

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Data:

Name : Seak Sophat (PhD)
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KEY QUALIFICATIONS:

Dr. Seak Sophat is a natural resource management and biodiversity conservation specialist with more than 15 years implementing, teaching, researching and evaluating natural resource management and biodiversity conservation programming in Cambodia, especially in Mekong, Tonle Sap Lake region and Coastal area. As the Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Natural Resource Management and Development at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Dr. Seak Sophat has designed courses (through conduction of TNA) and collaborated with numerous projects throughout Cambodia to develop relevant programming for both university-level students and natural resource management professionals. He has a strong background in research, and has worked throughout the country with numerous organizations and donors including Danida, Sida, DFID, CIDA, AusAID, ADB, WB, ICCO, UNDP, FAO, MRC, Oxfam, Henrich Boll Foundation, CDRI, and numerous local NGOs. His current research interests are focusing on, participatory biodiversity monitoring linking to management intervention, hydropower development, rural livelihoods and climate change adaptation in Mekong region with emphasis to conservation and livelihood improvement of rural community.

LANGUAGES:

Khmer (native), English (fluent), Thai (fair)

Current Research and Conservation Projects (Lead and associate):

- Water-related Risks of Rural Livelihood and Biodiversity: An Assessment of Transboundary Impacts Caused by Floods and Droughts in 3S River Basin under Dam Development and Climate Change, funded by UNESCO-IHE. Jan 2013 to Dec 2014
- Assessing the Status and Distribution of Eld's Deer in Western Siem Pang Dry Dipterocarp Forest, Stung Treng Province, Cambodia, funded by Birdlife International. Feb-Dec 2013
- Harmonizing Nature and Human Society for Sustainable Development: A Symbiosis Study on the Development of Integrated Approaches for Improved Environmental Governance and Community Livelihood Strategies in Northeastern Cambodia, funded by World Bank through the Royal Government of Cambodia's Ministry of Education Youth and Sports. Jan 2013-Dec 2014
- Community based conservation and monitoring of globally endangered bird biodiversity in Sekong and Sesan River IBA sites in Stung Treng and Ratanakiri provinces, Cambodia, funded by McArthur Foundation. Jan 2013-Aug 2015
- Partnership for Environmental Action and Community Empowerment (PEACE)— *Building the Space of Engagement for Environmental Governance in Cambodia*, funded by ICCO, the Netherlands (Holland). January 2012- December 2014
- Communicating water-related climate change risks to improve local adaptation in the deltas of the Mekong Region, funded by Sumernet (Sustainable Mekong Research Network, Stockholm Environmental Institute). May 2011 to Dec 2012
- Community based protection and monitoring of threatened bird biodiversity in Sekong River IBA, funded by BirdLife International. May 2011-Sep 2012

- Vulnerability assessment of livelihoods in Lower Mekong Basin: Adaptation options for enhancing capacity of people living in the most vulnerable flood-prone areas in Cambodia and Vietnam, funded by Sumernet (Sustainable Mekong Research Network, Stockholm Environmental Institute). January 2011 to June 2012

EDUCATION:

- Jan 2007- May 2012: PhD degree study at Asian Institution of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand, major in Natural Resource Management. Dissertation: Participatory biodiversity monitoring linking to management intervention and good governance in Tonle Sap Lake. (English instruction medium).
- Sep 1997 – Aug 1999: Degree of Master of Science at Asian Institute of Technology in the field of Aquaculture and Aquatic Resource Management. (English instruction medium)
- Sep 1995–Sep 1996: Postgraduate Environmental Certificate Course (English instruction medium) at Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- Sep 1991– Aug 1995: B. Sc. in Biology at Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

RELEVANT SHORT TRAINING COURSES:

