



SONG SAA FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2016





MISSION

"With a focus on protecting marine life, the Song Saa Foundation is committed to the rehabilitation, preservation, and continued growth of ocean habitats in the costal and marine zone of Cambodia."

A large sea turtle is swimming in clear blue water. The turtle's shell is a mix of green and brown with distinct scutes. Its flippers are extended, and its head is visible. The water is filled with small bubbles, suggesting movement. The overall tone is serene and natural.

VISION

"A flourishing ecosystem of marine life that contributes stabilization and healthy habitats to the natural development of Cambodia."

A photograph of two men on a boat in Cambodia. The man on the left is in the foreground, looking towards the right. The man on the right is standing on the boat, gesturing with his hands. The boat is red and blue, and the water is blue. The background shows a coastline with hills.

GOALS

Provide leadership and innovation in protecting Cambodia's coastal marine environment

Enhance the regenerative, resilient and restorative powers of natural marine ecosystems and communities.

Build awareness of marine conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable community development.

A person is seen from behind, walking on a wooden boardwalk along a beach. They are carrying a large, full white plastic bag over their shoulder, which is overflowing with discarded plastic bottles. The background shows a clear blue sky and the ocean.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2. MISSION
- 3. VISION
- 4. GOALS
- 6. FROM THE FOUNDERS
- 7. MILESTONES
- 10. THE 2016 FOUNDATION TEAM
- 12. PARTNERS
- 17. PROJECT OPERATIONS

FROM THE FOUNDERS

"On behalf of the entire team at the Song Saa Foundation, we would like to extend a huge "thank you" to all of our donors and partners who have helped make 2016 our most successful and impactful year to date!

Cambodia's coastal marine environment and the surrounding communities are extremely fragile ecosystems. Without a combination of scientifically grounded conservation, education, provision of basic healthcare, and livelihood development, this incredibly beautiful part of the planet, which captivated our hearts when we first explored the Archipelago in 2006, could become irreparably damaged in the years ahead. More action is needed to protect the natural environment as well as provide stewardship and sustainable opportunities for those who call the Archipelago home.

While we're very proud of our achievements, we realise this is only the beginning of what is a long and challenging road ahead in protecting and nurturing Cambodia's marine environment and the communities it supports for generations to come.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you and know that, with your on-going support, we can further scale our operations and institute significant positive impact that all of our children can be proud of.

In deep appreciation,

Rory and Melita Hunter
Co-Founders, Song Saa Foundation



MILESTONES



2008 - 2012

- Established Cambodia's first community fishery and Marine Protected Area, setting the basis for the Song Saa Foundation

2013

- First Boat of Hope mission undertaken to bring the Foundation's work to out-laying island communities.
- First joint medical mission, undertaken with the US-based International Medical Relief, brings world-class health care to the residents of the Archipelago with over \$1m USD in medical supplies and support

2014

- The Foundation launches its Tropical Marine Conservation Programme.
- Prince Albert II of Monaco visits the Archipelago and reviews the work being undertaken by the Song Saa Foundation.
- Sighting of rare whale shark; the first recorded in the Koh Rong Archipelago this decade.
- Foundation provides first dedicated internet link to an Archipelago school.

2015

- Commencement of a seagrass conservation supported by the Waterloo Foundation and Cardiff University.
- In collaboration with People + Culture Strategies, the Great Opportunities Scholarship is initiated, providing higher learning opportunities and support for teenagers from the Archipelago.
- Completion of mangrove nursery, supporting the rehabilitation of mangrove forests along the shorelines of the Archipelago.
- The Foundation is listed as a "Top-Rated Non-profit" by Great Non-profits, a US-based review platform for NGOs worldwide.
- Working with the Cambodian government, the Foundation helped design and implement the Kingdom's first marine 'national park'—the 44,500 hectare Koh Rong Archipelago Marine Fisheries Management Area.

