

# **Impact of Tourism development projects on communities living in the Angkor Park (ACHA: *Angkor Community Heritage & Economic Advancement Project*) and participation of inhabitants in heritage conservation**

## *1. Impact of tourism and vision of the inhabitants of the Angkor Park on tourism:*

APSARA, with initial support from the ACHA project, has assisted with establishment of community based tourism activities in the Angkor World Heritage site for ox-cart riding, boating, food serving, recreation fishing. There has been direct support through materials for implementation and training to enhance community skills. These activities have now been handed over to the APSARA Community Liaison Team for ongoing support.

### **Impact of tourism on community**

- Tourism can provide opportunities that encourage young generation keen to learn foreign languages and tourism skills to stay rather than migrate away from villages close to tourism. Some of the funds earned are directed toward wider community development actions and operation and maintenance. Links with Savings groups have helped increase community financial literacy and transparency.
- Enhanced economic opportunities: Approximately 85 people engaged in additional work through tourism activities and facilitate direct sales of local products, esp handicraft, vegetable, fruits are promoted.
- Inhabitants' income increased through service providing, such as ox-cart, boating, food serving, and recreation fishing.
- 19 villagers trained as handicraft producers in the skill of palm leave weaving, two commercial shops provided to handicraft members who want to sell their products at Parvis of west Ta Prohm temple and of Banteay Srey.
- Community's handicraft products sold and got order from customers through CLT (*Community Liaison Team*) facilitation.

### **Vision of the inhabitants of the Angkor Park on Tourism:**

- Villagers feel they are missing out on the positive impacts of tourism (especially financial) and are being impacted by the negatives of tourism.
- Villagers want increased livelihood opportunities and to see tourists utilize their local products and services.
- Some villagers want to maintain traditional living habit and culture to show tourists about Khmer lifestyle, but others desire a more modern way of life.
- Villagers want to see everyone, including tourists, follow the regulations determined by Government and Inhabitants.

## *2. Associating the inhabitants with the conservation of the site*

The APSARA Community Liaison Team and key community representatives have had Train the Trainer sessions and been given materials on Heritage education. These education activities have also been linked to practical actions for energy and water efficiency etc. Specific approaches to more effectively engage local monks in heritage management have been facilitated across 35 pagodas. More recently heritage education animations have been developed to share with a wider audience.

- Provide education on heritage to school students and community people (784/437women)
- 305 energy-saving stoves distributed to reduce some forest logging
- 165 water-collecting jars distributed to reduce underground water use
- 1,500 solar lamps distributed to reduce air pollution from machinery
- 311 water filters distributed to villagers in order to increase their well-being
- 3 solar battery-charging stations installed in three villages to promote battery using for friendly environment
- Inhabitants still maintain culture and living habit
- Monks also participate in heritage preservation through workshop, education (Implemented by BFD: Buddhism for Development)
- Inhabitants participated in trees planting

### ***3. Identifying and analyzing local cultural projects and economic, social development and integration of local communities on the site***

APSARA, with initial support from the ACHA project, have sought to enhance heritage friendly opportunities for local communities, however the level of community engagement is still limited. Community engagement for water management has strengthened as communities have seen direct results through flood and drought mitigation. The water structures are also providing direct fishing and irrigation benefits to local communities. The agricultural activities are being supported by CADF (*Cambodian Agri Business Development Facilitate*) to increase community uptake and benefit through value chain approaches. A range of smaller scale initiatives have been trialed as potential community livelihood enhancement actions, including tourism & handicraft (as above), livestock and bamboo.

#### **Water Infrastructures for Heritage and Community benefits**

- 13 water gates were built in the Angkor Park in order to control the on groundwater for maintaining heritage and community supplies, especially agriculture purpose.

#### **Economic Development through Agriculture & Livestock**

- 24 families got support with technique, materials and seed to start up SRI (System of Rice Intensification) activity.
- 12 farmers from different villages selected voluntarily to apply technique provided in commercial vegetable farming while the modern drip irrigation system attached.
- 2 mobile and 2 fixed solar pumps installed for vegetable crop irrigation.
- 2,710 bamboo seedlings distributed to 890 families.
- 282 families planted fruit trees around their house.
- 7 families applied technique provided in growing mushroom in order to increase their income after their main job.

- 2,132 tree seedlings planted along the canal at Daun Keo commune.
- 1,576 tree seedlings planted at 13 schools.
- 103 families started up Khmer chickens raising activity after they got support from the project both technique and species.
- 129 kg of catfish & kranh fingerlings distribute to 43 families to start up fish raising for their income improvement.
- 9 self-help groups established by the project and 6 existing SHG (*Self Health Group*) handed over by ADDA (*Agriculture Development Denmark Asia*) to ACHA continuing. Outstanding loans from SHG are divided into three purposes, such as agriculture, small business operation, and emergency needs.