- Introductory Course on Environmental Economics, organized by the Economy and Environmental Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA), Vietnam, 19 to 29 August 2013.
- Integrated Water Resource Management, organized by Chisholm Institute and Earth Systems, Australia, 6 August to 11 September 2011.
- Addressing and Resolving Transboundary Flood Issues, organized by UNESCO-IHE and MRC, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 09-11 May 2011.
- Technical tools to address transboundary flood issues in Mekong region, organized by UNESCO-IHE, MRC and Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 9-12 February 2011.
- Training Course on Forestry Research and REDD+ Development, organized by RUPP in collaboration with University of Hyogo, Japan, 20-24 December 2010.
- Transboundary Water Conflict Management and International Water Governance, organized by UNESCO-IHE and MRC, Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand, 01-06 November 2010.
- Integrated Coastal Management (Level 1): Training of Trainers Course, Regional Program on Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Manila, Philippines, 21-29 October 2008.
- SPSS Statistical Method, Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 18-25 April 2005.
- GIS Training Course, Faculty from University of Copenhagen, Denmark, RUPP, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 5-12 March 2005.
- Remote Sensing Techniques for Determining Coastal Water Quality Parameters and Coastal Zone Mapping, Bogor University, Bogor, Indonesia, 13-23 January 2004.
- Environmental Risk Analysis, RUPP in collaboration with Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 23-28 August 2003.
- Development of Biosafety Laws in Cambodia, Ministry of Environment in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 10-11 April 2003.

GEOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE:

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Thailand

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Chairman of Cambodia REDD+ Consultative Group (2013)
- Nature Conservancy (2006)
- Member of AIT alumni (1999, 2012)
- Director of Wildlife Conservation Cambodia (2006)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Date : August 2013-Present

Employer : Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Position and Job Description: Head and Researcher, Department of Natural Resource Management and Development. Overall tasks include: take a lead of department administration and function, curriculum development, research, outreach activities, and coordinating and liaising with relevant stakeholders in Cambodia and the region. Carry out research and development projects related to natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and monitoring, climate change adaptation, rural livelihoods, transboundary water resource management.

Date : February 2013 to December 2014

Employer : UNESCO-IHE, The Netherlands

Position and Job Description: Post-Doc Research Fellow. The overall tasks and responsibilities include: managing the research team working on theme 4 "International cooperation for sustainable water management" coordinated by Dr. Wim Douven and Prof. Joyeeta Gupta, developing research proposal and conducting the research activities for Cambodia component; and providing the supervision services for one Post Master research fellow Mr. Kesa Ly who will work on Theme 1: Enhancing adaptive capacity and livelihoods of poor people to cope with climate change. By carrying out the above activities, he is tasked to produce the following outputs:

- At least one peer reviewed international journal articles and additional papers in conference proceedings, book chapters etc.;
- One paper presented at the final PROACC Symposium and contributions to 'synergy papers' synthesising the outcomes per theme or of the whole project;
- One Policy brief outlining the potential implementation of project outputs in the 'on-the-ground adaptation strategies'; and
- One digital case study (e.g. animated PPT with movies etc.) to be used as educational product. These case studies will be made available to the public via the UNESCO-IHE and partner institute websites.

Date : May to Aug 2012

Employer : Nagoya University, Japan

Position and Job Description: Visiting research fellow for the Natural Resource Management in Cambodia. Major tasks: leading the Cambodia research team and coordinating with Japanese research team and graduate students, delivering lectures on Natural Resource Management in Cambodia and related subjects to students at Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University; providing students the technical assistances about research topics; research design; data collection; analysis and interpretation; report production field work facilitation; project; and administration and management.

