Tonle Sap Lake is heart of Cambodia but now is under threat

Senglong Youk
Tonle Sap Lake

- The Tonle Sap Lake, commonly known as the Great Lake, is the soul of Cambodia.
- Its harvest accounting for more than 75% of Cambodia’s fresh water fish catch.
- It feeds more than 3 million out of total 16 million Cambodian people.
- The Lake increase 4 times in area, from 1553 sq. miles in the dry season to approximately 6214 sq. miles in the wet season a depth up to 30 feet deep.
- There is a strong relationship between the people and the natural resources of the Tonle Sap Lake.
- There is a direct connection between the Lake and Mekong basin.
The Lake wildlife include Giant Barb, Giant Catfish, and Snake-head fish.
The conservation value of the Tonle Sap Lake was recognized in 1997 when UNESCO and the Royal Government of Cambodia nominated the Tonle Sap Lake as a Biosphere Reserve.
There are:
- 250-350 fish species.
- 40-60 reptile species
- 200-250 bird species
- 40-50 mammal species
- Before 1960, there was 1 million hectare of flooded forest.
- From 2002 and in 2011, Royal Government of Cambodia issued a sub-decree to manage 647,406 hectares of flooded forests.
Tonle Sap Lake

Illegal fishing, pollution and waste issue
Impact from hydropower development

Fortle Sap Lake
Impact from Climate change: on April 28th 2019, because of hot temperature (43-44 Celsius) 25.5 tonnes of fish died at Boeung Tonle Chhmar, core zone.
Solution: Conservation, Livelihood development and networking and CSO strengthening
Solution: advocacy campaign and policy dialogue with relevant stakeholders
Tonle Sap Lake

Angkor Wat of Cambodia, World Heritage
Thank you!