

## ADF Report 2015

Dear all,

Please find below the ADF Annual Progress Report for 2015, both for the archaeology and the development component.

### ARCHAEOLOGY:

#### Maintenance and conservation program:

- Land mine & Uxo removal program: As most of the major archaeological sites in Phnom Kulen have already been demined during the previous campaign and as ADF was not excavating in 2015, no coordination of demining operation was implemented by ADF this year. Since the beginning of our program in 2008, 36 hectares has been cleared of mines and UXO by CMAA thanks to our coordination. This concern lands on archaeological sites (for maintenance by APSARA team & excavation) and areas in the villages, benefitting the local population of Phnom Kulen.

The 2014 demining campaign, funded by ADF, has highlighted that the base-line survey, centralizing all the data concerning the potential dangerous areas (as well as the demined areas) is not up-to-date, accurate and, in some cases, wrong. This was reported to the relevant authorities (CMAA: Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, APSARA, Ministry of Environment).

ADF has led a visit from CMAA for a field trip on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 to assess the situation on site.

- Assistance to APSARA National Authority for the heritage management in Phnom Kulen: ADF is continuing the assistance to APSARA for the conservation and the maintenance of the archaeological sites in Phnom Kulen.

APSARA's human and material resources were substantially increased in July 2015, totalizing 3 archaeologists and 47 workers, for more than 40 archaeological sites to maintain regularly. Some of them require permanent guards, as they are very visited (1000 linga, Prasat Krol Romeas and Preah Ang Thom pagoda) and a system of waste management still needs to be implemented with the other parties (Ministry of Environment, Private company, local authorities...).

More than 800 hectares of Archaeological Protected Areas (APA), set up by ADF and APSARA from 2011 to January 2015, also require guards to insure their protection.

A regular survey must be done to check the monuments and to prevent structures to collapse. Their risk map has been done by ADF in 2011 and delivered to APSARA. ADF continues to advice APSARA for a better management of these sites and APA, as for the various activities and work plans.

After the complete topographical survey of the 1000 linga site and Kbal

Spain, the information signboards have been finalized in 2015. The text still remains to be written and they should be installed in 2016.

In September 2015, a visit at the Preah Norodom Sihanouk museum was organized by ADF for 40 of the Phnom Kulen villagers and workers, in order to show them the artifacts discovered during the previous campaign and to bring awareness about the Khmer Heritage.

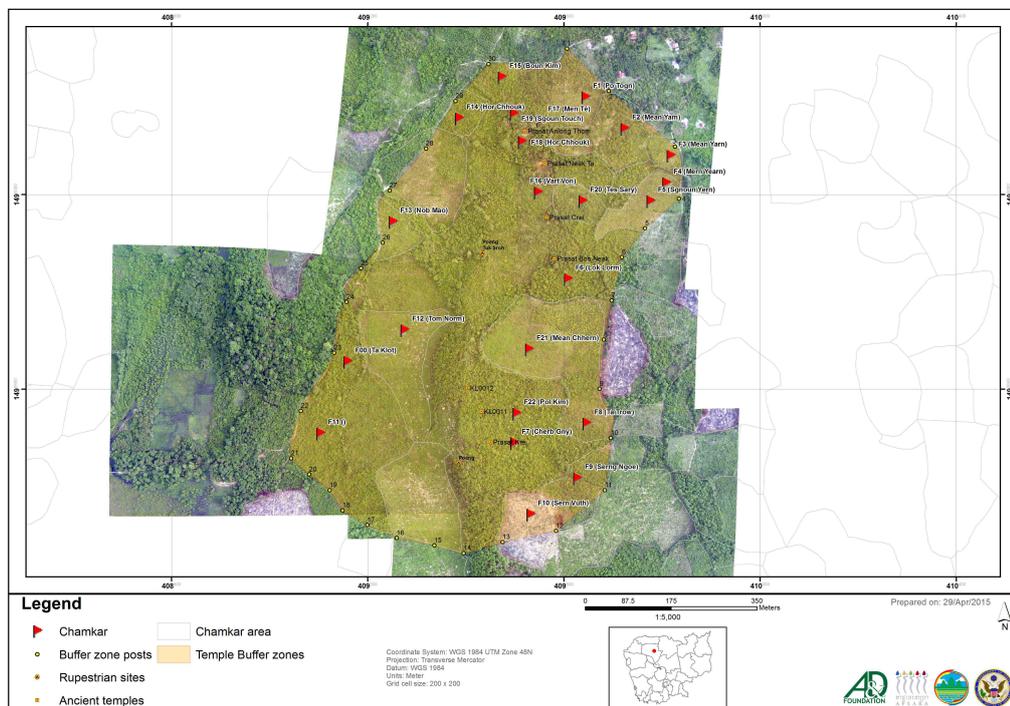
Finally, ADF has been facilitating the project of the restoration of an Angkorian dike (Thnal Dac), requested by the villagers to APSARA, in order to rehabilitate a reservoir and offer alternative livelihood (fish raising, boat trip). This project, if accepted by APSARA, could be done in 2016.



