



SONG SAA
FOUNDATION

OCTOBER REPORT 2019

▪ ADMIN & GENERAL ▪

Fundraising

- \$2132 of \$1000 raised in September (213% of monthly target)
 - Ocean Stewardship Program – \$0 (monthly target \$0)
 - Wall of Hope and online donations – \$2132 (monthly target \$1000)
- \$38,446 of \$26,350 raised year-to-date (146% of year-to-date target)

Staffing

- Mr Narun Khlout officially joined the SSF in October as our new “Community Engagement Officer”, reporting into Maisie, our “Community Coordinator”.
- Kristy’s contract expired in October and she stepped away from the Song Saa Foundation into new adventures.
- Ben has been recruiting for Kristy’s replacement as “SSF Marine Scientist” as well as seeking a new “SSF Guest Liaison” position to help with fundraising and SSPI guest interactions over the coming ‘high season’. A shortlist of candidates has been made for each role with hopeful hires to be concluded in November 2019.



Meetings and Media Relations

- On **22 October** Maisie and Millan (from the Song Saa Hong Kong team) attended the 'Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project' (CSLEP) workshop. This was a 1-day consultation workshop with the private sector, hosted by the World Bank, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Tourism (MoT).
- CSLEP is a 6-year pilot project beginning in December 2019, designed to improve protected area (PA) management and to promote ecotourism opportunities and non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains in the Cardamom Mountains and Tonle Sap landscape. It has three main components:
 1. Investing in monitoring and evaluation, as well as planning for sustainable landscapes;
 2. Improving the enabling environments for ecotourism and other major added values;
 3. Strengthening the management, monitoring and evaluation systems for the project.

The objectives of the workshop were:

1. Inform the private sector about the project;
 2. Collect information about opportunities and challenges investing in eco-tourism sites in Cambodia;
 3. Understand the interest in proposed investment models by entrepreneurs.
- Maisie and Millan presented alongside representatives from Shinta Mani Wild, the World Wildlife Alliance and the MoE. Our presentation addressed the key objectives outlined above, with Maisie discussing the work of the Foundation and the sustainability ethos of SSPI, and Millan the Song Saa Reserve project. Following the presentations by all groups, a facilitated discussion of pilots to identify elements enabling environments for investment in community-based eco-tourism (CBET) was held, with Maisie contributing her experience on community work.



