

## **Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**CEPF Grant 110345**

**BirdLife International Cambodia Programme**

***Organic livelihoods conserving Cambodia's big five***

**Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia**

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization: BirdLife International Cambodia Programme
2. Grant title: Organic livelihoods conserving Cambodia's big five
3. Grant number: CEPF 110345
4. Grant amount (US dollars): \$180,000.00
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Cambodia
7. Date of preparation of this document. 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## **8. Introduction:**

Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS) is located in Stung Treng Province, the Northeast Cambodia and is irreplaceable, supporting globally significant populations of five Critically Endangered bird species, including Giant Ibis (Cambodia's national bird), White-shouldered Ibis, and three vulture species, all of which are CEPF priority species, which are at risk of extinction from local communities practicing hunting, logging, and encroachment to supplement household income. These species are Cambodia's big five. The globally significant populations of White-shouldered ibis and Giant Ibis totaling 30% of the former and 20% of the later, plus the three vulture species are suffering a decline in breeding success as villagers removed nesting trees for lumber, resulting in a population decline at a last major stronghold.

Monitoring and research by BirdLife has shown that the local communities surrounding the protected area live at subsistence level and that food security is an issue. Up to 97% of households farm rice. Communities have a reliance on exploiting natural resources and illegal logging to support their livelihoods. Their illegal activities are directed at the wildlife, forests and land within the protected area. Like most rural communities in Cambodia, these communities did not hold formal land title, which presented further insecurity. Food insecurity and insecure land tenure contributed to the paradigm of short-term, unsustainable exploitation resulting in piecemeal expansion and forest loss.

SPWS is relatively recently established and located at the forest frontier when lawlessness is rife. Governance is weak at this frontier and if the protected area boundaries are to be stabilized and biodiversity secured within them, management control over access to them must be in place. Since this will mean restrictions on access, compensation is required to offset any economic loss imposed by restrictions on natural resource use.

A fundamental challenge conservationists face is how to provide tangible reductions in household poverty in return for positive behaviour towards adjacent protected areas and their conservation. The Ibis Rice scheme provides the opportunity for households to significantly increase household income through growing and selling a premium organic jasmine rice. To join Ibis Rice scheme, farmers mapped their land and provided clear information about their rice fields to the project. Then farmers signed conservation agreement committing not to do hunting, logging, or encroachment in the sanctuary. Organic agriculture skill trainings and rice seed are provided to farmers. Through internal and external inspections in the farming processes and compliance check, their rice was certified as "wildlife friendly organic rice." The compliance scheme that participating households are required to adopt, has been proven to reduce rates of forest loss.

The link between the Ibis Rice scheme, increased household income and reduced encroachment and deforestation has recently been established. Research by the University of Oxford and WCS shows that households participating in Ibis Rice increase levels of wealth faster, and enjoy an additional household income equivalent to a family member in fulltime employment or equivalent to owning a hand tractor. Households participating in the scheme clear up to four times less forest (Travis in litt.).

Were this project not to be implemented, the globally significant populations of White-shouldered ibis and Giant Ibis, plus the three vulture species would suffer a decline in breeding success as villagers removed nesting trees for lumber, resulting in a population decline at a last major stronghold (delete). The Ibis Rice scheme is novel in the Cambodian context and tackles the fundamental issue head-on of providing livelihood alternatives in return for supporting conservation. This is a burning issue of concern across many protected areas in Cambodia and the greater Mekong region. By funding this project CEPF will allow the project to be expanded to all seven villages around the protected area and thus allow the project to reach its full potential to conserve SPWS. Too often donors provide seed funding but at the critical stage of taking a working initiative to scale abandon their support.

- **Component 1 Expand the Ibis Rice scheme to an additional 3,000 rural people in seven target villages (three new villages)**

- **Deliverable 1.1** Report on M&E framework and baseline survey at first year
  - **Activity 1.1.1** Establish M & E framework and baseline surveys for rice production, rice sales, financial literacy and land certification and compliance of all new participants at start of project
- **Deliverable 1.2** Ibis Rice sales receipts and reports in participating villages in Y1&Y2
  - **Activity 1.2.1.** Expand Ibis Rice from the four to seven target villages through making a minimum 10% premium price of sales of Ibis Rice
- **Deliverable 1.3** Provincial recognized land certificates, and shape file
  - **Activity 1.3.1.** Conduct rice fields mapping and register for 260 families with the Department of Land Management
- **Deliverable 1.4** Awareness documents, attendance lists and minutes of national workshops
  - **Activity 1.4.1.** Conduct a farmers' day event at year 1, and a national workshop at the end of the project to disseminate project lessons learnt and best practice of Ibis Rice
- **Deliverable 1.5** Monitoring and evaluation reports at Y2 of the project
  - **Activity 1.5.1.** Monitor and evaluate of Ibis Rice related and compliance activities and results at SPWS
- **Deliverable 1.6** Financial literacy assessment for participants at start and end of project
  - **Activity 1.6.1.** Conduct basic financial literacy skills training to Ibis Rice participants
- **Component 2 Conduct Village Forums and Stakeholder Forums with local authority support Ibis Rice and commit to SPWS protection**

