

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Chamroen Chiet Khmer (CCK)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Community protection of eastern Sarus Crane and its habitat in Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area, Cambodia
<b>Date of Report:</b>	13 July 2010
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**CEPF Region:** Indo-Burma

**Strategic Direction:** The Conservation of non breeding populations of Sarus Crane and its habitat in the Lower Mekong Delta project links directly to CEPF investment strategy, CEPF strategic directions 1 **Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats** and under the CEPF investment priorities 1.1 **Identify and secure core populations of 67 globally threatened species from over-exploitation and illegal trade**. Also, links to CEPF investment priorities 1.6 **Publish local-language reference materials on globally threatened species** will also be achieved. The project wishes to develop local-language environmental awareness material on the threats and values of Boeung Prek Lapouv, wetland ecosystems, particularly Sarus Crane conservation.

Strategic Direction 2 **Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 biodiversity areas** particularly investment priority 2.1 **Establish innovative local-stakeholder-based conservation management and caretaking initiatives**. The project aims to establish a community outreach volunteer group. This group will be formed by community consultation within two local villages. The group will be used to conduct joint environmental awareness initially, then, in the long-term co-management activities such as joint patrols.

**Grant Amount:** US\$19,927.55

**Project Dates:** 01 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

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

The project had been implemented by CCK, in partnership with BirdLife International Cambodia Programme and the Forestry Administration (FA). CCK had collaborated with a number of other stakeholders during project implementation, including collaborating with Mlup Baitong (MB), a local NGO based in Phnom Penh that had worked in nearby Kampong Trach Important Bird Area (IBA) and is recognized as one of the leading environmental educators in Cambodia, and will be a valuable source of information. CCK had worked closely with MB throughout this project and hopes to maintain on-going partnerships with MB. The Sam Veasna Centre and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) are also other important NGOs that CCK had facilitated partnerships with in terms of ecotourism opportunities at the site. The Sam Vesna Centre and WCS have established a highly successful ecotourism programme at Ang Tropeang Thmor Sarus Crane conservation reserve, another Important Bird Area (IBA) with the largest population of non-breeding populations of eastern Sarus Crane.

BirdLife International Cambodia Programme had supported CCK every step of the way in this project and still maintained a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and has established an excellent working relationship with them especially FA and other government agencies. BirdLife has offered technical support to the project and assist in training to the local communities as well as CCK on the site values, particular the status of Sarus Crane, key threats at the site and other issues involved in protecting the site. BirdLife has provided advices and consultation only, and has not received any CEPF funds from this project. Moreover, BirdLife had published the Monitoring Protocol (MP) by incorporating four monitoring schemes including BirdLife's IBA monitoring: a global framework, guidelines for monitoring of

wetlands from Ramsar Convention, the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) coordinated by Wetlands International and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) developed by the World Bank and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). This MP has been piloted at two main sites including legally designated Boeung PreK Lapouv Management and Conservation Area for Sarus Crane and Other Birds (BPLMCA) in Takeo province and Kampong Trach Important Bird Area (KTIBA) in Kampong province since late 2009.

FA is one government institution of MAFF and has cooperated with BirdLife International Cambodia Programme to form Local Conservation Group (LCG) in BPLMCA since 2003. These relevant agencies had supported CCK on technical issues in management and conservation at the site and worked with the relevant government institutions at the national and provincial levels. Significantly FA had been actively involved in designating the site as BPLMCA which the Royal Government of Cambodia declared establishing in October 2007.

Mlup Baitong had worked in Kampong Trach IBA and cooperated with CCK, BirdLife and FA to develop guidelines to establish Community Outreach Programme (COP) and exchanged ideas and experiences on ecotourism development initiatives.

## Conservation Impacts

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

To meet the fundamental purpose of the CEPF in engaging civil society, such as community groups, NGOs, and private enterprises, in biodiversity conservation in the hotspots and strategic direction 2 *Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 biodiversity areas*, CEPF funded project which was implemented by CCK had established two Village Volunteer Committees (VVCs) related to COP in two villages, Dei Leuk (comprising of 30 families and 142 people) and Banteay Sleuk (comprising of 36 families and 146 people) in collaboration with BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, FA and MB. These two selected villages are located close proximity to the core conservation area of BPLCMA, and because law enforcement efforts have concentrated near these two villages. The community volunteer groups had initially conducted environmental awareness, then, in the long-term co-management activities such as joint patrols (see Guidelines to establish COP).

Moreover, the project had also linked directly to CEPF strategic directions 1 *Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats*. This project had been implemented in BPLMCA which plays a vital role in wetland conservation in the Lower Mekong Basin and forms part of one of the largest and continuous natural habitats remaining in the Mekong Delta. This wetland supports extensive floating vegetation which is becoming increasingly rare in the Mekong Delta and also supports the eastern Sarus Crane population which the population proportion in *Indochina* is approximately 33%, and in the world approximately 20%.

