

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Vishnu Law Group
Project Title:	Facilitating Civil Society Participation in the Implementation of Cambodia's Environmental Code
Grant Number:	66558
CEPF Region:	Indo-Burma II
Strategic Direction:	6 Engage key actors in mainstreaming biodiversity, communities and livelihoods into development planning in the priority corridors
Grant Amount:	\$120,000.00
Project Dates:	April 01, 2017 - June 30, 2018
Date of Report:	September 02, 2018

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

In fact, there are a number of implementation partners for this project. Some of them work with Vishnu directly and some indirectly. The key implementation partners include as follows:

- **The Ministry of Environment:** The Ministry of Environment has the jurisdiction over the natural protected areas where the collaborative management mechanisms are implemented. The ministry provided technical support and coordination to help projects run smoothly. The ministry has a strong power to have all stakeholders engaged in the projects, especially the relevant ministries and private sector. The ministry contributed mainly at the national level.
- **Community Empowerment and Development Team (CEDT):** CEDT was one of Vishnu's NGO partner that provided technical support in terms of community organization, empowerment and community mapping. It mainly worked with people at the ground.
- **Young Eco Ambassador (YEA):** In addition to CEDT, YEA also play a key role in implementing field work including capacity building training to the local people, facilitation of community assessment, and collection of useful information required.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

Ideally, the Environment and Natural Resources Code is a new legal framework developed in Cambodia, which ensures environmental protection, biodiversity and natural resources, promotion of livelihood of the people. This will result in good environmental governance and sustainability for the country as whole.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Comprehensive framework for environmental and natural resource governance that incorporates innovation and transparency and that orients all elements of Cambodian society towards sustainable development	The environmental management and sustainable mechanisms have been integrated into the final draft of the Environment and Natural Resources Code. These also include preparation of national policies, strategic work plans, and reports on sustainable development. The National Council for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, is responsible for this assigned work.
Greater accountability on a wide scale through the implementation of access to information and public participation provisions, as well as mandatory reporting and disclosure requirements for both government and the private sector.	It is believed that when the Code is finally enacted by the National Assembly of Cambodia, access to information and public participation provisions will be fully implemented as the Code is deemed as one of supreme law under the Constitution of Cambodia, requiring compliance by all stakeholders including government ministries and institutions and private sectors particularly project proponents. All relevant ministries and institutions and private sectors are subject to reporting and make their reports public available to ensure the implementation of accountability.
Greater rights for indigenous peoples, other local communities, and citizens generally through implementation of collaborative management utilisation of grievance mechanisms and other tools	Finalized flowchart and poster of grievance mechanism documents, both in English and Khmer were developed and presented to the local community in Bou Sra and Dak Dam. The flowchart and poster shows how and where the community members can bring grievance to. There are three ways to bring the grievance. Firstly, the community members or claimants can bring the grievance directly to Vishnu Law Group or CEPF regional implementation team national coordinator. Secondly, if the community members or claimants are not satisfied with the above response, grievance can be made to CEPF executive. Lastly, if the members or claimants still are not satisfied with the response, the grievance can be made to world bank through local regional office. Vishnu team clearly explained about the chart and poster to the community members.
Improved local livelihoods through operationalising new sustainable financing mechanisms	The Code was developed to ensure sustainable livelihood of the people at the ground through

