chi area. In term of time and to ensure the effectiveness of the survey, team identified the priority activities as following:

Community people are from three different villages in two areas. They are divided into 4 groups according to the location and zoning starting from Krang village, Sochet commune, Sandan district, Kompong Thom province, from the ground of Phnom Chi up to the hill and reach to river at Kratie province. It meant that the community people from Kratie province involved in the survey from the bottom of Phnom Chi up to their community where identifying the tourism potential area of the Mekong River in Kratie province.
Kompong Thom team divided into two groups. Group 1, starts from Krang village and crosswalk to the south part of Phnom Chi until Japan hall (Rong Cho Pon) and Group 2 starts from Krang village, and crosswalk to the north part of Phnom Chi and going up to the top.

After divided the block (survey sites), CEDT team provided the technical training on GPS, how to track and record the data, photo taking as well as sketch mapping in order to record and descript the areas. Those efforts and results are very significant to proof and to be evidence for concerning agencies, private sectors also is a good learning opportunity for whom involved in the activity to understand the real situation and potentials in this area. This primary information and results are contributing to decision-made for joining the future project. The training aims to strengthen the community capacity and to carry out all field activities. Through coordinating by CEDT team, the survey team also requires immediate practices in each target after trained in class. This process is to ensure the survey quality when implementing in a survey site. CEDT technical team also closely work to community people (survey team) in the field in order to continually provide the technical support, coaching and ensure successfulness in this survey.

*Activities in GPS training workshop*
4. GPS Implementation Field and Data Collection in Phnom Chi of Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary, Kampong Thom and Kratie Province

This activity started from 6 to 9 June 2019 with supporting by 40 participants (6 of female) divided into four groups represented from local authorities (village and commune chief), community committees, youth and women. The data/information gathered from the tracking are included wildlife living area, temples areas, hermitage or monk stages, cavern areas, rocky areas, landscape areas, village areas, NTFPs areas, and the mineral areas.

1. Community profile documentation
2. Information about the potential natural resource and eco-tourism
   - Potential area for eco-tourism
   - Heritage and cultural area: mountain, fasting cavern, temple, waterfall
   - Forest species, wildlife, biodiversity (hog deer, barking deer, civet, monkey, wild boar, and mouse deer … evergreen forest, semi evergreen forest and deciduous forest, bamboo and river forest)
   - Potential natural resource and NTFPs areas

Activities of GPS tracking and data collection
Part 2: Summary on participatory community-based natural resources mapping and documentation of Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary (Phnom Chi) Kompong Thom and Kratie Province.

1. **Introduce to the Community**

Phnom Chi riches of biodiversity. It is because of its forest is perceived as being of extremely high ecological significant, has some diverse compositions of species and distinct types of key resources includes bat cave, forests, resin, wildlife, rocks, monk stages, landscapes, rocky and temples etc. Phnom Chi is boundary crosses two provinces of (1) Kompong Thom (Kraing Village, Ta Young Village and Rolous, Sochet Commune, Sandan District) and (2) Kratie (Tounsoung Tlak and Somti Pou). The potential resources in this area is a CPA in Kraing Village, community forestry in Ta Young Village and forestry community in Tounsoung Tlak village. Also, these communities have a history of using NTFPs productions such as resin, latex, rattan, beer, and mushroom etc. Moreover, there are some historical and cultural sites (temples, cave, and monk stages) forests and mining exploration for community livelihoods too.