- **Deliverable 2.1** Report on M&E framework and baseline survey at first year
  - **Activity 2.1.1** Establish M & E framework and baseline surveys for numbers of village forums established and effective, awareness raising amongst village beneficiaries, compliance and forest cover within SPWS
- **Deliverable 2.2** List of participants, minutes of quarterly Villages Forum meetings
  - **Activity 2.2.1** Conduct quarterly Village Forum meetings at commune level and awareness raising on the importance of SPWS and the illegality of hunting/snaring in seven villages by Village Forum committees
- **Deliverable 2.3** List of participants and minutes of quarterly Stakeholder Forum meetings
  - **Activity 2.3.1** Conduct quarterly Stakeholder Forum meeting at provincial and district levels on awareness raising on SPWS management and the illegality of hunting/snaring in seven villages by local government
- **Deliverable 2.4** Annual forest cover change report using remotely sensed data

- **Activity 2.4.1** Conduct baseline data collection and monitoring and evaluation of forest cover within SPWS
- **Component 3 Stable populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Eld's deer) within SPWS is achieved**
  - **Deliverable 3.1** Monthly biodiversity reports produced by BirdLife field monitoring teams.
  - **Activity 3.1.1** Compile baseline data from monthly biodiversity reports and establish M&E framework
  - **Deliverable 3.2** Monthly biodiversity reports produced by BirdLife field monitoring teams.
  - **Activity 3.2.1** Search and monitor nests of White shouldered Ibis, Giant Ibises, and three vulture species at SPWS (monthly census during the breeding period)
  - **Deliverable 3.3** Monthly biodiversity reports produced by BirdLife field monitoring teams.
  - **Activity 3.3.1** Conduct monitoring of three vulture species at vulture restaurants at SPWS (monthly census)
  - **Deliverable 3.4** Monthly biodiversity reports produced by BirdLife field monitoring teams.
  - **Activity 3.4.1** Conduct White-shouldered Ibis (WSI) roost census in SPWS (monthly and annual census)
  - **Deliverable 3.5** Annual surveys of Eld's deer population at SPWS
  - **Activity 3.5.1** Search and monitoring Eld's deer in SPWS (monthly census)
  - **Deliverable 3.6** At least one journal paper produced by project staff published reporting population trend of ibis, vultures or Eld's deer.
  - **Activity 3.6.1** Research and draft journal paper

#### 9. Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:

- **Ibis Rice Conservation Co., Ltd (IRCC)**  
A consultation meeting was held in November 2019 at BirdLife Phnom Penh office Director of IRCC and BirdLife Representative to discuss about future collaboration of Ibis Rice scheme in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS). Ibis Rice is an ambitious, not-for-profit conservation enterprise working with Cambodian farmers to produce world-class, organic jasmine rice. Once farmers comply with the conservation agreements and achieve organic rice certification, IRCC purchases the rice at a premium price, this can add a 20-40% premium above the market. As part of this proposed project, IRCC will advise BirdLife on market access and provide seeds to farmers.

IRCC worked together with BirdLife on previous project developing Ibis Rice at four villages surrounding SPWS. As a result, we have increased household income and reduced levels of deforestation, and encroachment into the protected area. IRCC strongly endorses the new proposal BirdLife International Cambodia Programme has developed and submitted to CEPF. We have been consulted and involved in its design. We hope that CEPF will approve this project and continue to support the expansion of the unique initiative.

- **Sansom Mlup Prey Organization (SMP)**  
A consultation meeting was held in November 2019 at BirdLife Phnom Penh office Director of SMP Representative and BirdLife Representative to discuss about future collaboration of Ibis Rice scheme in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS). SMP was created to promote and market wildlife-friendly products grown or crafted in the communities located in all categories of land protected for their biodiversity value in Cambodia. Its work links wildlife conservation to improving livelihoods of villagers limited by the constraints of living in a remote area with little

opportunity to expand operations and limited market access. SMP was involved in the creation of the Ibis Rice idea in 2009 and have been involved in its development ever since.

SMP and BirdLife collaborated on previous project successfully supporting 1,545 rural people in producing wildlife-friendly Ibis Rice and achieving organic certification with two year for the families in SPWS. With Ibis Rice, families were able to generate more than 20% additional income compared to conventionally grown rice varieties.

