

Tonle Sap Great Lake (Cambodia) and Its Tremendous Roles on Mekong Ecology and Mekong Delta Livelihoods

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Abstract

Tonle Sap Great Lake is the largest lake in Southeast Asia, the most productive lake in the world, and ranks second in term of species diversity. The lake is the sanctuary for numerous species of fauna and flora including many species in IUCN red list. The lake is the main feeding and breeding ground of many migrating fish species. It provides annually hundreds of thousands of tons of fish catch, and generates employment for about 2 million people. The lake also plays a critical role in flood reduction for the whole Lower Mekong Basin, especially the Mekong Delta which is home to 21% of Vietnam's population and the main agricultural zone of this country. The importance of the Tonle Sap Lake is worth having special concern from national and international governments and institutions.