Date : September 1999 to August 2013

Employer : Royal University of Phnom Penh

Position and Job Description: Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head, Department of Environmental Science, Cambodia. Specialize in natural resource management. Developed and taught the following courses: Aquatic Resource Management; Biodiversity Conservation; Ecosystems: Structure and

Function; Integrated Natural Resource Management and Planning; Participatory Land Use Planning; Problem-Based Learning; and Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems. In addition to teaching, my responsibilities cover developing environmental curriculum for undergraduate degree (through TNA and workshops) and leading team members of lecturers in green sector; forming strategic plan for further enhancement of department; liaising with concerned government organizations, NGOs, universities and donors both locally and internationally; supervising and providing technical assistance to students for research; and leading team members in conducting research on fisheries resource management, biodiversity conservation, payment of ecosystem services, and disaster assessment including review of document, proposal writing, research design, coordination of field work, data collection, data analysis and interpretation and production of final papers.

Date : January 2010 to June 2011 (part-time)

Employer : Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)

Position and Job Description: Team Leader for RUPP component, Water Resource Management and Research Capacity Development Program, funded by AusAID, and implemented by RUPP, CDRI (Cambodia Development Resource Institute), and University of Sydney. Tasks: managing the team, research design, developing course materials.

Date : September 2009–December 2010 (part-time)

Employer : PEMSEA, Philippines and Royal University of Phnom Penh

Position and Job Description: Team Leader, Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Capacity Development. The project is funded by UNDP via PEMSEA (Partnership for Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia). Lead RUPP core team and National Task Team members to develop training program and form national ICM training centre, conduct training need assessment, design ICM training course materials, carry out ICM training for coastal provincial officials and concerned NGOs and private firms, proposal preparation and report writing. Assist and provide technical assistance to practitioners (government officials) at coastal provinces in adopting ICM concept and implementation within their work place.

Date : January 2003 to December 2007

Employer : USEPAM Consortium (University of Roskilde, University of Copenhagen), Denmark

Position and Job Description: Team Leader, University Support to Environmental Planning and Management (USEPAM) funded by Danida. The goal of this project was to enhance capacity of universities in Cambodia, Laos PDR, and Vietnam, in research, training, environmental curriculum development, environmental monitoring and assessment, and upgrading of staff to M.Sc. or Ph.D. Tasks: project administration and management with reporting to consortium and Danida, carry out curriculum development through TNA and workshop, develop staff upgrade plan, lead a research group on fishery resource management, develop participatory biodiversity monitoring methods in Tonle Sap Lake, and conduct a short training course on Environmental Planning and Management for governmental staff from provinces around Tonle Sap Lake.

Date : April 2004 to April 2007 (part time)

Employer : University of Kristianstad, Sweden

Position and Job Description: National Team Leader, Cityblues Project funded by Asia Link programme of EU, jointly implemented by European and Asian partner universities (Kristianstad University in Sweden, University of Warwick in UK, and King Mongkut University Technology Thonburi in Thailand, National University of Laos in Lao PDR, and Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia). The project was a practical implementation of ecological and engineering principles in integrated storm water management. Tasks: project administration and management, assisting a

research team on assessment of wastewater treatment by natural wetlands in Boeng Chheung Ek lake, Phnom Penh, data analysis and interpretation, and report production.

Date : September 1999–February 2003

Employer : FAO/UNDP and Global Witness

Position and Job Description: Forest Crime Research Associate, Forest Crime Monitoring and Reporting Project, funded by U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/UNDP. Tasks: liaise with relevant government agencies (Ministry of Environment and Forestry Administration officials), NGOs and forest concessionaires for collaboration and data collection, and suppression; review the relevant document related to forest crime, especially forestry law and regulations; design field investigation to forest area where illegal logging/exporting activities took place; undertake field investigation; data analysis and interpretation; report writing; mapping of forest crime area where appropriate; translate relevant document from Khmer to English and vice versa; and manage six rangers in the northeastern provinces of Cambodia as an efficient network for gathering hot news on forest crimes.

