



High impact on people  
Low impact on the environment



OUR ENGAGEMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOURISM





## CANVAS AND ORCHIDS FAMILY



The concept of Canvas & Orchids was born from a passionate discussion as to what is the best solution to stop deforestation and poaching in this beautiful part of The Cardamom Rainforest.

Now, the Canvas & Orchids team is a group of villagers from Koh Andet, Tatai Kraumand nearby communities along the Tatai River.

The idea of Canvas & Orchids is to create a unique “glamorous camping” experience for our guests, enjoying with utmost respect, what beautiful nature has to offer in this ecological miracle that is the Koh Kong region.

Our goal is to have a high and positive impact on people, including our guests, our staff and the community, while having the lowest impact on the environment, protecting biodiversity, using sustainable materials, saving resources and reducing waste.

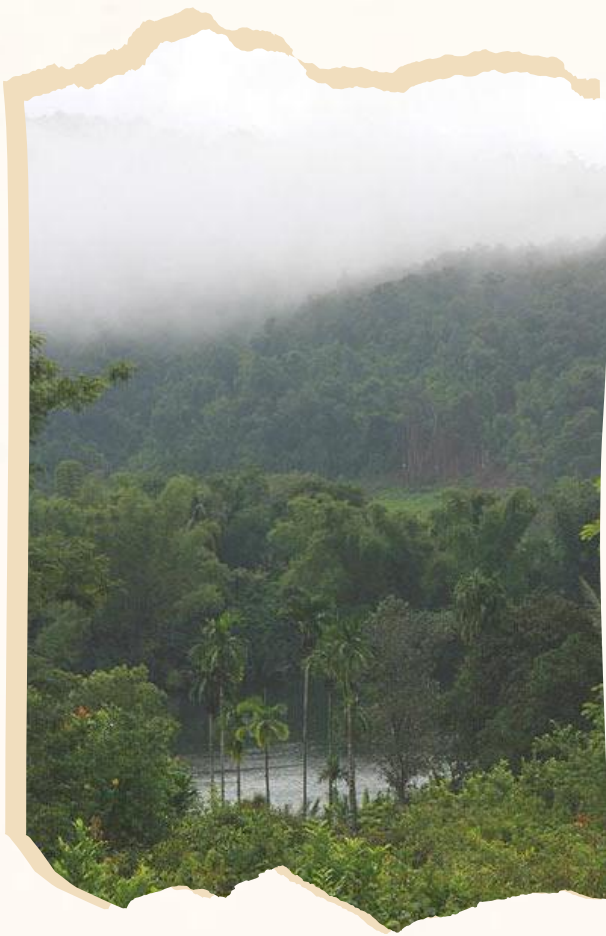




## THE KOH KONG REGION

The Koh Kong province is located in southwest Cambodia, not far from the Thailand border. It is a paradise for nature lovers, and still protected from mass tourism.

It is also one of the best spots for bird-watching, trekking or swimming in the waterfalls.



Here, the Cardamom mountains meet the rivers and together they offer an incredible biodiversity.

You will find the largest mangrove forest system and one of the largest protected forest in all Southeast Asia.

The resort is floating on the Tatai river.

The main sights are the Tatai Waterfall, a thundering set of rapids during the rainy season, and a nice place to swim in the naturally formed pools during the dry season, and the mangrove forests which is a home to a great biodiversity.



## HIGH IMPACT ON PEOPLE

At Canvas & Orchids, we put people first. The people in this community are the ones that will protect these forests and its wildlife.

This is why we have this conscientious efforts to scout the members of our immediate community who are hurting these forests, and change their habits, their ways.

We offer our guests an experience that initiates interaction with our Canvas & Orchids team members; by meeting people from all parts of the world, from other parts of Cambodia, telling them how amazing is the forests around, and how important it is to protect them, this is how our local team members believe more and more that we should all work together to keep and care for the forests and its wildlife.

Our aim at working with, and for, the local people is in the very heart of our hotel operations.



