

Who are we and what do we do?



Osmose, a not-for-profit association, has implemented a pilot conservation and development project in 3 floating villages of the Prek Toal area, Tonle Sap Lake. The site is critical for the survival of several species of endangered waterbirds. The project aims to link the preservation of the waterbird colonies and the environment to the sustainable development of the local communities. In addition to saving seven bird species from extinction, over 130 families benefit from the project.

Through a jointly managed program with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Osmose has developed an integrated approach through three types of programmes:

- Conservation: close protection of the waterbird colonies by a local conservation team employing 25 villagers, half of them being former bird collectors
- Education: indoor and outdoor environmental classes for 1,100 children, instilling care and appreciation for their natural environment
- Ecotourism: organisation of guided tours to the bird sanctuary and floating villages for small groups aiming to provide alternative income-generating activities for villagers

In addition to these activities, Osmose has developed a floating gardens project to assist 54 families with growing products for both consumption and sale. Osmose has also supported the revival of local knowledge of water hyacinth weaving, which the community sells as handicrafts. This has helped to improve the livelihoods of 24 village women and to reduce the spread of water hyacinth on the lake. Osmose also provides health and schooling assistance to the poorest families.

In its essence, the programme is an environmental awareness endeavour combining short-term priorities (saving the colonies from extinction), long-term ownership building (environmental education) and economic incentives (direct and indirect benefits to target groups).



Linking community-based conservation, ecotourism & environmental education

What Can You Experience?

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

