

## **Community Health and Safety Plan**

**Date: January 3, 2023**

**CEPF Grant 113601**

**Grantee:**

**Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)**

***Project Title:***

**Enhancing Sustainability of Mekong Stung Treng Ramsar Fisheries Management**

**Project Location:**

**Stung Treng Ramsar Site**

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization: Culture and Environment Preservation (CEPA)
2. Project title: Enhancing Sustainability of Mekong Stung Treng Ramsar Fisheries Management
3. Grant number: CEPF -113601
4. Grant amount (US dollars): USD 150,000
5. Proposed dates of grant: March 1, 2023
6. Countries where activities will be undertaken: Cambodia
7. Summary of the project:

## **Project Rationale:**

Stung Treng Ramsar Site is situated on the Mekong River between the Lao border and Stung Treng town in Cambodia. It was designated as a Ramsar Site in 1999 with 14,600 hectares. It contains a unique seasonally flooded riverine forest habitat, and is also home to the Irrawaddy Dolphin *Orcaella brevirostris* and the Mekong Giant Catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*), Giant Carp (*Catlocarpio siamensis*), Mekong Freshwater Stingray (*Hemirhynchus laosensis*), Thick-lipped Barb (*Probarbus labeamajor*). More than 10,000 people, especially the Community Fishery (CFi) members who live in or close to the Ramsar Site, and most of them rely on the Mekong for their food and livelihoods. Fish is the major source of protein and is also harvested to be sold. Many other species are also used, such as snails, crabs and frogs for food, and various plants for fuel wood, building, crafts and medicine. The regular flooding of the river supports rice farming using paddies. (<https://www.iucn.org/theme/species/our-work/freshwater-biodiversity/what-we-do/integrated-wetland-assessment/stung-treng-demonstration-site>).

Currently, in the Ramsar site, there are existing management mechanisms in place such as CFis in line with Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry (MAFF), Ranger under the Ministry of Environment (MoE), and local authority under the Ministry of Interior (MoI) who are playing the key role in natural resources management and biodiversity conservation.

Learning from the previous project under CEPF support called “**Sustainable Natural Capital Management through Improving Biodiversity Conservation Efforts in Ramsar Site**”, broodstock zone management in Stung Treng Ramsar site is an effective mechanism that have much contribution in reducing numbers of illegal fishing activities in the zone during the closed fishing season, based on the case reported by fisher in one of the target implemented 80% of electro-fishing was declined while the deploying large scale floating gillnets was 100% declined due to active participation from all key stakeholders and community through co-management approach. There are some more interventions proposed from communities, local authorities and competence authorities to continue to support this initiative as it is a good mechanism to build more and more networking and collaboration among communities and key stakeholders for sustainable fishery resources management and the project should provide support for livelihood improvement for communities nearby the broodstock zones. The collaboration among the multi-stakeholders in the site has been much improved since the project supported by CEPF from July 2020-June 2022, particularly the Stung Treng Fishery Administration Cantonment and Stung Treng Provincial Department of Environment while the community fishery has good networking with rangers, local authorities including commune council, police officers and district authorities. However, the key challenges and gaps are still exist, such as No specific boundary for broodstock zone which means that the unclear boundaries of the existing and scaling up support on broodstock zones in Stung Treng Ramsar site is needed to be identified for boundary demarcation with a clear maps for conserving fish habitat not only closed-season. The project will improve and scale up the broodstock management with inclusive participation through co-management mechanisms, Lack of

sustainable financing mechanism to contribute to CFiMP implementation. 17 community fisheries in Stung Treng Ramsar site, they all have approved CFi management plan in place, but they have no sufficient financial resource to support the implementation and each of the CFi has large size with complicated area to handle or manage while some communities have small financial resources and other still nothing to support their management plan implementation including deep pools management, law enforcement activities, flooded forest restoration, awareness raising and joint patrol action with competence authorities. In order to respond to this need, the project proposed a Pilot Fish stall community-led Business to contribute in sustainable fisheries management and also to strengthen the existing financial mechanisms including CFi credit scheme and Mini-trust fund to be functioning and contributing to the CFi management plan implementation through regular support, backstopping and follow up activities from the proposed project.

