

The BP Conservation Programme

BP Award 2005

Training Report

Prek Svay village (Areng), Tma Daun Pov commune,
Tma Bang district, Koh Kong province

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Study Area

Cambodia Turtle Conservation Project (CTCP) is the project to explore the Chelonian in Cardamom Mountain. In 2004, we conducted interviews and biological surveys on turtle distribution, composition, relative abundance, and threats. As the results we found many new records for CCPF. One endangered, five vulnerable and one near threatened species of turtles and tortoises were confirmed in the study sites. From 2005 until now, the project has also extended some more activities such turtle awareness to local people, school kids, rangers and the publics.

Tma Daun Pov is located along Areng valley where we found many turtle and tortoise species that are facing threats leading to extinct in the wild in the near future. In this commune has two villages, they are Prek Sla and Khcham Khla villages. The training was conducted only in Prek Sla village to train the local community and students in the village. The training's purpose is to provide education and awareness and importance of turtle in the ecosystem and to persuade them helping conserve these species. The commune is considered as the rich habitat for turtles and tortoises and many threats are presented in the area. Many species were found in the commune such as impressed tortoise- *Manouria impressa*, elongated tortoise- *Indotestudo elongata*, giant Asian pond turtle, *Heosemys grandis*, black marsh turtle- *Siebenrockiella crassicolis*, Asiatic softshell turtle- *Amyda cartilaginea*, Asian leaf turtle- *Cyclemys atripons*.

Participants

We selected local people by cooperating with commune chief and CI community leader. We chose both men and women. They are commune chief, village chief, community committee, local police, local people, and school kids. So in total we invited 76 trainees to participated in the training.

Methods

We designed the lesson for both trainings to local people and students before we went to the field. To make training going smoothly, we wrote lesson on paper board such as purpose of the training, key words definition- conservation, biodiversity, environment, turtle, and soft-shell turtle and the other questions related to the turtle and soft-shell turtle. We have used open questions for local people and students for group discussion and wrote their answers on the given papers and showing to other groups. The team members also helped to write answers as well as they are not familiar with writing. During teaching period, we also used turtle and tortoise photos to make sure which species presented in this area and let them understand a little bit of the ecology of the turtle.

After finished training, we have twelve questions for reminding them of turtle conservation understanding and perspective of the turtle threatened. For all the questions, we have some incentive-book, pencil, and pen for students, and scarf, hat, and soap for local people who answered questions fairly. Every answer was noted in notebook for training for reported.

Training result

Thirty-three students and forty-four local people including the authority and committee of the community participated in the training. After we finished the lesson students and local people understand of the turtle and tortoise conservation.

We also asked the trainee to brainstorm idea of their understanding regarding the lessons. The lesson was set up from general information of wildlife and turtle and tortoise. Questions used in the training are 1) what is the definition of the conservation, biodiversity, environment, turtle, and soft-shell turtle? 2) Why we need to conserve wildlife? 3) How many turtle and tortoise species in Cambodia? 4) How many turtle species in your village? 5) How many kinds of threats on turtle in your area? 6) How can we reduce these kinds of threats to turtle and tortoise? 7) How do you think if turtle will extinct in the future?

To identify each species of turtle, we used the turtle photos to show to trainees to make sure which species are occurring in their area. Among twelve species we asked they confirmed 6 species are in the area (Asian leaf turtle, Elongated tortoise, Impressed tortoise, Giant Asian pond turtle, Black marsh turtle Asiatic soft-shell turtle), two species probably extinct in their area (Asian box turtle and Malayan snail-eating turtle). Some people said about yellow-headed turtle temple that is dwelling in area close to the sea and significantly three people confirmed about critically endangered Royal turtle- *batagur baska* in a river close to Chiphat. The river connects to the sea through the second ferry and the river is close to the river where this species inhabits. So we think that it should me more survey along this river to find out more about home range of this species.

Table 1:1 The species present in area:

Code	Species	% of turtle that people use to see
A	Asian leaf turtle	90 %
B	Elongated tortoise	100 %
C	Asian box turtle (in the past)	10 %
D	Impressed tortoise	15.79 %
E	Giant Asian pond turtle	67.5 %
F	Black marsh turtle	100 %
G	Asiatic soft-shell turtle	100 %

Local people perspectives of main threatened factor:

- People use turtle for food.
- People use turtle for trade purpose
- Use net, fishing line and trap to hunt turtle
- Use dog hunting during collect NTFP
- Habitat destruction
- Deforestation
- People clearing the forest for agriculture
- Natural disaster such as increasing the temperature, and drought
- People using electric for shocking

Threat reduction (local and student ideas)

- Don't sale the turtle
- Reduce and stop to eat turtle
- Don't hunted with dogs
- Don't burn the forest for cultivation
- Don't use trap and hook
- Don't use electric for shocking
- Don't catch it

Conclusion and discussion

In conclusion, we observed that the training was a success course because many trainees participated and they were so active in the training such as discussion, questioning, answering and recommendations. It sounds like local people and kids are still interested with getting new ideas of the wildlife conservation especially the turtle conservation as this have never had in their area before. Moreover, they could remember each species of the turtle without confusing even if some are extinct from their area and they definitely know the right habitat for each species. They are quite understanding and aware of the main threats to turtles and tortoises and they were also performing their sorry to the loss of some species and they said they would help conserve their natural resources for their next generation.

Training activities



Team providing ideas



People identifying turtles



Students reading lesson to others



Raising hands for answering



Team providing gift to people



Team offering gift to kid