Building on this experience, SMP has collaborated with BirdLife to design the new project it has now submitted to CEPF. Under this new project, SMP will be expanding the Ibis Rice scheme to three additional villages at SPWS, increasing the number of rural people that are producing and benefiting from organic and wildlife friendly rice. Specially, SMP will develop the capacities of farmers via agriculture extension training and coach them in abiding by the rules of the compliance system. SMP strongly endorses this project and recommends that the CEPF supports it.

- **Stung Treng Department of Environment (DoE)**  
BirdLife representative had held a meeting with director of Stung Treng DoE at DoE Office to discussion about expansion of Ibis Rice scheme in the future. The Stung Treng DoE and BirdLife has been working closely together to support the conservation of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS). An important aspect of this work is the Ibis Rice scheme that helps villages overcome food scarcity and promotes rural livelihoods. DoE is our partner. They have management authority over the SPWS and make up the majority of the current law enforcement team. They will be regular updated on the progress of the project.

Stung Treng DoE endorses the new proposal BirdLife International Cambodia Programme has developed and submitted to the CEPF. DoE have been involved in its design. DoE is looking forward to working with BirdLife in the future on the continued expansion of Ibis Rice in the villages surrounding SPWS.

- **Stung Treng Department of Land Management (DoL)**  
BirdLife representative had held a meeting with director of Stung Treng DoL at DoL Office to discussion about the extension of the rice field (Ibis Rice) in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS) in the future. The DoL has been collaborating with BirdLife since 2016 to map household rice fields at four villages in Siem Pang District. The rice field map enables the Ibis Rice scheme team monitor changes to the extent of the rice fields. This is an essential prerequisite for joining Ibis Rice. As a result, 991 rice field parcels belonging to 3,440 rural people in the villages of Khes Svay, Khes Kraom, Pong Kriel, Nhang Sum, and Pha Bang villages surrounding SPWS were mapped and registered at provincial level. Under this new project, the DoL will provide the same function.

DoL endorses the new proposal BirdLife International Cambodia Programme has developed and submitted to CEPF. DoL have been consulted and involved in its design. DoL hopes that CEPF will approve this project and continue to support the expansion of this unique initiative.

- **Siem Pang District Governor**  
We have been involved Siem Pang District Governor in every quarterly Stakeholder Forum meeting sine 2013 at Siem Pang District. The governor is our key stakeholder. In the forums, the key stakeholders include Stung Treng Deputy Provincial Governor, Director of DoE, representative of DoL, Director of SPWS, Siem Pang District Governor, District Agriculture

Office Director, commune chiefs, village chiefs, Army-Base Commanders, District Police, and member of Village Forums. In these consultation meetings, we discussed about the enforcement and prevention of illegal offenses in SPWS, the implementation of project activities and future plan under the cooperation of the stakeholder, strengthening relationship between all stakeholders in the sanctuary.

Siem Pang District governor is playing a key role in endorsing the community groups and holding regular quarterly meetings to ensure effective sustainable functioning of these groups.

- The seven target villages  
We conduct Village Forum meetings every quarter with the seven target villages to talk about Livelihoods project activities in their village and about the challenges and issues, finding common solution in protection of SPWS. In our last meeting in November 2019, we discussed about Ibis Rice expansion planning to new villages of Phabang, Lakay, and Kham Phuok. They were very interested in the expansion planning of Ibis Rice scheme to new villages and suggested to also scale up the scheme in the current four villages. They said their villagers understand the scheme more because they saw their neighboring village implementing this rice for three year already and get good income from sales of their rice.

#### 10. **Project Stakeholders:**

We are working to continue the succession of previous project. Our project stakeholders will be the same as previous activities. Our project stakeholders included:

NGOs and Private Sector:

- Ibis Rice Conservation Co., Ltd (IRCC)
- Sansom Mlup Prey Organization (SMP)

Government:

- Stung Treng Department of Environment (DoE)
- Stung Treng Department of Land Management (DoL)
- Siem Pang District Governor and other local authorities

Community:

- The seven target villages

#### 11. **Stakeholder Engagement Program:**

We keep strengthening relationship with our key stakeholders through conducting village awareness meetings, villager trainings, Village Forums, and Stakeholder Forums.

Our material in village awareness meetings include verbal speech, pictures, flipchart, data, leaflets, raw material, sample of products, on-job practicing training at fields, group discussion, picture books, visual displays, question and answers, and non-technical documents.

In Village Forum and Stakeholder Forum meetings, we use LCD projector, computer and slide presentations, video, reports, hand-out, group discussion, question and answers, and remarkable speeches.

