

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Sam Veasna Centre
<b>Project Title:</b>	Stakeholder-based conservation of three large waterbirds in the dry forest of Cambodia
<b>Date of Report:</b>	November, 10, 2013
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**CEPF Region:** Indo Burma Hotspot

**Strategic Direction:** Strategic Direction 2. Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 key biodiversity areas  
Investment Priority 2.1 Establish innovative stakeholder-based conservation management and caretaking initiatives at 28 key biodiversity areas

**Grant Amount:** \$19,628.89

**Project Dates:**

11 months (1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013), extended to October 31, 2013

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

Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program (WCS): training of community teams responsible for nest checking and nest monitoring at Preah Vihear Protected Forest (PVPF) and Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS). Supervision and checking of the community teams at KPWS and PVPF. Training in placement of baffles at all sites.

Birdlife International: training of community nest monitoring and checking teams at Western Siem Pang IBA (WSP); supervision and checking on results of community teams at WSP. Searching for nests and placement of baffles at WSP.

Forestry Administration (FA) and Ministry of Environment (MoE): management of PVPF and KPWS respectively, including management of staff responsible for coordinating community nest protection teams and protection of forest in which nests are located.

### Conservation Impacts

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

The project has strengthened community nest protection of three priority species at two sites (PVPF and KPWS) and expanded it to one additional site (WSP). At WSP the project failed to find any nests of Sarus Crane, but it increased the number of Giant Ibis under protection from one to three. The project has also gone some way towards testing a novel methodology (use of baffles for WSI) across the project landscape. Training has been provided to site-based staff that will enable them to continue this experiment.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.***

WHITE-SHOULDERED IBIS

Successful training and implementation of predator control baffle placement occurred this spring at WSP. Due to staffing issues, training in the use of baffles was delayed, so the implementation was too late for some of the white-shouldered ibis nests this year. Baffles were placed on 4 of 16 nests found at WSP, as a number of nests had already fledged. A total of 24 chicks were fledged. The number of nests on which baffles were placed was not enough to assess the effectiveness of this novel intervention.

The WSP team should be in good position to implement baffle placement next spring, knowing the timing needed for placement. Adequate numbers of trees need to be used to evaluate the efficacy of baffle protection. The goal will be to randomly place baffles next season on some nesting trees, leaving others without as a control. The WSP team now has the knowledge and skills to further this project.

At PVPF and KPWS, the WCS team recorded 7 nests with 6 chicks produced. This represents a relatively low success rate compared with recent years. Overall 36 local villagers were employed giving them financial incentive toward the protection of this critically endangered species. In addition the village of Tmatboey paid for its own members to protect ibis nests, reflecting their appreciation of the value the birds bring via ecotourism activity there.

#### GIANT IBIS

Wet season exploration at WSP led to the discovery of two additional nests, with one successfully producing two chicks. This brings the total of nests known at WSP to three. Given the numbers of this species recorded at trapeangs at WSP there must surely be many more nests and it is surprising that more were not found

In Preah Vihear, a total of 23 nests, producing 37 chicks were recorded, i.e. an average of 1.6 chicks per nest. Of these nests 15 were in PVPF (28 chicks) and 8 were in KPWS (9 chicks). Excitingly, we recorded two active Giant Ibis nests in one tree at KPWS. To the best of our knowledge this is the first time that more than one Giant Ibis nest has been recorded in one tree. Unfortunately both nests failed, and this contributed to the relatively low rate of success of the nests at KPWS. Baffles were placed on all trees for predator control.

#### SARUS CRANE

No active nests were encountered at WSP despite a poster campaign and searching. It remains unclear whether the density of breeding pairs of this species is simply at this site very low compared with that in KPWS and PVPF or if the nests have just not been found.

A total of 40 nests, up from 25 in 2012, were found in Preah Vihear. The majority of community nest protectors are dedicated to this species due to its high levels of human predation of eggs and chicks. The protected nests produced 66 chicks, an average of 1.65 chicks per nest. Figures were similar between KPWS and PVPF, although success rates at the latter were slightly higher. The 22 nests protected at KPWS produced 33 chicks (1.5 chicks per nest) whilst the 18 nests at PVPF also produced 33 chicks (1.83 chicks per nest).

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

**Hectares Protected:** NA

**Species Conserved:** Giant Ibis, White-shouldered ibis, Sarus crane

**Corridors Created:** NA

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

Community members were involved in the finding and/or protection of 40 Sarus Crane nests, 26 Giant Ibis nests and 23 White-shouldered Ibis nests: a total of 89 nests of CEPF priority species. Success rates of nests involved in the scheme were typically high. In particular the project

increased the number of Giant Ibis nests known from WSP. The project has therefore made a direct impact on the conservation of these species across the sites.

Our nest protection activities have also increased local awareness of the value of these threatened birds; participation among villagers creates investment in the success of protection schemes, monetary incentives encourage conservation behaviors.

