

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Mlup Baitong
Project Title:	Community Livelihood Development in Support of Sarus Crane Conservation at Kampong Trach, Cambodia
Date of Report:	August 29, 2013
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CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

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

Grant Amount: US\$89,994

Project Dates: 1 October, 2010 to 30 June, 2013

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

Conservation Impacts

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

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

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

Contribute to sustainable improvement of natural resource management at important feeding areas of non-breeding populations of Sarus Crane in lower Mekong Delta in Cambodia.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

AnlongPring, which is a protected habitat and feeding areas of non-breeding populations of Sarus Crane in lower Mekong Delta in Cambodia, has officially been recognized by the Cambodia Government through the sub-decree No 04 dated January 06, 2011. This will significantly contribute to long term sustainable improvement of the protected areas of non-breeding population of Sarus Crane.

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

1. Size of protected Sarus Crane habitat area in Kampong Trach will be maintained at 2010 level.
2. Number of Sarus Crane population will be maintained at 2010 level or will increase
3. Livelihoods of communities living around the Sarus Crane Conservation Area at Kampong Trach significantly improved, thereby reducing pressure on the species and its habitat.

4. Support for the protection of the Sarus Crane population and habitats at Kampong Trach strengthened among local communities and other key stakeholders.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

1. The conservation area covering 217 hectares has been managed by a Local Conservation Group (LCG) which is composed of relevant local authorities including Commune Council, Policemen, militaries, and the technical institution FA. As impact there is not any land encroachment happening in the protected areas.

2. As impact of the understanding about the importance of Sarus Crane conservation among people living around the protected area of AnlongPring, the activities disturbing the Sarus Crane have significantly decreased. As an impact, the population of Sarus Crane in AnlongPring increased from 140 in Mar 2010 to 251 in March 2011 (Crane Census report 2011, Robert van Zalinge) and to 315 in February 2013 (22% increased from 2010 to 2013).

3. The established 10 SHGs continued their saving and revolving funds so that they have been able to provide micro-loans to their members for developing micro-businesses and the trained SGH members have improved techniques and plans of business development which contributes to improve their livelihoods. For instance the 10 SHGs operated US\$ 23,567 of revolving funds and provided 180 loans with accumulated amount of US\$24,636 to their members for implementing 5 types of micro businesses. In 2012, we found that 9.19% of total household income generated from micro-businesses which got loans from SHGs.

4. Two types of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) including ten Self Help Groups (SHGs) and one Community Based Eco-Tourism Group (CBETG) were formed in the target area. The 10 (SHGs) consisting of 120 members (77 women) were supported to operate saving and revolving funds. The bylaw of each SHG states that all members are committed not doing any activity disturbing the Cranes. The SHG members were provided trainings on new agricultural techniques and micro-business development related skills which contributed to improving their livelihoods. In addition, the SHG members started applying some environmentally friendly agricultural techniques, such as reducing the use of chemical pesticide which is contributing to safeguard the feeding areas of Sarus Crane. The CBETG consisting of 7 members (1 woman) was supported in terms of capacity building and small-scale infrastructure (one information center). The CBETG provided services to visitors. Up to June 2013, they received 89 visitors (50 Cambodian and 39 foreign visitors). They generated US\$255, of which one part was allocated to the LCG for patrolling the protected areas.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:217

Species Conserved:Sarus Crane and other birds

Corridors Created:N/A

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

During the implementation of the project MB established a Community Livelihood Development Management Committee (CLDMC) to manage all CBOs with local authorities and NOGs. It acts as representative of CBOs in the CDP/CDP development process. It played an important role to advise, facilitate and solve any problem of CBOs.

MB successfully established SHGs with bylaws, which are operating saving and revolving funds. SHGs in this project played a critical role to mobilize resources for improving the livelihoods of their members. Most of the SHGs are strong enough to manage their revolving funds. But their micro-business need to be further improved in term of technology (know how) and small scale irrigation system.

MB also established a CBET group for providing bird watching services. This group is committed to services, but faces some challenges such as shortage of bird watching facilities and limited know how.