#### 12. **Consultation methods:**

- Town hall meetings with the whole community or particular sub-groups (e.g. women, miners)

- Survey/questionnaires e.g. questionnaire for participants in a training activity, before and after the activities.
- Discussions at meetings of quarterly Village Forum and Stakeholders Forums meeting with local authorities.
- Village awareness meeting conducted in each village with villagers and community leaders to select new beneficiaries
- Field researching and recording data of biodiversity information to put in monthly reports
- Workshop with relevant departments and stakeholders to disseminate best practice and lesson learnt of the project.
- Exchange visits e.g. to the swamp Ibis Rice demonstration sites

13. **Other Engagement Activities:** This section will describe any other engagement activities that will be undertaken, including participatory processes, joint decision-making, and/or partnerships undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders. Examples include benefit-sharing programs, community development initiatives, resettlement and development programs, and/or training and microfinance programs.

14. **Timetable:** This section will provide a schedule outlining dates and locations when various stakeholder engagement activities, including consultation, disclosure, and partnerships will take place and the date by which such activities will be incorporated into project design.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder engagement activity	Schedule	Location
Ibis Rice Conservation Co., Ltd (IRCC)	Sign Sub-grant agreement	1 May 2020 - 1 Jun 2020	Phnom Penh Office
Sansom Mlup Prey Organization (SMP)	Sign Sub-grant agreement	1 May 2020 - 1 Jun 2020	Phnom Penh Office
Stung Treng Department of Environment (DoE)	Share project outcomes and lesson	1 Dec 2022 - 30 Apr 2022	Stung Treng
Stung Treng Department of Land Management (DoL)	Sign Sub-grant agreement Share project outcomes	1 May 2020 - 1 Jun 2020	Stung Treng
Siem Pang District Governor and other local authorities	Project inception Share project outcomes	1 May 2020 - 1 Jun 2020	Siem Pang
The seven target villages	Sign Conservation and Sale agreements	1 May 2020 - 31 Dec 2022	Siem Pang

15. **Resources and Responsibilities:**

Stakeholder engagement is integral to all project activities and all project activities incorporate stakeholder engagement. Therefore, all staff at all levels will carry out stakeholder engagement relevant to their particular areas of responsibility. For example, the Livelihoods Project Manager and Co-Project Leader have responsibility for project-wide stakeholder engagement activities such as the sub-grant discussion meeting with SMP and IRCC, discussion meetings on project collaboration with DoE and DoL, and reporting at quarterly Stakeholder Forum meetings. Community Engagement Officer and Livelihoods Project Officer have responsibility for carrying out surveys in the communities where they work, conduct village awareness raising, and conduct basic financial literacy skill training to the seven villages. Compliance and Data Management Officer has responsibilities for sharing information of non-compliance check results with local communities and authorities. The sub-grantee project team have responsibilities for village awareness raising meetings, monthly reporting the results for the Ibis Rice activities. Field Monitoring team have responsibilities for sharing monthly reports of biodiversity activities in Stakeholder Forum meetings.

16. **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.

**BirdLife International**  
**Organic livelihoods conserving Cambodia's big five**  
**Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia**  
**Grievance mechanism**

To Whom It May Concern

This document provides a grievance mechanism in relation to the above-named project.

Stakeholders will be informed of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism via a public notice posted outside the Birdlife office Siem Pang in Khmer, Lao and English languages. Stakeholders will further be made aware of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism via notices available at project meetings and public announcements at village meetings in Khmer.

BirdLife International Cambodia Programme 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](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by surface mail.

Any signboards and posters created as a project output will contain the contact information for BirdLife, CEPF and the Regional Implementation Team provided below. Anyone wishing to communicate with the grantee or the CEPF Regional Implementation Team on matters relating to this project may do so via the following contact information:

BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, 32 A, 494 Sangkat Phsar Daeum Thkov, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Telephone: +855(0)23 993 631.

Email: [admin@birdlifecambodia.org](mailto:admin@birdlifecambodia.org)

Lou Vanny, Programme Officer, IUCN Cambodia Country Office, Room 592, 5th Floor, Phnom Penh Center, St. Sothearos, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Telephone: +855 12 703 033

Email: [vanny.lou@iucn.org](mailto:vanny.lou@iucn.org)

**17. Monitoring and Reporting:**

The results of the stakeholder engagement activities in Section 14 will be reported back to all stakeholders in every village awareness meeting, every quarterly Village Forum and Stakeholder Forum meetings, at the farmers' day event in year 1, and also at a national workshop at the end of the project. We have the regular monthly reporting to Stung Treng Department of Environment (DoE).