



NKFC

After 22 years in exile in Europe and the USA, Ravynn Karet-Coxen returned to Cambodia in 1992, while involved in humanitarian aid to rehabilitate amputees. After travelling extensively in Cambodia, she was convinced that, beyond providing immediate relief to those needing obvious assistance, it was important to improve the day-to-day life of the rural population living well below the poverty line through projects which are sustainable by the villagers themselves.

In order to accomplish this target, in March 1994 Ravynn founded the Ngin Karet Foundation for Cambodia, named in memory of her late father, a patriot dedicated to his King and country. The NKFC is registered in England, where she lives now, as well in France and Cambodia since 1998 and in the US since April 2000.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide assistance to the poorest villages in the northern region of Cambodia (Province of Siem Reap, District of Banteay Srei), the last to be released from the oppression of the Khmer Rouge. These villages face many deficiencies in terms of infrastructure, hygiene, health, food, education, and employment

The project of the Foundation aims to implement a sustainable development program for these villages including:

- Fresh water supply from wells;
- Improved hygiene through the provision of latrines and education;
- Prevention of malaria through the provision of mosquito nets ;
- Health care (vaccination against common infectious diseases and health education);
- Improved and diversified agricultural production (basic farm tools, supply of fruit trees and seeds, and extension education.);
- Provision of primary education (building of classrooms and supply of school materials);
- Implementation of small income-generation ventures (silk production, mat weaving, wood carving ...).

These activities support the re-establishment of the traditional structures and values of village life, based on Buddhism. They aim to contribute to the cohesion of these small communities, morally and physically mutilated by 20 years of war, and the atrocities of the Killing Fields.

The long-term ambition of the Foundation is to reduce the pressures for people to leave their villages by restoring their traditional productive opportunities (agriculture, traditional industries and crafts) and by the provision of educational and health services. In parallel, NKFC aims to integrate villagers into the development process of the province of Siem Reap, home of rich archaeological sites and the main draw for both national and international tourism.

The project has **the support** of the local, provincial and national Government Authorities as well the blessing of Their Majesties the King and the Queen of Cambodia. The Foundation also coordinates with other local NGOs.

Phase I of the NKFC Program ran from 2000-2002 and successfully supported seven villages by introducing the development activities listed. There have been significant improvements in the levels of health and education as well as in the productivity of agriculture and animal husbandry. NKFC has now embarked on **Phase II**. This will run from 2003-2005. While consolidating the progress registered in the original seven villages, this phase aims to support a further seven villages in the same District. To attain this goal, NKFC must raise USD525,000.

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NKFC, Key Facts

Organisation All of the project components of the NKFC program are approved by the Board of NKFC UK, based on study and analysis conducted in the villages and proposals from Cambodia. The Foundation is registered in Cambodia and has a local Program Manager in charge of the implementation and supervision of the projects. NKFC has no expatriate staff: expertise in different fields is provided by members of the Foundation. The projects are conducted in co-ordination with the Ministries of Rural Development, Education and Health.

The Villages NKFC supports 14 villages that are among the poorest, located in the Province of Siem Reap, District of Banteay Srei (site of the famous rose sandstone 10th century temple). The population of these villages has been displaced from different parts of the region under the former Khmer Rouge control. Thus, the economic and social life of the people needs to be rebuilt with proper infrastructures. The program supported by the Foundation aims at initiating a development process. No other NGO operates in these villages and the financial support from the Government is insufficient because of lack of resources. The following facts give an idea of the poverty and the lack of infrastructure faced by the villages.

- Population: (2191 families) 12,640 people, of which one third are below 15 years of age. 6% of the children are orphans. One per cent of the population is handicapped or disabled.
- Education: **about one third of the children have no access to a school.**
- Health: the main disease remains **Malaria** (70%) and there is **no health centre** in these villages. The nearest hospital is 15-30 miles from the villages. The infant mortality rate is high.
- **The condition of hygiene is very low; few families have latrines**
- Food: food is in short supply for an average of 4 months, because of **shortage of water** (average 3 month/year) and the **lack of farm tools and expertise.**
- Welfare: These villages are not connected to the electricity network: a few better-off families have small generators. Half of the houses are built of flimsy, local materials.. There is only one car available in the 7 villages.
- Economic activities: mainly rice fields, kitchen gardens and charcoal logging.

The Project Please refer to Page 1 for the key points of the project.

