

Strengthening White-shouldered Ibis conservation initiatives and bolstering local stakeholder-led initiatives in the landscape of Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia

Summary of the CEPF Process Framework (*Involuntary Resettlement*)

Introduction

Project Aim

The project aims to strengthen the effectiveness of White-shouldered Ibis conservation measures within the landscape of Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, by solidifying Ibis nest protection on the basis of applied research, assessing the impact of economic land concession activities upon ibis populations, and establishing a local community based organization in support of Ibis conservation.

Project Approach

The project focuses on working with local communities to help safeguard White-shouldered Ibis nests within the boundaries of Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, provision of awareness on the conservation status of the Ibis, and helping two villages establish a community-based organization focused on Ibis conservation linked to sustainable livelihoods support.

Purpose of this Summary Document

- Outline project implementation for stakeholders and partners
- Manage potentially adverse social impacts on local communities due to restrictions of access to natural resources as a result of the project
- Ensure that affected communities are consulted and have a right to participate fully in project activities affecting them

Project implementation using participatory processes

The project:

- Uses a methodological approach that ensures participation and engagement of local stakeholder communities

- Is supported by a field coordinator that actively seeks engagement and participation of local stakeholders in all aspects of project implementation
- Facilitates dialogue between the different stakeholders and as needed tries to find consensus that supports local conservation with minimal impact on village livelihoods
- Holds in-commune and village direct contact awareness-raising activities and identifies appropriate measures to support local communities through institutions development
- Includes direct involvement of local communities and partners in on-the-ground nest protection activities, awareness programs, and community organizations establishment

Methods to inform participants prior to participation in project activities

Prior to initiation of project activities meetings with villagers are held to explain the project and its activities. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification through the project staff. Involvement in project activities is contingent upon participants making an informed decision whether they would like to be involved and grant their consent.

Measures involving local communities in project activities

Nest protection and monitoring, coordinated roost counts, impact on land concessions

Measures include:

- Ibis nest findings and mapping in the protected area landscape, including previously holding Ibis nesting and areas in Serei-mongkol and Seda communes. *Mapping would hold no impact to local people or obligations associated.*
- Ibis nest counts and mapping at economic land concessions held by Hoang Anh Gia Lai inside the sanctuary, and assessment of impact of their operations upon Ibis nesting. *Mapping, nest counting, and impact assessment of economic land concessions towards the Ibis would hold no impact to local people or obligations associated.*
- Training to nest guards on annotation of nest monitoring information, including recording of observation and assessment of nest guarding outcomes. *Training on recording of observations have no impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*

- Coordinated White-shoulder Ibis roost counts for the 2013 season and comparison to counts and locations during previous years. *Roost counts have no impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*
- Updated MIST geographic database for Ibis habitat locations and signs of disturbance impact during the 2013 roosting season. *Management information systems have no impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*

Experimental assessment of nest protection activities and stakeholder initiative

Measures include:

- Maps depicting location and numbers of Ibis nest counts under the two experimental modes and control, results of impact monitoring, and comparison with Ibis nesting sites recorded in previous years. *Mapping, impact monitoring, and data comparison have no impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*
- Results of experimental testing of nest protection interventions assessing effectiveness of protection against human anthropomorphic-led nest failure and against animal predation. *Experimental testing of results on nest protection types has no impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*
- Stakeholder workshop to present outputs of the experimental Ibis nest protection, and to deliver solutions to strengthen nest protection activities and possible involvement by local economic land concessions. *Workshops have no impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*
- Publication of research results in peer reviewed journal paper, possibly incorporated into the similar study by Sam Veasna Centre. *Publication of findings has no impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*

Formation of community-based organization in support of Ibis conservation

Measures include:

- Workshop to provide awareness and information on the conservation and development benefits and responsibilities of the proposed community based organization. *Workshops*

and work has not negative impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.

