

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date

14 April 2021

CEPF Grant

IBIII-LG-2021-01

Grantee

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Project Title

Showcasing best practice for the Lower Mekong region in the restoration of feeding grounds for the sarus crane

Project Location

Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape Cambodia & Anlung Pring Protected Landscape

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization. **Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust**
2. Grant title. **Showcasing best practice for the Lower Mekong region in the restoration of feeding grounds for the sarus crane**
3. Grant number. **IBIII-LG-2021-01**
4. Grant amount (US dollars). **USD 240,000**
5. Proposed dates of grant. **1st January 2022 – 31st December 2024**
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken. **Cambodia**
7. Date of preparation of this document. **14 April 2021**

The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:

A. Project background

The project is located at the Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape (BPL) and Anlung Pring Protected Landscape (AP), two of the largest remnants of seasonally inundated grasslands in the Cambodian Lower Mekong Delta. The sites support a non-breeding population of the rapidly declining sharpii subspecies of the sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), and collectively support at least twelve other globally threatened bird species.

The core focus of the project is to protect and restore habitat for the sarus crane. Activities include the following:

1. Ranger patrols (AP and BPL);
2. Training workshops for rangers and the Field Monitoring Team (AP and BPL);
3. Education activities at schools (AP and BPL);
4. Vegetation surveys (AP and BPL);
5. Earthmoving including; blocking ditches (AP and BPL), placing earth to make watertight bunds (BPL), lowering the ground surface (BPL) and extending/creating open water pools (AP and BPL);
6. Installing spillways in earth bunds (BPL); and
7. Cutting and removal of the non-native invasive *Mimosa pigra* (BPL).

Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape

BPL provides an abundance of wetland resources and is essential to the livelihoods of local people. An assessment in 2012 of 428 households (10% sample size) from 19 villages in and around the Protected Landscape found that almost 68% collected natural resources from BPL.

The assessment also calculated the net annual value derived from harvesting “wild goods” (fish and other wetland products) and rice cultivation (see Figure 1). Wild goods made up 74% (US\$1,601,799) of a total net annual value of US\$2,168,019 for all food provisioning services derived from BPL. Fish alone

represented half the value of all provisioning values at US\$1,096,107 per year. This calculation is based on the surveyed villages and did not include value derived by people of Vietnamese origin or other villages surrounding BPL.

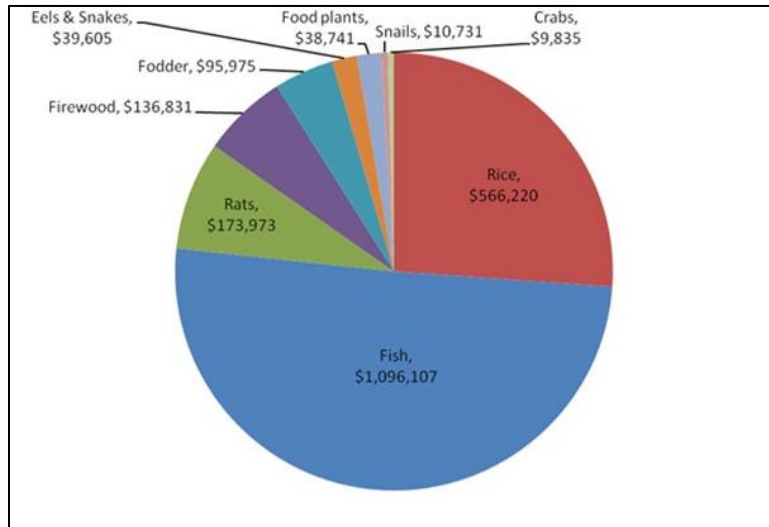


Figure 1. Total net annual value of different products harvested from BPL

Anlung Pring Protected Landscape

AP provides local people with an array of wetland resources including fish, edible plants, firewood, and grass and water for farming. In August 2012, 260 household interviews (10% sample size) were conducted in 7 villages in and around AP. These revealed the composition of a typical household's net annual income derived from the wider floodplain around AP, see Figure 2. Non-cultivated, wild harvested goods make up 87.5% of the total. Fish alone represent over half of the household net annual value (NAV).

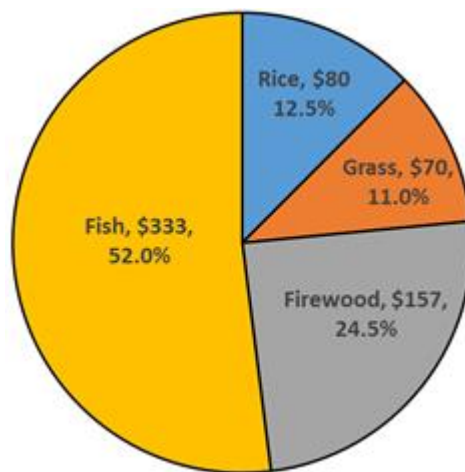


Figure 2 – Relative average net annual values of different products harvested from AP and wider floodplain for a typical household.