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

To maintain the relationships, support on the ground conservation activities, and increase the capacity of the LCG and other stakeholders after a series of projects implemented by BirdLife International Cambodia Programme in collaboration with FA, CCK had initiated "*Community protection of eastern Sarus Crane and its habitat in Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area, Cambodia*" funded by CEPF. This project had four main objectives including:

1. Minimize threats to Boeung Prek Lapouv habitat for Sarus Crane and other plant and animal species,
2. Develop a COP and actively engage the community,
3. Enhance the capacity of the LCG team and the local community and
4. Facilitate partnerships for long-term collaboration and funding solutions.

LCG was formed in place in April 2003 by BirdLife International Cambodia Programme in collaboration with FA to conduct education and awareness raising activities on the protection and conservation of wildlife and biodiversity, monthly law enforcement patrols, bird surveys and monitoring at BPLMCA in Borei Chulsa and Koh Andeth districts, Takeo province. CCK had continued these activities at the site through CEPF funded project

which was undertaken by LCG including individuals from the Takeo FA Division, Takeo Fisheries Administration Cantonment, Police Inspections in Koh Andeth and Borei Chulsa districts, and Chief of Kampong Krosaing commune. All project activities and outputs were achieved as described in CCK's Lol to CEPF. The LCG chief and the project assistants composed monthly reports by including all activities implemented at the site for the project officer. Some photographs taken during the project implementation, bird records and monthly law enforcement used to support results are in annexes.

## **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

### **Project activities and outputs:**

1.1 Continue current law enforcement, monitoring and environmental awareness raising activities. Outputs are that the LCG team will continue conducting at least ten law enforcement patrols every month, which includes environmental awareness and monthly bird counts; and complete the 'wildlife and human activity data recording book' for each patrol.

#### a) *Education and awareness raising activities*

Activities were conducted by LCG in communal meetings of fundamental issues such as communal development and health and food security and conducted during monthly law enforcement patrols. Some awareness materials such as T-shirts (125 T-shirts made by CEPF funded project), posters and relevant government documents, in particular the Prime Ministerial decree (sub decree) of the site establishing declaration were distributed to participants during the programme. 383 people (114 in the field and 269 in the meetings from July 2009-June 2010) had received this awareness raising programme which provided a lot of understandings and knowledge to local people. This contributed a lot to the reduction of illegal activities occurring at the site.

#### b) *Monthly law enforcement patrols*

The LCG conducted monthly law enforcement patrols in average 11 times. The LCG had only enforced against destructive and illegal activities which caused impacts on the wetland natural resources including grass/inundated burning and cutting for the purpose of land encroachment; wildlife poaching, trapping and poisoning; use of illegal fishing gears, and unsustainable resource exploitation. A number of illegal activities and unsustainable uses of wetland natural resources within BPLMCA were prevented and stopped during the project implementation. People who committed the destructive activities were requested to thumbprint on contracts to stop committing again next time such as unsustainable use of wetland land resources and domestic duck raising activities while people who committed illegal activities such as bird hunting, illegal fishing practice and land encroachment were justified in accordance with relevant laws. No people were arrested and sent to the provincial court in the period of the project implementation. Some offenders, who breached laws, escaped while the LCG team arrived at the scenes. The destructive and illegal activities which were found at the site included:

- Two cases of bird trapping, and snake and tortoise catching activities,
- Four cases of land encroachment,
- One case of Illegal fishing practices,
- 8500 raised domestic ducks (that would cause disturbances to the wild birds, destruction to their habitats and bird flu) were prevented from feeding in the core conservation area,
- Two case of water lily uprooting, committed by 6 local people with 450 kg.

#### c) *Bird surveys and monitoring:*

LCG regularly conducted monthly bird surveys and monitoring at BPLMCA. 48 bird species were recorded during the period of twelve months starting in July 2009-June 2010 including four globally threatened species including Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*), Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*), Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) and Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*); and five globally near threatened species including Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Asian Golden Weaver (*Ploceus hypoxanthus*) and Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) (Annex 2). Sarus Crane is the most significant and recognized species for conservation work at BPLMCA. The maximum Sarus Crane counts for each feeding season in the dry season were made including 301 individuals in 2003-2004, 254 individuals in 2004-2005, 245 individuals in 2005-2006, 297 individuals in 2006-2007, 210 individuals in 2007-2008, and 228 individuals in 2008-2009 and 275 individuals in 2009-2010. In

addition, 84 bird species were recorded in BPLMCA since 2001 until 2010 according to subsequent surveys conducted by national and international surveyors (Annex 3).