## OUR GUESTS

Our priority and our everyday preoccupation.

We want your stay with us to be unique and unforgettable.

Canvas & Orchids was created to showcase the beauty of this region. Our wish for you is to connect with nature, interact with the people that protect it, and enjoy the calm and peacefulness of this part of Cambodia.



## OUR TEAM

Our team members are our most precious asset, as they are the ones who share and brighten up your daily life.

Many of them did not attend school, as it required at least 2 hours rowing. A decade ago, there was only 1 school, situated in the main village of Tatai.

Some of them used to practice illegal logging and poaching for a living, and they have now a regular job and stable income.

They know much about the forest and its species, and share their knowledge and experiences with our guests.

We encourage them to be themselves as much as possible, and to create an interpersonal relation with our guests.



Vy, on the left, was hired as a boat driver in 2010. His family has a farm on this island.

He taught himself English with the help of his colleagues and our guests.

He is now the manager of Canvas & Orchids.

Darong in the center...our in-house teacher & trainer.

Naren, on the left, he makes sure our Canvas & Orchids maintenance team members are trained and guided, and committed to our promise to care for the environment.



## OUR COMMUNITY

### Cleaning our TATAI RIVER

With the local people as our most important partners, we initiated a number of community projects in the Koh Kong region, aiming at both improving people's quality of life and protecting the fauna and flora of the region.

#### The “Tatai river clean-up”

Every after public holidays, Tatai Waterfalls and Tatai River would receive many visitors, and sadly this beautiful place would be left with so much rubbish.

We don't allow this rubbish to stay in the forests and in the river.

We pick up the rubbish and segregate them.



#### “Tatai waterfall clean-up”

We clean at the waterfalls.

We take it as our responsibility.

We bring the rubbish back at the hotel and recycle these wastes.

We sell those that we can sell, and we have raised a good sum for our staff party!



All the projects are conducted with and towards children, because we believe they are the ones who have the power to change the future.

As an example, with the help of several business operators in the area, we built a water catchment system at the Tatai school. We initiated this because we observed that the drinking water was filled with animal waste and rubbish. They can now enjoy healthy and uncontaminated drinking water.

We also helped build a library, and toilets, providing school supplies and setting electricity connection in others schools around.



We initiated the **“Build the Koh Kong Khnong School”** project.

The school, located 2 hrs away from Canvas & Orchids, in Trapeng Reung district, is composed of two classrooms, made of wood, in a dilapidated condition with holes on the roof, which makes it extremely difficult for the students to focus on learning, in the rainy season, as it pours inside their classroom.

We have built the foundation for this school, and we have given an NGO the go signal to continue the school building.



## LOW IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Koh Kong Region is home to an incredible biodiversity that need to be protected and taken care of. The concept of Canvas & Orchids was built around the idea of not being destructive to the nature that surrounds us and implement actions to protect it.

### PROTECTION OF THE BIODIVERSITY

The Cardamom Mountains houses 54 endangered animals, such as Asian elephants and sun bears. Environmental experts have identified more than 500 bird species, 64 reptile species and 30 amphibian species.

In order to ensure the protection of the fauna, we work closely with Wildlife Alliance, and Cambodian Fishing Cat Project, which are the organisations that are actively working for wildlife and forests conservation.

To raise awareness among our guests about protection of both fauna and flora, we organize different tours allowing them to discover the incredible nature and the villages around the resort.

Boat tours to the waterfall or the mangroves, or trekking activities will show you the diversity of Koh Kong landscapes.

In the dry season when the night is dark and the moon isn't full, our guests are taken on a short boat ride to enjoy the fireflies spectacle.

Our tour guides are always happy and excited to tell you about our local ways, the wildlife around us and the beautiful places to explore. Talk to us...

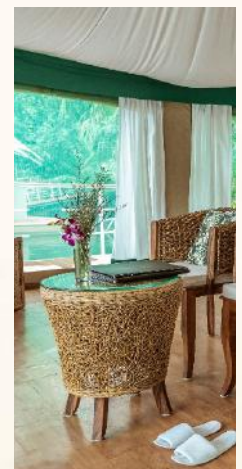
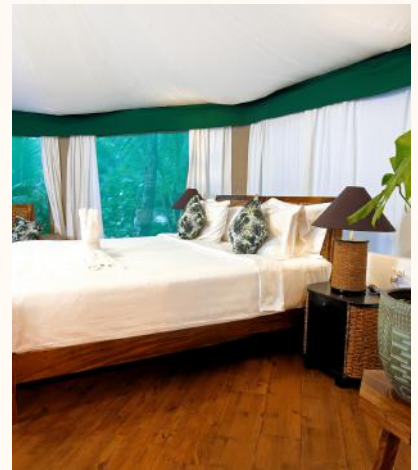


# ABUNDANT WATER HYACINTH

On sharing our sustainability practices...

We now feature The amazing WATER HYACINTH! We use these on our beautiful furniture.

Grows on the Mekong River... harvested...dried... then weaved.



DRIED WATER HYACINTH... as decor on our bed frames  
We change once a year



## A SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURE

When we had the idea of building a floating lodge, we wanted it to be surrounded by the nature, without causing harm to it. In this way, we used sustainable and mostly local materials for the construction, and are trying to be self-sufficient in energy supplies.



### Floors

As the resort is floating on the water, a floor made of wood would have to be replaced frequently (because of the heat and humidity), so we opted for a composite made of wood scrap and 100% recycled plastic.

### Energy

We have been using solar panels and back up generators.

We use a lot of solar-powered spotlights and other lighting, as well as low-energy consuming LED lights.

We chose to use cooling fans, instead of high energy-consuming a/c.