**The status of the fish habitats in Stung Treng Ramsar site have been changed**, some flooded forest is lost and the deep pools become shallow due to impacts from other factors including climate change, hydropower development on the mainstream of the Mekong river, water level fluctuation. The impacts from these changes are affected to the fish habitats, fish spawning ground, food protein supply chain to the community livelihood. So, it is an opportunity to study on the deep pools for documentation to identify the new updated data for all deep pools in Stung Treng Ramsar site, particularly on the number of deep pools, status of deep pools, flooded forest, fish species, size, depth and how future action plan to be adapted to the current situation for the effective management for individual CFi in Ramsar site. The study on the ecological functioning and significance of deep pools is very important because it helps the communities and key stakeholders to develop the effective plan for deep pools management.

**Limited resources and capacity of CFiMC and its members** to exercise their rights in community management in terms of leadership skill, institutional management skills, resources mobilization and management skills. The capacity of stakeholders and community fishery management committee still needs to be improved and built ownership for sustainable fishery management. In this case, the proposed project will support community-led conservation deep pools management in each of 17 CFis in Stung Treng Ramsar site to exercise their rights and strengthen their capacity and institutional management. The project will also support the annual assembly of 17 CFis to strengthen the institutional management and building trust to other CFi members. Moreover, the data of fish catch is needed to be updated and keep on recording to monitor the status of fish species in the targets of project implementation through supporting fish catch monitoring in 3 CFis and conducting fishing independent monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis during the project period.

Another corner is collaboration and networking in terms of co-management in fishery resources management between the community fishery with other key stakeholders on the broodstock zone management and law enforcement activities in the community fishing area needs to be improved and strengthened through supporting the CFi network meeting and training or workshops.

If the project is not implemented, the data of current fish habitats in Stung Treng Ramsar site will not be documented and the appropriate mechanisms to be applied to improve the fishery resources management particularly the deep pools management and broodstock zone management in the target CFis. There will not be functioning in fishery conservation and management in terms of collaboration and management from key stakeholders and community fishery management committee and the number of illegal cases will be re-active due to gaps of the management and participation. There will not be functioning in the working mechanism of key stakeholders, they will have no opportunity to express their commitment and collaboration efforts and support the CFis in fishery resources conservation and management. It will not be only affected community livelihoods who are relying on fishery resources in the area of project

implementation (upper Mekong River), but it would be affected to other community areas in lower Mekong River and Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia which most of fishery resources are from Upper Mekong River, especially from Stung Treng Ramsar site. More importantly, some endangered fish species are decreasing from year to year and it would become extinct in the near future from the list of endangered freshwater fish species notified by sub-decree on endangered fish species (issued no. 123 អនក្រឹត្យ August 12, 2009 by MaFF) such as crocodile catfish, elephant ear gourami, giant gourami, finescale tigerfish, thicklip barbs...etc.

### **Project Approach:**

The project will work with 17 CFIs in the Ramsar site in a particular area in fishery conservation and management by assessment of deep pools for better planning, management, and monitoring; Strengthening institutional capacity to promote fisheries conservation, Piloting community sustainable financing through community-led fish stall business, and Strengthening of multiple stakeholder cooperative platform in fisheries resource management. This approach of Nature Based Solution applies to sustainable fisheries resources and its' ecology and improved food security of people.

The project considers gender equality and social inclusion as key to success. The promotion of representation of women, indigenous people, youth, elder and poor and disadvantaged groups in fishery resource management particularly CFI is evidenced but more effort is required. Full and meaningful participation of vulnerable groups in the community – women, youths, and elders – is fundamental for promoting fairness and justice in natural resource management.

CEPA applies our the gender mainstreaming strategic plans in the project for gender equality and social inclusion. The CFI women member and leader of network will be supported and strengthened – to cultivate women champion that will serve as roles model who are making their personal commitments to CFI development in their communities. Youth engagement in natural resource management is important and the project will continuous to engage community youth in their CFI activities.

