



TA KHMAO

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BASELINE SURVEY



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> Acknowledgements



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The study reflected in this report was a collaborative product of ESCAP, Waste Concern and the Community Sanitation and Recycling Organization (CSARO). The study was carried out by a team from CSARO.

Appreciation is extended to the individuals in the involved institutions, in the Kandal provincial and municipal authorities and the Provincial Department of Environment who provided data and other information, including supporting documents used for the analysis and assessment.

Great appreciation is also extended to the villagers, workers, shop owners, waste pickers and other individuals who provided critical data and information for the report; special thanks are extended to the following individuals for their contribution: H.E. Chhim Sok Khon, Deputy Governor of Kandal Province; Chan Sok Khom, Governor of Ta Khmao Municipality; Sarun Sambo and Thin Sothun of the Pollution Office, in the Ministry of Environment; and Tith Sovannara, Head of Environment Office in the Ta Khmao Municipality.




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1 Introduction

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Current solid waste management systems in Asia are strained, and landfill space is fast becoming a rare commodity. Governments face increasing costs for disposal, while public health and the environment suffer from the damaging effects of untreated solid waste. In 2009, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific embarked on a regional project, Pro-poor and Sustainable Solid Waste Management in Secondary Cities and Small Towns, to find appropriate approaches to waste management that would transform waste products into valuable resources, improve waste collection services and provide better income and working conditions for waste pickers.

The overarching objective of the project is to enable participating towns to develop and execute solid waste management strategies that are decentralized, particularly benefit the urban poor, contribute to low-carbon development priorities and can be partly financed through the sale of carbon credits. Cambodia is one of the countries targeted in the project. Based on the outcomes of workshops and consultations with civil society groups, local government representatives and other United Nations organizations, Ta Khmao municipality, the capital of Kandal Province, was selected for a baseline study, the first step in developing the pilot project. The study centred on collecting accurate information on solid waste management in Ta Khmao.



2 Study methodology



Ta Khmao is located around 11 km from the country capital of Phnom Penh. It comprises six sangkats (communes): Doeum Mean, Ta Khmao, Preaek Russei, Preaek Hor, Ta Khdol and Kampong Samlanh. A random sampling method was used, and three of the six sangkats were selected – Doeum Mean (the centre), Preaek Russei and Ta Khdol.

The methodology involved: i) a household survey, ii) interviews with waste pickers, recycling shop owners and staff within the Kandal provincial and municipal authorities and iii) a waste generation and composition analysis carried out by the Community Sanitation and Recycling Organization (CSARO).

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