

Social Assessment

Date: 01 May 2023

CEPF Grant CEPF-112758

Grantee

Project Title: Strengthening Indigenous Youth Participation in sustainable development and ecosystem protection in Cambodia.

Project Location

Preah Vihear Province

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA)
2. Grant title: ***Strengthening Indigenous Youth Participation in sustainable development and ecosystem protection***
3. Grant number:
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 60 000\$
5. Proposed dates of grant: 01 May 2023
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Preah Vihear province, Cambodia
7. Date of preparation of this document: 01 May 2023

8. **Indigenous People affected:** This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

The project will implement in the following villages:

1. Srae*, Reab Roy commune, Roveang District - Target village of CEPF-110319
2. Slaeng Toul*, Reab Roy commune, Roveang District, - Target village of CEPF-110319
3. Bongkorn*, Reab Roy Commune, Roveang District - Target village of CEPF-110319

The table below will be completed once the final project target villages is set.

Village name	Population							Total all ages	Total females
	No. Houses	No. Families	0-15 yrs	15-35 yrs	36-60yrs	Over 61yrs			
Slengtoul	81	91	117	139	106	21	383	189	
Srei	149	161	262	256	188	25	731	352	
Bongkorn	243	298	345	418	375	44	1182	593	

Srei Village (pilot project and continuing project) is larger than Slengtoul and smaller than Bongkorn. It has managed to retain more of its land than the other two pilot villages. For this reason, people in Srei generally have a higher income those people in Slengtoul. They are, however, concerned about forest clearing and want to work with Slengtoul on putting a stop to that. Youth in the village are interested in forest protection but previously found it hard to understand their role in protecting it. Because of this, the pilot project focused a lot of activities there, and brought youth from the other two villages (they are close) to join activities in Srei village.

During the pilot project, a youth group has been formed in Srei. The group decided to establish a collective paddy field (growing rice together). Rice is kept for village ceremonies and some has been sold for buying agricultural supplies and for other activities. They have also established a collective pig farm with 3 mother pigs (CIYA provided pigs from CEPF funds). Income from raising pigs will be used by the youth group. A vegetable farm has also been established by

youth. CIYA provided technical support, a pump and some fuel. Vegetables are shared within the group and some have been sold - 100,000riel has been accumulated in reserve.

Youth have also been active in the protection of the forest areas and in meetings with local authorities. Youth have joined forest patrols 18 times in 2021 - 54 of the people joining such patrols were youth (and 36 of the youth were female). Prior to the CEPF-funded project, youth involvement was only 1 or 2 people per patrol. On 2 occasions in 2021, the patrols captured chainsaws of people undertaking illegal logging. These chainsaws were handed over to authorities.

The higher youth participation was a result of youth feeling empowered, proud of their ethnic roots, and proud of Kui culture's protection of forests. In the past it was upon the NRM committee and elders to call youth. Often this did not happen. Now the youth taking initiative and joining not just the patrols but traditional forest ceremonies. For example, there were 200 people Slengtoul and Srei join a forest ceremony.

Youth are also cleaning around the school, building bridge, and doing road maintenance. They help for social events like funerals. They have produced 4 videos about protecting forests, the environment, school, and the situation in the village. They have a youth savings group with youth from Sleangtoul village. That now has 2,000,000riel accumulated already and is used to support livelihoods activities within the villages.

This has been a major turn-around in the village. In the past youth were involved in cutting timber. Now the current youth leader is interested in learning, making video and protecting the forest. In the past he was involved in logging. This is indicative of youth having a stronger idea of the usefulness of natural resources. This has come from sessions and information about IP rights being incorporated into other activities. The pilot project has been re-strengthen IP identity and reinforcing that Kui culture is a culture of protecting natural resources. In this, Kui youth from other areas of Preah Vihear have been exchanging ideas and experiences.