The total net annual value of wild goods collection from AP and surrounding area in 2012 was estimated to be one million US dollars, which breaks down into 52% fisheries, 24.5% firewood, 12.5% water released for rice crops, and 11% grass collection.

On average, the seven villages collect 42% of these wild goods from within the AP boundary. The total NAV of wild goods collected from AP (excluding surrounding areas) is \$423,472 (Fisheries, \$268,832; Firewood, \$95,939; and Grass, \$58,701).

In addition, landscape scenery with the presence of sarus crane and thousands of migratory waterbirds during the dry season is appealing to tourists. More than 340 national and international tourists visited this site in 2018.

A 2019 RAWES assessment (Sophanna 2019), concluded on average at least 20 ecosystem services were provided by AP and surrounding areas, most beneficial at a local scale only.

Ecosystem services making a significant positive contribution are:

- Provisioning of food;
- Flood hazard regulation;
- Provision of habitat;
- Salinity regulation;
- Nutrient cycling; and
- Water cycling.

Ecosystems making a positive contribution are:

- Local climate regulation;
- Education and research;
- Soil formation; and
- Social relations.

Summary

Our proposed project activities are expected to improve the wetland ecosystem at both sites, and also make them more resilient to climate change. The enforcement of laws and regulations at AP and BPL through this project is a necessary component of the Protected Landscape serving to protect its wildlife and their habitats. Ultimately the project activities will benefit the wildlife and people that rely on the wetland.

B. Participatory implementation

Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape

BPL is shared by Borei Chulsa (61%) and Koh Andet (39%) districts and straddles six communes. Within Borei Chulsa these communities are: Kampong Krasang (37% of total area) and Chey Chouk (24%); within Koh Andet: Prey Khla (21%), Krapum Chhuk (10%), Romenh (5%) and Prey Yuthka (3%). WWT has been working with these communities since 2010 and has built up a level of trust.

The main stakeholders identified in the conservation and management of BPL are listed in Table 1.

Actor/interest	Organization and (potential) role
Government (implementation of government policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoFWC (of GDANCP, MoE): Has the lead. Oversees daily management together with PDoE in sorting out illegal issues that require resolution and law enforcement. • Rangers (led by PDoE): They are authorized to patrol against illegal activities within BPL to ensure sustainable management of the reserve. Currently, rangers, district

	<p>policemen, district fishery administration, and community fisheries, are involved in collaborative law enforcement teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takeo administrative authorities (provincial, district, commune, village): Critical for implementation and need to be regularly involved in meetings, including the unified boards at provincial and district level.
Local community (depends on the wetland for their livelihood)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Protected Area (CPA): Does not exist yet but based on the protected area law it is likely that a CPA will be established. Communities play an important role in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources and are encouraged to engage in law enforcement for conservation and livelihood improvement. • Community fisheries (CFi): Until a CPA is established, community fisheries are invited for BPL management meetings and to be involved in the crackdown of illegal activities.
NGOs (biodiversity and wildlife conservation, natural resource management))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT): UK based conservation organisation, with an office in Phnom Penh, specialised in wetland management and species recovery programmes. WWT has worked since 2010 in BPL and provides expertise/capacity building on biodiversity/hydrology, and wetland management. • BirdLife International (BL): UK based conservation organisation specialised in birds. Started work in BPL in 2003. BL has a regional office in Hanoi and a Cambodia programme office in Phnom Penh and works on bird species conservation and provides advice/support on the overall management of BPL. • NatureLife Cambodia: Cambodian NGO working in BPL on environmental awareness raising and monitoring.
Other relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eg, an agricultural NGO, universities; Fishery Administration (FiA) of Borei chulsar district and Koh Andeth district, Sustainable Rice Groups (groups of farmers formed by WWT to stop land encroachment and minimize use of chemicals).

Table 1. Overview of stakeholders involved in the conservation and management of BPL.

Anlung Pring Protected Landscape

AP is located entirely within the Boeung Sala Khang Tboung commune, Kampong Trach district. Within Boeung Sala Khang Tboung two main villages use Anlung Pring: Kaoh Chamkaar (809 households) and Chrees (537 households). In the nearby Preaek Kroes commune another two villages are known to harvest natural resources from AP: Preah Trohueng (229 households) and Kaoh Tnaot (220 households).

The main stakeholders identified in the conservation and management of AP are listed in Table 2.

Actor/interest	Organization and (potential) role
Government (implementation of government policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoFWC (of GDANCP, MoE): Leads implementation. Oversees daily management together with PDoE and handles legal issues that require resolution and law enforcement. • Rangers (led by PDoE): They are authorized to patrol against illegal activities within AP to ensure sustainable management of the reserve. Currently, rangers, district policemen, and the district fishery administration, are involved in collaborative law enforcement teams. • Kampot administrative authorities (provincial, district, commune, village): Critical for implementation and need to be regularly involved in meetings, including the unified boards at provincial and district levels.*
Local community (depends on the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based Ecotourism group (CBET): Government-endorsed CBET established in 2012 and composed of members of the local community. Profits from the initiative are used for CBET members’ benefit, community development,