- Supported deliberation of community site support groups into the needs and benefits of establishing a community based organization in support of White-shouldered Ibis conservation. *No impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity, as it is a voluntary and community-led, based organization.*
- Defined framework and groundwork for the proposed community based organization, inclusive of legal requirements for its establishment under Cambodian law. *No impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*
- Training and facilitation to define a plan of action to setup and register the organization, inclusive of defining a strategic direction, associated operational by-laws, financial measures, and setup schedules. *Training and facilitation of activities has no impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*
- Training and guidance on proposal preparation and project management for subsequent proposals to continue with Ibis conservation work at the LWS site. *Training and facilitation of activities has no impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*
- Training and guidance on establishment of a self-help groups and revolving funds scheme to benefit the CBO member community, with initial allocation of seed funds. *No negative impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*

Ibis conservation awareness to local people and land concessions

Measures include:

- Defined Ibis conservation awareness materials, in liaison with members of community support groups. *Production or distribution of awareness materials has no negative impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*
- Ibis conservation awareness materials distributed to local people and land concession staff and management, produced in Khmer and Vietnamese languages as needed. *No negative impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*
- Defined and conducted interactive Ibis conservation awareness program, with tangible outputs including school-age children drawing competition and drama targeting Ibis

conservation. *Awareness on Ibis conservation has no negative impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*

- Production and distribution of 2014 calendar featuring children Ibis conservation drawing competition. *Production and distribution of calendars has no negative impact to local people or obligations associated with the activity.*

Nest protection activities

The Ibis nest protection program will prevent nest predation and restrict access to eggs and offsprings of the globally critically endangered White-shouldered Ibis. Although Cambodian law does not formally protect the species, nest protection activities occur inside the legally designated Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, thus the activity is rendered illegal.

Article 41 of the 2008 Cambodia Protected Area Law states that "Prohibited practices considered destructive and harmful include: (item 4) Catching, hunting, collecting wild eggs, offsprings and birds by all means." Nest predation, by definition involves destructive practices entailing the collection of wild eggs or bird offsprings.

Nest predation is unsustainable, as White-shouldered Ibis population numbers are low and incapable of sustaining year-after-year predation; in fact the nest protection scheme has been devised and worked with since 2005 to help the dwindling White-shouldered Ibis populations recover. The species is considered to be the most endangered water bird in Southeast Asia, with an estimated global population of about 800 individuals, and projected to undergo rapid population decline. Since 2000, the species is qualified as critically endangered.

Any possible impact to local communities from nest protection activities are considered to be rather minimal, given existing hunting alternatives and that the low number of Ibis nests encountered at the site and subject to protection, only 15 White-shouldered Ibis nests were found during the 2012 season, with usually holding between one and two eggs. The economic impact of restricting access to say 30 Ibis eggs during the 2013 season could be considered as insignificant.

Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism

Project implementation

Project activities are designed to identify areas of potential conflict, possible solutions and, importantly, mechanisms for addressing such conflict. Measures to achieve this include:

- Village-level workshops: concerns can be raised and issues of potential conflict identified
- Regular monitoring by PRCF staff and CEPF-regional implementation team members
- Village-level liaison: identifying possible sources of conflict leading to time responsive follow-up in liaison with protected area or commune/ district officials to address issues.
- PRCF, BirdLife, and LWS partners will work closely with commune and village leaders as needed to plan activities, respond to affected persons and report on results.

Complaint communication channel/ mechanism

Should project participants or other local people express dissatisfaction with the project for any reason, or fear/ perceive negative impact from project activities, the project will provide opportunities to communicate their dissatisfaction to one or all of the following: a) Project field staff, b) PRCF monitoring staff, c) CEPF regional team, d) Village leaders, e) Commune leaders

This channel/ mechanism will be announced to communities through a single-page poster that summarises the project, provides the contact details of the above. Copies of this complaint communication channel/ mechanism will be: a) Kept with village and commune authorities,

b) Placed at prominent locations in each participating village, c) Be made available during the course of project activities and upon request.

Implementation arrangements of process framework

- PRCF takes the overall responsibility to manage the project and to develop local relations
- PRCF ensures that appropriate mitigation measures are taken (when alerted of them).
- PRCF monitors project activities and implementation of this Process Framework
- Establishment of community-based organizations and Ibis conservation awareness programs are carried out by local schools themselves
- Sanctuary officials are involved in all field aspects of project implementation

- Commune and district officials will support the project to identify needs of local communities and identify solutions to resolve conflicts as they appear