Killing a Patient to Save His Life

Scientists are digitally tracking the links between human activity and the fragile ecosystem of Cambodia’s great lake.

Of Fish, Monsoons and the Future

An experimental treatment for severe trauma buys doctors time by inducing hypothermia.

An unusual kind of stone, partly plastic, was found.

NASA’s plans fall short, a space exploration expert says.

A girl paddling across the main canal of the floating village of Akol on the Tonle Sap. Overfishing, hydroelectric dams and climate change are threatening the lake’s future.

Abuse Cases, And a Legacy Of Skepticism

Ecosystems provide storm protection and other services that would cost trillions of dollars. Stories. By Carl Zimmer. Page 1

Now an international team of researchers has joined local fishermen in an ambitious project to save the Tonle Sap. The scientists are building an intricate computer model that aims to track the vast array of connections between human activity and natural systems as they change over time. Begun in 2012, the model will take several years to complete, while threats to the Tonle Sap continue to mount.

But the hope is to peer into the lake’s future to predict how different developments might ripple through this interconnected and fast-changing system, and to plan a sustainable way forward.

Charting a Changing Cambodia

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Controlling the Lake

Every year, the lake涨到 about 3,000,000 tons of salt, making it one of the world’s most productive freshwater ecosystems. And the lands that flow through it in marshy season, swelling it to a such as flooding floods in certain times. Here's a map of the lake:

The black shark, Labeo chrysophekadion, is one of several small species that have found a way out of the life that has sustained them for centuries.

Henri Mouhot, the 19th-century French entrepreneur, is also credited with the discovery of the Tonle Sap.

But the Tonle Sap is in trouble — from overfishing to feed a fast-growing population, from the cutting of mangrove for firewood to check their nets, much as they do.

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