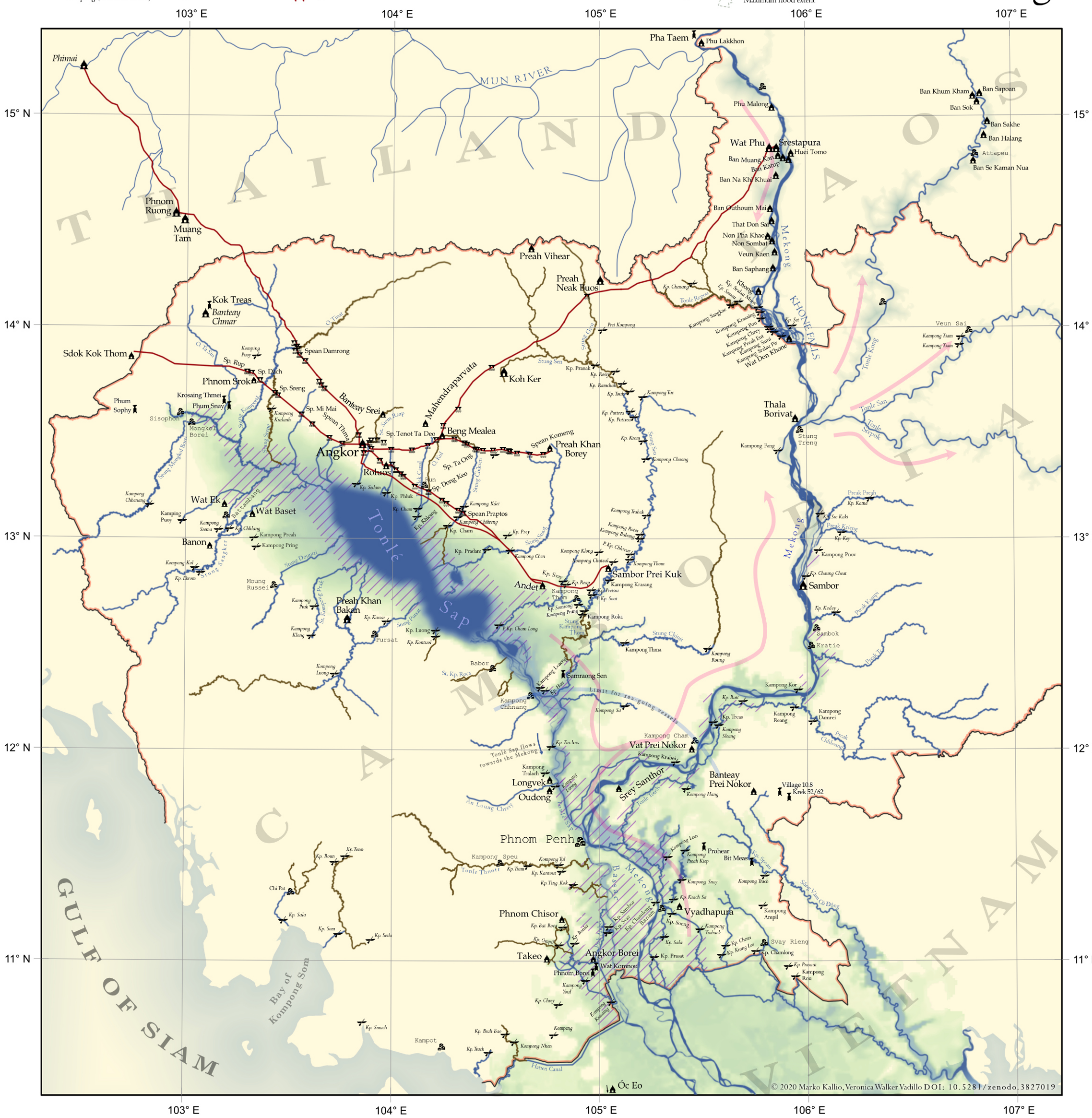
Mekong

Monumental site
Site with nautical scenes
Kampong (modern source)
Kampong (historical source)
Prehistoric site
Angkor era bridge
Modern town
Rapids
River, navigable / limited / non-navigable
Angkorian road, usable/non-usable
Deep pools
2 5 10 25 50 meters
Flood duration
Shorter Longer
Cambodian fishing lots
Wet / dry season fish migration
Maximum flood extent



Environment The early dry season starts around November, and is characterised by mild weather (23C min - 30C max). Rains stop and the course of the Tonlé Sap river flows southwards, into the Mekong River. Floods recede.

Water Transport Stream flow becomes more tolerable, while the extension of the water surface through the inundated area is still usable. Navigation is optimal for paddled boats.

Land transport As the water dries out from the road surface, the roads become fully functional. Water is available for traction animals, and the mild temperatures makes movement easier.

Fisheries White fish depart from the floodplains. The fishing season starts in December.

Salt production Salt ponds are prepared as the water recedes and the rain stops.

Rice cultivation Between November and end of February most varieties of rice are harvested. Between December and January receding rice paddies are prepared.

Other activities The Water Festival boat races mark the onset of the dry season. The bamboo bridge from Kampong Cham to Koh Paen is constructed again as the rain stops. Wintering birds arrive from November to February.

Flood in Kandal Province in 2009

Bamboo bridge from Kampong Cham to Koh Paen

Main data source used in this study is Walker Vadillo, Veronica. The Fluvial Cultural Landscape of Angkor. University of Oxford, 2016. Map design by Marko Kallio and Veronica Walker Vadillo. Numerous data sources were used to compile the information. In addition to the main document, we used historical maps by D. Harmand (1876), F. Garnier (1885), A. Pavie (1901), L. de Lajonquiére (1901, 1911), Service géographique de l'Indochine (1898), and Office local du tourisme au Cambodge (1928) to locate the *historical* kompongs marked. We also used modern map sources - Google Maps, OpenStreetMap, and a paper road map published by Cambodia Airports - for additional kompongs. Locations for historical sites in the Sekong basin and upstream of Mekong from Khone falls were approximated from Lorrillard (2014). The Angkor era roads and bridges were digitized and traced through satellite imagery and maps by B. Bruguier (2000), and M. Hendrickson (2007. 2010). The Angkor hydraulic system shown in the inset map was traced using information from M. Kummu (2009). Deep pool locations were sourced from the Mekong River Commission, and fishing lots approximated from maps published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. The hillshading is derived from MERIT Hydro 30-meter resolution Digital Elevation Model. Floodplain maximum extent and flood duration downstream from Kratie were derived from hydrodynamic modelling. Upstream from Kratie, maximum extent is approximately digitized from 100-year flood simulations by Dartmouth Flood Observatory. The photo showing Kandal floods is by Olivier Gilard, Water Alternatives / Flickr (CC-BY-NC 2.0). Photo of the bamboo bridge by James Antrobus / Flickr (CC-BY 2.0). This is version 1, published on 2020-06-29. If used in publications, please cite DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3827019.

Early dry season