### **Component 1: Conservation**

The proposed project will support the conservation activities with participation from community Fishery Management committee in 17 CFIs in STRS, competent authorities including FiAC, DoE/Rangers, CC and DA to conduct several actions such as carry out the survey on deep pools for better planning, management and monitoring within STRS, deep pool management and protection planning and implementation, broodstock zone management and development, fish catch monitoring and community-led conservation action. These actions will be contributed into conservation component with several sub-key activities conducted by communities to improve the fish habitat condition in STRS, strengthen the law enforcement activities, improve fish species, improve capacity and skill of CFI management committee to led conservation actions.

#### **1. Carry out survey on deep pools for better planning, management, and monitoring within STRS:**

There are many deep pools in Stung Treng Ramsar site which are home to a great diversity of wildlife – mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, and vegetation. Four flagship species, Irrawaddy dolphin, Sarus crane, Mekong giant catfish, and Siamese crocodile, of the Mekong Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Program (MWBP) are found in this area. Many villagers live along the Mekong River and have relied their lives on fisheries and forestry for food security and livelihood. The recent change of development including hydropower plants and agricultural land use has posed a threat to the site's ecological system. The survey on deep pool in Stung Treng Ramsar site aim to study the characteristic of the deep pool, sizes of each deep pools, Cfis involved, presence of key species, flooded forest status, deep pools, UTM, depth of the pools through a field based survey. The survey lead by a consultant who have expertise on fishery resources, it's habitat and ecosystem, and experiences in the Stung Trang Ramsar site with full participation from IFRReDI/FiA, Stung Treng FiA, DoE, community fisheries, and NGOs partner in Stung Trang province. The following activities related to survey on deep pools:

### **1.1 Organize the meeting with the competent institution to get the technical inputs on deep pool survey design process and methodology:**

The project will organize a consultation meeting with Fishery Administration (FiA), Fishery Administration Cantonment (FiAC), Provincial Department of Environment (PDoE), District Administration (DA), Commune Council (CC), Community Fishery Management Committee (CFiMC), Community Fishery Network (CFiN), NGOs at Provincial level with 35 participants/15F to discuss on the research proposal outline that is drafted by the consultant to review and get more inputs for the survey design and methodology to be applied during the survey process.

### **1.2 Conduct field-based survey on deep pools with the full participation from competent institutions and community members:**

The action will conduct the field-based survey activities for collecting data related all deep pools in STRS with participation from CFiMC, PDoE, FiA, FiAC, DA including highlighted sizes of each deep pools, Cfis involved, presence of key species, flooded forest status, Deep pools, UTM, depth of the pools and leading by a consultant. This action is including the draft technical report of the survey by the consultant for validation workshop in the next step. The draft report will be reviewed by the project team and feedback before the coming workshop.

### **1.3 Organize the stakeholder consultation workshop to validate the draft findings of the deep pool survey:**

The consultation workshop is to validate the data finding, gaps and recommendations for improving the quality of the technical report of deep pool survey in STRS. The workshop is participated by PDoE, FiA, FiAC, CC, DA, CFiN, CFiMC and other NGOs to provide more input on the report.

### **1.4 Organize the dissemination workshop on the findings of the deep pool survey**

The project supports to publish 100 books of the technical report on deep pool survey and they are available to share to stakeholders during the workshop. The workshop is planning to invite all key stakeholders who have involved in the steps of the survey.

### **1.5 Integrate the deep pool survey findings with specific recommendations into the STRS management plan and community fisheries management plan:**

The action will be support to organize a meeting with all key stakeholders, particularly the PDoE, FiAC, FiA, CC, DA, CFiN, CFiMC and NGOs who are working in the STRS to be official use all the data publicly. The STRS management plan and CFi management plan are highlighted or reflected the key finding from the final report of the survey of deep pools in STRS. The deep pool management plan will be adopted the some data and recommendation from the technical report of the deep pool survey to be applied at the community level.

