



Internship title: Marine turtle conservation project intern

Start Date of internship: 11th January 2023

End Date of internship: 31st December 2023

Name of host organization: Fauna & flora Saving Nature Together, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Aim Summarized: Support FFI Cambodia's CMCP marine species project and Assisting FFI staff with both office and field work activities.

Name of intern: Ngoun Tharamony

Name of job title of Supervisor: Tak Chandara (primary supervisor)
Marine Biodiversity Specialist, CMCP, FFI Cambodia
Matt Glue (Secondary supervisor)
Project Manager, CMCP, FFI Cambodia

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Executive Summary

The aim of this internship was to strengthen sea turtle conservation along the coastal in Cambodia which is focusing on conducting awareness raising/ workshop engagement in collaboration with Fisheries Administration counterparts, Local Authorities, community, and key stakeholder and education through carrying out training on marine conservation and sea turtle related and data combination number of sea turtle tags have been applied and their number sequence for addition to the national data base. This internship program included three mains themes: Capacity building for the local Authorities, young generation, sea turtle by-catch data combination in Cambodia and I also have an opportunity to support and join basic training of marine species and ecosystem as underwater technical survey as Coral reef monitoring/Substrate, Fish Survey, Invertebrate survey, Seagrass survey. However, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing remain a major threat to the marine environment. The role of internship is support the sea turtle conservation project through the coastal and marine conservation Program's (CMCP) and Marine habitat survey and training project. Additionally, the internship involved participation in communications, primarily through social media which is an effective tool for raising awareness of marine conservation. At the end of the internship, I have gained a skillset in marine conversion which will be applied in good use and serve the Cambodia's marine conservation.

Introduction

The internship has been of great value and importance to marine biodiversity conservation in Cambodia. In particular, my internship was primarily focused on the work of the Marine turtle conservation program in Cambodian coastal and marine ecosystem program, through biophysical surveys and conducting workshop/awareness raising. The internship was based in Phnom Penh, hosted by Fauna and Flora Saving Nature Together and occasionally conducting field across Cambodia's coastal provinces of Koh Kong, Sihanouk Vile (Fig 1).

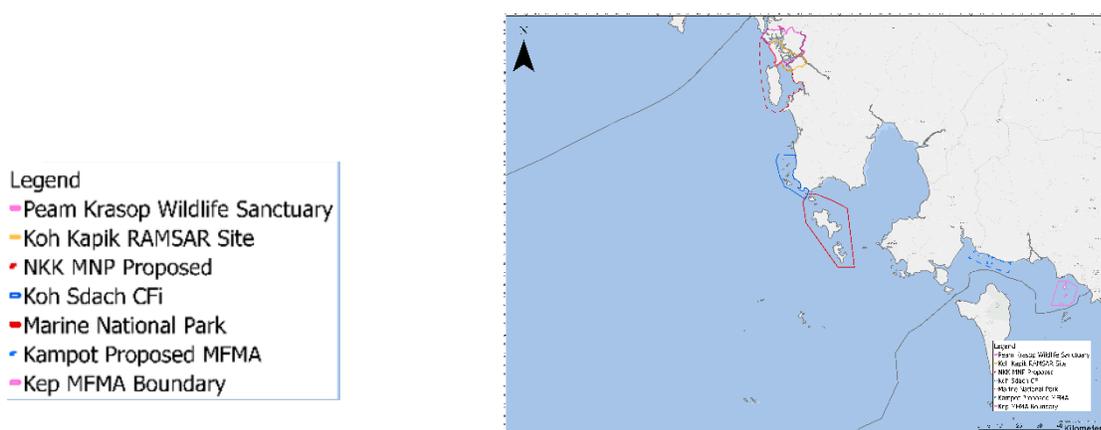


Figure 1 FFI Cambodia's marine field sites across the Cambodia coastline.

The Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme (CMCP) of FFI, with support from US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) is a partnership between FFI and the Royal Government of Cambodia departments of Fisheries Administration (FiA). The goal is to understanding activities that threaten sea turtle populations in Cambodia, such as trawling resulting in by-catch must be asessed and reduced to support their conservation. Furthermore, the protection and identification of crucial sea turtle nesting beaches are vital to ensure the longevity of Cambodia's nesting population. To archive this, assessments of community attitudes towards sea turtle by-catch targeted awareness-raising at hotspots, and engagement training with the sea turtle patrol network will be conducted across the coastline.