**New posts/rope to prevent villagers to wash vehicles at the 1000 linga, Preah Ang Thom, by APSARA, June 2015.**

- Assistance to the Ministry of Environment (MoE) for the Management of Phnom Kulen National Park: ADF has been one of the main actors from the field to provide information for the design of the Kulen Management Plan, under the supervision of the MoE.
- Restoration of artifacts: No restoration of sandstone artifacts was implemented in 2015. In order to better preserve the sandstone artifact discovered during the previous excavation at Prasat Thma Dap (2009) and Prasat Damrei Krap (2010), ADF and APSARA team have removed them from the centre of the tower and placed them against the walls of these two temples. ADF has funded the restoration by the Metal Conservation Laboratory from the National Museum of Cambodia of 4 metallic objects, from the 2013 and 2014 campaign.  
Sandstone inventories: ADF has finalized the inventories of sandstones artifacts in the Phnom Kulen Archeological sites. Using the APSARA form, the total inventory initiated in 2010 and 2011 was summarized in a complete report by January 2016.

- Archaeological Protected areas (APA):** This activity was continued until January 2015 in the framework of the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation (US-AFCP, “Mapping, documentation and preservation of newly discovered Angkorian sites on Kulen Mountain”), granted to ADF in July 2013. 800 hectares in 5 different areas are now demarcated with cement post every 60 meters and signboards, protecting the archaeological sites from destructive agricultural practices. Signboards in the villages have also been installed. Numerous meetings with local authorities and villagers have been held to stress the importance of the environment and the heritage. Activities in primary schools (Anlong Thom, Phum Thmey and Khlah Khmum) were organized to build awareness on the same topic for the young generation. The APSARA Authority and the Ministry of Environment, as well as the provincial Authorities have officially recognized the APA, respectively on the 21<sup>st</sup> May and the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015. They still require an appropriate law. APSARA and ADF have implemented a pilot project of reforestation in Prasat Neak Ta APA. In July 2015, 5000 trees were planted in 11 cashew nut farm and poor affected villagers were proposed alternative solutions (mostly chicken raising) by ADF. Previously ADF identified and surveyed all cashew nut farm owners, in each APA.



**Map of the Neak Ta Archaeological Protected Area with identified farmers, April 2015.**

**Archaeological research, diffusion/communication and training:**

- Lidar results from 2012:**  
 The work related to the discovery with the Lidar technology in 2012 of the

ancient urban system has been continued in 2015. The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (US-AFCP) allows ADF to survey the sites and to establish a detailed archaeological map of Phnom Kulen, using a geo-database, recording more than 1000 features, divided in 14 categories. The ADF team has verified on the ground more than 340 features, and the archaeological map of Phnom Kulen is being updated.

The road project, planned to cross the entire plateau and planned in the near future, should take into consideration these archaeological data. In 2014, ADF provided to APSARA National Authority maps highlighting the features discovered thanks to the Lidar along the track. This implicate the importance of a general consultation between all parties, as well as preventive archaeological operations.

The Lidar campaign in 2015 was initiated by EFEO under the CALI project and is covering 5 major archaeological sites in Cambodia. The bigger acquisition area is the entire range of the Phnom Kulen National Park, from Varin district to Beng Mealea temple. ADF is associated to the project and the team has been facilitating the acquisition by temporarily halting the slash and burn activities with the help of the local authorities, during the acquisition period (April). Since November 2015, ADF has been associated with the digitization of the features discovered and field verifications will start in 2016. updating the Phnom Kulen Archaeological map.

- Data analyze, diffusion and communication:  
ADF have participated in two documentaries (Blue Media, Gedeon) that were broadcasted in Cambodia and France in 2015. Two publications were prepared for the BEFEO and Aséanie. Further are expected in 2016 (Arts Asiatiques...). ADF has also participated in the EURASEAA Conference in Paris-Nanterre in July 2015 and presented its work to APSARA (9th February) and to the Ministry of Environment (26<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> April).  
The archaeological data from the previous excavations are currently being processed. A series of 6 unknown inscriptions were stamped in Kbal Spean and shared with the Corpus des inscriptions khmères (CIK).
- Training: The close collaboration between the APSARA and the ADF archaeologist during the various activities has also provided a platform for field training to the APSARA local staff (archaeologist and local workers). ADF has hired a graduated student for a month to combine the artifacts inventories from the previous years.