## **2. Deep pool management and protection planning and implementation**

### **1.6 Develop deep pool action plan which is aligned with the 3-year community fisheries management plan:**

The action will be coordinate with 3 selected community fisheries in Ramsar site to discuss on the detail workplan for annual deep pool management plan which aligned with the 3-year community fishery management plan. The plan will be detailed with specific activities and proposed budget for the annual operation in 3 communities. All supported communities will be supported the implementation of annual deep pool management plan such as installing signboards, flag signs, boundary floating barrels, and planting flooded forest. The committee and members of 3 selected CFis will collect the flooded forest seedlings that grow in the community, such as reeds, Deum ReangTek (*Barringtonia acutangula* (L.) Gaertn) to plant along their deep pools boundary zone.

### **1.7 Support deep pool conservation activities at the community level:**

The project will coordinate with CFiMC in the selected 5 Cfis in STRS to support the annual deep pool management plan with focus on the prioritized area of the deep pool conservation to improve the status of biodiversity within the deep pool conservation zone. The community will highlight the progress report of the conservation activities of those Cfis in their report monthly basis.

## **3. Broodstock zone management and development**

### **1.8 Carry out participatory demarcation for 4 broodstock zones:**

The action will support the community participatory demarcation process of the four broodstock zones in STRS with highlight the size of the broodstock zone, deep pools, boundary scope of local fishing access points, key habitat of Endangered Fish species on the high-resolution maps. The project will produce 8 billboards of the four zones to be installed at community that involved in the zones for improve awareness raising of community fishers.

### **1.9 Support and improve broodstock zone management facilities**

The proposed action will materials and equipment for broodstock zone operation. Two existing floating posts are used for two zones, but there were no any speed boats to run for patrolling. So, the project proposed to purchase two sets of speed boats for each of standby post. Two new floating posts needed to support other two broodstock zones and they are needed to support two speed boats for each post. Support materials for four broodstock zones management (Solar panel, torches, Tents, life jackets, hammocks, walkie-talkies, Floating signboards, Flags, billboards, banners, 4 phones\_Black views for SMART patrol application). These facilities will be managed by the representatives of the standby team with a agreement with CEPA.

### **1.10 Support 5-month operations on broodstock zone management during the closed fishing season each year (2023 and 2024)**

The action will support the 5 month operation on broodstock zone management during the closed fishing season from May to September in each year (2023 and 2024) with participation from CFiMC, Rangers/PDoE, FiAC, local police, CC and DA to promote the effective fishery resources management and conservation through co-management effort in STRS. The standby team for broodstock zone management will conduct regular patrolling surrounding the broodstock zones, the numbers of illegal fishing activities including floating gillnet and electro fishing will be decreased.

### **1.11 Conduct the public community outreach meeting to fishers and sub-national authorities on broodstock zone rules for standby team, complaint mechanism and do's and don't guideline.**

The action will organize meetings with standby team, local fishers and local authorities that are involved in the four broodstock zones to discuss on the existing rules and complaint mechanism and Dos and Don't guideline to be applied at the target Cfis and broodstock zones. Four meetings will be organized with coordination from CEPA team to disseminate on these guidelines for improving participation and safeguard at the target communities.

## **4. Fish monitoring**

### **1.12 Conduct fish catch monitoring at the household level**

The proposed action will be conducted monthly bais by 3Cfis (Thmei, Koh Kei and Orun) to monitor the fish status of the project sites where it will reflect the effective of the broodstock zone management and deep pool management of the target communities. The project will produce two annual reports on the fish data which is used to compare from year to year on the daily fish consumption of the community members.

### **1.13 Conduct fishing independent monitoring and evaluation**

It is "Fishing independent monitoring and evaluation" which conducted by local fisher by using specific fishing gears in the control site and test site. The action will be conducted quarterly basis at 3 Cfis (Thmei, Koh Kei and O'run) with a single fisher at the specific deep pool and fishing gear of each community. The selected fishers are well oriented on the fishing independent monitoring protocol, the data collected from this action will be used to monitor effort of conservation activities supported by the project, particularly the deep pool management of communities.