Despite the training of farmers in sub-decree and environment protection, there were still a few disturbances (e.g. burning, fishing) happening in or nearby the Sarus Crane conservation area. On the other hand, this protected area does not cover all wet land. CLDC and LCG cannot stop people come to the wet land that is out of the protected area. Therefore, we should consider expanding the protected area so that Sarus Crane and its habitat are totally protected and safe.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

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:

Community members in Kampong Trach have capacity and mechanism for participation in Sarus Crane conservation

Component 1 Actual at completion: By June 2013, the project achieved Component 1 as follows:

Product 1.1 Planned:

Community Livelihood Development Management Committee (CLDMC) established, with capacity to cooperate effectively with the Local Conservation Group (LCG), with at least 70% of CLDMC and LCG members jointly conducting nine awareness raising sessions by 2013.

Product 1.1 Actual at completion:

A CLDMC, which consists of 7 members of whom 1 is a woman, with a bylaw and

regulation was established. It facilitated farmers to establish SHGs and a CBET group and managed and solved problems of these CBOs. The CLDMC signed a MOU with the LCG to patrol Sarus Crane conservation area together. They conducted joint patrols of the projected area every week. Besides, 86% of CLDMC and LCG members conducted ten awareness raising sessions by 2013.

Planned Product 1.2.

Community members have increased awareness about and participation in Sarus Crane conservation, as evidenced by a decrease of at least 90% in incidences of illegal activities (hunting, fishing and protected wetland encroachment) between 2011 and 2013.

Product 1.2 Actual at completion:

7 CLDMC members of whom one is female were trained on general management & administration skills and environment awareness. After the training, they coached SHG executives on management and participated in the conservation of the protected area with LCG members. There were 3 illegal activities happening in the Sarus Crane protected area such as shooting, human and dog disturbance in 2010, but up to June 2013 not any illegal activities was found in the protected area.

Planned Product 1.3.

At least 7 monitoring visits conducted to the site during the project period by Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity (DWB) staff, with a result that any wetland encroachment observed is halted within one month and the habitat restored within one year

Product 1.3 Actual at completion:

A monitoring team of the Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity was formed. The team conducted 4 monitoring visits (4/7 planned) to Anlong Pring Sarus Crane conservation Area. The reason for the lower number of visits was that team members were busy. As a result, Anlong Pring conservation area has been protected by sub decree No. 04 dated 06 January 2011. As MB observed, we found that there were not any problems (e.g. land encroachment, shooting) in the protected area.

Component 2.

Community members in Kampong Trach have capacity and mechanisms for sustainable livelihood improvement, so that it is not affecting the SC and its habitat

Component 2 Actual at completion: By June 2013, MB achieved significant products of component 2. They are:

Planned Product 2.1:

10 Self Help Groups (SHGs) established and operating effectively in villages around the Sarus Crane Conservation Area, with at least 100 SHG members (about 10 in each group) increasing their income by at least 10% by 2013.

Achieved Product 2.1:

10 SHGs with 118 members of whom 65% are women, which were established in 2010,

have effectively accumulated revolving funds of US\$23,567 up to June 2013. 9.19% of the total HH income of SHG members generated from micro-businesses loaned by SHGs by 2012.

Planned Product 2.2:

Community-based Ecotourism (CBET) Group established, operating effectively, and generating at least US\$1,000 annually by the middle of 2013, at least 20% of which is contributed directly to Sarus Crane conservation.”

Achieved Product 2.2:

A CBET Group consists of 7 members of whom 1 is woman was established in 2011. All of them were trained in CBET management and bird watching technique. It provided bird watching services and generated US\$255 of income by 2013 and 10% of this amount was used for ensuring the safety of Sarus Crane and its habitat. The achieved product is less than the planned product, because CBET facility and marketing system are still limited.