▪ FOUNDATION PROJECTS ▪

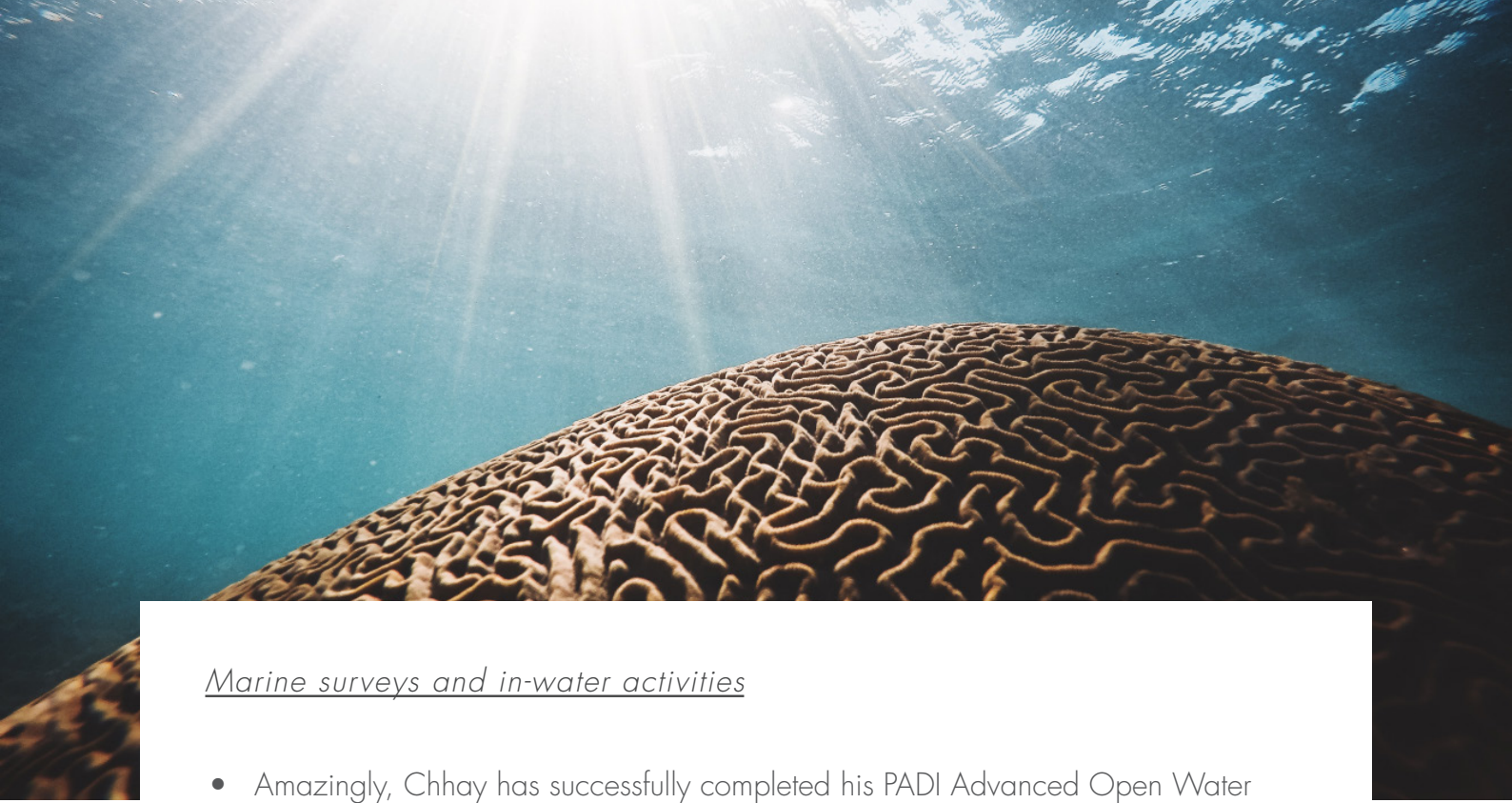
Song Saa Guest Activities

Activities	Number of tours	Number of guests
Sala Song Saa Tour	09	32
Snorkel Safari	0	0
Guided Koh Bong Tour	0	0

Marine Initiatives

Ocean Stewardship Program (OSP)

- Kristy and Ben have been working on developing lecture materials and learning content required for a 'Coastal and Reef Restoration Project' (a snorkel-only variation of the current scuba-based 'Coral Reef Monitoring Project' within our OSP). The new project will focus on supporting our in-house artificial reef, seagrass mapping, mangrove restoration, and coastal clean-ups. It will be run alongside the normal scuba-based coral reef monitoring project of the OSP, providing a great experience for non-scuba trained volunteers to join the SSF's OSP.
- Kristy and Chhay cleaned Sala Song Saa, and cleaned and reset the training room at Karuna in preparation for the volunteers.
- Two volunteers joined the OSP this month: Felix and Carolina.
- The volunteers stayed for the full month of October, leaving the program in the first week of November. They both rated SSF and the OSP 5-stars in their end of expedition feedback forms.



Marine surveys and in-water activities

- Amazingly, Chhay has successfully completed his PADI Advanced Open Water certification, after completing his last two training dives, focusing on the Deep and Underwater Naturalist topics. He was instructed by Kristy throughout the course.
- Felix and Carolina both completed the program's Coral Reef Ecology course and we were subsequently able to conduct three in-water coral reef surveys and two full days of seagrass meadow mapping nearby Daem Thkov community.
- The reefs and seagrass beds are looking healthy and thriving with wildlife. Across many of the sites we saw some rare seahorses, pipefish and a previously undocumented nudibranch species, in addition to diverse populations of reef fish and abundant coral cover.

