

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

26 December 2022

CEPF Grant 113649

Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)

Empower local communities towards fisheries resources sustainability in Tonle Sap Lake

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)
2. Grant title: Empower local communities towards fisheries resources sustainability in Tonle Sap Lake
3. Grant number: 113649
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 150,000.00
5. Proposed dates of grant: April 2023 – September 2025
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Cambodia’s Kampong Thom and Pursat provinces (Tonle Sap Lake)
7. Date of preparation of this document: December 26, 2022

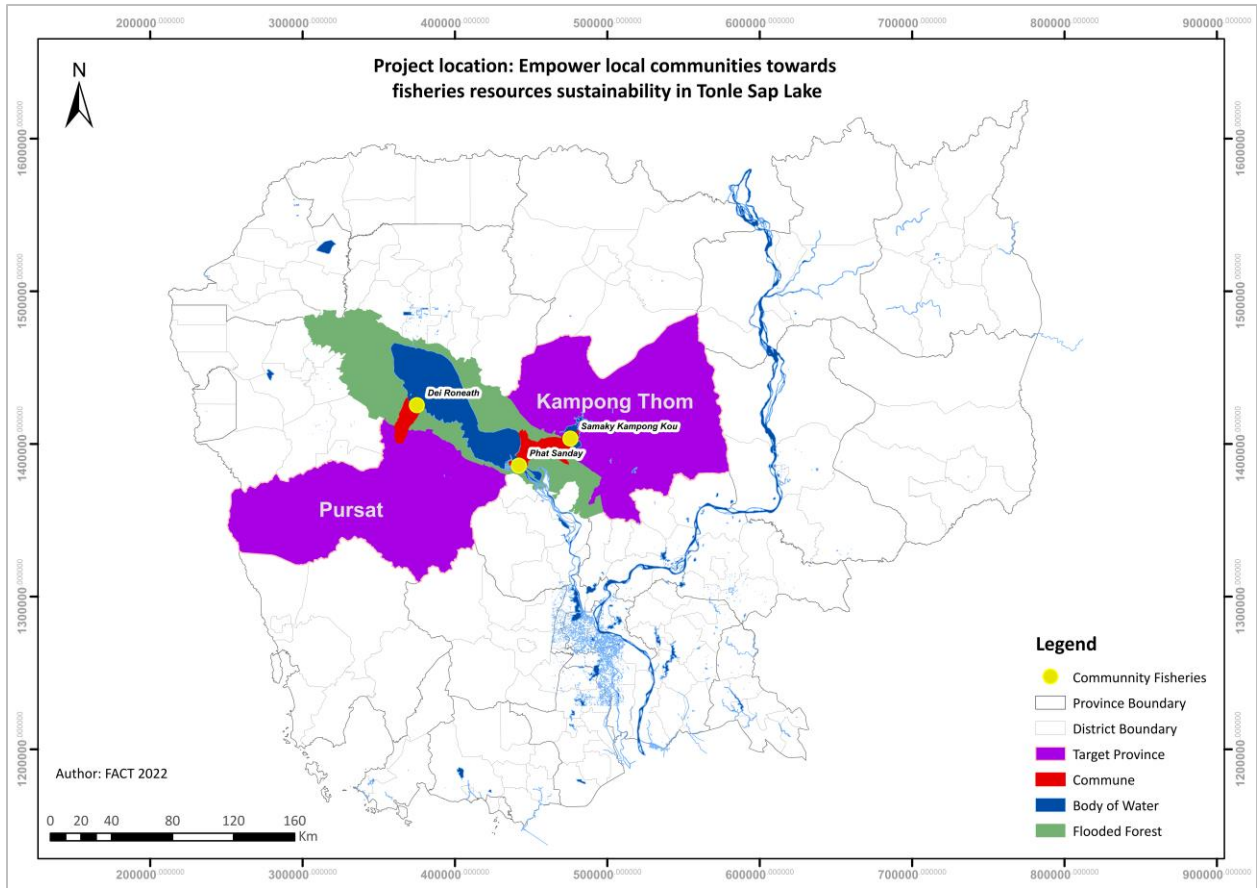
A. Project background

The project titled “Empower local communities towards fisheries resources sustainability in Tonle Sap Lake-113649” will be contributing to fulfill the strategic direction 4 at 4.2 *Pilot, amplify and develop sustainability mechanisms for community forests, community fisheries and community-managed protected areas through authentic, community-led processes*. This project will be carried at three selected community fisheries (one in Pursat and two in Kampong Thom provinces), with a life span of 30-month, starting from 2023 onwards.

It is recognized fishery sectors is the paramount importance both in the Cambodian economy and in the nutrition and living condition of the local communities. Approximately 90% of the inhabitants living the Tonle Sap lake depends directly and exclusively on the exploitation of fishery resources while many others Cambodian are indirectly relying on this resources. In Cambodia, managing this resource is being led by community fisheries (CFi) and 516 of the total Cfis in Cambodia are established both freshwater and marine areas. However, the community fisheries remain challenges with variety problems, including illegal fishing gears and modern techniques, limited law enforcement, limited number of government officials and budget, limited capacities of CFi committees and members (organizational development, and diversified income sources, deforestation of flooded forest, climate change and budget for community-based conservation action remain challenging.