Achievements Major fundraising events organised in 1999 in London and in 2000 in New York supplemented by other donations and fundraising events have enabled the Foundation to achieve the following:

- Significantly reduced incidence of disease and mortality through the provision of wells, latrines, health education and vaccination campaigns as well as through the provision of impregnated mosquito nets and the introduction of iodised salt to combat goitre.
- Increased agricultural productivity through the introduction of new crops such as ginger, provision of seeds, and regular extension education, including teaching composting. This has led to improved nutrition and in many cases, a marketable surplus.
- Major reduction in animal mortality by training Village Animal Health Workers able to vaccinate and provide basic services to villagers. This has led to improved nutrition of the villagers, a marketable surplus and enhanced savings. (Animals constitute the main form of savings at the village level.)
- The setting up of an NKFC Office in Siem Reap with an experienced staff fully acquainted with the villagers and their needs. Extension workers in health, agriculture and animal husbandry are the key to empowering the people to help themselves and

breaking the dependency that they have been forced into by years of subjugation to the Khmer Rouge and/or living on hand-outs in refugee camps.

- Almost 600 children are now in school in the nine classrooms built by NKFC during phase I. Previously most of them were unable to attend school. The village of Rohall has a school for the first time. NKFC's health and agriculture extension workers visit the schools to impart education in these practical and essential subjects.
- Fish farming has been reintroduced to the District. Nine farmers are showing the way to their neighbours with good results. Families are eating better and earning revenue from sales of fingerlings and mature fish.

NKFC produces a revised census every year on the current sponsored villages (2003 census)

Village	Families	Population	Increase	Decrease
Kom Proum	264	1987	+35 families	
Choul Sar	199	1053	+ 3 families	
Toul Kralanh	302	1508	+15 families	
Rohall	34	119		-23 families
Prei Tmey	35	172		- 1 family
Ta Koh	203	1156	+ 3 families	
Total	1037	5995	+66 families	- 24 families

New Villages to be sponsored

Tmat Pong	179	1124
Sre Chamhot	147	805
Taek	186	1131
Tnorl	150	883
Ta Nee	240	1315
Chey	106	609
Run	146	778
Total	1154	6645

Grand Total 2191 12.640

What Next? Much remains to be done – adult education, introduction of simple, efficient cooking stoves, supporting silk production through cultivation of mulberry trees. And there are other poor villages in the District that deserve support. NKFC believes that the demonstrated positive results merit your contribution and your confidence.

Will you please help us to reach our goal for PhaseII - \$525,000 for the period 2003-2005?

The basic breakdown of our budgetary needs is as follows:

Programs	Investment	Maintenance	Training	Supplies	Other	Total	%
Health	0	0	33,500	17,000	0	50,500	11%
Education	105,000	15,750	0	5,000	0	125,750	28%
Agriculture	0	0	30,500	0	0	30,500	7%
Village Infrastructure	82,500	6,375	4,000	0	0	92,875	21%
Self-Generat.Income	0	0	0	25,500	0	25,500	6%
Skill Program	50,000	7,500	36,000	25,000	0	118,500	27%
Total Programs	237,500	29,625	104,000	72,500	0	443,625	100%
Operating Costs					51,375	51,375	12%
Contingency Fund					30,000	30,000	7%
Total Budget	237,500	29,625	104,000	72,500	51,375	525,000	

NKFC, List of Members

Founder and Chairman	Ravynn Karet-Coxen (Trustee)
Honorary Director of The Field Programme	Paul Matthews, B.A (Hons) Cantab. (UN Resident Co-ordinator Cambodia 1996-99) (Trustee)
NKFC Patrons	Marisa Berenson (Artiste de l'UNESCO pour la Paix) Lord Puttnam of Queensgate, C.B.E. Professeur Bernard Debré (Former Cabinet Minister) Duc de la Force Professeur Claude Jacques (Sorbonne) Professeur Azedine Beschouch (Fellow of the French Academy for Archeology and Humanities, Scientific Advisor to UNESCO)
NKFC U.K	Alexandra Coxen, MSc; B.A. (Hons) (Trustee) Anna Laurie-Walker (Trustee) Diana Clews, B.A. (Hons) (Honorary Secretary) B. Litt. (OXON) Rahul Ahuja A.C.A (Treasurer) Li-Da Kruger (Trustee) Gerald Dupuis (Trustee) Brian W. Walker, M.A. (Oxon) (Honorary Advisor)
NKFC France	Christian Blanckaert (Vice-President) Sophie Galydejean (Vice-Présidente) Maitre Mireille Famchon (Secrétaire Général) Philippe Ansart (Trésorier) Maitre Chantal Meininger-Bothorel (Administrateur) Marie-Hélène Jolain (Administrateur) Pascale Mussard (Administrateur)
NKFC Cambodia	Olivier de Bernon (Membre de l'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient) Romida Khek-Laurent Sophie Toan-Sok Michel Verrot (Architecte des Batiments de France) Nicholas E. Wood
NKFC Inc, USA	Violaine Bernbach (Vice President) Sady Karet (Honorary Treasurer) John A. Gillespie MD MBA (Honorary Secretary) Chip Cooper Longteine de Monteiro Norma Quinto Christine Alfsen Norodom

NKFC, How to Help Us

The Foundation organises fundraising events to raise the necessary revenue to carry out its support programme in Cambodia. It is tax efficient in U.K., France and the U.S.A.

NKFC has a *membership programme* available for UK, French and US residents. Please, contact the following person for more information:

- NKFC, UK
18, Kirk Close, Oxford, OX28JN, UK
Attention: Diana Clews
Tel/Fax: (01865) 433 982
- NKFC, France
14, rue du Conseiller Collignon, Paris 75016 – France
Attention: Mireille Famchon
Fax: (331) 4766 2728
- NKFC Inc, USA
412 East, 84th Street, New York, NY 10028
Attention: Sady Karet
Tel: (212) 861-3792

All cheques must be made payable to “NGINN KARET FOUNDATION FOR CAMBODIA”
Donations may be Tax deductible for residents of UK, France and US, please consult your Tax advisor.

You can reach us by E-mail at: nkfc@nkfc.org
For the Rostropovich Benefit Concert: angkorostro@nkfc.org
Our website is www.nkfc.org

Cambodia, Key Facts

<i>Location</i>	The Kingdom of Cambodia (11 million inhabitants) is located in the Indochina Peninsula, between Viet-Nam (70 million inhabitants) on its east border, Laos (5 million inhabitants) on the northeast border and Thailand (60 million inhabitants) on the north and northwest border. Cambodia has 443 km of coastline on the Gulf of Siam. The country is crossed by the Mekong River and has one of the largest lakes in Asia (the Tonle Sap or Great Lake). The Capital, Phnom Penh, is 1 hour's flight from Bangkok and 3 hours from Hong-Kong. The famous cities other than the capital are Siem Reap (home of the Angkor Wat Temple) and Kompong Som (the main sea harbour and resort).
<i>Climate</i>	Tropical, with a monsoon season from May to November and a dry season from December to April. The best season to visit Cambodia is between November and February.
<i>People</i>	The Cambodian people or Khmer constitute the majority of the population (95%), while the rest are Chinese, Cham, Vietnamese and other ethnic minorities. 95% of the population are Theravada Buddhists.
<i>Natural Resources</i>	Timber, gemstones (north-west region of Pailin), rice (plains along the Mekong, Tonle Sap rivers and Great Lake), fisheries (Great Lake), rubber (southeast), phosphates, manganese, pepper (southwest region of Kampot).
<i>Economic Facts</i>	Population: 11 millions, with 53% under 20 and 80% rural. GDP per Capita: USD 300, Growth: 4.8%, inflation: 6.5% Distribution of Resources: 44% from Agriculture, 37% from Service (mainly tourism), 17% from Industry (garments, cement,) Currency: 1 USD = 3,800 Riels Main Investors: Japan, Singapore, Thailand
<i>Political Organization</i>	Cambodia is a Constitutional Monarchy (1981) Headed by King Norodom Sihanouk. The Executive is headed by the Prime Minister. The Legislative Power is exercised by the National Assembly.
<i>History</i>	The Cambodian History can be divided into 3 main periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-Angkorian Period (1st-6^h AD): Known by Chinese traders as "Funan", the Kingdom of Chenla was an active exchange point between China and India, who supplied luxury commodities to the Roman Empire (gold, silver, silk, sandalwood, ...). The Indian influence was important (religion, institutions).• Angkorian Period (7th – 14th AD): With the reign of King Jayavarman II (790-835 AD) the roots of the Khmer Empire were set and reached its apogee with the construction of the Temple of Angkor Wat by King Suryavarman II in the 12th century. King Jayavarman VII (1181-1220) built the Bayon Temple and was the last strong monarch of the Empire. The kingdom extended its border to part of actual Viet-Nam, Laos, Burma and Thailand, but fell in 1431, when Angkor was taken by the Thais, who founded their new capital in Ayudhya (Thailand) in 1351.• Post-Angkorian Period (14th-20th AD): the capital moved to the region of Phnom-Penh. The Kingdom signed a Protectorate Treaty with France in 1863. Cambodia gained its independence on November 9th, 1954.

Cambodia, Key Facts

The recent History of Cambodia is marked by its entry into the Vietnam conflict in 1970 and the Killing Fields period, when more than 2 million people were killed by or died under the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1978). The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) assumed administrative responsibility for Cambodia, from March 1992 until the elections held in May 1993. The Constitutional Monarchy was re-established in 1993 and a multiparty democracy established..

Point of Interest Archaeological Sites of Angkor, including more than 300 monuments from 7th to 14th Century (Angkor Wat, Bayon). The site of Angkor was added in December 1992 to the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Festivals The Water Festival in November marks the end of the monsoon and the reversal of the flow of the Tonle Sap River, which is a unique phenomenon caused by the massive rise in the flow of water in the Mekong River following the snow melt in the Himalayas and the onset of the monsoon, forcing the water in the smaller Tonle Sap River to flow into the lake. In the dry season, the lake begins to drain back towards the sea, reversing its flow.
The New Year is celebrated in April, at a different date from those of the Chinese and Vietnamese New Years (February).