Artificial reef

- Kristy and Chhay purchased metal wire to use to attach ceramic tiles to the metal frames. This wire is apparently rust-proof, but the marine team will test this before the artificial reef is deployed.
- Kristy has approached the marketing team to develop some information signs about the artificial reef project, to be placed in the lounge at Vista, along the walkway to Koh Bong, and in the Discovery Centre. Some feedback is needed from Donald (SSPI General Manager) in terms of materials used to make the signs, so as to be in keeping with resort aesthetics.

Coastal and marine clean-ups

- This month we have heavily focused on clearing ocean-borne trash from Prek Svay and the surrounding area. With great support from Song Saa staff, the team have completed 17 beach and coastal clean-ups at Karuna Beach, Coral Reef Island, and Song Saa Private Island (Koh Bong). A total of 110 bags of trash were collected in October, accumulating an estimated 770 kg of trash.



Community Initiatives

Solid Waste Management (SWM)

- On **18 October** Narun met with the SWM team as part of our monthly meetings to discuss work attendance, holiday requests and any challenges the waste team are facing.
- Another meeting was held on the 30 October to continue discussions and to pay monthly salaries, hosted by Narun and Saran.
- On **22 October** a special waste collection was performed to remove trash from our SWM centre, 300 bags were removed to Sihanoukville. These transfers will continue throughout November to completely clear the centre, followed by a deep-clean with SSF and our SWMT.

Song Saa Sea Turtles (SSST)

- Two SSST workshops were run this month.
- On **12 October** six children attended a SSST lesson at the school. Narun created a presentation about himself to deliver to the students, and the students then introduced themselves to Narun. After, each person painted a piece of driftwood to reflect their personality (e.g. painting their favourite animal), drew their name on it and these were then hung at Sala. This workshop was led by Maisie and Narun.
- On **26 October** six children attended a SSST lesson at the school. The students had an art workshop, decorating coloured paper and writing quotes from what they have learned at School. This workshop was led by Narun.



