

### CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Conservation International
<b>Project Title:</b>	Reducing Exploitation Of Trade-Threatened Mammals In Their Cambodian Strongholds
<b>Date of Report:</b>	
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**CEPF Region: Indochina**

**Strategic Direction:** 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats

**Grant Amount: US\$122,148**

**Project Dates: 1 July 2010 to 31 July, 2013**

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):**

We worked closely with the Angkor Center for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB) on several aspects; expanding the pangolin facility at ACCB, developing pangolin background documents and handling guidelines, as well as facilitating the exchange trip to Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program (CPCP) in Vietnam.

We worked with Wildlife Alliance (WA) on development of pangolin background documents and handling guidelines, as well as coordinating radio-tracking of confiscated pangolins. We furthermore worked with them on development of the soft-release facility and post-release monitoring of pangolins, as well as the coordination of management of pangolins at Phnom Tamau Wildlife Rescue Center (PTWRC).

We worked with the Forestry Administration (FA) and Fisheries Administration (FiA) on awareness raising, training and collaboration in the Central Cardamom Protected Forest (CCPF) and Tonle Sap. They helped us attain research permits for work in Koh Kong. We worked with them on establishing the pangolin facility at PTWRC and in development of pangolin documents.

We worked with local communities in the CCPF on monitoring of bears and pangolin research. We worked very closely with local communities, especially community researchers at Tonle Sap on researching otters.

We have worked both International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Pangolin, Otter, and Bear specialist group members who have provided discussion and recommendations for relevant issues.

### Conservation Impacts

***Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.***

We have collected a lot of very useful information on the hairy-nosed otter, a species which was listed in the 'old' CEPF profile as having an 'overriding need for improved information'. This new information can (and already is) being used to guide conservation measures at sites where this species is present, benefitting this species and other wildlife, as well as the ecosystem as a whole. As a result, there has been improved control of overexploitation of this species at target sites at Tonle Sap.

For remaining key species, our project activities have greatly contributed to control over exploitation, one of the stated goals of the CEPF (details below in other sections).

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.***

#### **Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):**

- Trade-threatened mammals (otters, pangolins and bears) will be better protected in Cambodia as a result of project activities in core strongholds for each of the focal species.

- Improvements to otter protection under national laws in Cambodia will ensure that all otter species are legally protected, closing the loophole on otter trade through mistaken or falsified species identifications in confiscations and trade shipments.

- The development of national teams of otter, pangolin and bear, early career conservationists will provide a solid base for regionally-led conservation initiatives in the future, as will the formation of a regional otter taskforce. The high employment rates of these young conservationists in the Cambodian government will also facilitate long-term impacts.

- The attitudes of local communities in the national strongholds for otters, pangolins and bears will be improved through a better understanding of the importance and legal status of these species and their habitats.

- Sustainable management of the largest known breeding population of hairy-nosed otters in the world will be secured through targeted conservation, and through expansion of a freshwater sanctuary that will be demarcated so that it includes all of their habitat requirements.

- Adaptive management will provide long-term protection of Asiatic black bears and Malayan sun bears in their Cambodian stronghold, protecting them against targeted hunting for trade.

- Pangolin rehabilitation centers will have sufficient skills and training to ensure that all

confiscated pangolins in Cambodia have the opportunity to be treated for their wounds, which will give them the best possible chance of survival when they are released back into the wild.

### **Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

The future for otters in the Tonle Sap is significantly brighter as a result of this project. Both local communities and government are much more aware of the concerns for these species, and protection of key sites has been incorporated into long-term development plans. Due to parallel activities, the government is now more focused on increasing protection of flooded forest and the floodplain, and has developed new conservation zones that incorporate flooded forests. This is a positive development for the otters and other wildlife that depend heavily on these habitats for survival. Community-based management of natural resources within community fisheries is also steadily improving at certain sites, which will contribute to better site protection.

This project has helped draw attention to pangolin, bears (and other wildlife) in the CCPF. Both local communities and government rangers are increasingly aware of the need to protect these threatened species and wildlife. A number of activities are in place to address threats, and with secured long-term funding through a trust fund, the CCPF will remain a stronghold for these species.

Once new wildlife laws and red lists are in place, CI will work to place otters (and other key species) in the right categories to ensure a suitable level of protection. However, this is only the first step to long-term conservation of these species and enforcement of these laws is of equal importance. Although enforcement works well at sites receiving NGO support, a lack of resources and corruption often result in slack enforcement at many other sites (including border crossings) in Cambodia.

Over the years, CI has fostered many young career conservationists, several of whom have secured scholarships to study internationally. These talented and very motivated young people represent the future for conservation leadership in Cambodia, both based in government and civil society positions. They will prove a great asset and benefit to Cambodia as passionate and dedicated professionals with a great understanding of environmental issues and possible solutions.

We have witnessed changes of attitude in local communities both in the CCPF and the Tonle Sap as result of our activities. People are generally more aware of the importance of using natural resources in a sustainable manner and are willing to help protect the environment for future generations. Communities demonstrate great willingness to collaborate and provide information, even without instant direct and tangible benefits, and are motivated by the incentive of a more stable and sustainable ecosystem in the long term.

The two pangolin rehabilitation centers, which both have trained keepers and veterinary support, are both working well. Confiscated pangolins now have a much higher chance of surviving the ordeal of being hunted and kept in captivity than was previously recorded. With the government 'buy-in' into the PTWRC facility and the daily management support from WA, there is a good chance that the facility will work effectively well into the future.

### **Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):**

- Core sites for otters, pangolins and bears will be managed for conservation through a series of activities that engage all local stakeholders and effectively address the main threats to these species and their habitats.
- The awareness of local communities and government agencies of the importance of otters, pangolins and bears will be improved in stronghold sites, as will the knowledge of their protective legal status and overriding need for conservation.
- Local communities will see tangible benefits from engaging in conservation of the focal species, which will be linked to long-term financing mechanisms to ensure that the opportunity costs of not engaging in activities that harm these species are fairly and transparently addressed.
- National teams will receive further experience in developing and maintaining effective conservation projects, and will benefit from exchanges to other relevant programs in the region.
- A Freshwater Sanctuary will be established in the Tonle Sap Lake using otters as flagship species, with joint patrolling by the local communities and Fisheries Administration staff.
- Additional sites which show potential for conservation of the hairy-nosed otter, the world's rarest otter, will be identified in the coastal zone allowing areas, ensuring that the best remaining populations in the world will be targeted for conservation.
- Both species of bear in Cambodia will be monitored in the largest stronghold site in Cambodia (or Vietnam or Laos), and the results of the monitoring will be used on a timely basis to ensure that existing and emerging threats to the species are mitigated and that the species do not become locally extinct at the site.
- Confiscated pangolins released into the wild will have an increased chance of survival when released due to the improvements to handling and treatment of the animals that this project will provide.

### **Actual Progress Towards Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

The core sites for otters, pangolins and bears that were the focus of this project are the Cardamom Mountains (Central Cardamom Protected Forest - CCPF) and the Tonle Sap Lake (Kampung Prak target area). These sites have both been well managed during the grant period. A variety of approaches have been applied at both sites, (e.g. conservation incentive agreements (CCPF), community rangers (both), awareness raising (both) and government-based protection (both)). These approaches have addressed main threats for the target species. In the Tonle Sap in particular, we have seen our activities have a positive impact on the otter populations, with a steep decrease in the use of otter leg traps, fewer records of captures and confiscations, a higher release rate of incidental otter by-catches, and a general improvement of awareness and positive feeling towards otters among the local communities. Our research has

also shown many records of otters using different parts of the flooded forest habitats, including confirmed breeding of the species.

Government partners (FA and FiA) also demonstrate improved knowledge of and interest in protecting these key species, and are aware of their main threats and actions needed to maintain secure populations. Local communities at most target sites are aware of the legal status of the key species. We hypothesize that the main reason for behavior change among local communities in the Tonle Sap is due to the local researchers we are working with in the area. These researchers are all local residents of four different villages and are well known and respected in their communities. In addition to large amounts of data collection, they have functioned as 'ambassadors' for the otters and have spread the word about conservation in a more effective manner. This is a great model that can be applied at other sites/for other species.

For the CCPF, local communities engaged in conservation agreements witness a very tangible, positive impact from participation in conservation activities through direct employment as community rangers and from agreement benefits. A planned trust fund (currently being developed) for the CCPF will ensure long-term financing for conservation of the key species and their habitats.

Similarly, at Tonle Sap we are working towards sustainable structures which will allow local communities to be more engaged in management and conservation of their communal fisheries areas, which will ensure more sustainable use of resources leading to stable populations of fish and a stable ecosystem they can rely on for their livelihoods.

Our Cambodian teams working at these two sites, specifically on the target species, have developed their skills during the project period. Especially the younger research staff has gained massive experience in how to plan, execute and report on project activities, which will help them in their future careers as conservationists. Although there have been no direct exchange trips, young researchers have joined national and international trainings, conferences and workshops, giving them the opportunity to build a network of 'regional colleagues', share experiences and discuss approaches to conservation. Their self-confidence has grown significantly as they've begun to view themselves as the national conservation experts, able to provide worthwhile thoughts and advice.

Through close work with both the Fisheries Administration and local communities, we developed three 'Community Conservation Areas' around three of the dry season ponds at our target site at Tonle Sap. These ponds have proven essential as fish refugees during the dry season and as key sites for a variety of wildlife including the hairy-nosed otter, which is the flagship species for these areas. We have obtained many camera trap photos of otters here, including images of females with young, who appear to depend on these ponds. This will all be documented through scientific papers which are currently being prepared for publication. The 'Community Conservation Area' approach seems very effective, and the Fisheries Administration is interested in amplifying this with other communities. We are working with the FiA to develop similar management for one of the new conservation zones identified by the government last year by expanding on sites with good habitat under solid protection and management.

Our research along the coast in Koh Kong province also revealed the presence and breeding of hairy-nosed otters in the area. All our work and results will be summarized and available in a

report format. Although CI doesn't currently have any conservation projects on the ground in Koh Kong, we are considering establishing a 'ridge to reef' approach, which would cover prevalent areas which house hairy-nosed otters, smooth-coated otters, and a variety of other wildlife species. Our information will also be made available to partners to highlight the importance of the sites for otters, and hopefully attract more interest in developing focused conservation projects. The main problem in the coastal region is the plethora of development projects underway which are damaging the habitats of otters and other wildlife. This is especially prevalent on the Botum Sakor Peninsular, where the national park is being prepped for development. The development of this area is of serious concern, as the coastal areas of estuaries with melaluca and mangrove are unique, rare, and ideal sites for conservation and eco-tourism.

An effective structure for monitoring of bears has been developed and applied in CCPF. Based on our previous experience with monitoring, and methods developed and used by other regional bear research and monitoring projects, we have applied a method of transect walks for identification of bear claw marks on trees which will indicate the relative abundance of bears. This method is relatively simple, does not require specialist equipment, and can easily be applied by local communities and rangers. This approach is comparable to similar initiatives across the region which facilitates easy comparison of results. The monitoring data will be shared with the IUCN Bear Specialist Group for broader analysis and comparison. The current system in place engages community ranger teams that also patrol for the conservation agreements, which provides good consistency across activities and project sites. A document describing methods and results to date has been developed and provided to the management team of the CCPF. The above-mentioned trust fund would cover costs of future monitoring, the results of which can easily be analyzed and used for adaptive management. Preliminary results to date are positive; showing no decrease in bear signs.

The pangolin handling guidelines that have been developed in partnership with ACCB, Wildlife Alliance (WA) and Forestry Administration provide an excellent resource for rangers working to confiscate pangolins. It has simple, clear instructions on how to handle and release pangolins in post-confiscation settings, which should help improve the chances for pangolin survival after being hunted and kept in captivity. In addition to this, and with alternative funds, CI has supported the building of a pangolin rehabilitation facility at the government-run Phnom Tamau Wildlife Rescue Center (PTWRC). This facility has trained staff to treat and care for injured pangolins that cannot be immediately released into the wild. As highlighted in the guidelines, pangolins with injuries should be sent either to this facility or to the ACCB (depending on location) for rehabilitation prior to release to increase chances of survival. CI has also supported the building of a soft-release facility at a Wildlife Alliance release site in the Cardamom Mountains, where rehabilitated pangolins can re-adjust to the wild prior to being fully released. A few pangolins from the PTWRC facility have recently been transferred to the WA release site.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:**

**Hectares Protected:** CCPF 400.000 ha, Tonle Sap approx.. 15.000 ha.

**Species Conserved:** Focus on the conservation of five species, although protection of two landscapes includes several more species.

**Corridors Created:** n/a

***Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.***

A main constraint to achieving short-term objectives is the fact that progress can be slow and cumbersome in Cambodia. Activities, progress, and achievements often take longer than anticipated. As such, it can be difficult to adhere to original work plans and the timeframe for expected results may require adjustment or delay.

Conservation success isn't based on a few disparate activities, but is rather a result of holistic multi-pronged approaches. I will indicate that our short-term conservation successes in Tonle Sap and CCPF do not solely result from the CEPF grant and related work, but rather represent a long-term investment in the sites with several parallel activities, of which CEPF has been an integral part.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

As mentioned elsewhere, several external and internal factors have impacted the progress and results of our work, such as slow progress by partners, personal incidents, internal staffing and time management issues. These are all very typical drivers of impact to projects and demonstrate the need for flexibility around planned work and expected outcomes in multiple-year projects.

**Project Components**

**Project Components:** *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

**Component 1 Planned:**

Empower government to place all otter species on the national Red List as protected by Cambodian law.

Close the legal loophole so that all otter hunting and trade is illegal and all otter species are legally protected in Cambodia.

**Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

The current national Red List was produced in 2003 when many species and sites were understudied. The list is outdated and in need of adjustment using new data. CI has had several discussions with the FA on this point. They agree on the need for this adjustment and appreciate the contribution of data and guidance from NGO's. Sometime last year we heard the news that the FA was beginning to draft a totally new Wildlife Law to replace the current section on wildlife in the Forestry law. This would also include a totally new national red list with new structure, criteria and categories. This process is still in place, and until the law is finalized and the new structure for the red list is implemented and publicized, no changes can be made. During this ongoing process, we decided to write the background justifications for conservation of the different key species to prepare for upcoming NGO consultations. Recently, certain



Cambodian colleagues relayed troublesome news regarding the finalization of the wildlife law and red list. Preparation of these documents is not progressing with the desired speed and the FA is requesting funding support from NGO's to facilitate the process. It is unclear what is currently happening, but regardless, CI we thoroughly contributed by producing these background documents on key species.

**Component 2 Planned:**

Ensure that otter conservation interventions at the Tonle Sap –a lake which undergoes massive expansion during the monsoon floods—are effective in conserving otters across their range and throughout the year.

There is currently insufficient information to do this – as the IUCN OSG clearly states, there is an overriding need for a clearer understanding of the ecology of hairy-nosed otters if they are to be effectively conserved. This information is also essential to ensure the proposed expansion of the freshwater sanctuary includes the entire habitat requirements and annual range of the species. Relative abundance data will also be collected, to provide a baseline to monitor our success.

**Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

Over the last three years, CI has worked in close collaboration with our local community researchers to collect a large amount of data on both species of otters at Tonle Sap. We have shown which habitat areas the hairy-nosed otters use at different times of the year. In addition we have carried out feces-based DNA analysis on the hairy-nosed otter to indicate population size and connectivity between different sites of the lake. All of this information is very useful and will further guide our conservation work at the site. We are currently preparing informational documents and manuscripts which outline and describe this data.

As a side note, we would like to comment on the fishing cat. Alongside our surveys for the otters we have focused on attaining data on fishing cats, a species believed to exist in the flooded forest surrounding the lake. Although our team has set many camera traps at sites where we suspect fishing cats are present, we have failed to obtain a single photo or track of a fishing cat. We have found abundant photographic evidence of leopard cats, civets and mongooses, but no fishing cats. Our surveys in the coastal zone also failed to document records of fishing cats. This is disconcerting information which indicates the potentially dire status of this species in Cambodia. Due to our lack of records I began to dig deeper into the existing records of this species and realized that the number of actual confirmed records of sightings in Cambodia is very low. I am in the process of writing a short paper to document these findings, and suggest to CEPF further focused surveys of this specie at other locations around the lake to provide a more comprehensive and holistic understanding of the fishing cat's presence. I will include this information in a background guidance document to the government for suggested update of the red list.

**Component 3 Planned:**

Ensure that communities and government staff understand and support our efforts to protect otters and fishing cats and the habitats upon which they rely at Tonle Sap Lake.

**Component 3 Actual to Completion:**

As mentioned above, our work on otters at Tonle Sap has been very successful. CI has worked to raise awareness among local communities of this unique species living in their back waters.



Community members understand the need to conserve this species and feel proud of its existence in their community. Much of the credit for implementing behavior change must be attributed to our local community researchers who have worked diligently as 'otter ambassadors'. It is more difficult to convince government staff that conservation of otters and other wildlife is important as their main focus at the lake is fishing and fish stocks. However, as a result of our efforts, we feel that they are now paying more attention to otters and taking action when needed.

**Component 4 Planned:**

Initiate conservation programs at sites with recent hairy-nosed otter discoveries.

**Component 4 Actual at Completion:**

At the time the proposal was written, CI was strongly considering developing a coastal conservation project in Koh Kong province. As CI's focus and funding in Cambodia has shifted slightly, this expansion was put on hold, and no activities have happened on the ground. A few years ago CI supported a partner's application for funding to establish a community-based research and awareness program in Koh Kong province to kick-start community-based conservation of some key sites, as well as raise community awareness and initiate certain community-based eco-tourism activities. While the concept was thorough and comprehensive, the project was ultimately not selected for funding. Although CI is still interested in developing a 'ridge to reef' program that will tie the Tonle sap lake through the Cardamom Mountains to the coastal areas of Koh Kong, this initiative has not been prioritized due to a focus on securing our other key project sites. With the quick development and resulting devastation of the Cambodian coastline, initiatives are needed to help conserve these unique ecosystems and the amazing wildlife they house. We will ensure that our survey reports will be made available to relevant partners.

**Component 5 Planned:**

Support the development of an Asian Taskforce for region-wide otter conservation.

We will work with national country leads to help develop and run a forum for information sharing, communication between otter conservationists across the region, development of priority projects by country, cross-country collaboration, and to develop partnerships for more effective fund-raising.

**Component 5 Actual at Completion:**

CI has been instrumental in advancing otter research and conservation in Asia over the last few years. In 2008 we held a workshop on otter research with participants from several countries in Asia. This workshop was very successful as it inspired many young otter researchers to increase focus on otters, and launched the idea for the IUCN Otter Specialist Group (IUCN OSG) to establish the Asian Otter Taskforce. The concept behind this was to create a network for otter researchers in the region to facilitate networking, communication, and the sharing of knowledge and experiences. Two CI staff are also members of the IUCN OSG and have supported the group's initiation and development. The group has helped to promote awareness and understanding of otters, providing researchers across Asia with a network to promote and facilitate fundraising and research for otters. A recent follow-up to an otter research workshop held in Bogor, Indonesia, gathered researchers together to strengthen connections and ideas. Both workshops have seen great participation and support by senior OSG members. This

network must be kept alive and reinforced, so that the OSG or others can facilitate further flow of funds for otter research and conservation activities.

**Component 6 Planned:**

Improved knowledge of ecology and behavior of wild and confiscated pangolins to support improved survivorship of confiscated pangolins; We will publish the results of the pangolin radio-tracking study and circulate the publication regionally to governments, Protected Area managers, conservation NGOs, researchers and other interested parties.

**Component 6 Actual at Completion:**

We have not been able to survey as many pangolins as planned, partly due to difficulties surrounding immediate action planning after pangolins are confiscated (staff are often busy with a number of other activities), bad weather conditions, (heavy rain at time of confiscation) and communication issues with the FA. Two CI staff members attending the recent debut conference of the newly re-established IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group discovered that many other groups have also encountered difficulties and barriers in the study of pangolins. As a result, much remains unknown about wild and released pangolins. A main outcome of the conference, apart for an assessment of all pangolin species and suggested upgrades to CR or EN, was that at stronghold sites, pangolins should be surveyed in more detail, providing better estimates for population (density) and behavior. It remains to be determined which sites should be selected for this research and monitoring, probably a number of sites across ranges. CI will continue to support this process and advocate for the Cardamom Mountains to be a survey and monitoring site. We believe the Cardamoms to be a considerable stronghold for Indochina and would provide great data. Funds will need to be identified for these activities.

**Component 7 Planned:**

Mitigate threats to pangolins in the Central Cardamoms, and ensure increased survival of confiscated pangolins.

At the pangolin conservation workshop held by CI-Cambodia in November 2008, working-groups identified three main outcomes that would greatly help the protection of pangolins in Cambodia—awareness, education, and communication. We worked to implement these activities.

**Component 7 Actual at Completion:**

Several school-based awareness sessions have been held at schools near the CCPF. Several meetings facilitated by CI have been held between government rangers and local communities to discuss ways to improve communication and collaboration. CI has facilitated improved community awareness and interest in protecting wildlife through implementation of the conservation agreement and community ranger activities, as well as the community awareness sessions in which kids pass on information to their parents. Communication has improved and more local community members are working either directly (through patrolling) or indirectly (through sharing intelligence) with rangers to ensure minimal wildlife crimes.

Through the distribution and application of the pangolin guidelines, rangers will receive a refresher course in pangolin handling and guidance on how to deal with pangolin crimes (something the FA has committed to once guidelines are printed).

**Component 8 Planned:**

Ensure the survival of confiscated pangolins by improving the only existing pangolin rehabilitation center in Cambodia (the ACCB), ensuring that injured pangolins get treated at this place, and support the training of relevant staff to care for captive pangolins.

**Component 8 Actual at Completion:**

This component went well beyond expectations. We worked very well with the ACCB (although they underwent an unfortunate change of staff last year), and successfully achieved the extension of the pangolin facility. We further managed to identify funds to support the building of a brand new pangolin rescue facility at PTWRC and support salaries for a vet and several staff to look after confiscated and injured pangolins. Staff from both PTWRC and ACCB went on an exchange visit to the CPCP project and facility in Vietnam, where they shared experiences and learned new approaches to pangolin care and keeping. Since the facility opened, the PTWRC staff has received a number of injured pangolins who've undergone operation, received medical treatment, and managed to recover to health. A baby pangolin (born in captivity by a female that was pregnant when confiscated) is still thriving at the facility.

Furthermore, we supported the building of a soft-release facility at the Wildlife Alliance release site in the southern part of the Cardamom Mountains, where two rehabilitated pangolins from PTWRC have been transferred. There has been great communication and collaboration with all partners on this component of the project.

In addition to these activities and achievements, the completion of the pangolin background document and handling guidelines will represent a significant accomplishment on this aspect.

**Component 9 Planned:**

Ensure stable or increasing populations of Asiatic black bears and Malayan sun bears in the Central Cardamom Mountains by linking detailed and comprehensive bear monitoring data to law enforcement patrol plans and habitat protection activities in a timely and effective manner.

**Component 9 Actual at Completion:**

A solid bear-sign monitoring structure has been developed, tested and implemented in the CCPF. A report outlining methods and preliminary results has been provided to the CCPF management team for inclusion in adaptive management and planning of field activities. The only caveat is that until trust fund or other longer-term financing comes into action there may not be sufficient funds to actually carry out the monitoring surveys at regular intervals.

***Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?*****Component 1:**

We experienced delays due to external factors. The government is in the process of restructuring the wildlife law and national red list, and until this process is further advanced we cannot hope to impact the correct categorization of the key species. As the CEPF project ends and CI phases out of focused species work, we hope to stay involved in the development of the

wildlife law and provide the input when time is right. We will certainly pass on the background justifications for the key species that we have produced.

Component 4:

This component was not realized –no conservation activities focused on otters have been realized in the coastal region of Koh Kong. However, the research we conducted there is still very valuable for guiding future initiatives, and for partners active in SW Cambodia. There is still a chance that in the future CI will expand to work in this area. We will make the document available to the relevant government departments for use in their planning and decision making.

Component 6:

This component did not achieve the success we would have liked. We did not track many pangolins due to patchy availability of confiscated pangolins to track, availability of pangolins coinciding with bad weather, as well as staff being pre-occupied and not able to do field work at that exact moment. For pangolins that were tracked, we had problems with equipment as some transmitters broke and became detached from their hosts. Dense and hilly forest landscapes made it difficult to locate and follow the pangolins. Despite the lack of knowledge of wild pangolins as recently discussed at the IUCN PSG Conference, I am convinced that future initiatives on wild pangolin research will uncover more about this unique species.

Component 8:

The printing and distribution of pangolin handling guidelines under this component have been delayed due to a very slow process of getting the guidelines approved by the FA. Apparently, preparations for the national election have delayed the process and caused most government departments to halt day-to-day activities to focus on election preparation. The guidelines have been approved since the project ended and will be printed using other funds. The FA has committed to distribution of the guidelines, which will fulfill all aspects of this component.

***Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.***

Supplemental documents:

Pangolins in Peril- background document

Pangolin Handling Guidelines

Pangolin national red list justification

Fishing Cat national red list justification

Bear Monitoring methods

<b>Lessons Learned</b>
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***Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.***

In general, the period from the drafting of the proposal to finishing the project has been quite long, allowing for situational changes due to external and internal factors (e.g. political

environment, organization structure). Therefore, it was essential for the project to be relatively flexible (which it was) and accommodate changes in approach or activities. The best strategy outlined during the project planning process may not be the best further down the road of implementation.

***Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

It is important to be realistic about what can be achieved. Most components of this project have been extremely successful, however, not without struggle. In reflecting on the project, staff and funding was probably too tight compared to what we initially suggested. Also, other program activities running parallel to the project stretched staff too far. We also experienced staff restructuring, including staff departures which complicated certain aspects of the work. In the future, these experiences will lead me to be more conservative and realistic in terms of what we aim achieve given timeframe and funding.

***Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

In 2008, CI changed its strategy and focus and has drifted away from species-focused work. As a result, no further funds apart from those in place at the beginning of the project were raised to supplement, build upon, or follow-up with the results and activities implemented. It is important to be aware and plan for long-term successes, and determine whether the project is stand-alone or will require further follow-up or continuation. For example, the component which implements bear monitoring work in CCPF has accomplished a monitoring structure relative to the abundance of bears in the area. In theory this is excellent, but long-term financing must be established to ensure regular data collection, the point where monitoring programs fail in the long term.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

### Additional Funding

*Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.*

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
CI	In-Kind	\$159,659.17	
Disney	A	\$20,063.72	
Individual Donor	A	\$53,253.13	

*\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

### Sustainability/Replicability

*Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.*

The pangolin component of the project has worked out very well. CI has been able to phase out with a coherent and effective exit strategy. We managed to establish the facility at PTWRC and slowly hand over responsibility and funding to FA and WA. Furthermore, with the development of the release facility at the FA/WA release site, these groups have taken over the challenge of releasing and monitoring pangolins. We donated our radio-tracking equipment to WA and FA to enable them to continue the work without any extra cost. The fact that the handling guidelines are endorsed and 'owned' by the FA means that they will be more committed to following and enforcing these guidelines. They are also interested in treating injured pangolins at PTWRC as this is an 'easy' way for them to showcase their successes.

The work on otters at Tonle Sap has also been very successful and will be sustained into the future. Our Cambodian staff is very interested in otters and their conservation and wish to continue focusing on this in the future. We have also worked to achieve community 'buy-in' for otter conservation, in large part through local engagement by our community researchers.

The otters have become such a 'flagship' species in the Tonle Sap that protection of key sites for the otters, such as the dry season ponds and monitoring of the species, has become an integral part of the program. Although it does not have a distinct species focus, it is a notable long-term benefit of the project.

Bear monitoring in the CCPF uses simple, standardized methods which can easily be replicated in other parts of Cambodia and at or other international sites with presence of these species.

***Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.***

#### **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

***Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.***

There have been no safeguard issues throughout this project. During the project proposal phase, some discussion and concern arose that the prevention of otter hunting would negatively impact people's livelihoods. Ultimately, this has not been the case.

#### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**



## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

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**\*\*\*If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\***

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

**CEPF Global Targets**

**(01.07.2010-31.07.3013)**

**Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.**

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant ?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2013 to May 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.				
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Y		~3,000 ha	Tonle Sap Lake. Kampung Prak area (Pursat Province). Community-based conservation zones (dry season ponds). Roughly 1,000 ha/each
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Y		400.000 ha	Central Cardamom protected Forest
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Y		~10,000 ha	Tonle Sap Lake. Kampung Prak area (Pursat Province).

5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.				
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**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table**



<b>Total</b>																				
<b>If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:</b>																				