

Review of: "The Political Ecologies of the Tonle Sap: Global, Regional and National Framework for Conservation and Development"

Faiza Hallouz¹

¹ Université des Sciences et de la Technologie Houari Boumediène

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The Political Ecologies of the Tonle Sap: Global, Regional and National Framework for Conservation and Development

8NVDR5Qeios- Review

1. How have recent policy changes or interventions affected the Tonlé Sap Lake's ecological balance?
2. Is there any current data or research that shows the impact of these environmental changes on the local communities' livelihoods?
3. Are there any notable case studies or instances where political ecology analysis has led to significant changes in environmental policy or management practices in the region?
4. How do the power dynamics among these actors affect decision-making processes related to the lake's management?
5. Can you provide more details on how international conventions are protecting the biodiversity of Tonlé Sap Lake?
6. Are there specific socio-economic impacts (positive or negative) that have emerged as a result of the changes in the lake's ecosystem?
7. How are local communities adapting to these environmental and socio-economic changes?
8. How do these zones contribute differently to the lake's biodiversity and the livelihoods of the surrounding communities?
9. What are the primary challenges faced by the land-based, water-based, and water-land-based communities in adapting to the seasonal changes of TSL?
10. What measures are being taken to support communities affected by environmental changes in TSL, especially those whose livelihoods are closely tied to the lake's natural rhythms and resources?
11. The reference to James Scott's concept of "equal exchange" in peasant economies is intriguing. How does this principal manifest in the modern context of the Tonlé Sap communities? Are there any recent adaptations or shifts in this exchange system?
12. How are these farming practices impacted by the fluctuating water levels of the lake, and what strategies do farmers use to cope with these changes?
13. What specific factors have led farmers in Sreleu, Srekandal, and Srekrom to change their rice cultivation techniques

over time?

14. How do the extreme hydrological conditions (too much or too little water) during different seasons affect the livelihoods of the local communities?
15. Are there any ongoing or proposed initiatives to manage the water levels effectively, like the introduction of storage systems, reservoirs, or basins?
16. What measures are in place or needed to ensure that fishing remains sustainable and does not deplete the fish population in TSL?
17. Since its designation as a Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO auspices in 1997, what measurable impacts have been observed in the TSL region in terms of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development?
18. With the reliance on fishing as a primary livelihood, what measures are in place or proposed to ensure sustainable fishing practices among these communities?
19. How are the hydropower projects, especially those on the mainstream of the Mekong River and its tributaries, impacting the biodiversity in the region, including fish migration patterns?
20. How is the development of these hydropower projects affecting the livelihoods of local communities, particularly those dependent on fishing and agriculture?
21. How have the Chinese dams built between the 1990s and 2020s affected the downstream ecosystems and communities along the Mekong River, particularly considering the significant increase in storage capacity?
22. What measures, if any, are in place or being considered to mitigate the environmental and social impacts of these dams, especially on the lower Mekong River countries?
23. How have recent droughts and the subsequent low water levels in the Tonle Sap Lake and Mekong Delta affected the regional food security and economy, particularly in Cambodia and Vietnam?
24. What role have the upstream dam releases, such as the Chinese government's action in March 2016, played in alleviating these drought conditions, and what are the implications for regional water diplomacy?
25. How have UNESCO's efforts in conserving endangered and rare species in TSL influenced the overall biodiversity health of the region?
26. How successful have the various conservation projects, supported by organizations like WCS, BirdLife, and the World Bank, been in achieving their objectives in TSL?
27. How have the hydropower developments, especially those influenced by Chinese investments in the Mekong River Basin, affected the hydrological regimes and ecology of TSL?
28. How is the balance between conservation needs and development pressures being maintained in TSL, especially considering the complex interplay of global, regional, and national interests?
29. What are the future plans or projects envisaged for improving the governance, conservation, and sustainable development of TSL?
30. How is the participation and input of local communities being integrated into the decision-making processes for the management and conservation of TSL?