Aim and Objectives

The internship aimed to strengthen sea turtle conservation along the coastal in Cambodia which is focusing on conducting awareness raising/ workshop engagement in collaboration with Fisheries Administration counterparts, Local Authorities, community, and key stakeholder and education through carrying out training on marine conservation and sea turtle related and data combination number of sea turtle tags have been applied and their number sequence for addition to the national data base. Additionally, I also have an opportunity to support and join basic training of marine species and ecosystem as underwater technical survey as Coral reef monitoring/Substrate, Fish Survey, Invertebrate survey, Seagrass survey.

Activities and Methodology

Key activities during the internship included:

Building the capacity and knowledge of marine turtle conservation through conducting awareness raising/ providing workshop engagement to local community and schools. Workshops were adapted to suit the needs of the community for them to understand easier according to their level of education. I have especially learnt how to deal with government and communities in relation to conducting these workshops and logistical support for the local authorities, community, school capacity building training focusing on sea turtle conservation. Additionally, this internship included participation to support and join the training how to conduct the underwater survey as coral reef and seagrass monitoring.

However, during providing the awareness raising of sea turtle conservation with local community the team still got the report of illegal fishing activities and unregulated/unreported fishing remains a major threat to the marine environment.

During the internship, I successfully completed the sea turtle by catch data cleaning in 123 survey app and I have support conducted awareness raising for sea turtle conservation through presentations, sea turtle nesting beaches patrol or other communication with community members and coastal stakeholders, I also have opportunity to join the underwater survey training as marine habitat surveys were conducted in Koh Rong Archipelago and around the remote offshore islands under FFI project. Additionally, I also have been involved the in other key project activities, such as supporting sustainable finance team to conducted assessment with CFIs to understand situation of CFIs as meeting minutes note included species list inventory.

Outputs and result

The capacity building training for the Navy (35-50 attendees) on the remote offshore islands and sea turtle volunteer on nesting beach patrol, sea turtle identification and nest relocating was highly successful. Additionally, the team have conducted the workshop with the local community with 30-50 attendees and school with 40-50 attendees along the coastal province. All participants in the training had an excellent attitude to learn and asking question during the lectures. The participants successfully completed the training and attained the sea turtle conservation certification.

During the internship, I joined sharing the communication videos to raise awareness of marine endanger species conservation (as Sea turtle species), marine biodiversity conservation and also promoting involvement of women in marine conservation. Other more, I have an opportunity to support and join basic training of marine species and ecosystem as underwater technical survey with certificate which is can be an active and supporting member of team collecting data as Coral reef monitoring/Substrate, Fish Survey, Invertebrate survey, Seagrass survey under the Cambodia marine habitat monitoring protocol included got the PADI dive advance open water certified.

Achievement and impacts

This internship has been great learning journey for me, where I get to learn many skills and knowledge. I joined the Asia-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium (APCRS), receiving. The marine survey certification (such as coral reef monitoring, invertebrate, fish survey, sea grass survey), coral spawning training and also receiving dive PADI advance open water certification that is not only allow me to explore the underwater survey and I also help me to understand more how the marine biodiversity link with Ecosystem and also allow me to continues to be involve with marine science conservation.

Additionally, these skills can be used to support of team in collecting data under the Cambodian monitoring network protocol and will be useful for marine management strategies in Cambodia, I also get more information of Sea Turtle by conduct awareness raising that can be involvement of Cambodia women into marine conservation. This awareness raising, conducted with schools and communities will be a foundation to ensuring that coastal communities in the future value keeping sea turtles alive, rather than selling for trade.

The capacity building of sea turtle volunteers that I was part of was incredibly successful. They had shown their abilities through finding and identifying 9 mores nest on the remote's islands. This has been considered as a very key step in strengthening coastal management and the protection of sea turtles on the remote Cambodian islands in the future.

This internship has helped to give me the opportunity to develop myself into a real professional in marine conservation environment.

