INDIGENOUS CRAFTS OF CAMBODIA
“This is not just a product, to us it’s part of our traditional culture. When we were at an international exhibition abroad, visitor as well as other countries’ handicraft producers were interested in our products. We were so proud to present and sell the cultural products of our country to them. At that time we also taught them how to produce it.”

Yin Samnang, a 43 year-old basket producer from Kampong Cheur Teal village, Prasat Sambo commune, Kampong Thom province.

“We are happy that more people are interested in buying our products. We are able to earn supplementary income for food, medicine and books for our children to study.”

Planh Proleav, a 27 year-old textile weaver from the Kreung indigenous group in the village of Ta Gnach, northeastern province of Ratanakiri.
HANDICRAFTS IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOODS OF INDIGENOUS ARTISANS

Indigenous People represent 1.4 percent of the total population in Cambodia, and the majority of them are living in remote rural areas within the country. Often referred to as Highlanders, their ways of life are different from the lowlanders, both from the cultural and economical perspective.

Handicrafts are part of their traditional culture and their livelihood as they produce textiles, baskets, jars, pottery and other tools for their daily usage. Many indigenous groups have established small enterprises and produce traditional products to generate supplementary income in order to support their livelihoods. The handicraft sector provides vital employment opportunities to most indigenous artisans and disadvantaged people, especially women who are struggling for survival.

This brochure provides information about indigenous communities’ traditional products and provides their contact details. It gives an overview of handicrafts and production sites as well as valuable information on indigenous handicraft enterprises.

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PRODUCTS CATEGORIES

Baskets Made by Indigenous Kuoy and Khmer Artisans

• Group – Kampong Thom Producer Groups live in three districts – Prasat Balang, Prasat Sambo and Sandan. Overall, the groups gather 150 individual producers. Most of them are farmers and their livelihood depends largely on rice and crops. With support from the joint UN programme – Creative Industries Support Programme (CISP), for production and commercialisation of handicrafts, producers can now earn supplementary incomes through their cultural assets and traditional talent. They are using available local raw materials in their community to produce various handicrafts made out of rattan and bamboo. By using their cultural, traditional and design skills, they can produce unique and good quality products which reflect their cultural identity and values. With the combination of their artistic skills and unique cultural heritage, they have been making functional products that can attract customers. To order products please contact COWS, MODE or contact the producers directly.

• Group – Preah Vihear Producer Groups are based in four districts: Chheb, Tbaeng Meanchey, Rovieng and Choam Khan. In total, there are 90 producers of which over 60 percent are women. They produce handicrafts mainly from bamboo, rattan and reion by-products. By combining traditional indigenous designs and creativity, they have developed good quality products which are easy to purchase through the facilitation of Farmer Livelihood Development (FLD), either in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap or Preah Vihear.

Textiles Made by Indigenous Phnong, Kuoy, Prov, and Kreung Artisans

• Group – Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri Producer Groups mainly produce traditional indigenous textile and bamboo baskets with a combination of various colours and standard sizes. Producers have received support from the Artisans Association of Cambodia (AAC) in order to develop new designs. There are more than two hundred indigenous artisans producing textiles (scarves, clothes, accessories) and bamboo baskets (Plaing, Sash, Sova) in the communities. They are thus capable of making a range of products and gifts that can meet the diverse demands from buyers. To easily order products, please contact CANDO, MVI or directly with the producers.

Jars & Pottery Made by Indigenous Tumpuon and Lao Artisans

• Group – Sixty producers living in Vensai and Konmom districts, Ratanakiri province, are making jars and potteries (home accessories and decoration products). They give an overview of handicrafts and production sites as well as valuable information on indigenous handicraft enterprises.