1.2 CCK and LCG to conduct awareness raising activities for on-ground boundary demarcation. On-ground demarcation of core area has been completed from a previous Jensen funded project, however posts have not been confirmed by demarcation committee. LCG and CCK will conduct one village awareness raising activity in each village to inform and educate the local people of boundary, restrictions in the core area and allow the community to ask questions and make comments. Outputs are that the demarcation committee to confirm recently completed on-ground demarcation; and LCG and CCK to carry out 1 boundary demarcation awareness raising meeting in Dei Leuk and Banteay Sleuk villages.

On-ground demarcation posts of the core conservation area (919 ha) within BPLMCA were completed from a previous Jensen funded project but was not yet confirmed by the demarcation committee during that project. Through CEPF funded project implemented by CCK, on 22 October 2009 Mr. Men Phymean, director of Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity (DWB) of FA led once again the demarcation committee comprising the relevant Departments of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction; Agriculture; Rural Development; Environment; and Takeo Forestry Administration Division; Takeo Fisheries Administration Cantonment, Provincial Court; Provincial Police Commissionaire; Provincial Military Police; and Takeo Provincial Cabinet and Administration Office to BPLMCA in order to confirm on-ground boundary demarcation concrete markers in the flood season as requested by the demarcation committee on 19 March 2009 during the first trip in the dry season. The committee met with the relevant district governors of Borei Chulsa and Koh Andeth, commune chiefs of Kampong Krosaing, Chey Chouk, Prey Khla, Romenh, Kropum Chhouk, Prey Yuthka, Chief of Romenh Administrative Police Post and LCG in BPLMCA headquarters including 30 participants. Before working in the field, the committee discussed on some aspects relating to the importance and benefits of BPLMCA, conservation and confirming on-ground boundary demarcation posts of the core conservation area. Then the committee traveled by 5 motorboats to monitor and verify UTM by starting from the post number 01 and following posts. As a result, 13 boundary demarcation concrete markers were identified to have small errors from 0.19m-2.58m and 07 others including posts No. 02, 07, 08, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were found destroyed falling in water. The committee evaluated that all concrete posts were technically planted and officially recognized for use. While the seven destroyed demarcation posts will be reinstalled when financial assistance is available. During the meeting the two commune chiefs of Kampong Krosaing and Chey Chouk, which most parts of conservation area are in these two communes, addressed that they were very sorry to have found some boundary demarcation concrete posts destroyed and would promote more awareness activities to their villagers on the protection of boundary demarcation concrete posts of the conservation core area.

On 20 December 2009 Ms Im Phalay, CCK deputy director; Mr. Ses Vong Sambat and Mr. Um Sokun, project assistants; Mr. Phy Thea, CCK staff in collaboration with LCG members including Mr. Pen Seng and Mr. Dy Thon conducted a field trip to Chey Chouk commune. The purpose of field trip was to promote awareness on biodiversity conservation, to inform the local people of the core conservation area boundary demarcation. The team met with Banteay Sleuk village chief (Mr. Nuon Krel) and his 38 villagers (5 women) and met with Dei Leuk village chief and vice chief (Mr. Kheav Horm and Mr. Pot Saroeun) and his 29 villager (11 women). During the meetings some posters were distributed to participants and some suggestions were raised by Banteay Sleuk and Dei Leuk villagers as follows:

*In Banteay Sleuk village*

- One canal with the length of 1000 m (4 m top width, 1 m bottom width and 1.5 m depth) needs to be restored for 250 ha dry season cultivation,
- 25 families need female cows and community capital (money) to be borrowed for making rice,
- 15 safe elevated locations are needed for the wet season (150 m<sup>3</sup> of soil for one elevated location and 6000 riel per 1 m<sup>3</sup>),

*In Dei Leuk village*

- 15 safe elevated locations for the wet season and 15 house (1 house costs 4 millions riel),
- 15 wooded boats (1 wooden boat costs 1 million riel),
- 29 giant cement jars to stock rain water for use in the dry season,
- A reservoir (30 m x 20 m x 2 m),
- 15 female cows,
- 20 millions riel used as capital to be borrowed for making dry season rice.

1.3 Conduct 14 Rapid household Initial Resource Use Assessment (IRUA) (including in two with the commune and village chiefs), in collaboration with BirdLife, FA and Mlup Baitong one month prior to project implementation will be completed in each village. This rapid assessment will provide an assessment of the possible threats the project may have on the traditional livelihoods of the local area. Outputs is that CCK and LCG to carry out 7 IRUA surveys in each village including 1 survey with the Commune and Village Chiefs) one month prior to project implementation.