## **5. Community-led conservation action**

### **1.14 Organize community-led Mekong Fish Voice (MFV) campaign**

The Community-led Mekong Fish Voice Campaign will be conducted two times with participation from 50 CFI members including women and youth which is led by CFiMC and youth to promote awareness raising on the Critical Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable Fish Species with fish signboards, family fishing gears, and key messages on promoting release of the threatened fish species back to the Stung Treng Ramsar Site when they catch those fish which is the action to promote community's participation in fishery resources conservation. The event is to mobilize the participation from the community's members to take part in the conservation activities through releasing those fish species to the wild.

### **1.15 Organize community fisheries annual assembly (17 CFIs)**

The action will be conducted individually by the community fishery management committee from 17 CFIs at the village level while each time of the event, there will be 80 peoples including CFI members, CC, DA, PDoE, FiAC to promote transparency and accountabilities of CFiCM through sharing the annual achievement, challenges, and the next workplan and budget.

## **Component 2: Sustainable financing of community fishery in STRS**

The component 2 will focus on strengthening the existing sustainable financing of community fishery in STRS including Mini-trust fund, CFI credit scheme and Community-led fish stall business operation. The project will support the regular coaching to the existing sustainable financing mechanism by improving the capacity in financial management, planning, benefit sharing and book keeping of involved community fisheries in STRS. Moreover, the project will build on existing fish stall operation conducting fish value chain analysis to identify the fish supply and market demand for linking community fish stall product to market. The project will coordinate to develop the standard operation for fish stall team to improve social responsible business as ethic and principal of collecting fish for business is needed to be established and applied. The business plan of the fish stall will be developed and the capacity building on the business concept, marketing strategy, product management and fish inspection will be provided.

### **1. Support the existing mini trust fund mechanism and community credit scheme**

#### **2.1 Provide coaching to mini trust fund and community credit committees on interest withdrawal procedure, benefit sharing and annual planning**

The action will provide the technical guidance to the CFIs who have existing sustainable financing mechanism in place. The coaching session will be focused on the financial report, supporting documents, interest withdrawal procedure, benefit sharing, annual planning and budgeting, financial resource mobilization strategy of community

#### **2.2 Analyze the mini trust fund and community credit operations looking at key challenges for improvements and other potential financing sources.**



The action will support the reflection workshop on the sustainable financing mechanism to collect good lessons learnt from the MTF and CFi credit scheme operation, discussion on the key challenges for improvement and seeking for potential financial resources.

## **2. Support the existing community-led fish stall business**

The Community-led fish stall business is a small business set up, operated and managed by community fishery to earn profit to contribute to the community fishery management and conservation and improve the livelihoods of community members, also promote the legal fishing. The community-led fish stall business was established and managed by a community fishery in Thmei that is located 6 km from Stung Treng Town. The fish stall business has been operated by three people from the CFi management committee including Chief of the CFi, a cashier and a disseminators to be assigned as the fish stall operators. They are responsible for the general management of the fish stall business operation including communication with other community fishers or fish collectors to collect fish for selling at the Stung Treng Market or packaging for other customers outside of the province, recording the fish in and fish out in the record book, the daily revenue, expenses and net profit is regularly recorded by the chief of the Fish Staff. The fish stall is operated by participation from local fishers in five other community fisheries as a shareholder in the fish stall business, the fish stall operator provided capital to the contracted fishers who are selected by CFi management committee to collect fresh fish from other local fishers to sell as a wholesale to the fish stall management committee. The contracted fishers buy only fish from legal fishing activities and sell to the Fish Stall Management Committee in a good price, the fish stall operators are responsible transport and sell fish to consumers local market and Phnom Penh. The daily revenue, expenses, net profit are recorded in daily basis and the cash was kept with cashier of the fish stall management committee.