a. **Ta Young Village**

In 1979, there was only 70 household family in Ta Young Village. They were mainly working in farming. Because of civil war between Khmer Rouge and Cambodia Government, there was a huge migration in 1982 from Ta Young Village to Kratie province, especially move to Tounsoung Tlak village and Ajen village, where locate closely to Kompong Thom province. In 1984-1985, they returned to their homeland, started continually their farming even sometimes still in fighting. Particularly, the first national election in 1993, about 70% of the people returned to their homeland and there are a forestry concessions and investments from Colexim Company, Pheapimex, and Heng Heng cashew nut plantation investment. The fighting was stopped in 1997, so villagers getting safer and completely secure by 2001-2002. Later, by 2015-2016, there were many newcomers, mostly from Kompong Cham province to live in this area and make an orchard especially cassava and cashew. Since 2017 till now, only a few families still raising the resin from Phnom Chi, while others lost their resin tree because of forest degradation. Wildlife species are bear, Bos gaurus, hog deer, barking deer, wild pig, porcupine, and monkey. NTFPs are wild Almond, mushroom, rattan, and the gold and gems mineral etc. So far, there were some joint patrolling activities between Ta Young villagers and Sochet community forestry as well as Krang community on Natural Resource Management. However, it was likely decreased/no community actions, while villagers perceive that the forest is degraded, not well managed and does not receive the benefits from NTFP production and service.
b. Krang Village

Historically, Krang village was a rich in the forest area with a large variety of trees and NTFPs along with Stung Chinit and surrounded by rice paddies field and orchard. This village has been set up since the Sangkum Reastr Niyum period, which is inhabited by a small community, relying on forests and farming. Between 1980-1982, villagers were evacuated to four districts naming Kbal Domrei, Rokar Chor, Teuk Vil and Sandan districts of Kampong Thom province. In 1984, only 30 to 40 families returned to their home, and in 1986 they were evacuated by Vietnamese troops to Prey Khleng commune, Sandan district again. In 1993, the village returned in their home again. Only 17 families among them having rotational farming. By 2017, the numbers of villagers have been steadily increasing. In 2018, there were 174 families living in Krang village, including local residents and new comers migrants from Kampong Cham and Battambang (two families). All of Krang villagers are Khmer and Buddhist.

Most of the people are depending on the forest production such as resin, rattan, vines etc. They make a rice field (once a year) and grow cassava and cashew nuts for selling at the local market and a few families are working in Phnom Penh (two families).

Around 80% of Krang villagers own their land titles, houses, rice fields and orchard (soft title) issued by village chiefs and have stamped by commune chief from 2005 to 2018. This is because of most of them request land titles for loans at micro-finance Institute. The general purpose of this loan is to build houses and to make a business. Currently, they are mostly using the home solar system and water from the well.
c. Tounsoung Tlak Village

Tounsoung Tlak is a village located along the Mekong River in Kampong Cham commune, Sambor district, where villagers live here since Sangkum Reastr Niyum period (12 families). In 1991, there was a merging of five villages into Tounsoung Tlak village. Those are from 36 families of Tounsoung Tlak village, 24 families of Prey village, 14 families of Sre Tmay village, 14 families of Spean Kdar village, and 24 families of Saev village. Totally, Tonsaong Thlak village has 112 families. Then, in 1996, the merged of Tounsoung Tlak villages was separated again while only 60 families left in the village (Tounsoung Tlak and Prey village). Other three villages were created as a new administrative village naming Spean Kdar village on September 21, 2018. After the break-up of Tounsoung Tlak village, there are new comers from Kampong Thom move to live with his family there. Normally, villagers make farming (once a year), orchard and NTFP such as resin and beehives in the Prasat Tek Kmao forestry communities and PreyLang. By 2015, villagers had own land, houses, and rice fields and about 60% of them are soft land titles.
Villagers generally are using home solar systems and filter water from the river. Their children go to a school where next to the Ajen Pagoda. They are travelling by boat to the health center at Koh Krabei village, if they have a health issue. The villagers are Khmer and 95% is Buddhists.

**Tonsaong Thlak Village and Natural Resource Mapping**

d. **SomTi Pou area**

According to the storytelling of SomTi Pou area, villagers mentioned that this area is closed to Phnom Chi and rich in gold and gemstones sitting along the stream and in soil or rocks. This area is quite new with a small population. After the Pol Pot regime, few people were temporarily staying in the area for gold processing, but not for long-staying because of firing by Khmer Rouge. However, in 1998, a large number of villagers from O'Yav village move to SomTi Pou area in the main purpose of clear land for farming and gold mining processing.