2016

- Commence distribution of iron supplements to island families in collaboration with Lucky Iron Fish.
- The Foundation awarded grant by the Asian Development Bank for climate change mitigation activities in the Archipelago.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service provide support to the Foundation for sea turtle conservation.
- Introduction of a mobile floating library to promote literacy in the Archipelago.
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment, strengthening the Foundation's relationship with the government of Cambodia.

GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

The Song Saa Foundation has operated since April 2013. A multinational board oversees the budget and strategic development of the Foundation, with an annual general meeting held to ratify accounts and any board mandated resolutions.

The Numbers

- Income in 2016 - \$225, 210.
- Expenditure in 2016 - \$202, 510 (Programme \$116, 331, General and Administrative \$86, 179).
- Surplus over expenditure - \$22, 700.
- Major project expenditures – Tropical Marine Conservation Programme (\$27,142), Boat of Hope (\$22,126), Song Saa Sea Turtles youth education programme (\$15, 351).

Achievements in 2016

- The Song Saa Foundation became an officially registered foundation by the Hong Kong Inland Revenue Department with full charitable status with an independent board of conservationists and business professionals.
- The Foundation commenced the process of registering as an international organisation in Cambodia.
- Auditing of Foundation accounts by the independent financial agency, Grant Thornton Ltd., reveals compliance with international standards of accounting procedure and transparency.

Details on the impact of the Foundation's project expenditures are described in the sections that follow.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white shirt, is smiling and clapping her hands. She is surrounded by a group of young children, mostly of South Asian descent, who are also smiling and clapping. The background is a bright blue wall with a grid pattern. The overall mood is joyful and celebratory.

"OUR GREATEST
RESOURCE"

THE FOUNDATION TEAM 2016

WAYNE McCALLUM

Favourite accomplishment of 2016: Arrival of Ahyoka – our dedicated Boat of Hope

“Following a generous donation in early 2016, the Foundation became the proud owner of its very own 12-metre ocean-going yacht—Ahyoka. The boat’s arrival in December was a real highlight, more so with the knowledge that it will allow us to reach new parts of the Archipelago with our work.”

BEN THORNE

Favourite accomplishment of 2016: IMR Mission, 2016

“Every year this special week is a significant highlight. Hosting nearly 30 medical providers from the USA, in partnership with International Medical Relief, we were able to provide clinics and health-based workshops to over 800 people in the Koh Rong Archipelago. There is no more impactful event that the Foundation participates in, and we are delighted to host another mission in 2017.”

FILIPPO CARLI

Favourite accomplishment of 2016: Construction of the Prek Svay School Water Harvesting System

“I chose the building of the water harvesting system with the charity branch of Lush Cosmetics. It was the first project I managed from scratch, from sourcing the materials to the completion of the works and the establishment of a women-led management committee. It was intense and rewarding and I can’t help but feel proud of it.”

KEUT MATTROHET

Favourite accomplishment of 2016: Climate change exhibition at Kampot Writers and Readers Festival

“Showing the photos and sharing the stories from our climate change project was a real highlight for me. Seeing people from around the world read our stories and speak with our village exhibitors was so rewarding, especially as it gave a voice to what often goes unrealised—the mounting impact of climate change on the lives and health of Cambodia’s vulnerable coastal communities.”

SAM HEALY

Favourite accomplishment of 2016: Creation of Koh Rong Archipelago Marine Fisheries Management Area

“In 2016, Cambodia reached a landmark for marine conservation with a signed a proclamation declaring a 405 km² Marine Fisheries Management Area (MFMA). The Song Saa Foundation has played an integral part of this project since its commencement, contributing consultancy support and baseline research in what is the country’s first large-scale marine protection. This legislation will ensure that both people and biodiversity are supported by protecting important and vulnerable habitats while ensuring that local resources will still be available for future generations.”

A woman wearing a blue headband and blue gloves is administering a vaccine to a young girl in an orange shirt. The girl is looking up at the woman. Another child is visible in the background, looking on. The scene is outdoors, possibly at a community health event.