January 1997–Present, Independent Consultant. Assignments include:

Date : November 2013 to March 2014 (30 working days)

Employer : Ministry of Environment, UNEP-GEF Project 0515

Position and Job Description: Consultant. Leading a team of consultant to carry out the assignment of Training Need Assessment (TNA) and Training Strategy for Invasive Species Management and Prevention in Cambodia under the project on Removing Barriers to Invasive Species Management in Production and Protection Forests in Southeast Asia- Cambodia Program. Tasks include: review the documents related to IAS, prepare the TNA design for data collection, logistic arrangement for field work and communication with relevant stakeholders (government, NGOs, private sector, individual), conduct data gathering activities with team member, data analysis and interpretation, report production, and present findings to project team.

Date : October to December 2013 (40 working days)

Employer : Oxfam Great Britain

Position and Job Description: Consultant team member, A Training Module on Promoting Partnership in Local Governance of Land and Natural Resources in Cambodia for Use of Sub-National Administrations and Civil Society Organizations. The project is based in Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Kratie and Stung Treng Provinces. The tasks include:

1. Development of Guidelines for establishment of Cambodia Land and Environment Action Network, comprising of civil society and government stakeholders and Access to Justice for the Poor, comprising of NGOs working on providing legal aid to the poor and vulnerable groups. Gender sensitivity need to be considered on both Guidelines.
2. Conducting Training Need Assessment (consultation with Oxfam staff, NGO Partners, the government officers at sub-national administration, provincial line departments, local NGOs and beneficiaries).
3. Preparing a Training Module on Promoting Partnership in Local Governance of Land and Natural Resources in Cambodia for use of sub-national administrations and civil society organisations.
4. Prepare a Training Curriculum and necessary information education and communication materials that the Trainers need to implement the echo trainings.
5. Pre-testing a Training Module, Training Curriculum as well as IECs, and completing the documents.
6. Conducting two Training of Trainers Courses to Oxfam, NGO Partners, key government officers at sub-national administration and provincial line departments.

Date : March-July 2011 (15 working days)

Employer : Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)

Position and Job Description: Consultant, Research projects on Fisheries Conflicts between Marine Small and Large Scale Operators in Stung Hav, Preah Sihanouk; and Impact of Port Construction and Coastal Land Development on Coastal Community in Boeng Touk Commune, Toek Chhou District, Kampot. Tasks: Guide Research Team in the research process on design; designing method and technique for research activities (Research outline, design, how to write up report on field survey, involving in selecting samples sites of study in consultation with FACT research team, design questionnaire guide for individual interview, and Focus Group Discussion); conducting data collection both qualitative and quantitative through meeting at the local authorities and effected community people; research analysis and wrapping up key points from field notes and find out more inadequate information for writing; writing up final report; presenting report to concerned stakeholders (government, NGOs, private sector and local community).

Date : October to December 2010 (30 working days)

Employer : National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD), Ministry of Interior

Position and Job Description: Consultant. Finalization of environmental and highland people watch lists which are incorporated in commune/sangkat fund development program. The task includes:

- a. Review environmental and highland people data recently received by the NCDD from the line agencies and provincial level consultations against relevant criteria listed in the PIM (project implementation manual) and appropriate and available information sources,
- b. Identify and address information gaps through consultation with MoE, the Forestry and Fisheries administrations and other line agencies as appropriate and feasible.
- c. Ensure that the Environmental and Highland People Watch Lists are shared with and, wherever possible and appropriate, consistent with such lists and criteria used by the concerned government agencies,
- d. Advise, where appropriate, and draft materials with regard to establishing consensus between NCDD and MoE, FA and FiA on the nature and use of the Environmental Watch List and on the criteria to be used for including communes in this list,
- e. Advise to NCDD's Safeguards Working Group on the regular updating of the Environmental and Highland People Watch Lists,
- f. Undertake a series of spot-checks of data from at least ten percent of the currently listed communes for Highland People Watch List through consultation with civil society organizations working closely with these communities,
- g. Discuss findings and recommendations with the Safeguard Working Group,
- h. Provide clear, relevant and consistent guidance for identifying those communes where C/S Fund projects may, indeed, pose significant risks,
- i. Outline a strategy for the capacity building of the safeguards team that both responds to the immediate annual project planning cycle and the following two year term,
- j. Formulate recommendations of updating and application of both lists, and
- k. Review and revise current recommendations on strengthening the work of the safeguards team, and the longer term sustainability of safeguards monitoring system.