Today, there are about 39 families living in the village, with temporary village chief- yet not recognized by the Ministry of Interior. There are some challenges raised by villagers relating to insecurity because they are not yet been recognized by local authority and there are some arguments with MoE officials as the area
is managing by MoE. Those challenges are the barriers to infrastructure development and other
development in this area such as school and pagoda.

People in this area often plant cassava, cashews, and do farming. Besides, they also get an income from
gold mining processing. They reported that they could earn around 5 ly to 10 hun as gold weight a day.
Normally, they are selling the gold at the village or sometime to Tounsoung Tlak village.

In order to get a farming field, they had cleared the forest in the area, each family has around one and two
hectares. Besides clearing and getting NTFPs, they have protected this area by banning the outsiders to
destroy the forests. Observably that most of the interventions from villagers are effective where no more
illegal logging at Phnom Chi.

2. Target Communities
Population in each village

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Land/HA</th>
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<td>Krang Village</td>
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<td>900</td>
<td>668</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kong Meas CPA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>397</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sochet Commune Community Forestry</td>
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<td>Rolous</td>
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<td>263</td>
<td>263</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Tounsoung Tlak Village</td>
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<td>806</td>
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<td>Prasat Tek Kmao Community Forestry</td>
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<td>5665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>SomTi Pou</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>369</strong></td>
<td><strong>3830</strong></td>
<td><strong>2134</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 3: Collaborative Management on Natural Resources in Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary (Phnom Chi)

1. The purpose of Collaborative Management

The communities in three villages and two areas, including Krang village, Ta Young and Rolous, located in Sochet commune, Sandan district, Kampong Thom province, and Tounsoung Tlak village, SomTi Pou area, Kampong Cham commune, Sambor district, Kratie Province have provided common objectives on Phnom Chi collaborative-management in order to well manage and protect the areas, including natural resources. The objectives that citizens have voiced out are as follows:

- protect their own land from investment/concession company (Chinese gold mining company located north of Phnom chi), which they planned to expand to Phnom Chi.
- protect the carbon forest absorption (core zone).
- protect and conserve the natural resource, forest and endangered wildlife in Phnom Chi, prevent the illegal logging, hunting, deforestation by large traders/outsiders and extremely using the NTFP/forest's products, illegal mining activities and other resources to ensure sustainable development and to the benefit for all through establishing a collaborative management system.
- there are requests from people around the area (boundary province) on collaborative management in this area (right to manage, protect for common benefits).
- Community is calling for the right to the boundary demarcation and collaborative management, including the land use management plan between Kampong Thom and Kratie.
- contribute to the preservation of historical sites (temples, palaces or monk stage) as heritage and tourist attractions.
- Phnom Chi riches in natural resources such as mountains, forests, historical temples, beautiful landscapes, caves, gold and gemstones, and a wide variety of wildlife which is encouraging to develop the eco-tourism for improving the community livelihoods. This potential eco-tourism area is connecting to Sambo district of Kratie province where the Mekong dolphin is
- the community wishes to develop as collaborative management of natural resources on the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary (Phnom Chi) in Kampong Thom and Kratie provinces with an area of 4515 hectares.
The map of potential eco-tourism in Phnom Chi Collaborative management.
The map of potential eco-tourism of Kratie province and Phnom Chi Collaborative management.
2. Through the sketch mapping walk to waterfall and natural resource in area

The description of community sketch map on the collaborative management area developed by communities from Kampong Thom and Kratie province. We will describe the first part of Sochet commune, Sandan district, Kompong Thom Province. There are two ways, firstly, we started from Krang village to the south-east, around six kilometers, we can reach Kork Khmom and we also see the big bat caves. Then, we set off from here about 1.30 km long to Damnak Bram Pann, where locates at one of Phnom Chi Top, which is lined with rocks on the way from ground to the top of Phnom Chi. If you continue, we can reach the northern of Rolous where a temporary village of 71 families. Around 2 km from Rolous, we will be able to see the Phnom Chi hermitage where communities always celebrate the traditional ceremony, plant the tree and also pray to monks there. If, we get out of this hermitage and walk forward around 1 km, we would reach the Damnak Matess, where is a venerated place with a strong belief of people. There are also having huge red peppers, big rocks, big tree including Beng (Afzelia Xylocarpa) and other luxury trees.

