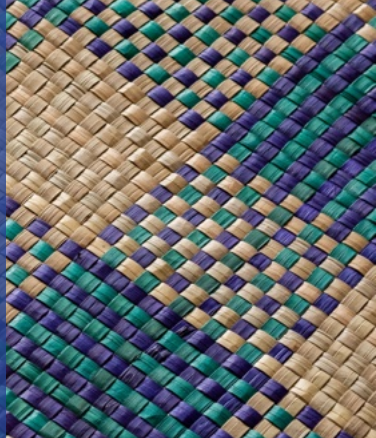




Get an authentic Cambodian handicraft product
while supporting Phnom Kulen villagers and their tradition.

CONTACT

Phone/Telegram/WhatsApp:

Ms. CHHUN Phirom: 017 45 52 95

Ms. CHHOUCK Sreymom: 085 27 69 96

kulencrafts@gmail.com

BEHIND THE SCENE...

Kulen Mountain was the siege of an ancient capital from the early 9th century AD. Nowadays, it is part of Phnom Kulen National Park, located in Siem Reap province, 40 km away from Angkor archaeological World Heritage site.

Today, the Kulen plateau is populated by more than 4900 inhabitants, distributed in ten villages. Most of the villagers are subsistence farmers practicing shifting cultivation/slash and burn (chamkar) to grow rain-fed rice. Over the last 15 years, this practice has been replaced by permanent cashew nut farming, threatening even more the park's biodiversity.

Some of the eldest villagers also create artisanal handmade items: mats, baskets, brooms, fishing traps made of rattan, bamboo as well as blacksmith knives and cutting tools. This tradition is quickly fading if not transmitted urgently to the younger generation and supported by a larger market.

Thanks to **HUMY's** support and **Terre Cambodge, Archaeology & Development Foundation** (ADF) is encouraging these vulnerable villagers by bringing these items to the market and organising training classes so the elders can share their knowledge to younger generations.

Every product is unique, some are seasonally-made but all are the result of several weeks of work and passion. Available in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and at the Anlong Thom and Popel Community-based Tourism Centers in Phnom Kulen, orders can also be placed!

Please contact us for more information and scan the QR codes at the back.

PANDAN MATS

Pandan Mats (*Kantel Romchek*) are made from pandan leaves found near the streams on Phnom Kulen. Below are describe each step taken to reach the final product.

1. Cutting panda leaves and removal of thorns
2. First drying of the leaves under the sun for a few days
3. Soaking in water for two days
4. Second drying, for one or two days
5. Dyeing by soaking them into hot water with added pigments
6. Third drying, one or two days
7. Weaving is only done during the rainy season (June to October). It takes 5 to 15 days depending on the size of the mat, which is defined by the length of the leaves



PANDAN MATS

Different waiving styles and colours are available. Smaller size mats that can be used as table sets and glass coasters. Large mats can also be used as tablecloth or wall decoration. Production is only possible during the rainy season as pandan leaves are more flexible and easier to weave. Orders are can be placed!



CUTLASSES AND KNIFES

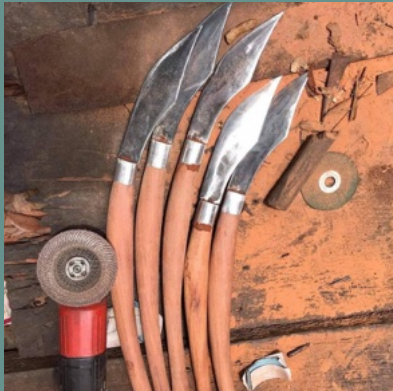
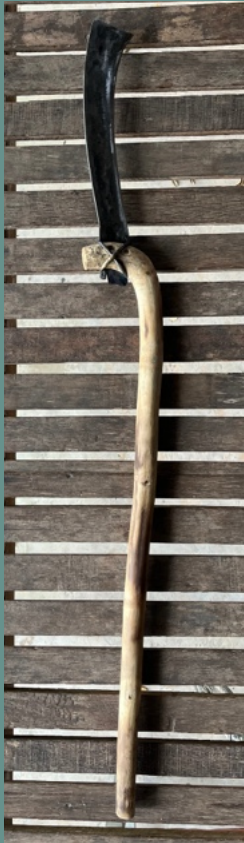
Cutlasses (Phkeark) are made from bamboo for the handle and recycled iron for the blade by Phnom Kulen blacksmith. Phkeark is a typical cutlass used by Cambodians since Angkor period, as shown on the Angkor Wat and Bayon temples's bas-reliefs. It is mostly used today to cut small trees and branches.