OUR PARTNERS

Since its creation, the work of the Song Saa Foundation has been enhanced through partnerships with numerous organisations and authorities, from Cambodian government ministries through to local and international-charities and agencies. Together these collaborations have enabled the Foundation to operate effectively, connecting it to financial and human resources that have helped it grow.

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Since 2014, TOF has sponsored a fund on behalf of the Foundation that has permitted tax credits for any citizen of the United States making a donation to the Foundation through the facility. This fund has enhanced the willingness of US citizens to contribute to the work of the Foundation.

PRINCE ALBERT OF MONACO FOUNDATION

Since 2015 the Monaco-based foundation has provided support for the marine survey and conservation work of the Song Saa entity. In 2015 Prince Albert II visited the Archipelago, observing firsthand the work that his organisation was supporting.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL RELIEF

The US-based medical charity IMR has completed a yearly five-day mission in the Koh Rong Archipelago, since 2013, bringing world-class healthcare to the separate villages of the island group. From oral surgery to a life-saving blood transfusion, the impact of these annual missions has literally been life changing.



THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

The key authority for the management of protected areas, and the promotion of 'green growth' and sustainable initiatives in Cambodia. Comprised of numerous departments, the Foundation's evolving relationship is with the National Council for Sustainable Development, a cross department section of the ministry.

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

An international organisation established in 51 countries and is one of the largest global agencies working in the area of child development, particularly child participation, education, economic security, emergencies, health and protection. Plan has been active in Cambodia since 2002.

LUCKY IRON FISH

A registered Canadian social enterprise and a certified B-Corp with a mission to improve global health through the development and distribution of the Lucky Iron Fish®, a simple health innovation to combat iron deficiency anemia.

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Founded in the 1960s as a financial institution dedicated to fostering economic growth and cooperation. ADB assists its members and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, and grants to promote sustainable social and economic development.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

A top university based in the United Kingdom. In 2016 they launched a project entitled "Empowering Community Action for Seagrass Conservation in Southeast Asia: Seagrass Meadows Support Food Security". The Song Saa Foundation was invited to be a project partner and collaborator on this initiative.

FAUNA AND FLORA INTERNATIONAL

The world's oldest conservation organisation, this UK-based agency has been an important partner to the Foundation's coastal and marine programme, linking it to financial and technical resources that have helped the Foundation grow its work in the Archipelago.





BOAT OF HOPE

The Boat of Hope has become the Coastal & Marine Programme's most widespread and impactful project. Delivering much needed workshops on health, education, livelihood support, climate change and conservation – whilst distributing medical and educational supplies – the Boat of Hope is changing the lives of the Koh Rong Archipelago's 3000-strong population. In 2016 a dedicated Boat of Hope vessel – a Benetau Oceanis 43 – named "Ahyoka", was donated to the Foundation, enabling work towards scaling its initiatives to one mission per week.

Outputs in 2016 – Missions completed – 15; Number of hours delivering workshops throughout the year – 56; Number of children attending workshops throughout the year – 770; Patients visited by the Song Saa doctor – 105; Number of vitamins distributed throughout the year – >2000 Mosquito nets delivered - 200; All 5 communities in the Koh Rong Archipelago were participants.

"The Boat of Hope is a **hugely impactful** project for local communities because it brings **professional education and healthcare** to people who do not have access to it at all"

- Keut Mattrohet, Community & Conservation Officer

Impacts to-date – Delivery of mosquito nets has reduced children's susceptibility to vector-borne diseases by up to 90%. Delivery of classroom materials has increased educational productivity in four local schools by an estimated 40%. Distribution of multivitamins to families with small children has reduced malnutrition across four villages by up to 50%.