The fish stall had their own by-law developed by participation from Cfi members and management committee and it was recognized by commune council. The by-law was stated about roles of the management committee of fish stall, general provision and principal, membership and shareholders, dividend sharing, expenses and supporting document, amendment the by-law. The data of fish buy in and sell out has to record in a book to monitor about the fish selling management and the variable price of fish sold in the different fish species. The fish stall operators who are responsible on the selling fish have to sign another contract with chief of the fish stall management committee which is stated about the responsibilities in control the operation of fish selling including the cash management, recording data and determination condition if any fail to comply and it is also stated about the benefit or incentives they received in the fixed amount in monthly basis. The net profit will be shared to contribute in the admin cost (10%), supporting CFi management plan implementation (15%), Incentive Fish stall management committee (15%) and dividend for shareholders (60%)

In the by-law of the fish stall also stated about the principal and ethic of trading fish which mean that the critical endangered, endangered and vulnerable fish species are rejected to trade, but in contrary, the fish stall operators has to lobby and giving warning to fish collector from local community to release those fish back to the wild. The profit from the fish stall through the dividend sharing will use to support the fishers who are willing to release the globally threatened species into the wild. The fish stall management committee and its member will be provided

technical training on the fish inspection to improve understanding on the fish that come from electro-fishing and sharing information about the globally threatened fish species.

The project support the existing Community-led fish stall business through analyse the fish value chain, develop the standard operation procedure and business plan, and strengthening the capacity to operate and manage the business.

### **2.3 Conduct fish value chain analysis**

The action will conduct the fish value chain from suppliers to the consumers to seek for available products to be focused and how the business will be running in terms of supply and demand, what are the specific fish products to be selected for the fish stall business. The finding from this value chain will introduce the numbers of suppliers with specific fish species available and the numbers of demand from market to be linked to the community-led fish stall business.

### **2.4 Develop the standard operating procedure (SOP)**

The action will meet with fish stall operators for discussion roles and responsibilities and benefit sharing of fish stall, the Ethics and principles for operating fish stall for sustainable fishery management.

### **2.5 Develop the fish stall strategic business plan**

The action will facilitate to develop a five-year strategic business plan for fish stall with participation from fish stall operation team and the fishers from the target Cfis to identify the issues and actions to be included in the business plan of community-led fish stall. The business plan will be used to guide the operation team on how the business will be operated, how the is the profit margin to be met during the period of the business plan operated.

### **2.6 Provide separate trainings on fish stall business operations, marketing strategy and product management and fish inspection**

The action will provide concept of the business operation to the fish stall team, particularly on the marketing, product management and development and how to identify the fish that come from illegal fishing. The training will be provided to 30 trainees/15 Females as the fishers, fish stall operation team and CFi management committee.

## **Component 3: Partnership and networking**

The project will support CFi network meetings at the district and provincial levels and Women Mekong Network on a quarterly basis with 7 times in a total of the project period to share information related to fishery resources management, lessons learned, good practice, challenges or concerns to bring voices to the government to get responses or solutions to improve the fishery management in Stung Treng . Support co-management workshops for effective fishery management in Ramsar site with participation from key stakeholders, community fishery management committee to share good practices, concerns, challenges and solution to the stakeholders and take common action for improving collaboration for fishery resources management. The project will support the fish stall community to join the One Village One Product meeting which is a matching market mechanism to promote the community products to

meet and deal with business owners for seeking qualified fish products. Project support meetings with key stakeholders for the possibility of fish stall licensing.

### **3.1 Organize the stakeholder workshop to reflect the effectiveness of broodstock zone management**

The action will support to organize two reflection workshops with participation from all key stakeholders including CFiMC, CC, DA, FiAC, Rangers, DoE to share lessons learnt and challenges in operating the broodstock zone management during the closed fishing season from May to September and key actions from the discussion of the workshop will be taken into account to improve the broodstock zone management through identifying and developing effective plan.

### **3.2 Support 3-month stakeholder workshop with different levels of competent and local authorities to discuss the common fisheries issues and the integrated action plan for STRS.**

The action will support the 3-month stakeholder workshops within 24 months with participation from competent and local authorities to discuss on the common issues, progress update and lessons learnt in fishery management in Stung Treng Ramsar site, the set up the common action plan for the next quarter. This workshop will improve the collaboration among conservation actors in Stung Treng Ramsar site in fishery management.