Range of scarves produced in Ratanakiri

Oval platters made from rattan

Pottery made of special clay in Ratanakiri

Cambodia Map - CISP four targeted provinces

BACKGROUND

Handicrafts are part of their traditional culture and their livelihood as they produce textiles, baskets, jars, pottery and other tools for their daily usage. Many indigenous groups have established small enterprises and produce traditional products to generate supplementary income in order to support their livelihoods. The handicraft sector provides vital employment opportunities to most indigenous artisans and disadvantaged people, especially women who are struggling for survival.

Responsible tourism now contributes to the development and success of small handicraft enterprises, which subsequently leads to the improvement of living standards of indigenous communities. The combination of indigenous handicrafts and traditional livelihoods has left customs and visitors with memorable experiences which motivated them to buy indigenous products.
Minority Organization for Development of Economy (MODE)’s Mission
To work with the most vulnerable communities in Cambodia, especially women and children, to improve their lives.

PROGRAMME’s Rationale
With the support from CISP, MODE has provided capacity building in rattan and bamboo weaving and business skills training for up to 75 producers in two districts: Prasat Sambo and Sandan. With training in new creative designs combined with Kuy indigenous traditional culture, they have created attractive new products and increased production quality to meet market demands.

PRODUCT’s Uniqueness
With indigenous communities living in close proximity to forests, they have the ability to not only use rattan and bamboo to make products with all kinds of textures and colours, but also to use different colours with natural dyes and market dyes. They also grow rattan and bamboo to sustain the forests.

PRODUCTION SITE AND SHOP
1 Sambo & Sandan District
2 villages in Prasat Sambo and 3 villages in Ngourn commune
2 Shop: Sambo Prei Kuk
3 Producer Group Representative
Mrs. Yin Samnang
Tel: +855 97 5367 383

MODE OFFER
• Rattan and bamboo weaving
• Variety of products made from Rattan: platters, baskets, accessories, decorative lamps, gifts, and more
• Best wholesale and retail prices and assured order and delivery

Contact Person 1
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Products made from rattan and bamboo

Christmas gifts and decorations
Kruz made from bamboo, rattan, and resin used as flowerpots, water containers, and general containers
Cambodian Organization for Women Support (COWS)’s Mission

To work for the development of vulnerable women to strengthen their capacity and self-reliance, promote health, education, sustainable handicrafts, agriculture, good governance and conservation of the environment and natural resources in response to their basic needs.

PROGRAMME’s Rationale

COWS is a local non-profit organization established to support poor and vulnerable people, especially women, in rural areas in Kampong Thom Province. With support from the CISP, the project helps to reduce poverty by improving production and business skills with creative design for 64 Kuoy indigenous people in Prasat Balang District through increasing production and sales of handicraft products.

PRODUCT’s Uniqueness

Handmade products using raw materials like rattan and bamboo, which are then woven into creative and cultural designs and made aimed at meeting market demands.

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Mr. Sea Rith (Kh/Eng)
Marketing Officer
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PRODUCTION SITE AND SHOP
1 Kampong Thom
Prasat Balang district,
Sala Visai and Toul Krel commune.
2 Producer Groups Representative
Mrs. Hem Siek
Tel: +855 97 696 4447/ 88 775 9449

COWS OFFER
• Creative weaving products from rattan & bamboo: baskets, platters, decorative lamps, mats, accessories, etc.
• Unique cultural products of Kuoy people
• Best wholesale and retail prices and assured order and delivery

Round basket for areca
(used by elder people to store betel nut and betel leaves, and for other small items)

Lotus platter made from rattan

Oval platter made from rattan
Kuoy basket made from rattan
Cambodian NTFP Development Organization (CANDO)’s Mission
To create economic development opportunities for men and women artisans from indigenous and rural communities in Ratanakiri Province through promotion of culture, craftsmanship and fair business practices, as it brings synergies across communities and social enterprises.

PROGRAMME’s Rationale
CANDO CRAFT is a social enterprise programme developed to assist communities to manage their cultural heritage and natural resources in a sustainable manner. This is done through conservation of raw material resources, and producing cultural indigenous products with creative designs to meet market demands, and to sell their products to local and international buyers. CANDO has been expanding to work with 12 communities. CANDO supports 195 producers, of which 135 are indigenous women artisans in Ratanakiri Province.