Slengtoul village (pilot project and continuing) has suffered from the imposition of an economic land concession to CRCK company. This ELC has reduced the land base for the village. This, combined with climate change has made it difficult to survive on the current land area of the village. As a result of this, a number of people in the village have had to work on the CRCK Rubber plantations at \$6/day. A significant number of people in the community had fallen into debt after borrowing money to cover daily living expenses and crises within their families.

People working in the plantations report labor rights abuse and they would much prefer to be working on their own lands. Youth are a major part of this group having to work with company but not wanting to.

A few older people can speak Kui but the language has not been passed on to young people. Many young people say "their grandparents were Kui", so a loss of some identity and social cohesion is evident. Despite this youth express a strong interest in Kui culture. With regard to education, the commune has a lower secondary school (up to year 9). Because of the remote location, very few young people have an opportunity to study past that level (it would require living in the District Center).

The community highlight that shock-fishing has become too common, and they want to end it, in order to see a return to sustainable fisheries. This is particularly by families that have in-migrated to work with the concession company.

With the pilot project, work has been difficult in Slengtoul. Key youth have been involved in Srei village activities to slowly bring about more youth solidarity in Slengtoul. Now youth have been working together to clean up the village. There is increased youth involvement with NRM committee and in local authority meetings/events. Youth are joining forest patrols. While there have not yet been collective income generation activities in Slengtoul, youth from the village have been joining with Srei (they are close). Particularly important has been the savings group, which may allow some youth from Slengtoul to start small income generation activities and not have to work for CRCK

Bongkorn village (pilot project and continuing project) is a much bigger village than either Slengtoul and Srei. They have managed to protect a larger area of their land and forest from encroachment. This area is an area that has supported their livelihoods in the past and the community is strong in wanting to continue with this. There is a lot less out-migration in this village. With their land base they farm rice, cashew nuts and cassava. The large streams in the area have always been an important source of protein for the people. Most identify as Kui people and they say this is important in maintaining social cohesion and protecting natural resources.

Despite these resources, working with the youth in Bongkorn has also been difficult. The pilot project has helped youth representatives to be recognised. These 5 people and other youth have become active in the wider youth activities based in Srei village. Sessions in IP rights and on the importance of protecting natural resources have been helping build youth cohesion. Covid-19 restrictions have made that slower than originally anticipated, but the youth organizing has again started to move ahead. Again, youth participation in broader community activities has increased, notably in protection of forest areas.

It is worth noting that, in the 3 pilot villages, female youth have been participating slightly more than male youth. This includes in leadership and forest protection roles. This has built a strong gender balance to the youth activities.

9. Summary of the proposed project: This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.

1. Further facilitate the development of indigenous youth groups in all the villages (CIYA). This will involve talking to elders to find out what they want for the young people of the villages. A community-level vision for youth in the villages will be developed through a series of community meetings. As part of that, there will be women's meetings to make sure there is a vision specifically for female youth. Of course youth voice will also be part of this vision setting.
2. Consultation with youth about their issues and their priorities. CIYA will talk individually, in small groups and in larger groups to listen to youth about what they think, what they

want for the future and what they most want to do about having a life with strong community and protected natural resources. CIYA staff will live in the villages for this work. There will also be key youth engaged in consulting with other youth in their village.