Following many discussions between Ms Melanie Mott (environmental awareness officer of BirdLife International Cambodia Programme) and Jonh Pilgrim (Manager of CEPF regional team) regarding the assessment that needs to be carried out as part of the World Bank's policy on Involuntary Resettlement, a project-specific Process Framework (PF) was advised to be developed in replacement of conducting IRUA due to the limited time and budget for BPLMCA during project preparation that describes the project and implementation process, including: (a) how specific components of the project were prepared and will be implemented; (b) how the criteria of affected persons will be determined; (c) how measures to assist the affected persons in their efforts to improve or restore, in real terms, to pre-displacement will be identified; and (d) how potential conflicts involving affected persons will be resolved. It also provides a description of the arrangements for implementing and monitoring the process (see Process Framework).

2.1 Develop a Community Outreach Programme. CCK will work with the LCG group, BirdLife staff and any other relevant stakeholders to develop a Community Outreach Programme specifically for Dei Leuk and Banteay Sleuk villages. The Programme will involve several outputs. The first is to carry out a community needs assessment in Dei leuk and Banteay Sleuk Villages, and determine the needs of the local people in these villages. The second is to engage the community to establish two community groups in Dei Leuk and Banteay Sleuk villages by conducting at least four village meetings in each village. A Programme methodology will be developed for the LCG members to replicate in other areas of the site. Outputs are Carry out 1 community needs assessment and 4 village meetings in Dei Leuk with Village Chief and local people; and Carry out 1 community needs assessment and 4 village meetings with Village Chief and local people in Banteay Sleuk Villages.

As clarified in the activity 2.1, a Community Outreach Programme (COP) specifically for Dei Leuk and Banteay Sleuk villages was implemented. Following meetings in these two villages to determine the needs and issues, Mr. Ses Vong Sambat and Mr. Um Sokun, CCK project assistants in collaboration with Mr. Seng Vanna and Mr. Dy Thon, LCG members arranged the first two meetings (one in each village) on selection of members of Village Volunteer Committees (VVCs) in Dei Leuk and Banteay Sleuk villages of Chey Chouk commune. These two villages were prioritized for this project in forming VVCs because they are located near the core conservation area which might be affected by human activities from these two villages.

The meeting was held in Dei Leuk village and attended by the first vice chief of the commune Mr. Ang Sareth, village chief and vice chiefs, village gender representatives and 26 villagers. Five VVC members were selected by participants during the meeting, comprising the components as follows:

1. Mr. Kheav Hom, village chief as VVC head,
2. Mr. Pot Saroeun, village vice chief as VVC vice head,
3. Mrs. Run Srey Pech, village member as VVC member responsible for accountant/secretary
4. Mr. Hin Sanh, villager as VVC member,
5. Mrs. Phoeuk Sophos, commune gender member as VVC member.

Another meeting was held in Banteay Sleuk village and attended by the first vice chief of the commune (Mr. Ang Sareth), village chief and vice chief and 38 villagers. Five VVC members were selected by participants during the meeting, comprising the components as follows:

1. Mr. Nuon Krel, village chief as VVC head,
2. Mr. Kun Meum, village vice chief as VVC vice head,
3. Mr. Ton Hen, village assistant as VVC member,
4. Mrs. Pak Sok Muon, villager as VVC member,
5. Mrs. Chhin Chhuon, village assistant as VVC member.

Following the selection of VVC members during the first two meetings in these two villages, CCK project staff had held meetings with the commune council and the commune chief and developed the relevant documents to have these two VVCs officially acknowledged by local authorities. VVC's roles and responsibilities are described in details in the Guidelines to establish COP (See Guidelines).

3.1 Train the local community. Once CCK and LCG had identified members of the outreach group, CCK will train the group members in leadership and presentation skills, and encourage women to join and lead these groups. The LCG, BirdLife and CCK Project Officer will train members of the group on key values of the site and why conservation exists. Outputs are 2 one-day workshop will be held to train group members of the outreach group in Dei Leuk Village; 2 one-day workshop will be held to train group members of the outreach group in Banteay Sleuk village; and produce reference materials for local people on Sarus Crane.

On 02 March 2010 Mr. Ses Vong Sambat and Mr. Um Sokun, project assistants and Mr. Seng Vanna, LCG chief provided a training course to 10 members (04 women) of two VVCs formed in Dei Leuk and Banteay Sleuk villages. The members were trained on the principle, their roles and responsibilities in involvement of management and conservation in BPLMCA. 20 posters and 10 T-shirt were distributed during the course. On 12-13 April 2010 two trainings courses were provided by CCK project assistants and director to VVCs on strengthening their roles, responsibilities and the need assessment of local communities in these two villages.

After the two VVCs were formed and officially recognized by local authorities, they had implemented and participated in some activities in April, May and June 2010 concerning the management and conservation of BPLMCA in addition to activities implemented by LCG as follows:

*In Dei Leuk village*

This VVC had conducted three times of environmental awareness raising activities with their 45 villagers (18 women). On 07 May 2010 this VVC had offered advices to 8 Vietnamese nationals who came in the buffer conservation area near the village in the purpose of collecting tortoises to return home and then the VVC had immediately reported to LCG. On 10 May 2010 all VVC members met with representatives of WWT, MB, CCK and LCG to discuss on village's issues, needs and the conservation of BPLMCA. On 25 May 2010 this VVC met with Chey Chouk commune council to report on their activities of BPLMCA management and conservation.