SONG SAA SEA TURTLES

"Before I joined the Song Saa Sea Turtles I did not know anything about my society, but here I have **learned a lot** about **reading** books, the **environment** and **healthcare**. I did a lot of village cleanups, and sports too. I really hope that Song Saa stays in Prek Svay for a long time, to **keep teaching more children**"

– Pov Naroth, Prek Svay School, Student

The Foundation is currently working with local schools and partners to build environmental literacy through a variety of youth-focused educational activities. These collectively seek to improve the overall eco-literacy of the Archipelago's adolescent population. At the centre of this work is the Song Saa Sea Turtles (SSST) programme, an initiative started in 2011. This project entails youth (4 – 18 years) participation in activities that build on the Kingdom's national educational curriculum.

Outputs in 2016 – Number of children attending workshops throughout the year – 762; Number of hours delivering workshops throughout the year – 99; Number of workshops and activities hosted throughout the year – 31; Age range of children within the Song Saa Sea Turtles group – 10-18

Impact to-date – At the end of the 2016 academic year, two Prek Svay students achieved A+ results in national exams for the first time in the community's history. These grades align with some of the best schools in Cambodia, indicating that the Song Saa Sea Turtles project is supporting educational development and higher-calibre students.

TROPICAL MARINE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Tropical Marine Conservation Programme (TMCP) is Cambodia's largest marine conservation project. In partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia's Fisheries Administration and NGO partner, Fauna & Flora International, the Song Saa Foundation is aiding the management of the Kingdom's first large-scale Marine Fisheries Management Area. Our 'citizen-science' volunteers on the TMCP are setting a benchmark for best-practice marine conservation, supporting a project with significant benefits to local environments and communities. By conducting scuba training, reef ecology training and underwater marine surveys, these volunteers are helping the Foundation protect our local natural resources.

Outputs in 2016 – Volunteers on the project – 9 (from the USA, Netherlands, Hong Kong and Australia); '5-star' reviews on Great Nonprofits – 7; Longest single volunteer placement (months) – 4.5; Number of training scuba dives – 350; Number of coral reef survey dives – 67; Number of survey sites visited – 14; Number of endangered giant clams counted – 88

Impact to-date – Conducting marine habitat surveys has allowed the Foundation to identify two hotspots of mangrove deforestation. These areas have now been reforested with 500 sustainably sourced mangrove saplings providing 500 m2 of restored habitat for hornbills, sea eagles and horseshoe crabs. The surveys have also identified areas where 'ghost' fishing nets are most prevalent, resulting in the clearing of over 20 discarded nets. These cleanups have increased coral coverage on select reefs by up to 20%.



WATER HARVESTING

The Charity Pot programme visited the Song Saa Foundation from April 25th to 28th with 22 volunteers, including Lush, North America, co-owner Karen Delaney Wolverton and Charitable Giving Manager Tricia Stevens. The project consists of two platforms, built in the backyard of Prek Svay village school, each supporting two 5,000 litre water tanks, for a total volume of 20,000 litres. Because empowering women makes a huge difference in the development of the local community, the Foundation established a committee for the management of the water resource, that includes the village chief and two women from Prek Svay in charge of an important resource. By placing them in a respectable position in the village, the visibility of women's contributions is enhanced and contributes to the establishment of gender equality.

Outputs in 2016 – litres of fresh water provided to Prek Svay community - 20,000; Water tanks constructed - 4; Project grant utilised - \$9,000

Impact to-date – The provision of 20,000 litres of fresh water will reduce water shortage in the coming dry season by over 25%, meaning that families who historically would have to drink 'brown water' from dirty wells will now have access to safe water. This will reduce gastrointestinal and bacterial diseases by up to 20% throughout the community.



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Communities in the Koh Rong Archipelago lack the infrastructure to manage the solid waste, such as plastics, glass and polystyrene, generated through day-to-day activities. These materials create health and hygiene issues for villagers, while items that migrate into the ocean pose risks for marine life and ocean biodiversity. Additionally, a failure to develop composting practices for green waste represents a 'lost opportunity' for improving soil fertility and the productivity of local agriculture. Through a collaborative relationship with the local community, the Song Saa Foundation has pioneered the development of a solid waste management system in the village of Prek Svay, the largest settlement in the Koh Rong Archipelago. This has included educational workshops, the construction of a waste management station and the support of a waste collection team.