Date : August to October 2010 (15 working days)

Employer : Fisheries Administration and Danida/DFID

Position and Job Description: Consultant, Project on Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for Fisheries Cantonment staff and to develop the FiA Staff Development Programme for Central and Cantonment staff. Tasks include reviewing the existing related document, revision of existing TNA tools, forming the TNA tool considering the KUSAB framework, analysis of existing data collected

by previous phase under the KUSAB framework (knowledge, understanding, skill, attitude and behaviour), conduction of TNA for Phase 2 NRMLP target provinces by liaise with relevant FiA staff and officials, collating and analysing data, staff Development Programme for all FiA staff with development materials, and producing the final report for TNA and staff development program for FiA.

Date : June-July 2010 (30 working days)

Employer : Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)

Position and Job Description: Consultant, Research project on Impact of Flooded Forest Clearance in Tonle Sap Region, Cambodia. Tasks: Guide Research Team in the research process through consulting about their comments and ideas; providing method and technique for research activities (Research outline, design, how to write up report on field survey, involving in selecting samples sites of study in consultation with FACT research team, design questionnaire guide for individual interview, and Focus Group Discussion); conducting data collection both qualitative and quantitative through commune meeting at the local level and field based on research topic; involving in research analysis and wrapping up key points from field notes and find out more inadequate information for writing; participating in the data collection process with FACT staff; and writing up first draft report and putting more input and preparing final report.

Date : February to April 2010 (20 working days)

Employer : Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)

Position and Job Description: Consultant, Research Projects on Socioeconomic Monitoring of Coral Reefs in Koh Rong Island, Preah Sihanouk Province. Tasks: design research methodology, forming a research team, checklist and questionnaire design, conduction of field research work, analysing and interpreting data, and report production. The research results were used to scale up FACT program activities to other coastal provinces, in addition to strengthen management capacity of community fishery in the island.

Date : August 2009 to Sep 2010 (part-time basis)

Employer : Tokyo University in collaboration with Royal University of Phnom Penh

Position and Job Description: Team member as researcher for joint research project on "Orientation Plans for Sustainable Development of Preah Vihear World Heritage". My task as a research with this team is overall responsible for a component of natural resource management and leading the RUPP involved staff in the field. This briefly included, designing the scope of research, research framework, checklist development, field work planning, coordinating the National Authority of Preah Vihear (NAPV), concerned agencies at the site, conduction of field work, data analysis and interpretation, report production and presentation to NAPV and council of ministers.

Date : May–December 2006 (30 days)

Employer : Tonle Sap Conservation Project/UNDP

Position and Job Description: Consultant, Tonle Sap Conservation Project, UNDP, Cambodia. Major tasks included undertaking TNA of governmental officials in Tonle Sap Lake provinces, development of training course materials related to conservation and environment, conducting training for government's officials working in Tonle Sap region, training evaluation and reporting.

Date : June–December 2004 (30 days)

Employer : Fisheries Administration (Formerly Department of Fisheries)

Position and Job Description: Consultant, Cambodia Post-Harvest Fisheries Livelihood Project, fund by the U.K. Department for International Development. Contracted to conduct a study on fish sauce production in Cambodia. Tasks: designing the overall research framework, including conceptual

shaping, sampling techniques, design of checklist and questionnaire, field survey, data analysis and interpretation, and report writing.

Date : July 2003 (12 days)

Employer : Toronto University, Canada

Position and Job Description: Consultant, Waste-Econ Project, RUPP in cooperation with Toronto University, Canada. Conducted training course on Waste-Econ research techniques for environmental officials from the provinces around Tonle Sap and coastal area, training evaluation and report writing.