*In Banteay Sleuk village*

On 10 April 2010 this VVC had conducted environmental awareness raising activities with their 20 villagers (12 women). On 10 May 2010 all VVC members met with representatives of WWT, MB, CCK and LCG to discuss on village's issues, needs and the conservation of BPLMCA. On 11 May 2010 the VVC members with 15 villagers successfully put out a grass/inundated forest fire caused by 6 Vietnamese nationals near their village to catch rats. The VVC had officered advices to these Vietnamese people to return home. On 06 June 2010 VVC had met with their 24 villagers to disseminate the government news of closing season of fishing activities and banning of forest fire to catch wild animals.

3.2 The LCG team will be trained by CCK with support from Mlup Baitong, and BirdLife staff in the COP methodology. A guide will be produced, and the LCG can use this guide to assist them in establishing further community groups at the site. Output is that 1 half-day workshop will be held at LCG headquarters to illustrate COP methodology and present the guide book for the LCG.

The LCG team was trained by CCK with support from MB, and BirdLife staff in the COP methodology. The main points within the Guidelines were introduced such as the roles, responsibilities of stakeholders so that the LCG can use it to assist them in establishing further community volunteer groups at the site and involve them to manage and conserve wildlife and biodiversity as well.

4.1 CCK will facilitate collaboration among stakeholders. CCK will facilitate collaboration among stakeholders to ensure long-term funding exists. This will occur by CCK's Project Officer with assistance from BirdLife to contact various organizations such as Mlup Baitong, CEDAC, the Sam Veasna Centre, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust etc. To help build partnerships with Mlup Baitong, two staff members will travel to KT for site visits and opportunities to discuss up-to-date project implementation. Outputs are CCK will organize at least one meeting with WCS during project implementation to discuss conservation activities to date and current projects at the site, future projects and on-going partnerships with WCS; CCK will begin collaboration with Sam Veasna Centre, and Mlup Baitong regarding potential ecotourism at both BPL and KT sites and will arrange one meeting; and CCK will conduct two site visits to KT IBA.

*a) CCK conducted site visit to Kampong Trach IBA:*

On 26-27 January 2010 two project assistants Mr. Ses Vong Sambat, Mr. Um Sokun and LCG chief Mr. Seng

Vanna conducted a site visit to Kampong Trach IBA located in Kampong Trach district, Kampot province. The purpose of the visit was to exchange ideas and experiences on wildlife and biodiversity management and conservation activities and to understand the general situation at the site. The field trip was coordinated by Mr. Seng Kim Hout, project officer. On 26 January 2010 CCK representatives met with LCG members working at Kampong Trach IBA including:

- Mr. Hang Phoeung, chief of Chhouk Forestry Administration Triage of Kampot Forestry Administration Cantonment and LCG chief
- Mr. Uong Seth, vice chief of Border Army Company 3 and LCG vice chief
- Mr. Ek Neang, chief of Administration Police Post to Boeung Sala Khang Tboung commune and LCG member
- Mr. Un Khet, chief of Boeung Sala Khang Tboung commune and LCG member

First, Mr. Hang Phoeung reported on the background of the conversation work implemented at Kampong Trach IBA by LCG that was established since 2004 comprising the components of Chhouk Forestry Administration Triage of Kampot Forestry Administration Cantonment, Border Army Battalion 302, Administration Police Post to Boeung Sala Khang Tboung commune, Prek Kreus and Boeung Sala Khang Tboung commune chiefs and village chiefs of Chress, Koh Chamkar and Thnaot. The purpose of the site designation as a management and conservation area for Sarus Crane and other birds was to save rare bird species and to be established to become ecotourism which local people can generate incomes for improving their livelihoods and community development. The financial support for the conservation activities at site was from various donors such as Dania, BirdLife and Mlup Baitong CEPF. Six Self Help Groups (SHGs) were formed and technically and financially supported by MB through CEPF funded project. The difficulties encountered so far including land encroachment because there are many people living around the area. No decree was issued yet.

Then CCK representatives had shared some experiences and knowledge on their activities implemented in some districts in Takeo province and told the LCG working at Kampong Trach IBA that a donor called Heifer Cambodia was seeking for development partners. So this was an opportunity for the group to apply for assistance in community development in terms of poverty reduction. After the meeting the working group took a motorboat to survey birds which 190 cranes were observed.