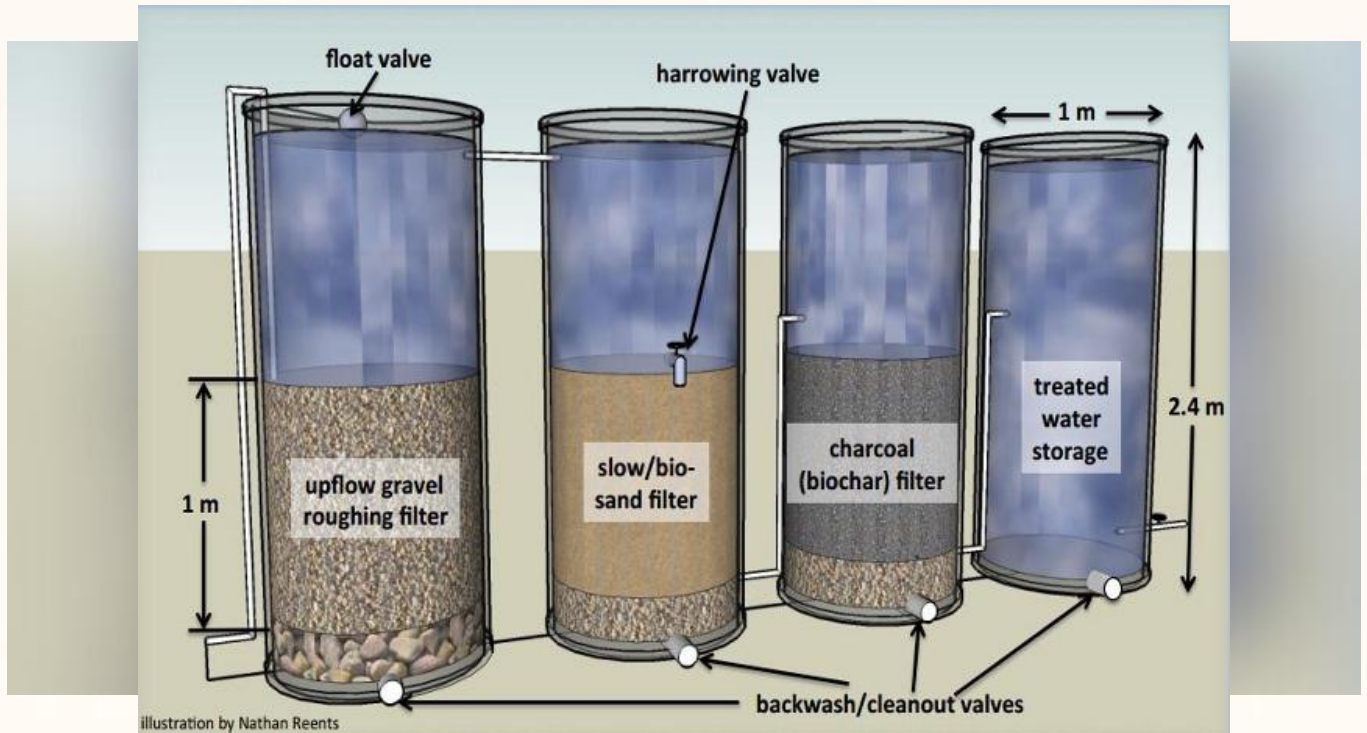


### Furniture

Numbers of furniture in the rooms are made of water hyacinth plant, an aquatic plant that grows in the rivers. The plant is abundant in the region, and the furniture are locally made with creative designs.

## A UNIQUE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

We have a well, from which the water is pumped and then filtered through three different reservoirs. The first one contains small stones, the second one sand and the last one carbon. Along with our rain water catchment system, it provides us enough water for showers, taps and toilets.



To clean the waste water, we have our own sewage system of septic tanks. Rocks on the sinks provide the first phase of naturally cleaning the water.



Toiletries in the bathroom are formulated from eco-friendly materials, made by KAMBIO. Guests are invited not to use any other chemical products that would slowdown the process of water cleaning.



## WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING

As far as possible, we minimize our impact on nature, and especially reduce the quantity of waste we produce.

All our waste is separated, and then collected to be brought to different places according to what can be recycled. Thus, our food waste is used for our compost, and some are gathered by the locals who use it to feed their poultry, and all the plastic and cans are recycled.



We believe that every little step is important in trying to reduce our waste, and reuse as many items as we can.

For instance we use wine bottles to create glasses and vases in the rooms.

The floor rugs by your bed have recycled materials inside as fillers – Styrofoam boxes that we picked up from the river, and our old ceiling liners.



During the tours, we use biodegradable packaging.



To replace plastic bags, this supplier produces and sells biodegradable bags, made of cassava starch, a root vegetable grown throughout Southeast Asia.



## USED GLASS BOTTLES & OLD FOAM

### IN OUR VEGETABLE GARDEN BEDS

Compost from our organic wastes...and our old cushions and foams, used wine & beer bottles, soy sauce bottles, and all glass bottles... you can find them in our vegetable garden beds.

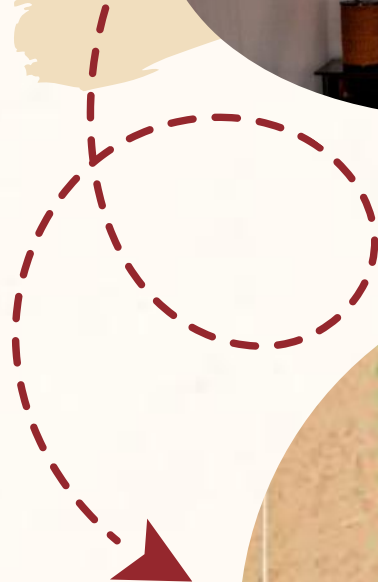
We use them all to raise the beds.





# OLD CEILING LINERS AND LAMP SHADES

WE USE THEM TO MAKE TOTE BAGS



RECYCLING &  
UPCYCLING



We hope to inspire you with these bags made from our  
OLD AND TORN LAMP SHADES & CIELING LINERS OF THE TENT.





# CANVAS & ORCHIDS — RETREAT —

in partnership with

**HOP!neo** 

*better trips  
for better days!*