Selected Publications:

Seak S., Claassen A., Phat C., Leang S., and Saing M. (2013). Bird Surveys of the Sesan and Sekong River IBAs in Cambodia. Technical Report submitted to a Project on Community based conservation and monitoring of globally endangered bird biodiversity in Sekong and Sesan River IBA sites in Stung Treng and Ratanakiri provinces, Cambodia. Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Seak S., Phat C. and San V. (2013). Importance of Forest Ecosystem Services for the Livelihood Activities of a Rural Community in O'Som Commune, Pursat Province, Cambodia. *Research Paper Series 02*, Royal University of Phnom Penh.

Seak S., San V., Ham K.K., Lor R. and Sim V. (2012). Information flow of Yali hydropower dam operations and its effects on rural community in Sesan River of Cambodia. *Research Paper Series 02*, Royal University of Phnom Penh.

San V, Thriv T, Spoann V, Var S, and **Seak S.** (2012). Economic and environmental costs of rural household energy consumption structures in Sameakki Meanchey district, Kampong Chhnang Province, Cambodia. *Energy*. in press. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2012.10.017>

Seak S., Schmidt-Vogt D. and Thapa GB. (2012). Biodiversity monitoring at the Tonle Sap Lake of Cambodia: a comparative assessment of local methods. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 50(4): 707-720.

Seak, S. (2012). The typical intervention systems of natural resource management in Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia: The community based and modern Approaches. *Discussion Paper Series 190*. Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University, Japan.

Seak, S. (2012). Local biodiversity monitoring methods: A case of Boeng Tonle Chhmar core area of Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, Cambodia. Doctoral Dissertation, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

Nguyen, D.C., Seak, S. and Sok, K. (2012). Vulnerability assessment of livelihoods in Lower Mekong Basin: Adaptation options for enhancing capacity of people living in the most vulnerable flood-prone areas in Cambodia and Vietnam. Cantho, Vietnam.

Seak S., Schmidt-Vogt D. and Thapa B. G. (2011). A comparison between biodiversity monitoring systems to improve natural resource management in Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, Cambodia. *International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services & Management*, 7(4): 258-272.

Seak S. (2010). Assessment of impact of flooded forest degradation on local livelihoods of villagers in selected communes surrounding Tonle Sap Great Lake. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Seak S. and Hoy S. V. R. (2010). Socioeconomic monitoring of coral reefs in Koh Rong island, Sihanouk Province, Cambodia. A technical paper presented during the workshop on Sharing Experience of SocMon Implementation in Vietnam and Cambodia, Phan Ranh city, Minh Thuan province, Vietnam, April 21-22, 2010.

Var S., Seak S. and Tottrup C. (2007). Forest cover change in Boeng Tonle Chhmar Lake, core area of the Tonle Sap World Biosphere Reserve, Cambodia. A research paper presented at the 3rd regional conference on Environmental Planning and Management in Southeast Asian Countries during 6-8 March 2007 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Hanoi University of Agriculture.

Seak S., Roath S. and Ham K. K. (2005). Fisheries resource management in Boeng Tonle Chhmar Lake, Cambodia: How are the current management systems applicable for the Lake? A research paper presented at the 2nd regional conference during 3-5 March 2005 at RUPP, Cambodia. Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

Seak S. (2004). Fish sauce and its role in employment and food security in Cambodia. A research study under the support of the Cambodia Post-Harvest Fisheries Livelihoods Project funded by the UK's DFID. Department of Fisheries, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Seak S. (2003). Strategic environmental management and planning education, training and research needs in Cambodia. A technical paper presented at the National Workshop on Strengthening RUPP Capacity for Environmental Planning and Management Education during 2 April 2003 in Phnom Penh. Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Seak S. (1999). Preliminary investigation of potential for diversification of coastal aquaculture in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia. Master thesis, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

REFERENCES:

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