ADF Report 2014

Dear all,

Please find below the ADF Annual Progress Report for 2014, both for the archaeology and the development component.

ARCHAEOLOGY:

Maintenance and conservation program:

- Land mine & Uxo removal program: As stated in the MoU between ADF and the APSARA National Authority, CMAC teams should be deployed thanks to APSARA and coordinated by ADF and APSARA. Due to new regulations, ADF could not benefit from the CMAC team usually allocated to the program for the last 6 years\(^1\). In 2014, ADF had to fund the demining by the Royal Cambodian Army (Infantry Engineering Military, Phnom Penh) of 3 areas for a total of 4 additional hectares. This is a major issue that could affect our program next year, as well as other team in Angkor region, if an appropriate solution is not found. ADF is still requiring the assistance of the APSARA National Authority to solve this issue for the 2015 campaign.

- 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 all the archaeological sites in Phnom Kulen. Human and material resources are still very limited (3 archaeologists and 10 workers in November 2014) for more than 40 archaeological sites to maintain regularly. Others require permanent guards, as they are very visited (1000 linga, Prasat Krol Romeas and Preah Ang Thom pagoda) or not managed properly.

- After the complete topographical survey of the 1000 linga site and Kbal Spean, the information signboards will be finalized in 2015. More than 800 hectares of Archaeological Protected Areas (APA), set up by ADF and APSARA, also require guards to insure their protection. Finally, a regular survey must be done on monuments to prevent structures to collapse. Their risk map has been done by ADF in 2011 and delivered to APSARA.

• Restoration of artifacts: 3 ceramics from Banteay were restored in July 2014 and the Stone Conservation Unit from APSARA has delivered the report of the ADF funded operation at Srah Damrei.

• Protected areas: This activity has continued until the end of 2014 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. Up to day, 800 hectares, in 5 different areas, are demarcated with cement post every 60 meters and signboards. The APSARA resources have to be reinforced to protect the numerous archaeological sites form destructive agricultural practices. These zones still need a jurisdictional recognition by the APSARA National Authority and the Royal Government of Cambodia, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, in charge of the Phnom Kulen National Park.

A pilot project of reforestation of these zones is being draft by ADF and APSARA. It will be undertaken if APSARA human resources are
reinforced.

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 is still ongoing. 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 geodatabase. The ADF team has verified on the ground more than 200 features, and the archaeological map of Phnom Kulen is being updated. The road project, planned to cross the entire plateau, should take into consideration these archaeological data. They were given to the APSARA National Authority, to highlight the importance of a general consultation between all parties, as well as preventive archaeological operations. Funds for a complementary Lidar campaign (in 2015) are currently searched; they would allow knowing the exact extension of the ancient capital in Phnom Kulen.

- **Data analyze, diffusion and communication:**
  The archaeological data from the 2014 excavation are currently being processed, in order to write the annual report. ADF have participated in various documentaries (Gedeon, BBC, and 2 others from France 3 channel) that were broadcasted or are still under editing. Various scientific publications are currently being prepared and will be published in BEFEO, Aséanie, Arts Asiatiques, Udaya and Antiquity during the year 2015 and 2016. ADF has also participated in the Siem Reap Conferences on Special Topics in Khmer Studies, in December 2014.

- **Training:** One of the 2 trainees (graduated student from RUFA) selected for
the excavation phase was employed by ADF until the end of 2014, giving an opportunity to improve her skills and experience. A close collaboration between the APSARA and the ADF archaeologist during the demarcation of the protected areas has also provided a platform for field training to the APSARA local staff (archaeologist and local workers). The same concept will continue in 2015.

**DEVELOPMENT:**

- **Income generation component:** 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 environmentally friendly sources of incomes for the population of Khlong Phnom commune (animal raising: chicken and fish raising, small scale mushroom farming and seasonal vegetable growing). ADF is now closely monitoring the incomes and expenses of each of these beneficiaries and extending their numbers.

In 2014, ADF has set up 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.

ADF is also working closely with the private sector (Terre Cambodge travel Agency) to ensure that incomes from the tourism industry are benefiting the local villagers (home stay, guards, guides, shared activities…).

ADF is also involved in the environmental protection by defining the Archaeological Protected Areas, by completing the geodatabase on the environmental threats, and by disseminating them to the relevant authorities (Ministry of Environment, APSARA, District and commune...).
Nevertheless, the traditional destructive agricultural practices (slash & burn combined with cashew nut farming) are still largely used in Phnom Kulen National Park. The 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 is still going on.

The nutritional health & hygiene component was reactivated in June 2014, with funding for 2 more years. After a baseline survey, it has started in 2 villages (Popel and Phum Thmey) and extended to two others (Sangke Lak and Khlah Khmum) in November. It is focusing on malnourished children from 0 to 5 year old and their mothers. The previous program (2012-2014) has reduced of 28.5% the malnutrition rate for children in the 5-targeted villages. At the beginning of the program the malnourishment rate was as high as 58% in some villages. If extra funds are available, this program could be extended in 2015 to all the villages in Khnong Phnom commune. 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.
• ADF team is also managing the rice bank pilot project in Thma Tchruogn village, which objective is to alleviate food insecurity amongst the target population. The early initial indicators are looking positive.
• The educational enhancement & support of primary schools in Khnong Phnom commune has been reduced due to lack of funding and human resources. ADF provide material support if needed and according the teachers needs. 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.

Thank you for your support and collaboration!

The ADF Team.