Outputs in 2016 – Number of trash bags collected in the community – 3875; Total weight of trash collected throughout the year (metric tonnes) – 15.5; Revenue through cost sharing with the community (USD) – 38; Number of waste transfers to the mainland facility – 24

Impact to-date – A reduction in the amount of solid waste in the community has increased mangrove habitat health, created a safe haven for populations of IUCN listed horseshoe crabs and reduced water contamination of the local water sources. This reduction of water contamination is helping to improve the overall and digestive health of Prek Svay villagers.

"Before this group, in Prek Svay there was **rubbish everywhere**. Now that the team is working well we are able to collect rubbish every day. More people deliver their trash to the bins, so the village is not only **cleaner**, but also **healthier**"

– Mr Chan, Team Leader,
Solid Waste Management Committee



GREAT OPPORTUNITIES SCHOLARSHIP

Great Opportunities Scholarship – Last year Ms Srey Oun, a teenager from the Prek Svay community, was awarded the Song Saa Foundation's "Great Opportunities Scholarship" – which provided eight years of funding for her continued education. Funding for the award is provided by People + Culture Strategies, based in Australia, which visited the Archipelago in December to join the Foundation team on an education-focused Boat of Hope mission.

"I have been at the **Cambodian Children's Fund** for 11 months and have never had any problems with other children and staff. CCF now feels like living at home too. Sometimes I really miss my family on Koh Rong [but] I am so happy to live in CCF because I can **study** many subjects, including **English**. I actually feel more comfortable at CCF than living on the island.

-Srey Oun, Great Opportunities Scholarship Recipient

CLIMATE CHANGE

'Koh Rong Climate Change Adaptation Initiative' – On 06 July the Song Saa Foundation signed a project agreement with Plan International, as confirmation of a \$49,900 grant to implement an 18-month 'Koh Rong Climate Change Adaptation Initiative'.

The grant supports efforts to improve the resilience of the local community to climate change through water harvesting, delivery of water filters, education and knowledge building.

A participatory photography exercise was performed with the community of Prek Svay, delivering a photo-documentary on the challenges and the adaptations to climate change the community is involved in. Nine people (three men, three women and three young adults) participated in the initiative. After a three-day workshop at Sala Song Saa, the participants learned how to use digital cameras and used them to capture their own perspectives on climate change through photography.

The stories developed by the workshop participants were presented as a permanent exhibition at the Kampot Writers and Readers Festival on 3-7 November. The stories will also be printed and distributed as a book, to contribute to the knowledge gap on climate change currently existing in Cambodia.

Impact to-date – Launched in 2016 this project is still in its infancy. However, through the delivery of a climate change education workshop there is already a noticeable increase local knowledge of climate change and its dangers. Villagers are more conscious of water usage, ensuring there is enough safe drinking water to last until the coming rainy season.



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL RELIEF

Through a five-year partnership with US-based International Medical Relief (IMR), the Foundation is considerably strengthening the provision of medical care to the Koh Rong Archipelago. With annual missions run in September 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, nearly all of islands' population has seen a qualified healthcare practitioner – unparalleled care in the region's history.

Outputs in 2016 – Number team members joined from the US - 29, (including 2 dentists, 9 nurses, 1 pharmacist, 7 physicians, 1 physician's assistant, 1 team leader and 8 non-medical supporters) Patients seen over the five-day mission - 660; Individual treatments provided - 1365; Teeth extracte - 549

Impact to-date – Delivery of four dedicated IMR missions over the past four years (valued at over \$5 million USD) has significantly reduced the Koh Rong population's susceptibility to infectious diseases such as typhoid and malaria. The incidences of gastrointestinal worms have decreased by up to 60% over this period due to dedicated de-worming campaigns. Most importantly, two lives have been saved as a direct result of the IMR missions, one involving complications during childbirth and another with an infected leg.

