

## Process Framework and Social Assessment

**Project:** Measuring the effectiveness of conservation interventions for white-shouldered ibis in Cambodia

**Grantee:** University of East Anglia (UEA)

**Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010

### Introduction

This project will have no adverse impacts on the local community or indigenous peoples at the project sites, because it is a small grant with a main focus on research activities. Nonetheless, to ensure that there will be no unexpected adverse impacts on local and indigenous people, a Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions has been submitted with this application, incorporating a Social Assessment detailing the involvement of indigenous peoples.

### Project Activities

The project comprises three components, each with a set of activities.

*Component 1: To understand factors limiting the current white-shouldered ibis distribution*

#### Activities

- Conduct field surveys in Preah Vihear Protected Forest where white-shouldered ibis are scarce, collecting data on habitat, hydrological, livestock, land management, settlement and prey factors.
- Compare this to data already obtained from an ibis-abundant site.
- Analyse data to formulate conservation recommendations.

*Component 2: To determine the causes of nest failure and effectiveness of nest protection*

#### Activities

- Identify cause of nest failures and predator species using nest cameras at a small sample of nests.
- Employ nest guardians to protect and monitor a sample of nests, while simultaneously monitoring a control sample of unprotected nests.
- Training of on-site NGO staff to carry out nest protection activities.
- Data analysis to assess survival rates at protected versus unprotected nests.
- Expand nest finding reward schemes and monitoring activities into Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary. Develop these further at existing sites.

*Component 3: To examine positive and negative influences of local livelihoods on white-shouldered ibis*

#### Activities

- Livelihood assessment in a case study community, quantifying the market/subsistence values of livestock in comparison to other major livelihood activities such as rice cultivation, wage labour and extraction of resources from the forest and trapaengs.
- Relate the extent of preferred white-shouldered ibis foraging habitat at pools in the early dry season to livestock activity.

### Expected Impacts on Local People

Most activities are ecological research, with negligible impacts on local people. The one activity that may have significant (positive) on (a small number of) local people is payments for nest finding and nest guarding. Payments to local people for nest finding is a sustainable activity because the identification of nest sites represents a long-term investment. White-shouldered ibis show fidelity in nest site selection, therefore once knowledge of a larger number of nest sites is gained, nests can be located with increasing ease and reduced reliance on local people in subsequent years. In sites such as Western Siem Pang IBA (where rangers may be employed in the future) and Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary (where rangers are only now beginning to develop wildlife monitoring skills) nest-searching using local people is likely to be replaced by rangers after the end of the phase for which CEPF

funding is sought. Depending on future application of nest protection schemes, payment of local people will align more closely with existing schemes in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary and the central section of the Mekong River, where local people are rewarded through employment as nest guards rather than for the identification of nest sites alone.

### **Indigenous People at the Project Sites**

Indigenous peoples potentially involved with this project occur in Preah Vihear Protected Forest (Kuy minority), Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary (including Tampuan, Pnong, Thmon and Kraol minorities) and the central section of the Mekong River (potentially including Kuy, Mel and Kraol minorities). Indigenous peoples do not inhabit Western Siem Pang IBA. The likelihood of indigenous peoples' involvement with the project is very small in Preah Vihear Protected Forest and on the Mekong River, where the minorities make up a very small part of the population. Involvement of indigenous peoples is possible in Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary. The project will have no adverse impact on these minorities as the only activities are research, awareness and minor cash reward.

In Preah Vihear Protected Forest it is possible that the elderly among the minority community will be asked to briefly talk about their experiences of environmental change and hunting within the protected area. This will require nothing more than a few minutes of their time. Village and commune chiefs will be informed before any informal interviews take place, and the work shall cooperate very closely with WCS who have gained substantial experience in dealing with the local communities.

In Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary and the central section of the Mekong River there is a chance that indigenous peoples will wish to participate in the nest reward scheme. If they decide to do so they may receive a small cash reward for reporting an active white-shouldered ibis nest. Village and commune chiefs will be consulted before the nest reward scheme is implemented in their administrative area. Local people will be consulted using village meetings where the scheme is implemented.

### **Grievance Mechanism**

Participating villagers will be provided with the contact details of the CEPF Regional Implementation Team at BirdLife International, and be able to register any grievances with the Program Officer for Cambodia.