



Environment



Community



Culture



For more information contact your hotel or guesthouse
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Who are we and what do we do?

Osmose, a not-for-profit association, has implemented a pilot conservation and development project in the Prek Toal area of Tonle Sap Lake, near Siem Reap. Our site is critical for the survival of several species of endangered waterbirds and we aim to link preservation of waterbird colonies to the sustainable development of local communities. In addition to saving seven bird species from extinction, over 100 families benefit from our project, including 35 former bird collectors and 23 women who are heads of their households.

Through a jointly managed program with the *Wildlife Conservation Society*, we integrate three types of programs:

- ❖ **Conservation:** close protection of waterbird colonies by a local conservation team that employs 25 villagers, half of whom are former bird collectors.
- ❖ **Education:** indoor and outdoor environmental classes for over 1,200 children that instil appreciation of the natural environment and how to care for it.
- ❖ **Ecotourism:** organisation of guided tours for small groups to the bird sanctuary and floating villages on Tonle Sap Lake. These provide environmentally-sustainable income-generating activities for villagers.

In addition to these activities, we have developed a floating gardens project to assist 54 families in growing produce such as morning glory and lemongrass, both for consumption and sale. We also support the revival of water hyacinth

weaving, which the community sells as handicrafts. This helps both to improve the livelihoods of 16 village women and reduce the unwelcome spread of water hyacinth on the lake. We also provide health and schooling assistance to the poorest families.

In essence, our program is an environmental awareness endeavour, combining short-term priorities (saving the bird colonies from extinction), long-term responsibility and attitude change (environmental education) and economic incentives (direct and indirect benefits for local people).

What you can experience

- Take a tour on the great Tonle Sap Lake to see Prek Toal Wildlife Sanctuary and the endangered bird species of Cambodia. This includes tours of the floating villages and other points of interest (crocodile farm, pagoda, observation of fishing techniques, etc.).
- Visit the Osmose office in Siem Reap to learn more about what we do.
- Purchase publications, posters or village handicrafts woven from water hyacinth and support a valuable project.

*Linking community-based conservation,
ecotourism & environmental education*