Conclusion

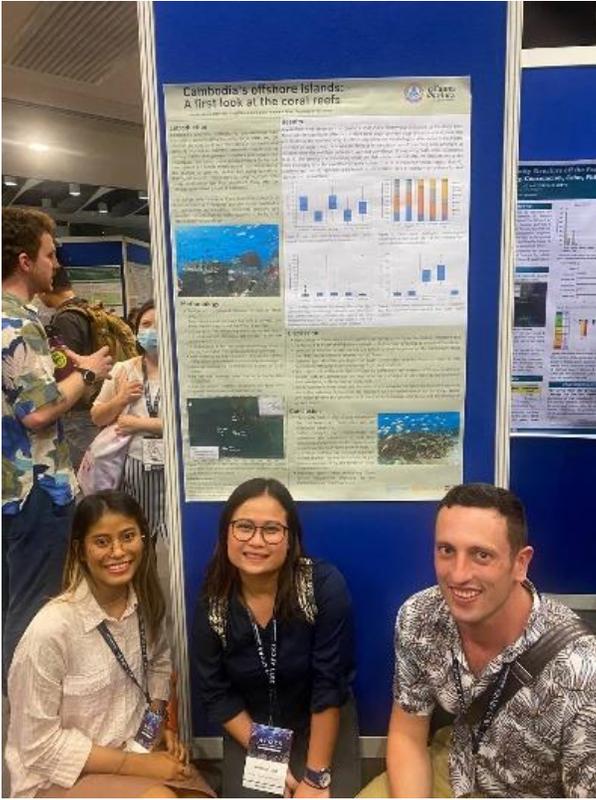
Since the beginning, after one year of this internship has been a school to me that I can get a great opportunity to improve my skill and knowledge to work in marine conservation program in Cambodia. As marine habitat monitoring, conducting the awareness raising with local community, I know how to deal with the government and local authorities, especially working as a team with the partners NGOs, working with the supply company. And these skills can be applied in a good use and serve Cambodian marine conservation.

I would like to thank to the Conservation Leadership Programme and hosted by FFI Cambodia with all requirements fully supported and I would like to thanks to my internship's supervisor Mr. Matt Glue and Mr. Tak Chandara for their continuous support and supervision during the whole year of my internship. Also want to thank the FFI CMCP team, the team is amazing and never failed to make feel welcome and continues to teach and train me to become better. There are always new skill and knowledges for me to learn. Being able to join national interprovincial meeting is such an opportunity which allow me to know how government work in conservation as well as how NGOs approach and partner with government, local authorities and community to find a mutual benefit that serves natural resource conservation to development of the country. Additionally, I am very happy and appreciate to learn new skill and knowledges from my spirit team.

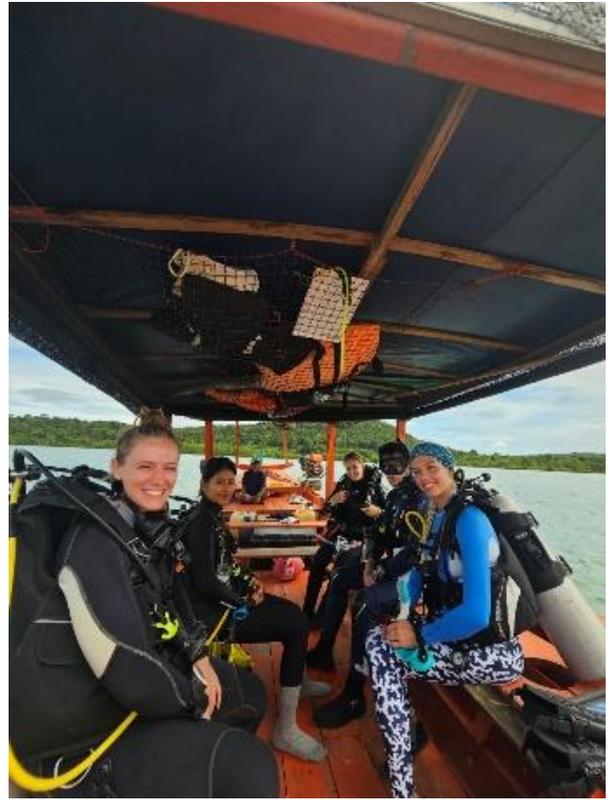
Appendices



Conducting awareness raising of sea turtle with local community and primary school kid.



During joined presentation about
Cambodia Offshore Island in APCRS



During joined the seagrass training



During deep dive PADI Advance Open water
course



During joined Coral Spawning training



Refresh identification of Sea Turtle Tract and nesting beaches survey activities.





During Marine habitat monitoring and survey around remote island





Bibliography

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