English Club

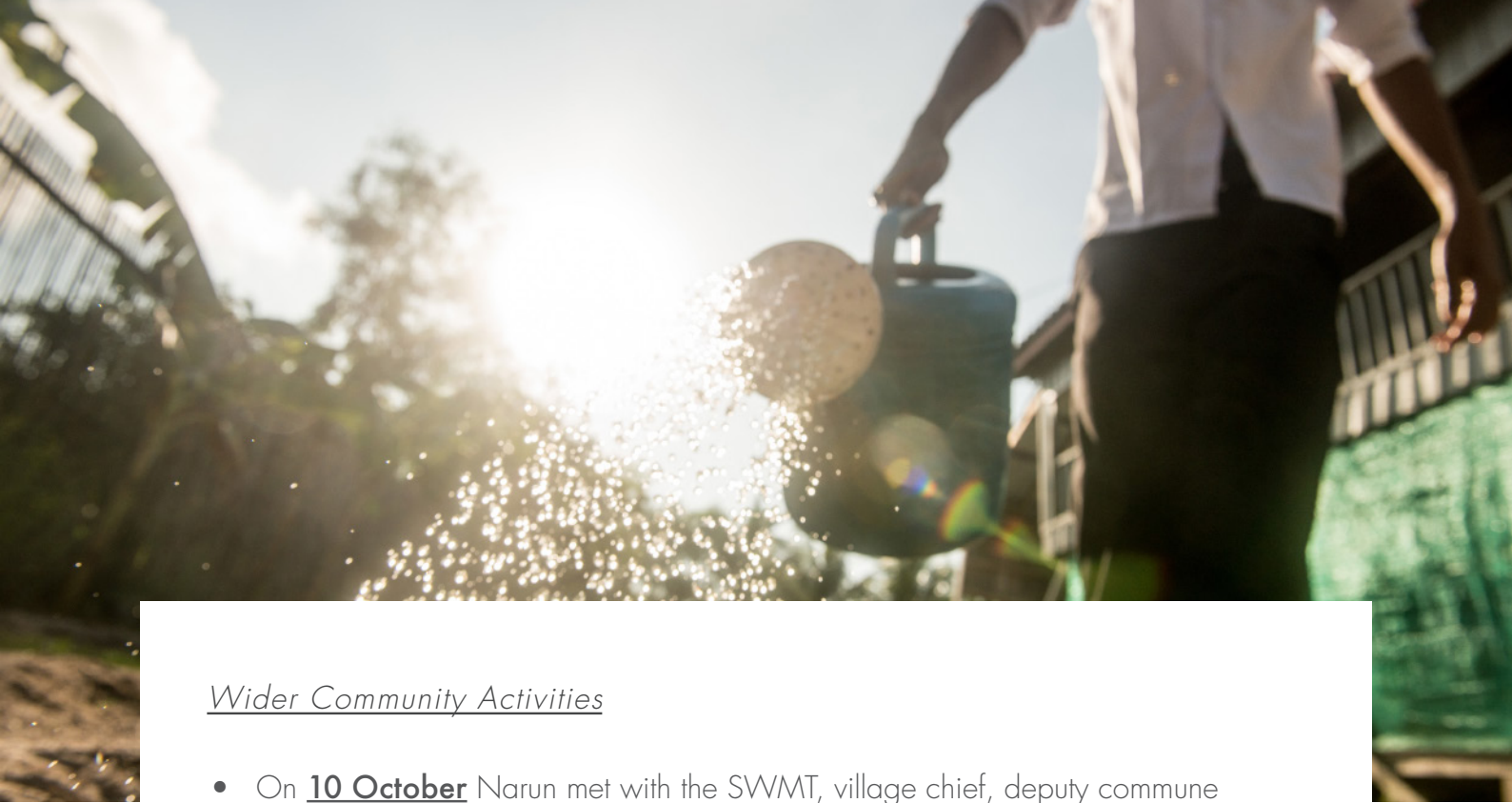
- Three English Club lessons were run this month.
- On **13 October** four students attended an English lesson hosted at the school. They recapped the vocabulary and grammar they had learnt so far with some fun games. This session was taught by Maisie and Narun.
- On **20 October** six students attended an English lesson at the school. They learnt how to talk about directions and places with a reading and writing activity. They then played a fun game where each student was blindfolded and had to listen to directions in English from another student to walk and avoid obstacles. This session was taught by Maisie and Narun.
- On **27 October** six students attended an English lesson at the school. They learnt vocabulary around 'food shopping' using listening and writing activities. At the end of the lesson they did some role playing between a shopkeeper and a customer. This session was taught by Maisie and Narun.

Sala Song Saa

Narun has created a plan for our Sala Song Saa garden. Over the coming weeks we will grow vegetables, fruits and flowers at Sala and teach the children how to compost, farm, and how climate change is impacting our food production.

SSPI Social Education

On **23 October** Maisie attended an SSPI Green Committee meeting. Representatives from all departments were there and a discussion was led by Donald (SSPI General Manager) on how to reduce plastic on the island. The Foundation will support the green committee with monthly recycling workshops and will become more involved in leading discussions, which can be incorporated into our SSPI social education.



Wider Community Activities

- On **10 October** Narun met with the SWMT, village chief, deputy commune chief, deputy CFI chief and deputy Sagkat chief to introduce himself and discuss opportunities to help the community.
- On **31 October** Narun and Saran met with the teachers in Prek Svay to discuss the teachers' plan for the school including how the Foundation can help to get the children involved in cleaning the school, setting up the opening ceremony and gardening. Narun also helped the teachers and the children clean the school area in the morning.
- Throughout the month Narun met with the village chief and the deputy commune chief to discuss challenges within the community, potential solutions and education opportunities.

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