The project went some way towards testing the use of baffles for White-shouldered Ibis nests. One of the challenges of the project was introducing this methodology to WSP where it had not previously been used. There were concerns that placing baffles on trees might draw attention to them, actually leading to an increase in human predation of nests. This has not been the case at PVPF and KPWS, and it is only through experiment and evaluation that we will be able to determine if it is a problem at WSP.

Challenges include working in a habitat that has a growing human presence, hence the need to continue educational efforts. Human disturbance of nest sites continues to be an issue as more people use the forest resources. Local social economic dynamics are changing rapidly in Cambodia's dry forests. People who only a few years previously would have welcomed a \$5 reward for finding and reporting the nest of a threatened species are now far less motivated by a reward of that scale because they can earn an order of magnitude more through illegal logging of high value timber. The nest protection scheme can only succeed with a high degree of community involvement and leadership and must adapt to changing conditions.

Locating nests during the wet season is a challenge when habitat accessibility is an issue. Heavy persistent rain and wet conditions under foot are also demoralizing to field teams. The WSP team attempted to circumvent this problem by deploying posters depicting the target species and the rewards available for finding their nests. This method has not been used at KPWS and PVPF, because it can lead to people from outside of the community seeing the posters and trying to claim rewards for finding or protecting nests on land that is traditionally regarded as belonging to the community – this situation can lead to jealousy and destruction of nests. This effect was not witnessed at WSP, however the posters did not seem to lead to an increase in the number of nests found either.

One challenge that the project faced was that at WSP when it began there was a period of rapid staff turnover. For success of the nest protection scheme and baffle placement experiment we must insure that adequate personnel are deployed at the appropriate time during the breeding cycles of the 3 bird species.

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

The willingness of the Tmatboey village to subsidize nest protection, indicates a degree of commitment and belief in the ecotourism project that is dependent on the presence of these iconic water birds.

## **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.***

Community protection of Sarus Crane nests lead to high success levels of those nests. For ibis, early placement of baffles is necessary for adequate assessment of their efficacy. This requires

an early and aggressive approach to locating nesting trees for the white-shouldered ibis, particularly at WSP where most of the nests were located.

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

The project design assumed that a large number of additional Giant Ibis and Sarus Crane nests could be found and protected at WSP. This was not the case, but it was offset by an increase in the number of nests of those species found at PVPF and KPWS (compared with 2012 data). The project was designed around the concept that community members could find and protect nests, leading to statistically significant increases in the numbers of chicks produced. At KPWS and PVPF at least this led to its success.

The project built capacity at WSP for implementing the nest protection project. Key staff received training on searching for nests, design of the baffle experiment and placement of baffles. This contributed to its success not only during the project but after it has finished as well.

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

From a research perspective, we failed to get trained personnel into the field in a timely manner for the White-shouldered Ibis nest baffle study. Sample size for the study was inadequate this year. This should not be an issue for the next season.

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

None.

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

**Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
WCS	A	£31,271	WCS supported the costs of implementing project activities at PVPF and KPWS

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

- A** Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF 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 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.**

- Villagers at Tmatboey (KPWS) are now managing and implementing the nest protection scheme independently of the project.
- Community members at other locations are intimately involved on conservation activities through taking part in nest protection.
- With trained local staff, we now have the ability to organize and implement the baffle study on White-shouldered Ibis in the next dry season.

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

None.

**Safeguard Policy Assessment**

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

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

<b>CEPF Global Targets</b>				
<b>(Enter Grant Term)</b>				
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, 2009 to June 30, 2010. (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.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
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			Birds nests protected in the following KBAs: KMH 37 Upper Stung Sen Catchment 533,748 ha KMH 8 Chhep: 243,661 ha KMH 40 Western Siem Pang: 138,137ha
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management	Yes			Birds nests protected in the following: Western Siem Pang IBA: 138,137 ha

practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
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			Local people received payments for finding and protecting birds nests, particularly in KPWS and PVPF and to a lesser extent in WSP IBA (fewer benefits because fewer nests found in the latter).

**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									
Tmatboey (KPWS)	X	X					X				X										
Tnal Bek (KPWS)	X	X					X				X										
Po Reang (KPWS)	X	X					X				X										
Prey Veng (KPWS)	X	X					X				X										
Kan Penh (KPWS)	X	X					X				X										
Khan Kurt (PVPF)	X	X					X				X										
Chhep Kurt (PVPF)	X	X					X				X										
Thabang (WSP)																					
Lakai (WSP)																					
Nhang Sum (WSP)																					
Pong Kreal (WSP)																					
Khe Svay (WSP)																					
Khe Krom (WSP)																					
Kham Phok (WSP)																					
<b>Total</b>																					

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

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

The baffle experiment is worthwhile, particularly in the light of recent published information that indicates that direct protection of White-shouldered Ibis nests does not significantly influence nesting success. Western Siem Pang is an idea place to implement the baffle experiment, because it has a large population of White-shouldered Ibis. The baffle experiment should be continued in 2014 using another source of funds to fully evaluate its efficacy as a conservation tool.

### **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.net](http://www.cepfn.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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