Around 1km next, we will see many historical Damnak (palaces) such as Damnak Metorb, where located at the middle of Phnom Chi. According to the community’s telling, Damnak Metorb was constructed by the Khmer troop at the time during the war with Thailand. Together with Damnak Marin as part of Phnom Chi, the area has a large of rocks, nice sight of sea forest and natural pond there. Then we will reach to the top of Phnom Chi in the next 0.7 km walk. This is the highest area of eight top of Phnom Chi where rich in rocks and caves. From the top of this area, you can clearly see the Phnom Srouch, Trapeang Phrash Mountain and its surrounding with the beautiful and greener landscape.

Secondly, we started from Krang village to the south-east, around 3 km, where, we would see the environment office. In the next 6.6 km from this office, we will enjoy seeing Trapeang Phrash temple. There are three temples, the first calls the Maday (mother) temple, the second is Kon Srey (daughter) temple and the third is the Aoupouk (father) temple. Continue walking, we can reach Da Prohaut waterfalls in around next 3.7 km, and Da Klengpor in next 3.8 km. There are large rocks and a variety of endangered species and forest such as Kra N goung (rosewood), Beng (Afzelia Xylocarpa), and Thnuang (Pterocarpus). In the next 6.7 km from there, we will reach Rong Cha Pon (Japan hall), where 30 families living. Some of them make farming and gold mining. As reached at Talhal in the next 2.2 km walk, you will see huge rocks on the mountainside, and we could see the beautiful landscape and the many rare wildlife. Finally, you will arrive at Phnom Chi in next one km.

The description of community sketch map from Sambor district, Kratie province to Phnom Chi, Kampong Thom province. On the way to Sambor district, we can visit Wat Sor Sor Mouy Roy (100 Pillar pagoda), where is a Buddha respecting and a worship place. If, we take a boat crossing the Mekong River for about half-hour, we will see the endangered freshwater dolphin (trey pisaut in Khmer) living areas. There are
three freshwater dolphin habitats there, two habitats in Koh Pdao village, and another one in the Kompong Kra Bey village which took about 10 minutes by boat reaching there. In about 100 meters from the riverside of Kampong Kra Bey village, there is ancient pagoda, a place of worship and historical site for the community and also a good tourist attracting area, which you can boat and have a chance to listen to the birds’ song. If you travel from Kampong Kra Bey village to the other side of the river for about 15 minutes, we will reach Ajen village, which rich of Dolphin along the riverside too. After leaving the village, you head to Spean Kda and Kam Phlok village. The two villages just merged into a village, where 217 families living and mostly, they are farmers. In about 100 meters away from Kam Phlok, there is a mountain calling Rom Chak, where rich in caves, bats, Porcupine, and snakes, as well as a variety of worthy forest and bee habitats. From Rom Chak Mountain, you head to Tek Kmao temple which keep remained the castle and forests surroundings and locate in the Prasat Tek Kmao community of Tonsoang Thlak village. Once out of Tek Kmao temple, we walk through Trapaing Thlong, then to the crossroads where you can see the environment office and go to Thmor Dos Kambor Chrong, where a lot of rock standing, rock well which water never empty, and there are a lot of bamboo and numerous habitats. On the way to Trapaing Siem, we will see many ponds along the way where is beautiful of lotus and a variety of fishes. There, were will reach at Banteay Siem temple where rich in endangered forests, wildlife sanctuary and near the temple there is a pond with big Turtle. Afterward, we travel to Som Tipor area- it is not far from Phnom Chi. There are 39 families living in the area, which is rich in bamboo and wildlife. The area covers 300 hectares and also is rich in gold mining.
3. The Potential Area for Eco-Tourism

