

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

July 2019

CEPF Grant 109901

WCS

Spreading Cambodian Models to Save Asia's Bustards on Farmed Lands

Cambodia and India

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
2. Grant title: Spreading Cambodian models to save Asia's bustards on farmed lands
3. Grant number: 109901
4. Grant amount (US dollars): \$100,000
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1 September 2019 – 31 March 2021
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Cambodia, India.
7. Date of preparation of this document: July 2019

8. Introduction:

The project aims to promote and pilot methods and models of bustard conservation originally developed in Cambodia, in targeted locations in India and Nepal where bustards occupy farmed land. The project consists of three elements. First, there will be a short study trip for Indian bustard conservationists to bustard conservation sites in Cambodia. Participants will be those that were unable to attend a similar study trip undertaken in 2017. This part of the project will involve observing ongoing conservation activities and discussing them with stakeholders that are involved in those activities, it has no potential social or environment issues. The main part of the project is piloting some of these bustard conservation activities in locations in India where bustards live in farmed areas. The locations for the pilots are in Koklabari Seed Farm (part of Manas National Park), at Sudasari in Desert National Park and in a yet-to-be identified location that supports Lesser Florican, probably in Rajasthan. Each of these areas presents different social and environmental issues that are discussed below, but summarized here. At Koklabari Seed Farm, local people currently pay an annual fee to grow rice at the site, which was formerly a seed farm. Currently farmers receive no technical support, and use large quantities of pesticides and fertilizers to cultivate a fairly unprofitable crop. The project will provide training to farmer groups to enable them to cultivate rice in a more environmentally friendly, and more profitable, way. At Sudasari, local people will be employed to monitor and protect existing GIB enclosures, especially from incursions by domestic livestock, feral dogs and pigs. The local communities at Sudasari will also be involved in habitat enrichment within the enclosures. The location and communities that will be involved in Lesser Florican conservation have yet to be identified, this will take place during the first six months of the project. The third and final part of the project is a small workshop for bustard conservationists from India and Nepal in which the preliminary results of the pilots will be disseminated and bustard conservation in farmed areas promoted more widely among the conservation community.

9. Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:

In April 2017, WCS and Aaranyak conducted preliminary informal discussions with community members located close to Koklabari Seed Farm. Aaranyak has continued to work with these several communities since, although this engagement has focused on environmental education and not on florican-friendly farming. There has been no formal or informal disclosure of proposed project activities to communities regarding this CEPF grant.

10. Project Stakeholders:

Key stakeholder groups that will be directly informed about the project are:

- Communities that cultivate rice in Koklabari Seed Farm
- Residents of villages who graze livestock at Sudasari
- Farmers in the location where Lesser Florican conservation activities will be undertaken
- Rajasthan and Assam State Government (India)

- Other NGOs involved in bird and/or bustard conservation in India and Nepal including but not limited to Aaranyak, Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay National History Society, The Corbett Foundation, and Bird Conservation Nepal.
- Ministry of Environment (Cambodia)

11. Stakeholder Engagement Program:

We will produce a summary of the project in local language that will be presented to the key local communities, to a wide variety of government offices and also to NGO stakeholders to gain their buy-in. For each of the three field sites, posters will be produced in the local language that summarise the bustard-friendly farming and conservation measures that are to be promoted under the project, and shall explain how the grievance mechanism works. The contents of the poster will be explained and copies given to communities at village meetings at the beginning of the project.

12. Consultation methods:

In addition to what is described above, integrated into the design of the project is participatory discussion with communities regarding the farming methods, and other conservation interventions, that will be promoted at each of the project sites. These communities will be identified through the deep local knowledge that our subgrantees have about Manas Tiger Reserve and Desert National Park. This will be conducted in local language, and take the form of focus groups with key stakeholders in each village.

13. Other Engagement Activities:

None.

14. Timetable:

Consultations will take place during the first quarter of the project. Community consultations will take place within the villages, whilst consultation with government will take place in relevant government offices. Consultations with villages involved in Lesser Florican conservation will take place in the second quarter of the project after they have been identified.

15. Resources and Responsibilities: Staff from WCS's India program will be responsible for managing and implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. As much as is possible, activities in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be integrated into normal project activities e.g. community consultations regarding bustard-friendly farming, and so will be covered by the travel section of the project budget.

16. Grievance mechanism:

WCS has established a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that enables local communities, employees, and other affected stakeholders to raise grievances and seek redress for alleged violations of the human rights of individuals or communities. The WCS GRM includes the documentation of issues and responses. Grievances may be submitted in writing by email to humanrights@wcs.org, or by surface mail to the pertinent Country Program or the Social Safeguards Management Team at the Wildlife Conservation Society's headquarters at 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx NY 10460, USA.

Stakeholders will be informed of the purpose of the project in meetings and workshops, and the grievance mechanism will be made readily available all participants.

For the purposes of the project, the WCS team will design a poster in local languages, modeled on the mechanisms employed by WCS's Cambodia program for recent CEPF projects. In addition to WCS's GRM, the information provided in the poster will also include the following contact information for CEPF: Jack Tordoff : jtordoff@cepf.net / +1 571 645 3320. WCS will make it explicit that it will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days of receipt of the grievance. 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 WCS point of contact for this project specific process is Peter Clyne, pclyne@wcs.org.

16. Monitoring and Reporting:

The project will involve local communities in the monitoring of project impacts on farmers (including profitability of farming and crop yields). It will also establish local-level reporting systems so that farmers can monitor the usage of their fields by bustards, and in Desert National Park local communities will be engaged to monitor and protect enclosures for bustards. They will also be involved in habitat enrichment within enclosures. Impacts of these pilot projects will be shared within relevant local communities in the form of focus groups and written materials. The final project workshop will allow dissemination of these impacts with relevant NGOs and government agencies.