### **3.3 Support the existing functioning platform (CFi network, Women Mekong Network and One Village One Product Network) to share information and concerns related to fisheries resource conservation and management**

The action will support the quarterly meeting of CFi network to update the progress, challenges and action plan from all relevant Cfis in Stung Treng Ramsar site to, and support the representative of women in the target Cfis to take part in the regional and national events to share the comment concerns related to fishery management and promote the participation of women in the leadership of Cfi management. Mover, the fish stall management committee will be supported to join in the OVOP in order to extend fish market, improve fish product sale volumes and promote the visibility of community fish products from Mekong river.

## **8. Date of preparation of this document: January 3, 2023**

**9. Risks to community health and safety:** This section will assess the risk of each activity to community health and safety, against criteria of probability and severity, and describe in detail all higher risks.

During the project implementation some risks might occurred in terms of conservation restriction in closed fishing season from May to September by not allowing fishers fishing large scale of fishing gears such floating gillnets and the poachers who are using electro-fishing to catch fish will be affected.

The community patrolling team might have risk from drowning during the operation or chasing poachers. It is low likely to happen, but if it happens, it would be affected to the patrolling team's lives and property.

The patrolling team might have risk to their lives or severe injury while their mission of patrolling as currently, the poachers have innovative guns. It is medium likely to happen. Changing in weather in climate change context during the patrolling mission, there is like to happen anytime, particularly at night. It could be a danger for the patrolling team that might be hit by the storm or strong wind in rainy season.

The Covid-19 pandemic is still a barrier in communication and networking during the project implementation as some places with crowded people gathering are needed to be restricted to applied health measures.

**10. Risk mitigation measures:** This section will describe the measures that will be taken to mitigate all higher risks. Mitigation measures will be presented following the mitigation hierarchy, which requires that risks are anticipated and avoided where possible. Where avoidance is not possible, risks should be minimized to acceptable levels. Any risks that remain following avoidance and minimization should be mitigated.

For the conservation restriction during the closed fishing season, the project proposed an outreach activity led by community fishery and participated by FiAC and Rangers to broader dissemination to fishers to comply based on the announcement of provincial governor on the closed fishing season, rule of standby team in broodstock zone, complaint mechanism information and Dos and Don'ts for fishers. Some other activities are planning to include such annual assembly of Cfis to promote participation in fishery resources conservation.

The community members do not allow to take any risk to patrol with only a few people with no any competent authorities or local police to accompany. The community patrolling team will work with other communities and networks and local police.

All community members involved in patrolling activities has to wear life-vests and to carry flashlights if travelling at night. They have to set up a flexible plan during the mission if there is a case of raining, storm or strong wind, some materials like raincoat, tent, hammocks are recommended to bring with during the patrolling.

The prevention measure on the Covid-19 pandemic is needed to be applied strictly align with the health measures by keep on social distancing, wearing masks, wash hand with alcohol or water regularly. The alert of the key messages on the prevention measure are informed and monitored.

**11. Measures to avoid risk of communicable disease:** This section will describe the measures that will be taken to avoid the risk of transmission of communicable diseases (e.g., COVID-19) to communities at the project site(s).

The all the activities of the proposed project will keep inform to the target communities and key stakeholders on the prevention measures to be applied to avoid any risk of transmission communicable diseases including Covid-19. Every activity will be closed observed and advised to participants as well as project team to be carefully followed the prevention measures, e.g., wash hand regularly, wearing mask, keep social distancing, pack food or snack separately, limit numbers of participants or using online platform in some cases. All CEPA staffs will be well oriented on the procedure and prevention measure to make sure the target groups and CEPA staff are free from infected disease.

**12. Emergency preparedness plan:** This section will present an outline of your emergency preparedness and response plan for emergency situations affecting community health, safety and security that could be caused by project activities, if relevant.

The project is involved all key stakeholders including Cfis, CFi network, FiAC/PDAFF, PDoE/Rangers, CC and DA to join in broodstock zone telegram group to share information and other emergency actions occurred during the project implementation which is one of an effective mechanism to respond to any urgent needs from communities related to safety and security that are caused by the project activities. For instant; any loss or damage of community property such as boats or boat machines, the patrolling team has to report it immediately for urgent intervention from relevant stakeholders.