Planned Product 2.3:

A CBET product based upon the Sarus Crane population at Kampong Trach developed and marketed, with over 500 visitors (300 Khmer and 200 foreigners) by the end of 2011, increasing by at least 20% by the middle of 2013

Achieved Product 2.3:

1 information Center, 1 entrance checking post, parking place, 2 toilets, and promotion material and network were developed to support bird watching services in AnlongPring. These facilities were not enough to attract visitors both Khmer and foreigners to visit Sarus Crane. Foreexample, we promoted boat-tour services, but we did not have boat and binoculars to serve. As a result, there were only 89 visitors (50 Cambodian and 39 foreign) watched Sarus Crane in AnlongPring by June 2013.

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

As we see the achieved product 2.2 and 2.3, CBET is shortfall of the planned products. How has this affected the overall impact of the project? So far as we know, this project aimed at developing community livelihood in support of Sarus Crane conservation. The CBET project could not, although, be capable to excite many visitors to come to watch Crane and made only a small amount of money. The CBET group is still continuing to manage its project and has also participated in patrolling AnlongPring Sarus Crane conservation area, based on the MOU, with relevant competent agencies. the 3-years project period was too short to make the CBET project strong enough and sustainable. MB is looking for further resources to improve the CBET project in such a way that it can benefit community in support Sarus Crane conservation.

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

50 open wells were constructed in the target villages. This could provide water for household use and home gardening. The 50 households and villagers around them also promised (well construction contracts) to obey Sarus Crane conservation bans.

Lessons Learned

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.

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

- 1) While designing or managing a project's monitoring and review system it is vitally important to consider carefully who needs what information. This is particularly important in the context of a management hierarchy, where field staff will require a different level of details compared to a senior manager who should be more concerned with assessing results. If this is not done there is a risk of collecting information that is not directly relevant to particular users.
- 2) Build on local or CBO's information system and resources: Linked to the assessment of what information to collect, is who that information is to be collected, analyzed and used.
- 3) There must be a plan against which performance can be assessed: Without a plan monitoring, evaluation and audit become difficult. A plan is required to provide a benchmark against which progress can be assessed, and provides the basis on which a judgment about performance can be made. An appropriately documented plan is therefore a pre-requisite to effective monitoring, review, evaluation and audit.

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

- 1) It is necessary that project partner/implementers try to make beneficiaries aware that they are the project-owner. Sense of ownership will improve their interest and participation. This is also important for the sustainability.
- 2) We integrated project activities into the Local Government Community Investment Plans/Community Development Plans (CIP/CDP) in order to make partnership and to get them in implementing project. On the other hand, the project may be supported by local authorities after project ending.
- 3) Good cooperation with local authorities is the best practice to speeding up project implementation.

- 4) During the implementation of the project, project steering committee meeting is another good approach to make sure all project partners in the right position to reach the common objectives.
- 5) It is important that SHG members are committed and participating voluntarily. This good practice should be continued in the future.
- 6) Some poor farmer members in SHGs have only limited capacity for saving. Therefore we need also rich or middle class farmers to be members of SHGs in order to speed up the saving process and capacity of SHG (use the rich members' money to assist the poor members).
- 7) Share-based saving method for SHGs is one of the best saving methods to improve SHG management, and saving get faster.
- 8) Before getting loan from SHG for running business, the project provided trainings on business development planning and related skills to SHG members. Otherwise their business may fail. Besides, the project staff regularly visits farmer-households to assist and coach them in planning and implementation of their micro enterprise.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- 1) Some illegal activities were done by community members. Therefore, MB get farmers involve in CBOs (e.g. SHGs, CBET) and formed a Community Livelihood Development Management Committee (CLDMC) to manage and advise CBOs. The CLDMC is the representative of CBOs for negotiating with NGOs and local authorities and for patrolling Sarus Crane conservation area with Local Conservation Group (LCG).