	providing sustainable financing mechanisms, particularly the Collaborative Management mechanism is one of the approach of benefit sharing between all stakeholders including the local communities, authorities and civil society organizations.
More successful ecosystem and biodiversity conservation results	The Environment and Natural Resources Code, ecosystem and biodiversity were included in natural protected area system under management of the Ministry of Environment. The Code is aimed at biodiversity and ecological services conservation and promotion.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Enactment of the Code, a new legal framework for all aspects of environmental protection and natural resources conservation, emphasising international standards, innovation, and clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and rights for all stakeholders	The Code is in the enactment process. There has been profound discussion and analysis to identify and finalize the duties, roles, and responsibilities of the Ministry of Environment and the relevant ministries or institutions as stipulated in various provisions of the draft Code. Similarly, other aspects prescribed in the Code including international best practices and standards, ideas supporting innovation and environmentally friendly technology, and rights of stakeholders like Free Prior and Informed Consent for indigenous peoples, public participation and access to relevant information for impacted people, and engagement and benefit-sharing among local communities, have been considered in detail and incorporated to the greatest extent possible.
Key stakeholder awareness of the new legal framework, which includes significant new legal provisions governing all manner of environmental and natural resources planning, decision-making, and management	Despite the fact that the Code has not been enacted yet, the key stakeholders including government officials of the Ministry of Environment and line ministries, private sector, local communities, and indigenous people are becoming aware of some related provisions.
Practical understanding of collaborative management among the first wave of implementers as to what collaborative management means, its potential and the steps required to implement it properly, as well as the start of practical experience in this regard	Project partners including the Ministry of Environment and local authorities visited the three Collaborative Management pilot implementation sites. Local authorities were also able to give input regarding how CM might be implemented in accordance with existing law and new legal frameworks created under the Draft Environment and Natural Resources Code. Following these visits, all project partners have worked together to hold follow-up meetings and conduct research in preparation for concrete implementation steps such as zoning, setting up local governance structures, and building management capacity of the communities and local authorities. Presentations on updated field work on awareness raising and stakeholders' consultation on



	initiative implementation of collaborative management at the three-pilot sites were delivered to the local communities and authorities. There was an overview the community land used planning between communities in Vern Sai and Kok lak commune and 4 Legal consultations between communities and Vishnu were provided.
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Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

In regards to the Environmental Code Project, Vishnu’s success or achievement is the final draft of the Environment and Natural Resources Code of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Vishnu has submitted the final draft to the Minister of Environment and the Ministry is truly and fully satisfied with Vishnu work with a letter of satisfaction. This work is considered as a huge success for Vishnu. Besides, Vishnu has produced final flowchart poster on grievance mechanism. Vishnu presented those documents to the local communities and explained them how to utilize those documents within their communities. Moreover, there are some challenges relevant to the projects. Further trainings are needed to raise awareness of all stakeholders in terms of environmental education and laws, as well their rights and responsibilities and there shall be a strong will and commitment for implementing these activities.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There was no any negative impact during this reporting period.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Enactment of the Environment and Natural Resources Code: Vishnu will continue to support the Ministry of Environment through enactment of the Code	1.1	Final version of the Environment and Natural Resources Code: Vishnu will develop the final version and select accompanying subsidiary legislation in Khmer and English, with feedback incorporated as necessary for presentation to the National Assembly.	After incorporating all inputs received from the two last national workshops on the Environment and Natural Resources Code, Vishnu created Draft 11 of the Code in Khmer which is the final version and the draft was handed over to the Ministry of Environment for final review and approval prior to submission to the Council of Ministers, and then the National Assembly for enactment. A list of subsidiary Sub-decrees supporting the implementation of the Code is developed and submitted to the Ministry of Environment. Vishnu is looking forward to cooperating with Ministry of Environment in the Code enactment process, as required.
1	Enactment of the Environment and Natural Resources Code: Vishnu will continue to support the Ministry of Environment through enactment of the Code	1.2	Summary and justification memos for the Code: Vishnu will develop in Khmer and English, summary and justification memos for the major sections of the Code and a short description of each sub-decree that	Draft 11 of Environment and Natural Resources Code in Khmer was released in April. A list of subsidiary Sub-Decree was developed to support the implementation of Code. The Draft 11 in English is in process of finalization and will be circulated accordingly to all stakeholders. Justification memo for major Books in the draft Code has been prepared and submitted to the Minister of Environment for future inter-ministerial meeting as necessary.

			will accompany the Code.	
2	Code implementation planning: Vishnu will perform an assessment of the final version of the Code and work with the MoE, development partners, civil society, and community groups to conduct a broad stakeholder engagement and implementation planning process	2.1	Implementation planning assessment report: Vishnu will develop an assessment report of the Code (1) identifying required subsidiary legislation, documents, and actions and (2) determining implementation priorities and next steps to operationalise the Code	The planning assessment is completed as subsidiary Sub-Decrees for Environment and Natural Resources Code was defined.
2	Code implementation planning: Vishnu will perform an assessment of the final version of the Code and work with the MoE, development partners, civil society, and community groups to conduct a broad stakeholder engagement and implementation planning process	2.2	National Code implementation planning workshop report: Vishnu will develop a report that will include comments and a list of the key stakeholders for the process of Code implementation.	The planning workshop is delayed. Vishnu is seeking fund to implement the planning workshop.
3	Building capacity	3.1	Stakeholder	When the budget is available, Vishnu will cooperate focal

	at the national level to develop collaborative management. Vishnu's work will ensure that it is conducted in a series of steps, gradually building understanding, ownership, and confidence among all necessary stakeholders.		engagement and awareness workplan: Vishnu will develop with the MoE a joint work plan of step by step activities through which to engage needed stakeholders, build understanding and ownership, and demonstrate the viability of the new mechanism	persons of the Ministry of Environment to develop work plan. Vishnu has determined that meetings are a more effective format than workshops for this process. The project budget has been adjusted accordingly (see separate Budget, Meetings and Special Events section).
4	Understanding the history of community-based natural resource management in Cambodia: Vishnu will work closely with its partners to research these sites, as well as to gather and assess information on experiences in other countries	4.1	Lessons learned report: Vishnu will compile important lessons learned from the research internationally and in Cambodia from selected sites to present to the Ministry of Environment and stakeholders.	Vishnu will work with its partners to research sites and projects in Cambodia and internationally that can provide important lessons learned for collaborative management implementation. This will include desk research and field work at selected sites to gather information on both positive and negative experiences in community-based natural resource management and stakeholder engagement in planning and decision-making.
5	Focused collaborative management stakeholder mapping for early	5.1	Report on collaborative management early implementation approach	Following a number of meetings with the communities and local authority, Vishnu and its partners developed a progressive report on collaborative management implementation from January to June 2018 as attached. The report also includes all key activities which have been done, including consultation and assessment workshops

	<p>implementation: Working closely with WCS and CEDT, Vishnu will gather a broad range of partners together for a stakeholder identification and engagement process.</p>		<p>and stakeholder roles: Based on the meetings with government and other stakeholders, Vishnu will develop a report on the collaborative management early implementation approach</p>	<p>and training. In addition, Vishnu prepared a report on primary study on natural resources in another newly defined pilot site for collaborative management implementation. The site is located in Kampot province which is Anglung Pring Protected Landscape.</p>
6	<p>Early implementation of collaborative management: Vishnu will work closely with the Ministry of Environment, WCS, and CEDT in the selection and roll out of early implementation sites</p>	6.1	<p>Collaborative management pilot site implementation action plan report: Vishnu and its partners will develop with the stakeholders at each pilot site implementation action plans, which will include the site-specific steps toward implementation</p>	<p>Vishnu has finalized flowchart and poster of grievance mechanism documents both English and Khmer. The flowchart and poster was presented to the local communities in Bou Sra and Dak Dam. The flowchart and poster shows how and where the community members can bring grievance to. There are three ways to bring the grievance.</p>
6	<p>Early implementation of collaborative management: Vishnu will work closely with the Ministry of Environment, WCS, and CEDT</p>	6.2	<p>Semi-annual compliance report for indigenous peoples safeguard policy: Vishnu will provide to CEPF a report</p>	<p>Vishnu provided to CEPF a progressive report from January to June 2018 on compliance with the indigenous peoples safeguard policy as attached in this reporting.</p>

	in the selection and roll out of early implementation sites		every six months (semi-annual report) on compliance with the indigenous peoples safeguard policy.	
7	Other implementation priorities for launching the Code, subject to time/resource constraints Vishnu will launch other projects that strengthen structures for public participation and build engagement opportunities for local communities and civil society	7.1	Workplans, guidelines and/or subsidiary legislation on: Sustainable Funding Mechanisms; Access to Information and Public Participation; EIA/SEA; and Grievance Mechanism. [Prior approval will be sought from CEPF for any change to these priorities]	Vishnu in cooperation with UNDP and with UNDP funding developed a list of subsidiary Sub-Decree to the Environment and Natural Resources Code. Based on conversations with the Ministry of Environment, UNDP, and other stakeholders, certain aspects of this deliverable were determined during the time frame of this project. Vishnu has completed its work and handed over the final draft of the Code to the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry is satisfied with the work of Vishnu and is looking forward to future cooperation with Vishnu.
8	Mapping further efforts: a final output of the project will be a proposal for further activity to be undertaken during the subsequent three year period, focusing on ways in which to deepen and strengthen the rights and	8.1	Next steps assessment report: Vishnu will develop a report identifying priority and other next steps for Code implementation efforts.	The Ministry of Environment, UNDP, and other stakeholders are in the process of determining what aspects of this deliverable.

	engagement of communities			
8	Mapping further efforts: a final output of the project will be a proposal for further activity to be undertaken during the subsequent three year period, focusing on ways in which to deepen and strengthen the rights and engagement of communities	8.2	Civil Society Tracking Tool self-assessment questionnaire: Vishnu will assess the strengthening of its institutional capacity, as evidenced by improvement in Civil Society Tracking Tool scores between project start and end.	Civil Society Tracking Tool self-assessment was prepared at the end of project period and submitted to CEPF.

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

The project products include the final draft the Environment and Natural Resources submitted to the Minister of Environment and the flowchart and poster on grievance mechanisms presented to the indigenous communities.

See link below for products produced by Vishnu:


<http://www.vishnulawgroup.com/index.php/publications/78-draft-11-of-the-environment-and-natural-resources-code>

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:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community



After the completion of the projects, Vishnu has learned that the project workplan should be more realistic and flexible, which allow possibilities for amendment of the workplan due to political situation related to the projects. Sometimes, what to be expected in the workplan could not exist on time as there is a lot unanticipated work to be completed rather than what included in the workplan. During the implementation of the projects, Vishnu has seen that, in addition to the technical work to be undertaken, coordination plays a key role in achieving the goal of the projects. Vishnu needs to have a strong networking with all project stakeholders. Hence, Vishnu and its staff were trying to build their capacity in terms of professional communication to ensure good working environment and harmony for all stakeholders to get them fully engaged in the projects.

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

In regards to the project success, Vishnu has done a lot of unplanned activities to ensure the successful project completion. Besides providing legal consultation and technical support, Vishnu has a role to play as leading institution coordinate inter-ministerial discussion meetings. Vishnu explained the line ministries about project significance. In return, some of the relevant ministries strongly support the project and provided a lot of useful inputs. However, there some challenges in relation to ensuring the project sustainability including limited financial and human resources, lack of political will and commitment of some line ministries, and time constraint due to work overload.

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

There is no any required action related to environmental safeguards to implement and address.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

There is no any comment on the project or CEPF.

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 CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$314,323.06

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of 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)*

In addition to CEPF, there are two other donors, namely UNDP and MacArthur, supporting the Environmental Code Project and Collaborative Management Mechanism. These two donors have contributed to the success and work implementation related to the projects. It is very crucial for Vishnu to receive funding from other donors in order to ensure its secured fund for implementing the projects. For details of expenses covered by the two donors, see the attached file in this reporting.

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, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

Mr. TEP Neth; Vishnu Law Group; Telephone number: (+855) 78 819 988; Email:

tepn@vishnulawgroup.com