This project will be continuing and contributing to solve mentioned problems within the community fisheries through improving sustainable organizational and technical capacity of the focal community fisheries committee to effectively and sustainably conserve and manage the local fisheries resources; improving livelihood of the members of the focal Cfis through community-based eco-tourism (CBET) and other livelihood diversified income sources; and improve fisheries sources conservation and development in the selected community fisheries (Phat Sanday, Kampong Kor and Dei Roneath).

Throughout this project, short-term impacts are expected (1) business plan and management plans of the target community fisheries will be developed and updated; and (2) average income from other diversified income sources such as eco-tourism, fish processing, horticulture, bee raising, etc, will be increased by at least 25% against a baseline established at project start. This would lead to achieve long-term impact by 2028: (1) at least 50% of business plans of each of the focal Cfis are achieved against the baseline during the project start; (2) at least 20% of the other biodiversity (water-birds, reptiles,...) is increased against the baseline during the project start because of contribution from other diversified income sources; (4) commune budget is started in national budget policy and then allocated for fisheries resources management in which managed by community fisheries; and (4) the focal Cfis will be self-sustained for the costs of the fisheries resources conservation and development, dependent only around 30-40% from other external funding, by their respective local resources.



B. Participatory implementation

Capacity of committee and activists, including youths, of the fisheries resources of both men and women, of the focal CFIs will be significantly strengthened and they will be empowered to professionally participate in the project implementation as well as fisheries resources management and conservation in effective and sustainable manner.

The Project will also work closely with other concerned stakeholders, in particular Fisheries Administration at provincial, district and commune levels, local authorities, police, military police, and other development partners/NGO partners implementing their projects in both Kampong Thom and Pursat provinces via regular consultation, updating on the progress of project implementation, including lesson learned and challenges, and joint-patrol. Particularly, the project will establish or strengthen the technical working group (TWG) that will be chaired by deputy provincial governor. The members will be national and sub-national government bodies such as local authorities, district governor, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Provincial Department of Environment, Provincial Department of Tourism, Provincial Administration officials, and fisheries administration at the national level. This TWG will ensure the effective and sustainable implementation of the project through participatory planning, implementation, and monitoring.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

- Poor fishers;
- Villagers in floating Koh Tapao village, one of the five villages in Phat Sanday commune, whose village situated in the Fish Conservation Area;
- Fishers using large-scale fishing gears in which banned by Cambodia's Fisheries Law and Sub-Decree on Community Fisheries;
- Fishers who always invade into the four focal Fish Conservation Area.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

At beginning of the project implementation, FACT will conduct an assessment with the affected fishers as listed in C above, who directly access to and benefit from the conservation areas in order to identify the exact number of the affected fishers and together address the issue in order to minimize the effects, finding other alternative livelihood options, example establishing and running eco-tourism service, fishing processing, and water hyacinth processing, etc.

The Criteria for Eligibility of the affected fishers will be jointly developed and agreed by affected, local authorities, and Fisheries Administration at commune level (Sangkat Fisheries Administration) in order to make all key stakeholders, in particular the affected fishers satisfy with and happily apply it. The Criteria need to comply with Management Plans and Internal Rules/Regulation of each of the focal CFIs, and importantly the existing laws/regulations of Cambodia too.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

Through another CEPF-funded project (July 2020-December 2022) which recently ended, FACT keep implementing the grievance mechanism. However, during the preparation of the project implementation within the 1st quarter in 2023, FACT will re-introduce the mechanism by providing detail contacts of FACT management and project staff and CEPF management and concerned colleagues for feedbacks and any key concerns/issues that would be raised by the affected fishers and other key stakeholders in relation to the project implementation:

- FACT:
 - Mr. Huot Sinat, Livelihood Program Coordinator with office in Phnom Penh and detail contact: H/P: 012 228 184. Email: sinat@fact.org.kh.
 - Mr. Minh Bunly, Conservation Program Coordinator with office base in Siem Reap and detail contact: 012 674 638. Email: bunly@fact.org.kh;
 - Mr. Youk Senglong, Executive Director with office base in Phnom Penh and detail contact: H/P: 012768609. Email: y.senglong@fact.org.kh
- CEPF:
 - Regional Implementation Team, with contact detail Email: CEPF-INDOBURMA@iucn.org; Tel: (+66) 2 662 402 9
 - 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 to the CEPF Executive Director via the CI Ethics Hotline at <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/10680/index.html>

Any grievances received by FACT will be communicated to CEPF within 15 days, together with a plan for mitigating them.

F. Implementation Arrangements

- Meeting with committee of the focal CFIs to consult on project implementation, including implementation strategy;
- Meeting with the affected fishers, local authorities and Fisheries Administration Officials to consult, develop and agree on the Criteria for Eligibility of Affected Fishers and other project implementation mechanism/strategy;
- Reviewing the existing legal documents (Management Plan, Internal Rules/Regulations) of the focal CFIs. Then, conducting re-election of the committees of the focal CFIs who are out of their mandates;
- Conducting regular meetings among the project staff, committee, local authorities and Fisheries Administration officials to report and update on the progress of project implementation, including lesson learned and challenges/issues in which there might be a need to urgently and collectively address;