Project support the multi-stakeholders meeting known as co-management workshop which is a platform to respond to challenges or concerns of the conservation activities. The annual assembly will be led by the CFIMC with participation from key stakeholders, it is the platform to share progress and reflecting the transparency of communities which is part of preparedness plan to respond to the community needs.

Well oriented on the complaint mechanism through direct meeting with fishers or community members to understand about the process of informing or complaint cases related to safety or security from the community level. It will help the immediate responses to the communities during the project implementation.

**13. Measures to mitigate risks relating to security personnel:** If the project involves support to security personnel (park guards, community rangers, etc.), this section will describe the measures you will take in relation to hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring the action of security personnel, to ensure they do not engage in unlawful or abusive acts against local people. Where security personnel are, themselves, community members, risks to their health and safety should be considered under Sections 9 and 10.

All the target communities are oriented on the rules of standby team, complaint mechanism information and Dos and Don'ts for fishers through direct meeting with community once a year before or during the restriction period of the broodstock zone management. The rule has clearly stated how the standby team will do during the restriction, what if the team engage in the unlawful business of abusive acts against the community fishers/ members. Any activities are reported and documented and share within the group with photos. All patrolling team/ standby team are not allowed to chase poachers alone or a few people without involvement the competent authorities or police officer. The standby team has to be a strong position or commitment in working with high responsible and transparent to the community fishers.

**14. Timeline and resources:** This section will present an implementation timeline for each measure listed in Sections 10 to 13, together with an estimate of resource needs.

N.o	Measures	Timeline	Resources
1	2.2 Develop the standard operating procedure for broodstock zone management (SOP)	15 May, 2023	\$ 173.00
2	3.4 Conduct the public community outreach meeting to fishers and sub-national authorities on broodstock zone rules for standby team, complaint mechanism and do's and don'ts guideline.	20-22 April, 2023 and 20-22 May, 2023	\$ 2,184.00
3	5.1 Organize community-led Mekong Fish Voice (MFV) campaign;	4 July, 2023 and 5 July, 2024	\$ 3,412.00
4	5.2 Organize community fisheries annual assembly (17 CFis)	November, 2023, November, 2024	Contribution from CFi
5	3.1 Organize the stakeholder workshop to reflect the effectiveness of broodstock zone management.	02 Nov, 2023 and 02 Nov, 2024	\$ 765.00
6	3.2 Support 3-month stakeholder workshop with different levels of competent and local authorities to discuss the common fisheries issues and the integrated action plan for STRS.	15 March, June, Sept, Dec, 2023- 15 Mar, Sept, Dec, 2024	\$ 3,060.00
7	3.3 Support the existing functioning platform (CFi network, Women Mekong Network and One Village One Product Network) to share information and concerns related to fisheries resource conservation and management;	16 June, 16 September, 16 Dec, 2023, 16 March, 16 June, 16 September, 16 Dec, 2024,	\$ 1,512.00

**15. Monitoring and evaluation:** This section will outline the steps you will take to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures listed in Sections 10 to 13.

The project will have a regular basis to monitor on the proposed action listed in the Section 14 and other approaches applied from section 10 to 13. The report of the activities will be

shared based on the proposed timeline to track on the effectiveness of the plan. The recommendation from the monitoring will be documented and applied to avoid any damage or loss or affected to the target communities.

**16. Disclosure:** CEPF requires that community health and safety plans are disclosed to affected local communities and other stakeholders. Please describe your efforts to disclose this plan.

The project orientation will be one of the mechanisms to disclose the action plan of the project to be implemented to the affected communities and key stakeholders. In this process, the affected communities or stakeholders are opened to have clarification on any unclear or doubts.

The Project will elaborate the proposed action plans from Section 14 of this document to all relevant communities and stakeholders to improve the understanding of each activity to be implemented for community health and safety during the project implementation.