3.1 The potential area for eco-tourism in Phnom Chi area

1. Kork Khmom: It is a type of hill small mountain, a part of Phnom Chi and has rocks on both sides of the way to reach there. It has numerous natural caves that support the species of bats for living in, reproduction and are close to their breeding area. The reason for calling Kork Khmom because there were many bees there. Also, there are so many bats move to live there, they produce a lot of shit every day. Some people could earn money from bats shit around 1,000 to 2,000 riels/kg. Some people collect it for their plantations. It is very good quality natural fertilizers. Furthermore, there are many natural bees on the wall of the mountain. Communities can get honey for medicinal and other purposes. Nowadays, this area has been threatened by land encroachment for agriculture, cashews planting, and other fruit crops investment. On the other hand, the bats have also been hunted by some people. Now, these activities have been reduced notably when there are some interventions from community members.
2. Damnak Bram Penn: It is sites at one of eight of Phnom Chi, following by rocks from the bottom to top of the mountain. There is a huge rocky outcropping, which surrounded by greenery and beautiful views. On the rocks, there are paintings of animals, people, and statues of gods. Since 2006, the hermitage has two nuns (man and woman) living for their Buddha praying and contribute by trees nursery and planting including Kra Ngoung (rosewood), Beng (Afzelia Xylocarpa), Neang nuon (Dalbergia bariensis Pierre) and Phchoek (Shorea obtuse) and luxury trees in totally 12,000 trees. Besides, those forests also were planted by government agencies, district officer, commune, village, students and communities for more than a year ago. In between of rocks, there is a variety of planting. The nuns told us that there is no one knowing clearly about the history of Phnom Chi, yet it sounds related Ramayana Reamke charter 3, page 74. So far, the activity of protecting Phnom Chi of them can demonstrate their willingness to protect natural resources for 100 percent.
3. Bat Caves: Even it is small, but it has a high cave for bats living. There are two different ways (go in and out) that allow people to enter the tunnels to collect bats dung. The caves normally are located at the bottom of Phnom Chi Mountain, so it is easy for the communities. It locates between the roads to Krang village and the Rolous area. The site is surrounded by semi-evergreen forest, deciduous forest, and beautiful green grass. In addition, it is not only a habitat for bats, but it has beautiful landscapes with big trees, high rocks, and vines, which are a rare resource to be preserved.
4. Rolous Area: Roluos is a part of Krang village, the people of this area come for gold mining processing. The area is 10km away from Krang village and is divided into two: Rolous Thom and Rolous Toch area, consisting of 71 families who earn income from NTFP products and farming. Rolous is in the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary and the communities contribute to the protection and benefits from natural resources such as forest, resin tree and solid resin, preserve the temple etc.
5. Phnom Chi hermitage: It has a long history, nowadays there is only a monk living in it. He always takes care of nature and replanting such as Neang nuon (Dalbergia bariensis Pierre), Thnuang (Pterocarpus) and Beng (Afzelia Xylocarpa). This area is most popular to celebrate the traditional and religious ceremony of people from Sambor, Kratie, and Sandan, Kampong Thom provinces. Remarkably, the monks construct nursery and planting events with supporting by a district governor, community, and students.
6. Damnak Metorb: It locates of Phnom Chi and has a history since the Khmer-Siem War. According to the community’s reporting, this Damnak (site) was constructed by the Khmer troop at the time during the war. The area has a large of rocks, the nice sight of sea forest and natural pond there. There are three entrance points, one of them is for sleeping (bed-shaped rocks). In the past, a nun decided to stay inside for morality and then die, but no one has been able to find the body. It remains a mysterious story until today. Recently, the villagers and monks from Ajen village and Russey Char of Kratie province bring the Buddha statue on this place. Now it becomes a Buddhist place when everyone passes there, they usually pray for safety and peace or take a rest before moving on to the top of the mountain.
7. Damnak Mates: It is a place with big rocks with big trees. In the past, it was a venerated place with a strong belief of people. There are also having huge red pepper but no one affirms it clearly. A people said the red pepper size is same with adult's thighs and others had no heard about his area since have never walked through. Therefore, it sounds a great interest because it is the true story of this strange red peppers. There is a small stream flowing down from the top of the mountain with freshwater for drinking and bathing.
8. Damnak Marin: It is another part of Phnom Chi and a long way to the top of Phnom Chi. There are many big and beautiful rock there. If you are standing on the top of these rocks, you will see the nice landscape and it is likely sea forest. There is also a deep pond next to these rocks. This pond rich in water and everyone could have water from this pond if they are passed by or go into this area. There are the big and heighten Bayan tree About 10 meters from here, there is also a small waterfall for bathing and drinking next to a small cave. The cave can be easily taking a rest and/or when raining.
9. Top of Phnom Chi (Presh Ang Thom): It is at the highest point of the eight of Phnom Chi. It is also full of rocks and caves. From the top, you can clearly see the Phnom Sroch, Phnom Trapaing Phrash and its surroundings with beautiful greenery. In 2018, the community has constructed a small hall and placed a Buddha statue for worship and travelers could rest here. Its features include:

- When we are at the top of the mountain, we can enjoy the beautiful views of natural forest, the rocks, the mountains, and the view of the Mekong River in Kratie province.
- In early morning, it is cold with fogging, because of the cold, we feel freezing. Furthermore, it is for the cool mountain air, for the adventure, for relaxation. All good reasons to travel the top. When we look it down, it looks like you are in the sky, and the sky is full of beautiful clouds.
- We can see a lot of wildlife and its song in the morning. It is rich in wildlife.
10. Chan Nhem: It is another top of Phnom Chi Mountain and has the largest cliffs. This location also has the largest bat cave. It is a potential for tourism and for adventure because of its attractive landscape with high altitude and art of rock structure. So far, some small stone has collapsed for unknown reasons, but the community thinks it may have been the effect of the rainfall. They are also worried about this as it will disturb to bats that depend on this cave. There are several people take risk their life collecting bat shit by crossing the dangerous bridge. This area has a lot of bats living more than anywhere else.
11. **Resin collection area**: The communities of Phnom Chi live and rely on the resin, vines, rattan leaf and other NTFP products. These non-timber forest products contribute greatly to their livelihoods. Also, it could protect the big trees from the deforestation and forest conservation. There are resin trees in Krang village, Ta Young village, Roluos village, SomTi Pou area, and some part of the mountain.
12. Potential Wildlife in Phnom Chi: Phnom Chi rich in worthy forest, and also has a wide variety of wildlife such as rabbit, wild pig, porcupine, monkey, gibbon, rose deer, loris, Bos Gaurus and others. The area where the species lives the most is located in the valley of Phnom Chi, from the eastern side of the mountain to the Phnom Sroch. It is located between Phnom Chi, Phnom Sroch, Chan Nhem and Japan hall (Rong Cho Pon). This area rich in wildlife because this place is deep, heavy forest, water source, and people is hard to distrust them. If you sit at the top of Phnom Chi then look it down you can see it clearly and enjoy of the eastern side of the mountain.
13. Trapaing Prash Temple: It is around 4km from Krang village to Trapaing Prash temple. On the way, we can see the deciduous forest, the wildlife, wildlife corridor/habitat corridor and beautiful view of wildflowers and birds. In the temple’s compound, there is a public place for taking a rest and Buddha statues for the prayer and celebration of the traditional and cultural ceremony. There are three temples here, the first calls the Madai (Mother) Temple, the second is the Kon Srei (Daughter) Temple and the third is the Ovpouk (Father) Temple. Historically, people can go there for praying and borrowing such as dishes, pots and other things they want but now there are no more.
14. Da Brohout: Da Brohout is a nice waterfall. That is a good with freshwater for drinking yet not swimming. You can enjoy the sea forest there. There are large rocks and a variety of rare species and tree such as Kra Ngyoung (rosewood), Beng (Afzelia Xylocarpa), and Thnuang (Pterocarpus). There is also Jayavarman VII statue there and beautiful pastures/green grass.
15. Da Kleng Por: This area is also rich in rocks, stones as same as Da Brohout. It is also surrounded by heavy forest, and isn’t far away from Da Brohout. Before reaching Da Kleng Por, you will see about 20 families living in the village and hectares of farmland. Furthermore, there are many gold mining processing sites there. The location is good suitable for tourists who want to enjoy the fresh air, fresh and green forest and mountain landscape.
16. Japan hall (Rong Chapon): This area is in between of three mountains: Phnom Chi Mountain, Kang Mountain, and Phnom Sroch Mountain. There are approximately 30 families living in the area, some are making a farming and other work in gold mining. The special in this area is that you can relax with fresh air there. You can see the beautiful landscape with greener forest, fogging and dewy in every morning. As well you can see and learn how people there to live, to make a livelihood and people living in the forest. In the past, there were some Japanese lived there for gold mining processing. Then they backed to their homeland and left this place, that why villagers call the Japanese hall up to now.
17. **Tal Hal**: Tal Hal is naming of this area where villagers are naming like this. There are large rocks and stones on the hillside. You can see the beautiful landscape and the many endangered wildlife in this area. There are also a lot of resin trees which belongs to Ta Young villagers. It is located at the waist of the Phnom Chi. At the north-east where you walk from the Japanese hall up to the mountain, you also have a good time and enjoying with large trees, bats, wildflowers, large rocks, and wildlife. There are Bos Javanicus, Porcupine, Pygathrix nigripes …. also, a lot of resin tree of communities in this area. In addition, there are many NTFP products (mushroom, resins, and honey) etc.
3.2 The potential areas between Phnom Chi and Kratie Province

1. SomTi Pou Area: This site locates near Phnom Chi and has a local people about 39 families, with 120 individual people. As well there are 110 migrants coming to Siem Reap, Prey Veng, Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom provinces for gold mining processing as it starts from late July to November. The area has a variety of non-timber forest products, especially the bamboo which most of the people there call Bamboo King because this area rich in bamboo in many hectares As well as there are the potential plant species and animal such as Wild Bamboo (Bambusa Arundinacea Willd), Bamboo Shoot, Pdao Soam, Rattan, Dambong, Khmom and other luxury wood species including Phchoek (Shorea Obtuse), Khlong (Dipterocarpus tuberculatus Roxb), Chhlik (Terminalia tomentosa) So Kram (Xyilia dolabriformis Benth), Beng (Afzelia Xylocarpa), Pram domleng (Terminalia corticosa Pierre ex Gagnep), and also cross-wild species areas such as Monitor Lizard (Varanus), Wild Pig, Deer, Bos gaurus, Bos javanicus, Snake. In addition, there is also gold mining zone from Phnom Chi to this area approximately 300 hectares as well as evergreen forest and deciduous forest there where is a natural corridor for wildlife such Snakes, Bos Gaurus, Deer, Rose Deer, and Elephant.
2. Tek Kmao Temple: This temple is in Tek Kmao temple community forestry locates in Tonsaong Thlak, Kompong Cham Commune, Kratie province. This temple is quite old with couples of stones, field and main temples’ structure. Even so, the temple still is one of the popular places for the community. Around the temple, there is also a water canal and an ancient pond. This temple is in a hectare and surrounding by greenery forest. This potential is good for the community to get the benefit such as rattan, resin, honey bees, resin tree. The forest is rich of beehive, good corridor and is home to a variety of Greater Adjutant, Heron, Wild Pig, Monkey, Gibbon, Rose Deer, Bos Gaurus, Monitor Lizard, Turtle, Bos Javanicus, and Snake.
3. Phnom Romchak: The Mountain locates about 100 meters behind from Kom Block village and its overs around one hectare. 269 meters around this mountain is a conservative area. No one is allowed to go inside. It has a cave with 10 meters deep where rich in bats, Porcupine, and snakes. The mountain has a standing rock in front of the entrance and a statue of a human head as well there is full water well on the top. It has well freshwater and has never drought. At the middle, there are also endangered trees, such as Chhlik (Terminalia tomentosa), Phchoek (Shorea Obtuse), So Kram (Xylia dolabriformis Benth), Sra-lau (Lagerstroemia calyculata Kurz), Romchak and Prey Srong. Each tree is around 1.60 m size.
4. Thmor Dos Kambor Chroung: This area locates around 30km far from Span Kdar village. Its landscape is quite similar to Phnom Romchak. This area is covering more than 65 hectares. There is a large of bamboo in this area also has three wells which is a very good water source for the community around this area. So far, there were nuns living and caring in this area yet now they moved to Phnom Chi. It is also a place for conducting a religious and cultural place of Kouy Indigenous People. The resin tree and bees are the main NTFP. Besides, the area reaches of luxury trees including Beng (Afzelia Xylocarpa), Neang nuon (Dalbergia bariensis Pierre), Sra-lau (Lagerstroemia calyculata Kurz), So Kram (Xyilia dolabriformis Benth), and Ta trav (Fagraea fragrans) and wildlife such as Peacock, Porcupine, Snake, Bos Javanicus, Bos gaurus, Turtle, Monitor Lizard (Varanus), and wild pig.
5. Banteay Siem Temple: The temple condition is not different from Tek Kmao Temple. There are leaving only the main infrastructure of the temple. Some people name as Vishnu temple where a place of worship is for this local community. There are ancient rice fields around the temple where growing rice in the past but now it is not. In addition, it is rich in forests and valuable trees such as Neang nuon (Dalbergia bariensis Pierre), Thnuang (Pterocarpus), Beng (Afzelia Xylocarpa), Kra N goung (rosewood). It is not far from the temple, there is a river naming Ou Siem. There is a Mortar pond in the middle of this Siem River. It is about 8 meters deep and about 14 meters wide with a lot of turtles living in the dry session, such as Aquatic turtle and wild turtle. This river is also a water source and aquatic products (fish) for communities around this area.
6. Freshwater dolphin habitat: It locates in the middle of the Mekong River in Koh Pdao and Phsar KraBey Village, both are in Kampong Cham commune, Sambor district, Kratie province. There are three freshwater dolphin habitats there, two habitats in Koh Pdao village, and another one in the Kompong Kra Bey village. There are around 15 freshwater dolphins in this area. The tourist would take 10 minutes by machine boat if they wish to see the freshwater dolphin. Each habitat is around 15 to 40m deep. Besides, enjoying with dolphin the visitors will also have the opportunity to see birds such as hawk and raven around May to July and egret from August to November.
7. Wat Chas (Old pagoda): It is the hermitage in Kampong Krabey village, Kampong Cham commune, Sambor district, Kratie province. It is a historical and praying place for the people where surrounding by forest. This forest has been managed by local authorities for conserving and no logging in this area. With its forest, the visitors would enjoy in relax, listen to birds’ song, and enjoy the fresh air and greener environment after visited dolphin. So far, this place used to be a place for foreigners to take a hike and get some rest.
4. Challenges
In fact, when climbing up to the mountain, it normally is a difficult thing, but it is not impossible. Our team worked in raining. Most of the time we were in wet because it was the rainy season during this mission. It is quite slippery and often falling down, yet we could hand to other trees or vines around us to climb up the mountain. Due to it is a long journey and height, we also faced other challenges with the flashlight, camera, communications, and GPS.

5. Conclusion
Phnom Chi is strongly linked to the economic, environmental, social, cultural and religious of the communities. It is a worthy area where to keep communities’ mindset as they wish to develop this area to be a conservative area. Communities seem to be more willing to involve in the process after receiving training and consultations. They strongly believe that these documentations will be reached to ministries as well as surely an evidence for decision-making and accelerate the collaborative management process of this area as well as Community Protected Area Expansion.