LUCKY IRON FISH

Background – The Song Saa Foundation commenced its partnership with Lucky Iron Fish in 2015, but 2016 witnessed the signing of a new Collaborative Agreement to significantly upscale project partnerships. The Coastal & Marine Programme received 550 iron fish ingots to distribute through the Koh Rong Archipelago and our Community & Conservation Officer, Mr Mattrohet, completed a one-day training course to enable him to deliver workshops on iron deficiency and iron deficiency anemia.

"Iron deficiency is a **global concern**, particularly in developing countries. This is especially true in regions such as the Koh Rong Archipelago, where **diets are limited** to fish and rice, and the occasional vegetable. We are proud of our partnership with Lucky Iron Fish - and our efforts, together, to **tackle malnutrition** amongst the 3000 plus residents of the the Koh Rong Archipelago."

– Ben Thorne, Song Saa Foundation, Project Director

Outputs in 2016 – Boat of Hope missions were dedicated to the delivery of 'Fish' and education about its use and its positive effects - 6. Number of Lucky Iron Fish delivered across the communities of Prek Svay, Daem Thkov, M'Pai Bai, and Sok San - 145; Number of missions joined by the Lucky Iron Fish team, including CEO Dr Gavin Armstrong - 2.

Impact to-date - The LiF team have started a comprehensive evaluation programme that will assess the contribution that the iron fish was made to iron levels in the Archipelago. The outcome of this work will be reported in forthcoming annual reports.



COMMUNITY FISHERY

Support of the Prek Svay Community Fishery committee has been another core village-based activity of Song Saa since 2010. The community plays an integral role in the monitoring of their individual community fisheries to regulate resource use by unapproved boats. A designated committee is elected for each settlement with the task of patrolling the waters within the jurisdiction. To aid the community with this task the Foundation contributes an incentive payment for their ongoing patrols and subsidises fuel costs for their boats.

"I have seen **increasing numbers of fish**. The illegal fishing activities in this part of the Archipelago is decreasing. The community appreciates the efforts of the Fishery in **preventing illegal fishing**, even working at night if needed. I am happy if the community can have safer income and I am happy of the support we receive from Song Saa"

– *Mr Reun Veasna,*

Head of the Community Fishery Committee

Outputs in 2016 – Number of community fishery patrols – 53; Total hours of marine patrolling – 212; Total distance of marine patrols (km) – 1300; Number of illegal fishing activities reported and prevented – 18

Impact to-date – Successful community fishery patrolling has resulted in an approximate 45% decrease in illegal fishing activities in the region since 2013. This in turn has significantly decreased the number of discarded 'ghost' fishing nets found on coral reefs, which ads to an increase in coral cover and invertebrate abundance. More corals and more invertebrates ultimately mean more fish and a healthier ecosystem.



SEAGRASS CONSERVATION

Early in 2016 the Coastal & Marine Programme commenced a partnership with Cardiff University for their "Empowering Community Action for Seagrass Conservation in Southeast Asia: Seagrass Meadows Support Food Security" project. The aim of this collaboration is to educate local communities on the importance of seagrass for their livelihoods, facilitating localised conservation activities in the seagrass meadows. In April 2016, Mr Ben Jones, a seagrass scientist from Cardiff University, visited the Koh Rong Archipelago to meet our communities. He also brought an aerial drone to conduct seagrass mapping surveys. These surveys identified potential dugong feeding trails.

Outputs in 2016 – Seagrass habitat surveyed - 34; Total survey points - 395; Educational workshops on seagrass with the local communities - 5; Field visit to the mainland's Kampot province for partner engagement - 1.

Impact to-date - Identification of new areas of seagrass in the archipelago, the knowledge of which will provide the basis for the development of a comprehensive conservation strategy, which will secure the protection of the valuable systems.

WITH THANKS FROM,



AND OUR KEY PARTNERS,