1. Finding the proper twisted bamboo handle requires a full day in the Kulen forest
2. Shaping the handle by firing it requires one day
3. The bamboo handle needs to be smoked over the fire from two to four weeks
4. The making the of each blade, from second-hand iron, requires one day
5. The last step consists in attaching the blade to the bamboo with an iron ring



CUTLASSES AND KNIVES

There is one kind of **cutlass** (*Phkeark*) and different type of knives. Some can be kept in a bamboo sheath. As they request time to be produced, orders can be placed.



ROUND BASKETS

Round baskets (Kanh Cheu) are made from 8 types of bamboo, tree wood, rattan and vines from Phnom Kulen. No plastic strings are used. They have a square base and a circular rim. The three available sizes (S, M, L) correspond to rice quantities (5, 8, 12 Kg).

1. Finding the raw material takes two to three days in the forest
2. Slicing the raw material, two to three days
3. Weaving the body of the basket, four to seven days
4. Building the base takes three days
5. Create the “ear” handles requires one day
6. Decoration of top of basket, two days
7. Smoking above the kitchen fire, up to two months



ROUND BASKETS



FLAT BASKETS

Flat baskets (Chang Ea) are made from bamboo, rattan and *romdoul* tree (*Sphaerocoryne Affinis*). They are used to separate the rice from its husk. They have an ovale shape and available in two sizes (large and medium). They can last about 20 years.

1. Finding raw material takes at least a day
2. Slice the raw material, from two to three days
3. Weaving of the basket takes about seven days
4. Smoking it above the kitchen fire requires up to one month



FLAT BASKETS



WATERPROOF BASKETS

Waterproof baskets (Crus) are made from bamboo, two different wood trees, including the Romdoul tree (*Sphaerocoryne Affinis*), vine, rattan, and two natural resins (from *Shorea Vulgaris* and *Dipterocarpus Alatus* trees). Villagers use it to transport water.

1. Finding raw material requires two to three days
2. Slice the raw material takes two to three days
3. Weaving the Crus takes seven days
4. The resin application for waterproofing requires one day
5. The drying phase takes a full week
6. Finally, the making of the handles and carry rod requires a day



WATERPROOF BASKETS



BROOMS

Brooms (Amboh) are made from local grass. There are two kinds of brooms.

1. Finding raw material requires one day for 5 to 10 brooms
2. The drying phase takes 10 to 15 days
3. The next phase is to peel the grass
4. Finally, the making of the broom takes 2 days for 5 to 10 units

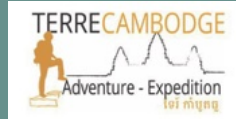


BROOMS





would particularly like to thank our partners and sponsors:



and

Mr. Kao Kosal, Mr. Keuom Vitou and ADF team for the pictures

This booklet is dedicated to
all the Phnom Kulen craftsmen and craftswomen
for their commitment and passion

Design of this booklet by:

Ms. Chhun Phirom, Terre Cambodge/ADF

Dr. JB Chevance, Archaeologist, ADF's Director



CONTACT

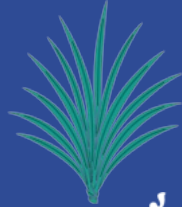
Phone/Telegram/WhatsApp:

Ms. CHHUN Phirom: 017 45 52 95

Ms. CHHOUCK Sreymom: 085 27 69 96

kulencrafts@gmail.com





សិប្បកម្មគូលែន
KULEN CRAFTS
CATALOGUE

Supports quality and tradition

Kulen Crafts,
Siem Reap,
Cambodia