*b) CCK met with representatives of WCS, Mlup Baitong, Sam Veasna Center and conducted a field visit:*

On 09-13 March 2010 Mr. Ses Vong Sambat and Mr. Um Sokun (project assistants) and Mr. Seng Vanna (LCG chief) conducted a trip to Phnom Penh to meet with the representatives of WCS and Mlup Baitong and traveled to Siem Reap province. The purpose of the trip was to discuss on conservation activities to date and current projects at the site, future projects and on-going partnerships with WCS, Sam Veasna Centre, and Mlup Baitong regarding potential ecotourism at both BPLMCA and Kampong Trach IBA. Results of the meetings and a field trip to Siem Reap province were as follows:

- On 09 March 2010 CCK team and Seng Kim Hout, project officer, met with Mr. Hong Chamnan, WCS counterpart staff who is the project manager of Integrated Farming and Biodiversity and Areas (IFBAs) in Kampong Thom and Siem Reap provinces and his colleague Mr. Sum Song; and Mr. Tan Setha, WCS counterpart staff who is the project manager of Preah Vihear protected forest in Preah Vihear province to discuss on the project activities especially focusing on ecotourism development. The meeting was held in WCS Phnom Penh based office.
  - ❖ Locals' participation in IFBAs: the project has selected community volunteer groups to take part in the conservation activities such as decision making, environmental awareness raising, tourist guiding etc. The main purpose of tourists in these areas was to see Bengal Florican and service charges from tourists were for guides (local community groups) and Sam Veasna Center staff in Siem Reap province and community development. Difficulties had encountered regarding this work with members of local community groups because they sometimes make decisions themselves without discussing with the project staff and it was contrary to statute.
  - ❖ Locals' participation in Preah Vihear protected forest: the site was declared by the Royal Government of Cambodia on 30 November 2002 establishing a protected forest with an area of 190,027 ha of which around half of the area was recently cut off by the government for army base in the northern part of the country near international border with Thailand. Two locations within the protected forest area are defined for tourists and managed by Dong Phalet community group. One location called O Kaki is for tourists to see White-winged



Duck and the other called Trapeang Kruos is for tourists to see vultures. Difficulties are that tourists can access to the site per year only 4 months in the dry season.

On the same day CCK team also met with Mr. Va Moeurn, Mlup Baitong executive director in his office. Mr. Moeurn expressed his warm welcome and reported that Mlup Baitong has multi development programs including forestry community and ecotourism in Kampot, Kampong Thom, Kampong Speu and Stung Treng provinces. He emphasized ecotourism establishment by focusing on some key points such as 1) experts must be employed to study at the site, 2) the site has ecotourism potential, 3) ecotourism goal is clearly defined for juveniles, youths, old men and foreigners, 4) agro-tourism and 5) markets are defined for selling agricultural products. The period to establish ecotourism well is at least 6 years with some needed points including studies, clear management plan (long and short terms), long term capacity building to local community groups, local authority's recognition and local participation, assistances from experts and NGOs to provide budget.

- On 10-13 March 2010 CCK team traveled to Siem Reap province. On the 10<sup>th</sup> evening the team met with Mr. Sang Mony, tourist guiding chief in Sam Veasna Center which works closely with WCS Cambodia Program regarding ecotourism in Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Kampot and Stung Treng provinces. The main role of the center is to train farmer groups on the reception of tourists, food preparation, tourist safety etc. On the 11<sup>th</sup> the team left Siem Reap provincial town to Stung IFBA in Kampong Thom province to meet with WCS's local community group and then traveled with them by 4 motorbikes to see Bengal Florican in the field. One male Bengal Florican was observed by the team during the field visit. Members of local community reported that foreigners often come to this site to see Bengal Florican that can easily be sighted in the early morning and late evening. On the 12<sup>th</sup> the team left Kampong Thom provincial town to Phnom Penh.

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

**Hectares Protected:** 8,305 ha

**Species Conserved:** eastern Sarus Crane and other globally threatened bird species

**Corridors Created:**

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

*a) Short-term impact objectives:*

The LCG is able to use the necessary survey equipment and materials such as GPS, maps and complete different data collection forms relating to bird counts and monitoring and the other to illegal activities comprising information such as the UTM, location of offence, illegal activities, awareness raising, the number of offenders, the equipment used, and the reason for the offence are filled out by the composer. At the end of every month, the LCG chief makes a report to include the total bird species recorded and the highest numbers of the month, total number of illegal activities and awareness raising and give to the site project officer. In addition, LCG participates in annually conducting Annual Asian Waterbird and Sarus Crane Census which are coordinated by WCS Cambodia Programme.

All project objectives and activities were completed during the period of the project implementation as raised in Lol including Guidelines to establish COP, the Process Framework which was advised to be produced in replacement of IRUA due to the limited time and budget, establishment of VVCs relating to COP, on-ground boundary demarcation posts of the core conservation area within BPLMCA confirmed by the demarcation committee, a training course provided to LCG, and the cooperation among stakeholders. For the consistent law enforcement and awareness raising activities had been implemented since the first start of the project and will continue until the project termination. These short-term achievements will significantly contribute to the future projects at the site.