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 in USD	Notes
Mlup Baitong	In-Kind	6,347.00	For the salary of Organization Manager, Admin Officer, Office rental Head office, Table, chair, motorbike, car depreciation, etc.
	In-Cash	419.37	Construction material for Community information Counter

***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.

- 1) The Sub-degree on Sarus Crane and Birds conservation area in Kampong Trach is still valid and strongly enforced by FA and other related agencies to protect the Sarus Crane conservation area.
- 2) With the increased revolving funds of SHGs (increase 10% compared to 2012), SHG members have continued to operate revolving funds and loan money to SHG members for developing micro businesses (e.g. livestock raising, rice cultivation). Following the SHG bylaw and extra income, SHG members can keep their projects going well in the future. This extra income will keep them from doing illegal activities disturbing the Sarus Crane.
- 3) The trained CLDMC and LCG mechanism are still functioning in support of Sarus Crane conservation. Local authorities interested in conservation area. On the other hand, CLDMC advocated Commune Councils to integrate its projects into Commune Investment Plan (CIP). If these projects (e.g. CBET, SHG) were integrated or approved, their projects will be supported.
- 4) MB project staff members have provided awareness and capacity building to community members, particularly SHG members, about the Sub-degree and other regulations/bylaw through monthly SHG meetings. Therefore, they did not do any things interrupting the Sarus Crane conservation activities so far.
- 5) The project staff members advised SHG members through the SHG meetings about protection of livestock raising and families from diseases during and after the drought. SHG members were doing well and could raise livestock successfully.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

MB constructed 50 open wells for 50 groups of community households. These wells contributed to improve household water use and home gardening. The users were encouraged to sign well construction contract not do any illegal activities in conservation area. MB hopes this can improve community livelihood and motivate villagers to participate in support of Sarus Crane conservation.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

- The field staff members facilitated CBET patrolling team to patrol the CBET facilities as well as Sarus Crane conservation area and report illegal activities to the local competent institutions.

- MB organized 2 meetings to make Community members aware of CBET progress and the Production Quality Improvement strategies of the Ministry of Tourism. This attracted them to organize a waste collection campaign in the project site. It also affected clean Sarus Crane habitat.

- MB obtained funds from DECOLE CO.LTD for well construction and built 22 ring wells in the project area. For this, MB also attached the condition of Sarus Crane Conservation to the households which received the ring wells construction.

- CBEG and CLDMC established CBET patrolling team. They have patrolled the CBET facilities as well as Sarus Crane conservation area and report illegal activities to the local competent institutions.

- MB delivered a two-day training course on home gardening for 20 SHG members of which 6 are females in the project area. The trained farmers are growing vegetable for family consumption and for selling to the local market. This made farmers stop picking up vegetable (e.g. water lily, water convolvulus) in the conservation area.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

- 1) Conduct English classes (one-hour morning session and one-hour afternoon session) for community children or CBET group. It may help CBET members to communicate with foreign visitors effectively. Children may be educated to the natural resource conservation and made to interest in Sarus Crane conservation.

- 2) SHG members should be formed as Farmer Cooperative (FC). Farmer Field Schools on modern organic agricultural should be delivered by FC in order to improve their knowledge against traditional agricultural technique. Agricultural marketing or Value Chain Analysis (VCA) should also be well developed to support the marketing of FC's products. This can speed up community livelihood development in support of Sarus Crane Conservation at AnlongPring.

- 3) The Sarus Crane protected area does not cover all wet land in AnlongPring. Community members could occupy some wet land blocs, which are outside the protected area, or private companies. This may affect the Sarus Crane. It is better if we can expand the size of the existing protected area. Sarus Crane will be successfully protected then.

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.cepfn.org, 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 GlobalTargets

(Enter Grant Term)

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.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2012 to May 30, 2013. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	217 Ha	217 Ha	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. 50 Farmer households, who constructed open wells, signed contract not to disturb Sarus Crane and its habitat.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
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.	Yes	217 Ha	217 Ha	The trained CBET members provided CBET services to 30 visitors and made US\$79.50 for CBETG. The potential CLDMC members participated in LCG to patrol the Sarus Crane area.
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	100 Ha	100 Ha	100 SHG member have average of one ha each. The SHG members, who were trained in environment, practiced non-pesticide farming on their farms.
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Yes	3 communities	3 communities	Chres village in BengSalaKhangTbong commune and KohThnot and KohChamkar villages in PreahKreus commune of Kampong Trach district, Kampot province

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Chres	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
KohThnot	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
KohChamkar	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Total																					

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit: