

# MISSION BLUE: KEP ARCHIPELAGO HOPE SPOT

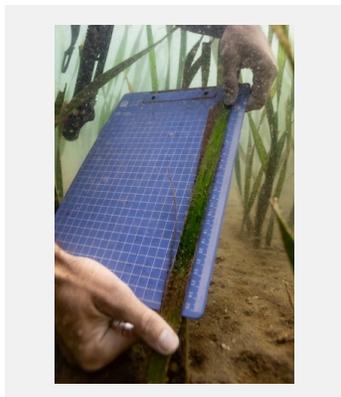
## VISUALS



Ref: ppi\_mb\_keparchipelago\_23cd\_0082

Rachana Thap is the Executive Director of Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC) and a Mission Blue Hope Spot Champion. MCC was founded in response to industrial fishers who, through the use of weighted nets and bottom trawling, were wiping away huge swaths of seagrass and coral reef, completely destroying entire ecosystems.

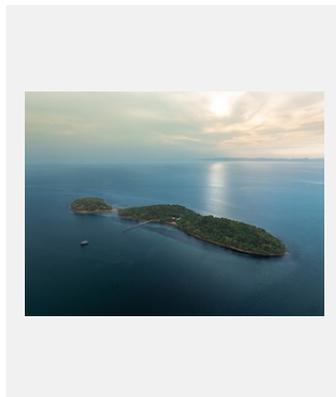
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Tanguy Freneat, Island Manager for Marine Conservation Cambodia, records data about the seagrass meadows in the waters surrounding Koh Ach Seh in the Kep Archipelago.

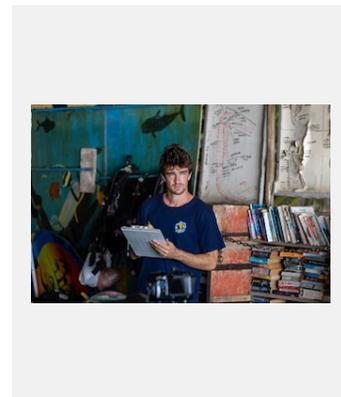
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Marine Conservation Cambodia were invited by the Cambodian government to make a permanent base on the island of Koh Ach Seh. From there they work around the clock, studying and protecting the surrounding marine life. In 2018 the area around the island was given official government protection as a Marine Fisheries Management Area.

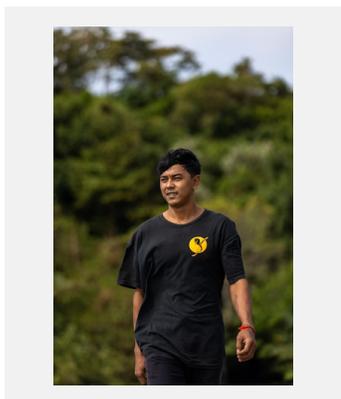
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Tanguy Freneat is the Island Manager for Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC). Freneat and the MCC team often host scientists, researchers and conservationists from around the world to help educate more people about the issues that the Kep Archipelago is facing and the unique ways they are combating these problems.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



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Samnang Ry previously worked as a squid fisherman and now he works with Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC) to help design and build their artificial reefs and to educate local people about conservation.

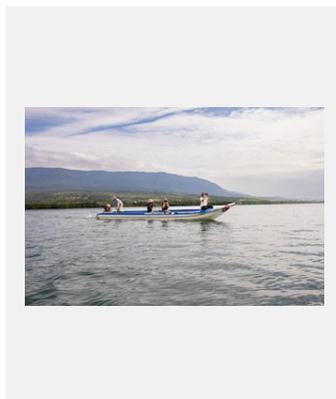
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The health of the coral reef found around the Kep Archipelago was declining rapidly before Marine Conservation Cambodia was established there in 2013 to protect its diverse waters.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



Ref: ppi\_mb\_keparchipelago\_23cd\_0018

The Marine Conservation Cambodia team carrying out a marine mammal survey in Preak Tnot waters, Kampot Province.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



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Marine Conservation Cambodia Executive Director Rachana Thap, Community Chief Uk Sovannarith and boat captain Pu Jorch, filling out a sighting calendar to track the marine mammals they encountered in Preak Tnot waters, Kampot Province.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz

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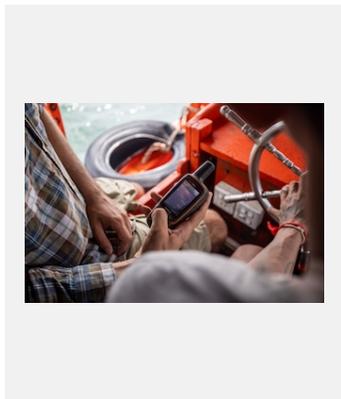
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Marine Conservation Cambodia run a programme along the coast helping local people to move into more sustainable oyster farming by deploying bamboo shellfish rafts.

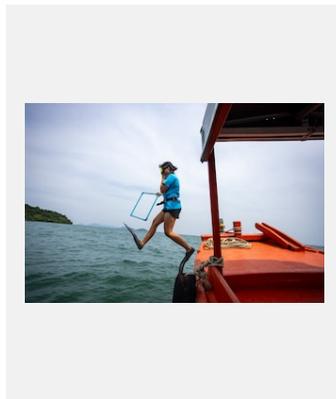
Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



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Simon Rétif, Marine Conservation Cambodia's resident cartographer, uses the global positioning system (GPS) to navigate to the next seagrass survey point on board one of Marine Conservation Cambodia's boats.

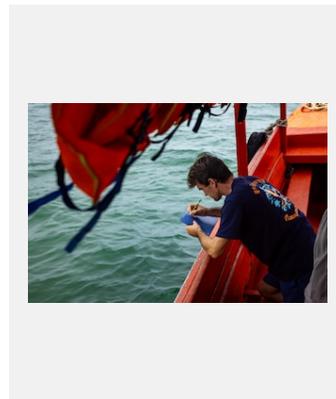
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Executive Director of Marine Conservation Cambodia Rachana Thap jumping into the water holding a quadrat on the sea floor to survey the different species that live there.

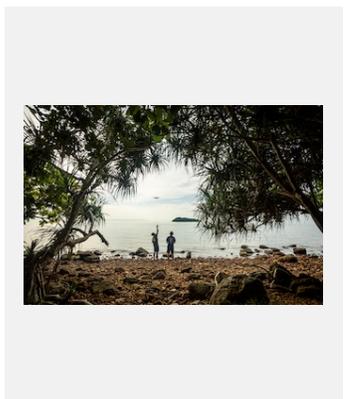
Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



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Tanguy Freneat, Marine Conservation Cambodia's Island Manager, taking notes of Hope Spot Champion Rachana Thap's findings whilst she surveys the sea floor.

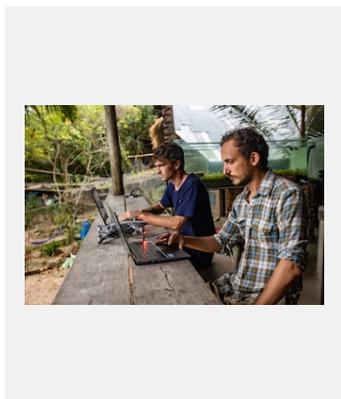
Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



Ref: ppi\_mb\_keparchipelago\_23cd\_0065

Marine Conservation Cambodia team members Samnang Ry and Tanguy Freneat launch a drone to survey seagrass and its growth in the area around Koh Ach Seh, Kep Archipelago.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



Ref: ppi\_mb\_keparchipelago\_23cd\_0069

Marine Conservation Cambodia team members Tanguy Freneat and Simon Rétif are using the results of a marine habitats survey to create detailed maps of Koh Ach Seh, Kep Archipelago.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



Ref: ppi\_mb\_keparchipelago\_23cd\_0084

Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC) Executive Director Rachana Thap is one of the first Cambodians to graduate with a degree in marine studies and was instrumental in developing MCC's artificial reefs programme.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



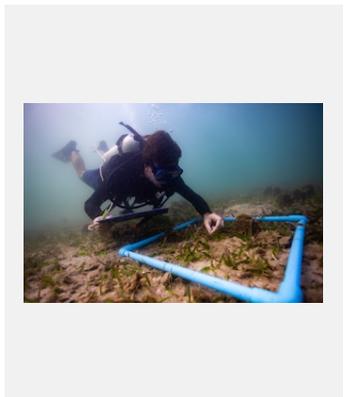
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The Marine Conservation Cambodia team in a meeting to discuss the various tasks and goals for the week ahead.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz

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# MISSION BLUE: KEP ARCHIPELAGO HOPE SPOT



Ref: ppi\_mb\_keparchipelago\_23cd\_0126

Marine Conservation Cambodia's Island Manager Tanguy Freneat using a quadrat to survey the floor of the seagrass meadow in the Kep Archipelago.

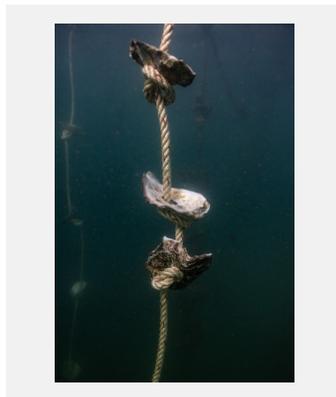
Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



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Prek Tnoat community fisherman Pu Jorch partners with Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC) to assess the health of oceanic ecosystems. MCC works with local fishing communities to conduct marine mammal surveys.

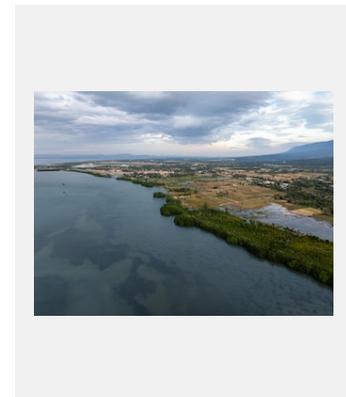
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Globally, we have lost 85 per cent of our oyster reefs. Marine Conservation Cambodia are sharing sustainable methods of oyster farming with local communities in order to encourage alternative livelihoods to fishing in the Kep Archipelago.

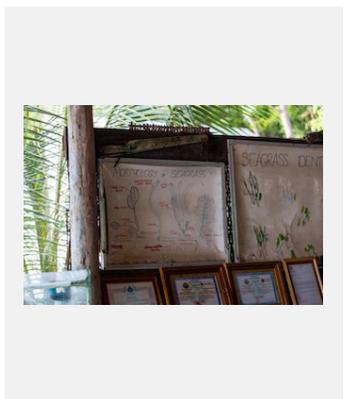
Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



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An aerial view of the Preak Ampil community. This community work closely with Marine Conservation Cambodia to develop sustainable methods of harvesting shellfish in the Kep Archipelago.

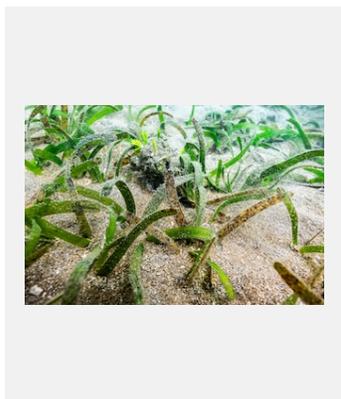
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Seagrass is the only flowering plant that can grow in marine environments. Their meadows are a key part of the wider ocean ecosystem because of their ability to produce oxygen and store carbon.

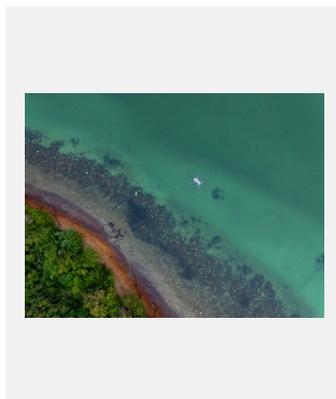
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Cambodia's seagrass meadows are among the largest remaining in south-east Asia. This seagrass forms the basis of an ecosystem that supports hundreds of species and is capable of sequestering more carbon than any terrestrial forest system.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



Ref: ppi\_mb\_keparchipelago\_23cd\_0075

The Marine Conservation Cambodia team use a drone to survey the waters of the Kep Archipelago from above, which helps them to locate and monitor seagrass meadows.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



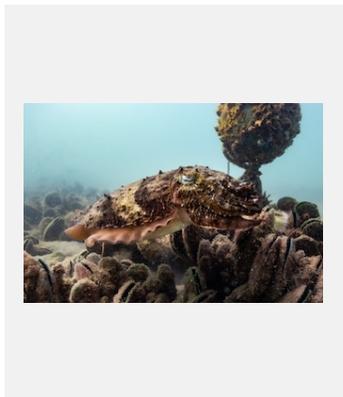
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The Marine Conservation Cambodia team have deployed more than 300 artificial reefs in the Kep Archipelago. The large structures installed on the sea floor attract life and physically shield ecosystems, giving them a chance to regrow and repopulate.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz

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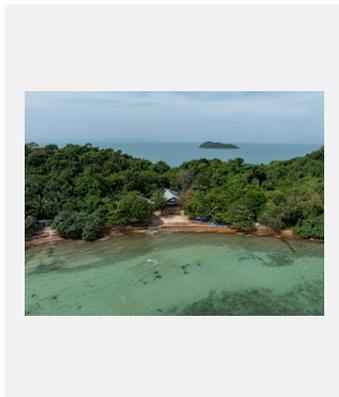
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Ref: ppi\_mb\_keparchipelago\_23cd\_0135

A cuttlefish enjoys the protected waters of the Marine Fisheries Management Area Marine Conservation Cambodia helped to establish. Despite their name, cuttlefish are not fish but invertebrates, often found in the shallows of tropical waters.

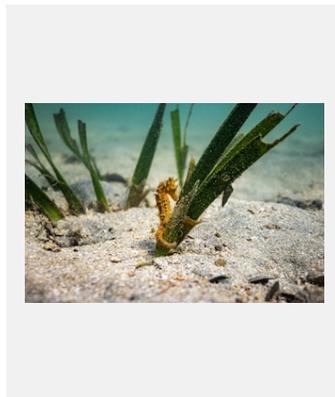
Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



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An aerial view of Koh Ach Seh island, in the Kep Archipelago. In 2013, Marine Conservation Cambodia were invited by the Cambodian government to make a permanent base on the island. From there, they work around the clock, studying and protecting the area's wealth of marine life.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz



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A seahorse in the shallow waters of the Kep Archipelago, clinging to a piece of seagrass on the sea floor. The tiny fish, named after the shape of their head, are typically found in sheltered, shallow waters.

Credits: © Rolex/Camilo Diaz