*b) Long-term impact objectives:*

The LCG has had received several training courses since the previous projects implemented by BirdLife International Cambodia Programme in collaboration with FA including bird identification, survey and monitoring techniques; uses of compass, GPS, maps; data collection methodology and report writing. Moreover, the LCG was trained by CCK with support from Mlup Baitong, and BirdLife staff on the methodology and use of guidelines to form COP and to complete the Monitoring Protocol which BirdLife International Cambodia Programme established to provide a procedure for collecting, managing and analyzing data and assisting in long-term conservation management decision of the site. These are the comprehensive knowledge in terms of capacity building of the LCG to support long-term conservation work at the site. The LCG's future roles and responsibilities will include supporting and working closely with the two VVCs established in Dei Leuk and Banteay Sleuk villages through CEPF funded project in BPLMCA.

CCK understands the need to address these issues, however, due to the scope of funding; these issues and threats can not be fully addressed during the project period. However, CCK will facilitate the process of collaboration between BirdLife, FA and International and local NGOs to continue supporting the site and seek long-term funding to contribute to some management actions set out in the 2009-2013 Operational Management Plan (OMP) produced by BirdLife's previous projects. In addition, CCK will seek further funding to sustain the Community Outreach Group during project implementation. This means that CCK will combine all efforts to protect and improve the natural values of BPLMCA, in particular the habitat of non-breeding population of Sarus Crane and to reduce pressure on these resources through supporting livelihood activities of local communities.

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

After having many awareness raising and law enforcement patrol activities conducted at the site in particular on the knowledge of the boundary demarcation of the core conservation area and biodiversity conservation, destructive and illegal activities committed by local and Vietnamese people had reduced remarkably. Moreover, two CCK project assistants (Mr. Ses Vong Sambat and Mr. Um Sokun) had met with Borei Chulsa district deputy governor, Chey Chouk commune vice head and other relevant people on 25 June 2010 to report them the achievements of one year CEPF funded project and future work at BPLMCA.

But what is concern is that after this project ended in June 2010 there will probably encounter a postponement of the conservation activities and no LCG presence for one or two months at site due to the lack of funding to be continuous.

## **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)***

Lessons learned during the project design process are as follows:

- The project that was designed with participation from the relevant stakeholders such as staff of BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, CCK and LCG members can address all issues at the site and make precisely budgeted preparation for every project activities in avoiding fat budgeting,
- More discussions were make to have Lol revised after receiving comments from CEPF, and
- The Project Framework was produced with participation from the relevant stakeholders to meet Policy Safeguard Assessment required by CEPF.

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

Lessons learned during the project implementation are as follows:

- Two six-month workplans were developed to include the project activities as raised in Lol to be implemented within the week period of the month. Each developed six-month workplan was discussed among CCK director, staff and LCG members in order to implement them successfully. Some project activities which were not completed as planned in the first six-month workplan were incorporated in the second six-month workplan to do somehow to have all project activities achieved.
- Participation, cooperation and support from stakeholders of the relevant government agencies make the project satisfactorily achieved such as the activity of confirmation on-ground boundary demarcation posts of the core conservation zone of BLP MCA and law enforcement within the site,
- Awareness raising is a key tool which can help reduce illegal activities on wildlife and biodiversity at the site in addition to law enforcement,
- Guidelines to establish COP were developed during this project implementation with participation from the relevant local and International NGOs and LCGs. This significant document, which describes clear roles and responsibilities about LCGs, VVCs and SHGs, can help improve communication and collaboration between stakeholders in the future.

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

- The LCG approach can help to significantly reduce threats to biodiversity at the important sites for conservation. However, an active, mutually supportive relationship between LCGs and government enforcement agencies is critical to the success of the approach,
- Alternative livelihood activities can make a significant contribution to local stakeholders' motivation to support or participate in LCG activities, but these need to be closely linked to conservation objectives.
- LCG can make major contributions to raising environmental awareness and generating support for conservation in their communities. However, for their potential to be fully realized, LCG need to be provided with a considerable amount of training and a diverse information base.
- More collaborative activities between local, international NGOs and the relevant government agencies were made through discussion meetings and a formation of VVCs during this project implementation.
- Although local stakeholders rapidly recognize the benefits that LCGs can provide and are robust in their support of them, LCGs are unlikely to become financially sustainable without considerable investments of time and resources.

***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.***

Some additional funding existed as in-kind contributions from BirdLife International Cambodia Programme and CCK itself during this project implementation at BPLMCA.