PRODUCT’s Uniqueness
Cultural and artistic products are handmade with dyes and weaves; mats, textile and bamboo made by skilful Kreung and Kavet indigenous artisans. There is a variety of high quality finished products with cotton textile that can be found at CANDO CRAFT’s shops in Phnom Penh and Banlung Town, Ratanakiri Province.

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Executive Director
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www.candocraft.org

PRODUCTION SITE AND SHOP
1 CANDO CRAFT Center
Phoumbei Village, Labanseak Commune, Banlung Town, Ratanakiri Province.
2 CANDO CRAFT Shop
#190A, St.155, Toul Tompung L., Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh.
3 Producer Group Representative
Mr. Sovann Roloem (Kh)     Tel: +855 97 313 6961

CANDO CRAFT OFFER
• Unique cotton textiles and mats
• Variety of finished products made from indigenous textiles: home accessories, gifts and bags
• Best wholesale and retail prices and assured order and delivery
• Services for tourists when they visit the indigenous communities and production sites

CANDO CRAFT

PRODUCTS

Scarves with natural dye
Indigenous backpack basket (Kapha)
Decorated basket lamp made from bamboo
Flowerpot
Shopping bags: natural-dyed cotton with long handle
Mini shopping-bag: natural-dyed cotton with short handle

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Centre d’Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodia (CEDAC)’s Mission
CEDAC has a history of providing help when and where it is most needed. It is a tradition that we plan to continue until our vision of a healthy society and empowered farmers is realized. CEDAC envisions a Cambodian society where small farming households enjoy good living conditions and strong mutual cooperation, rights and powers to determine their own destiny, and can play an important role in supplying healthy food for the whole of society.

PROGRAMME’S Rationale
Under CISP’s support for producing jars, pottery, baskets, and textiles, CEDAC helps build the capacities and confidence of indigenous artisans, so they can improve their production skills and knowledge to meet market demands. CEDAC-Ratanakiri mainly works on market research, product development, quality improvement, financial education and group management of producers. CEDAC has promoted the producers’ products to traders and middle-men through market linkage facilitation.

PRODUCT’s Uniqueness
Jars and pottery made from special ceramic clay available in the community are the unique products of producer groups in Vensai and Konmom Districts. The combination of the special clay and modern design incorporating indigenous culture has created interest in the market and has provided huge opportunities for indigenous people to improve their sustainable livelihood.

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PRODUCTION SITE AND SHOP
CEDAC OFFER
• Unique indigenous jars and pottery made from special clay
• Variety of products: textiles, scarves, clothes, accessories, and gifts
• Best wholesale and retail prices and assured order and delivery
• Services for tourists when visiting the indigenous communities and production sites

1 CEDAC Shop
Phum III, Sangkat Labanseak,
Krong Banlung, Ratanakiri Province
Tel: +855 97 2485 820

2 Producer Group Representative
(Jar in Vensai District)
Mr. Ka Jon (Kh)
Tel: +855 97 2485 820

3 Producer Group Representative
(Pottery in Konmom District)
Mr. Cheey Sothman (Kh)
Tel: +855 97 8063 805

An artisan making backpack basket (Kapha) in La In Chamka, Konmom district, Ratanakiri province

Backpack basket (Kapha) – Indigenous cultural design – seen for display or as a container

Indigenous pottery made from special clay in Ratanakiri

Mortar made from special clay in Ratanakiri
My Village (MVI)’s Mission
My Village focuses on resource security of indigenous people in northeastern provinces (Mondulkiri, Kratie and Stung Treng) of Cambodia. Our mission is to improve the rights and livelihoods of indigenous communities through community organizing, capacity building and natural resources management.

