



rainforest timber, especially teak and rosewood, is Cambodia's most important resource. For 20 years it was sold in huge quantities by all factions to finance their war efforts. Now indiscriminate tree felling is a major environmental problem, and a 1992 moratorium on logging is largely being ignored. Gems are another resource but strip mining is causing habitat loss. The destruction of mangrove swamps is threatening fisheries. Starting from a very low base, economic growth was strong in the early 1990's, but a lack of skills at all levels of administration and management is slowing progress.

Religion of Cambodia

Cambodia's chief religion is Buddhism. Buddhism is the third major proselytizing religion in the world. It is based on the enlightenment experienced by one man. According to tradition, this religion was started by a man named Siddhartha Gautama who lived in northeastern India in the sixth century BC, and was reared in the royal household. In his adulthood, Siddhartha is said to have sought enlightenment, which he achieved through a night of meditation, thereby becoming the Buddha or enlightened one. For 45 years he traveled India as an itinerant teacher while formalizing his religious precepts. His teachings spread into southern Asia, where the first Buddhist tradition, the Theravada (meaning "doctrine of the elders"), began. This doctrine still prevails in Cambodia today.

Kingdom of Cambodia

Form of Government: Constitutional monarchy with single legislative body (National Assembly)

Capital: Phnom Penh

Area: 69,900 square miles

Population: 13,607,069

Population Density: 186.6 people per square mile

Life Expectancy: 58.92

Infant mortality (per 1000): 71.48

Official Language: Khmer

Other Language: French

Literacy Rate: 73.6%

Religions: Theravada Buddhism 95% other 5%

Ethnic groups: Khmer 90%, Vietnamese 5%, Chinese 1%, other 4%

Currency: Riel

Economy: Agriculture 80%, services and industry 20%

GPN per capita: US \$270

Climate: Tropical, with wet season May to November

Highest point: Phnum Aoral 5,810 ft.