wetland for their livelihood)	maintenance of CBET facilities, and sarus crane conservation activities. Further information is available at http://mekongcrane.com .
NGOs (biodiversity and wildlife conservation, natural resource management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust: UK based conservation organisation specialised in wetland management and species recovery programmes. WWT has an office in Phnom Penh and has worked in AP since 2010 providing expertise/capacity building on biodiversity/hydrology, and wetland management. • BirdLife International: UK based conservation organisation specialised in birds. Started work in AP in 2003. BL has a regional office in Hanoi and a Cambodia programme office in Phnom Penh working on bird species conservation and providing advice/support on the overall management of AP. • NatureLife. A Cambodian NGO working in BPL on environmental awareness raising and monitoring.
Other relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rice Groups (groups of farmers formed by WWT to stop land encroachment and minimize use of chemicals).

Table 2. Overview of stakeholders involved in the conservation and management of AP.

Summary

Support and rationale for the BPL activities within this project comes from the 2021-2025 BPL Management Plan (WWT 2021) and the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (Ly 2019). Both involved consultation with local communities through workshops and interviews.

Similarly, the need to restore habitats and law enforcement at AP was raised by local people during the current process to prepare a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for AP.

For this project we will work directly with the vice chief of office within the Department of Freshwater Wetland Conservation to ensure full compliance with Cambodian laws and practices.

We will utilize the annual Liaison Panel meetings to update all stakeholders about the project. A specific agenda item will be added.

Soon after confirmation of the contract for this grant, WWT’s Technical Officer will prepare a summary in Khmer language and distribute leaflets to villages in surrounding communes as well as the rangers in the wetland management offices. The information will also be displayed on Community Information Points around AP and BPL.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

Anyone with livelihoods or well-being affected by this project will meet the criteria for eligibility of affected persons.

At BPL, the core zone of the Protected Landscape is a no-take zone where access is prohibited except to government staff (eg rangers) and researchers with prior permission from the Ministry of Environment. Therefore no impact is anticipated on the overall provision of wild resources to the local community in the core zone. The conservation zone is large and the restoration activities will be concentrated in specific locations each year, therefore no significant reduction to the abundance of or access to, wild resources. Although the zonation process is yet to be finalized at AP, limited human activities (e.g. low-level fishing) occur inside the site, while the site is surrounded by shrimp farms, and rice and vegetable farms.

Heavy machinery accessing the restoration areas will use existing access routes, in the dry season, and is therefore not expected to affect people or their land.

The only people likely to be significantly affected by this project are those people engaging in illegal activities such as burning land and grazing with livestock, and killing or poisoning wild animals.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

As mentioned in Section C, it is unlikely that this project will have implications for people. The long-term implications are likely to be positive, increasing productivity of resources and potentially improving water quality.

However, it is important to also develop and publicise a Grievance Mechanism in case of unpredicted negative consequences, and it is also important to recognize that some people engaging in illegal activities may have few alternatives for basic livelihood requirements.

During community meetings we will explain details of the project and highlight everyone's right to file a grievance. We will clearly state that we will be responsible to respond to those grievances within a reasonable timeframe. This will be presented orally in Khmer to the communities. Grievance mechanisms will also be written in Khmer at established Community Information Points. See Section E.

The land for restoration has been selected in consultation with the vice chief of office within the Department of Freshwater Wetland Conservation. Should for any unforeseen reason any tenure or use dispute arise, the project would not attempt to undermine the official government-led process in this regard. Several other land areas are available for restoration within the identified areas if alternatives are required.

Illegal natural resource users and pastoralists will be signposted to areas where natural resource harvesting and grazing is permitted in the area.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team or the CEPF Secretariat.

This grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- You should include the following text, exactly, in any grievance mechanism: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail.”

Following the guidance above, describe the grievance mechanism that you will use.

To ensure all potentially affected persons are aware of the project's Grievance Mechanism, WWTs Technical Officer will prepare a summary in Khmer language and distribute leaflets to villages in the surrounding communes (six in BPL, three in AP) as well as the rangers in the wetland management offices soon after the issuance of a contract for this grant. The information will also be displayed on Community Information Points around AP and BPL.

This information will include:

- Email, telephone contact and Facebook account information for WWT in Cambodia.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org.
- A clear statement outlining the process to raise grievances, expected response time (15 days), procedure should the claimant not be satisfied with the response ie submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director, at cepfexecutive@conservation.org.

Should we receive any grievance, we will organize a truth finding group comprised of MoE, WWT, NatureLife and Commune Chief to investigate the issue and try to find a solution. If the case is not resolved, we will share it – and a proposed response – with the CEPF Regional Implementation Team within 15 days.

F. Implementation Arrangements

Overall responsibility for managing this Safeguard will fall upon the WWT Country Coordinator for Cambodia. Safeguarding will be reported to the CEPF Regional Implementation Team during all technical reporting.

References

Ly. S., Hour. P, and T. Avent. 2019. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape, Cambodia. Bangkok, Thailand: IUCN ARO. X + 32pp

WWT. 2021. Management Plan for the Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape 2021-2025. Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, UK.