PROGRAMME’s Rationale
Community Based Enterprise (CBE) is a partnership programme between MVI and the community, to facilitate the development of sustainable, local, non-timber forest products to improve the livelihoods of the local indigenous communities. The products vary from resin and wild honey to traditionally-designed textile and rattan and bamboo handicrafts. In Mondulkiri, there are six Community Based Enterprise programmes with a total of 122 (55 female) members involved in managing and producing a collection of high-quality cultural authentic products.

PRODUCT’s Uniqueness
Handmade textiles and bamboo weaving (range of scarves, clothes, and piang, sash, seav, and more) with cultural preservation and target customer orientations, made by Phnong, Kuoy and Prov indigenous artisans.

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PRODUCTION SITE AND SHOP
1 Mondulkiri
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Tel: +855 12 936 023
Email:mvi.mondulkiri@mvicambodia.org

2 Phnom Penh
#78A, St.135, Toul Tompung I, Chamkarmon
Tel: +855 23 63 55 167
Email: myvillage@mvicambodia.org

3 Producer Group Representative
Mr. Nget Vandy (Kh)
Tel: +855 85 707 052

MVI OFFER
• Unique hand-woven textiles for interior design
• Bamboo accessories and furniture
• Best wholesale and retail prices and assured order and delivery
• Services for tourists visiting the indigenous communities and production sites

Backpack baskets (Kapha) made by Phnong Indigenous Artisans
Textiles with natural dye
Indigenous loom and textile weaving in Mondulkiri
Textile made in Mondulkiri (Photo: MVI)
Textile made in Mondulkiri (Photo: MVI)
FARMLAND LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT (FLD)’s Mission
To work with the targeted communities to improve productivity, promote and create jobs, and improve Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) practices for the betterment of food security and living conditions.

PROGRAMME’s Rationale
FLD is a local NGO that works with disadvantaged rural communities and families to improve their livelihoods by improving farm productivity, creating jobs, and teaching vocational skills. Khmer Farmer Products (KFP) is FLD’s marketing arm—a social enterprise—that buys and sells products made by former trainees for better living conditions. With support from GIZ, it has helped 90 producers in Preah Vihear Province to improve production capacity, production quality, market access, and also developed systems for regular supply to KFP’s shops and customers.

PRODUCT’s Uniqueness
Product made by Kouy indigenous artisans, including bamboo and rattan weaving, and mudstone carving in range of design and sizes. These help to preserve the culture of indigenous people in Preah Vihear. The traditional and stone carving features a range of soft-size ornaments, including a replica archway from Preah Vihear temple, traditional Buddha-heads, and elephant, fish, fruit and turtle, paperweights etc.

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PRODUCTION SITE AND SHOP
1 Preah Vihear
Andong Pour Village, Sangkat Kampong Pronai, Preah Vihear Town
Tel: +855 64 63 88 089
Email: fdlkfp@ezecom.com.kh

2 Phnom Penh Shop
#15, St. 337, Sangkat Bouong Kak I, Khan Toul Kork
Tel: +855 17 509 539 / 23 630 3219

3 Siem Reap Shop
#3B, St. Tep Vong, Svay Dangkum Commune

FLD OFFER
• Bamboo woven with a range of products made by Kuoy artisans
• Stone carving
• Range of finished products
• Wild honey & textiles
• Best wholesale & retail price and assured order and delivery
The Creative Industries Support Programme (CISP) is a joint programme between the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with four ministry counterparts of the Royal Government of Cambodia, and funded by the UN-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F).

The programme aims to revive Cambodia’s tangible and intangible cultural assets and to increase the potential for job creation, economic growth and poverty alleviation through selected local creative industries.

The programme focuses on the four northern provinces of Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri, Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom in Cambodia. The specific sectors of the programme are handicrafts made from non-timber forest products, especially rattan and bamboo; indigenous textile weaving; and jars and pottery produced by indigenous communities.

The CISP aims to link culture and development by capitalizing on the commercial promotion of cultural products and services so as to increase capacity, employment opportunities and revenues amongst local communities with a special focus on women and indigenous artisans.