

## **Fishery Community in Sangkat O'Ambel**

**“I do not only support but I also contribute my strength and resources to protect fish.”**

Prahot Lake is located in Sangkat O'Ambel, Banteay Meanchey and it provides proper daily income through fish collecting to 4,509 families, a population of 18,530, including 8,840 women. Before 2014, fish in Prahot Lake had been faced illegal fishing and some using dangerous equipment to collect fish. The response from local authorities is limited due to lack of resources and cooperation. Youth for Development (YFD) is a community-based organization (CBO) in Sangkat O'Ambel, Banteay Meanchey. YFD works to protect the fish in Prahot Lake, YFD has conducted several training sessions and activities aimed to promote awareness in the community and local authorities. Due to YFD's activities, there are noticeable changes of community behavior, knowledge, living condition, and contribution which would create sustainability and ownership in fishery management. The story of Mr. Lim Rous will describe how NRM project good impact in Prahot community.



Mr. Lim Ros is Prahot village chief and he has involved with Natural Resource Management (NRM) project and cooperated with YFD in protecting fish in Prahot Lake since 2014. He is very active, motivated, and passionate in cooperating and working with YFD to increase community knowledge and awareness, as well as, engages their contribution in forestry protecting activities. Before he joined with YFD and PDP-Center, he hadn't cared about fish in Prahot Lake because he had thought it was simple issue in collecting fish by using dangerous equipment and the fish still had in the lake that's why he ignored and let community did whatever they wished. He has changed after he joined training and workshop with YFD and PDP-Center. He gained knowledge and awareness of importance of natural resources and knew how to protect and preserve fish in community. He became more active from day to day by cooperating well with YFD to invite community people for meeting, training, and workshop in aiming to promote their awareness of importance of natural resource especially focused on danger of fish in Prahot Lake if the community still used the dangerous equipment to collecting fish. He didn't only invite community people, he also helped YFD in facilitating training and meeting to encourage and motivate community people in protecting fish and stop illegal fishing by reporting to local authority. In addition, he sometimes contributed his own resources like time to invite community people for meeting/training, labor in cutting tree branches for putting into fishing protection areas for avoiding illegal fishing with dangerous equipment, and his own budget in purchasing materials for fishing protection activities.

Mr. Lim Ros said “I am so proud of our community because we have 2 fishing protection areas and now most of community people have good understanding of importance of fish; moreover, they well participated in protecting activities. Before PDP-Center and YFD started NRM project in our community, the fish in Prahot Lake has seriously destroyed from our community people and some from outside despite of lack of knowledge, awareness, and contribution.” He added that he appreciated his community so much especially community income and living condition had dramatically improved through increased the amount of fish in Prahot Lake at least 2.5 to 4kg per day if compared to 2014 only 1 or 2 Kg.