3. Support youth groups to develop and implement projects and programs based on their issues and priorities, probably including cultural maintenance projects and forest protection activities. This will, of course, come from the consultations - the project of highest priority and highest achievability will be done first. In other areas, this process has led to youth cultural activities, learning Kui language, small economic activities, savings groups, forest patrols etc.. Such projects will be developed and presented to the wider community for comment and support.
4. Participatory monitoring and evaluation of youth group activities and projects. As small projects are developed and implemented, it will be important to evaluate them. Throughout the other work, youth groups will be formed. Working with the youth in those groups, CIYA will help them on simple identification of goals and expected results. CIYA will also help them monitor how the projects are going. This will be done in a participatory way with youth but also then have wider discussion of results with the community.
5. CIYA and project partners will support youth to be more fully engaged in community conservation and community development activities.
6. CIYA and partners will support youth from the 3 villages to exchange experiences with other Kui youth groups in the province, and also to link with the national indigenous youth network.
7. Start-of-project institutional strength assessment (baseline). CIYA will select a tool for assessing CIYA strength in Governance, Management and Finance. This may be the Governance and Professional Practices tool that CCC use for NGO certification (which is under review and revision). It may be the organizational assessment tool developed by SADP (a funder). The goal will be to get a relatively-objective assessment of CIYA strength at the start of the project.
8. Institutional development activities (training, coaching etc.) related to governance, organizational management and financial management. Most of the work will involve coaching and mentoring rather than training. CIYA will contract one or more experienced OD specialists to support CIYA in strengthening the areas for strengthening highlighted in the assessments.
9. End of project institutional assessment. The same organizational assessment tool used at the start of the project will be used at the end of the project in order to get an assessment of the changes in CIYA governance, management and finance.
10. Inform communities and other stakeholders of Grievance Mechanism. This will be done as described in part 14 of this social assessment.
11. Monitoring and reporting related to CEPF safeguard policies.

10. Potential impacts: This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.

This project is going to provide indigenous people at the target area the positive impact. The project is to build the ownership of the community people to protect their community protected forest and strengthening their traditional way of living and the

traditional good practice. The project is also building the participation from youth to the forest protection and cultural conservation. The project is also promoting youth to come up with their own needs and the current requirement on the protection forest.

Another positive impact expected is that Kui culture language in the communities will be strengthened. This has been found to strengthen identity – something that can help community cohesion. Cohesion then helps communities to protect natural resources.

There is always potential for negative impact. CIYA will have to make sure there are not personal conflicts within the communities that make trouble for the whole community. CIYA will also have to make sure that CIYA staff stay independent and objective so that they do not contribute to any frictions between people.

There is potential for promoting conflict between recently in-migrated people and the longer-term residents. CIYA will have to monitor that closely.

11. **Participatory preparation:** This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.

There have been consultations with the 3 existing target villages.

The consultation was done in Khmer language, which is understood by all in the village. Not only community but also the local authorities have been consulted with consensus. We found the community are welcoming of the project. They are waiting for the project to start. They expressed consent and support verbally. This was considered an appropriate manner because of low levels of literacy in the villages.

The consultations, however, will be done again at the start of the project, after the list of target villages has been reviewed again. There will be consultation meetings in all proposed final target villages. These consultations will be similar to those held previously. Youth, elders and local authorities will be given information about the project and given the opportunity to consent or refuse the project. If any village refuses, they will be removed from the list of target villages and another village added (to be asked if they want to join the project).

12. **Mitigation strategies:** This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

No negative impacts are expected. Some are possible, as mentioned in section 10 – CIYA will remain vigilant to guard against these negative impacts. Also, with regard to Covid-19, CIYA will be very careful to not play a role in unnecessarily spreading it to the communities, implementing all the government and WHO recommendations.

13. Monitoring and evaluation: This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.

CIYA team will do the monitoring report to CEPF as planned. If there are any grievances about the project, they will be reported to CEPF.

14. Grievance 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, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

CIYA will make simple posters in Khmer that include the following information.

- Email and telephone contact information for CIYA.
 - President of CIYA
 - Program Manager, CIYA
 - infor@ciyanet.org
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team: XXXX, IUCN Cambodia Program, Room 592, 5th Floor, Phnom Penh Center, St. Sothearos, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Phnom Penh, Tel. +855 XXXXXXXXXX, Email: XXXXXX@iucn.org
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- “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. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

The posters will be displayed in public positions in the villages. They will also be given to key project participants.

15. Budget: This section will summarize dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples. These costs should be incorporated into the budget of the CEPF grant and/or covered by co-financing.

The budget required will be minimal and will come from the project “supplies” budget line.