#### **DEVELOPMENT:**

- Income generation component: As for the previous 5 years, ADF is continuing the support to local villagers. The objective is to replace the existing environmentally destructive agricultural practices (e.g. slash & burn combined with cashew nut farming), by sustainable alternatives and environmentally friendly sources of incomes for the population of Khnong Phnom commune. ADF propose technical assistance and materials to the families to undertake animal raising (chicken), small-scale mushroom farming and seasonal vegetable growing. ADF is closely monitoring the incomes and expenses of each of these 26 families beneficiaries and extending their numbers.

- Since 2014, ADF is also managing a large mushroom production center in Preah Ang Thom village, acting as a cooperative, a training center and a hub for other products and producers from remote villages, creating the link between the producers/farmers and the important market.



**Mushroom farmer at Sangke Lak village, sept. 2015.**

- ADF is also working closely with the private sector (Terre Cambodge travel Agency) to ensure that incomes from the tourism in remote villages are benefiting the local villagers (home stay, guards, guides, shared activities...).
- ADF participated to the setting up of Nature trails, in the vicinity of Preah Ang Thom. The trails have been created by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and local residents to protect the high diversity of flora and fauna, to prevent further deforestation, and to provide sustainable, alternative livelihoods for community members in the park.
- ADF is facilitating since November 2015 the studies implemented by the School of Fields Studies, the largest environmental study abroad program in the United States, with a research collaboration program focusing on natural Resource Governance and Management and Livelihoods and the Environment Interface in the Phnom Kulen National Park.
- Along with the demarcation of the Archaeological Protected Areas, ADF is also involved in the environmental protection by combining data to the geo-database about the environmental threats, and by disseminating them to the relevant authorities (Ministry of Environment, APSARA, District and commune authorities...).
- The site visit of H. E. Say Samal, Minister of the Environment, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2015, organised by ADF, has shown the commitment of the Government to move towards a better management and conservation of the National Park (PKNP). The Phnom Kulen Master Plan will plan to focus on addressing the issues of the PKNP and ADF is associated to the discussions.
- Nevertheless, the traditional destructive agricultural practices (slash & burn combined with cashew nut farming) are still largely used in Phnom Kulen

National Park. Less than 20% of forest cover left will disappear in the next few months, if no other major alternative solutions are implemented on a large scale, and if the environmental laws are not enforced. Illegal logging and land encroachment are still continuing.



**Deforestation of Phnom Kulen, slash-and-burn and cashew nut farming, April 2015**

- The nutritional health & hygiene component was continued over the year 2015. This nutrition and health component is targeting 4 villages (Popel, Phum Thmey, Sangke Lak and Khlah Khmum) and focusing on malnourished children from 0 to 5 year old and their mothers. At the beginning of the year the malnourishment rate was 45% for the children in the 4 villages. According to the last results and despite ADF efforts, the malnutrition rate for the children has slightly increased in the 4 villages. A close collaboration with the Commune Health Centre is established to assist severe health cases and assistance is provided if transport to Siem Reap hospital is required. A second phase of this component is expected to be fund in 2016-2017.



**A Mother feeds her kid at a feeding center (Popel village)**

- ADF team is also over-looking the management of the rice bank in Thma Tchuogn village. Its objective is to alleviate food insecurity amongst the target population (34 poor families).
- The educational enhancement & support of primary schools in Khnong Phnom commune has been developed in 2015. The objective of this component is to entice the children of the villages to attend school, to raise the educational standards and to build awareness of child rights to the pupils and to the population of Phnom Kulen. ADF has provided material support according the teachers needs. In Ta Peng and Anlong Thom village, the main school building were renovated, playgrounds and bins installed, tree nurseries were built, tree planted, other facilities repaired and games and books disseminated.  
 Following the request from the teacher, ADF has also organized the plantation of trees by the pupils at the Khlah Khmum primary school, with seedling from the APSARA tree nursery.



ARCHAEOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION  
PHNOM KULEN PROGRAM

---



**Playground and tree nursery at Anlong Thom primary school, October 2015**

Thank you for your support and collaboration!

The ADF Team.