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
BirdLife International Cambodia Programme	In-kind contribution	US\$ 3,460.00	Office rental, internet, communication (for Mr. Seng Kim Hout), trainings, COP guidelines development and environmental awareness materials

CCK	In-kind contribution	US\$ 3,360.00	Office rental, internet, communication (for CCK office based in Koh Andeth district, Takeo province), trainings, COP guidelines development and environmental awareness materials
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**\*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.**

Since signing of the MoU between MAFF and BirdLife International in *Indochina* in 2004, FA is committed to providing continued support and partnership with BirdLife to ensure the conservation and protection BPLMCA continues. CCK had run this project in the interim period until such time that BirdLife International Cambodia Programme has long-time funding. CCK will remain partners with BirdLife International Cambodia Programme and FA and will develop future projects with them.

During meeting with communities in forming VVCs and in environmental awareness raising activities, several suggestions in terms of community development were raised by local people. If these suggestions are not considered and met for next projects, this creates a risk that conservation activities implemented at the site and would not strongly be supported and actively participated by local people. Therefore, CCK has considered some aspects of community development which are linked to the conservation activities at BPLMCA within the next project proposal of CEPF.

**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.**

Since 2003, the FA and BirdLife International Cambodia Programme completed comprehensive monthly and annual reports. These reports detail all conservation activities carried out in Boeung Prek Lapouv, however, the reports do not indicate if any of these activities had caused negative impacts to the local community by limiting access to natural resources.

Negative social impacts on the people and communities who currently use natural resources in BPLMCA have existed because of continued law enforcement at the site and given that the site has legal protection as a protected area. The negative social impacts were due to restrictive or limited access to or total loss of access to income generating natural resources while continuing to support the protected area, its conservation objectives and law enforcement activities, relevant provisions of the laws of Cambodia, such as Forestry Law (2002), Fisheries Law (2006), sub decree (2007), other legislations and the World Bank Operational Policy, OP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement are invoked. More details on this section are in the Process Framework.

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

- Continuous funding is needed to carry on site management and conservation. Without further funding all past efforts will be vain,
- While working with local community in terms of VVCs formation, many locals' suggestions were raised. These should be studied in details and considered to meet their issues and needs so that it will make them trust and actively participate in the site management and conservation linked to community development.
- Ecotourism at the site should be initiated soon so that it can help local people develop their community through income generation from this field and sustain the conservation work.

### ***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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**Annex 1: Monthly law enforcement patrols and destructive/illegal activities found in BPLMCA**

Month/Year	Patrol times	Description of destructive/illegal activities	No. offenders	Equipment/Items	Who/From	Contracts/other measures
Jul 2009	14	Uprooting water lily for sale to Vietnam to feed raised fish	5	400 kg confiscated	Sangkum Meanchey villagers	Contract
Aug 2009	11	Uprooting water lily for sale to Vietnam to feed raised fish	1	50 kg confiscated	Sangkum Meanchey villagers	Contract
Sep 2009	12	Land encroachment (grass cutting)	escaped	5 ha	Unknown	
Oct 2009	14	Over using fishing net barriers to catch fish	4	4000m in length	Vietnamese nationals	Minutes, Ordered to cut off to justify fisheries law
Nov 2009	12	Trapping bird at night	escaped	One trap and one oar left behind	Unknown	
Dec 2009	14	Preventing domestic ducks from entering the conservation area	3	4000 birds	Vietnamese national	Contract
Jan 2010	11	Preventing domestic ducks from entering the conservation area	1	1800 birds	Prey Yuthka villager	Contract
Feb 2010	10	Preventing domestic ducks from entering the conservation area	1	2700 birds	Prey Yuthka villager	Contract
		Land encroachment (ploughed)	escaped	30 m x 50 m	Unknown	
Mar 2010	12	Land encroachment	escaped		Unknown	
Apr 2010	10	Nothing found				
May 2010	9	Burning grass in 4 places to catch snake and tortoise	2	Two shovels and tow cages confiscated	Vietnamese national	Sent to Borei Chulsa Fisheries Division
Jun 2010	9	Land encroachment (ploughed)	escaped	10 ha	Kampong Krosaing villager	Relevant documents of this case have been already sent to the provincial court

**Annex 2: Bird species and the monthly highest counts at BPLMCA in July 2009-June 2010**

No.	Species	2009						2010					
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Globally threatened species</b>													
1	Bengal Florican (CR)							1				1	
2	Greater Adjutant (EN)	8											
3	Lesser Adjutant (VU)	6											
4	Sarus Crane (VU)						214	275	20		21	25	
<b>Near threatened species</b>													
5	Asian Golden Weaver	20	9							10	16	12	14
6	Black-headed Ibis						285					6	
7	Oriental Darter			12	27	21	36	43	6				
8	Painted Stork	10	25			62	398	238	42		15		
9	Spot-billed Pelican		6	12	21								
<b>Least concern species</b>													
10	Asian Openbill	34			36	71	274	193					
11	Asian Pied Starling	8						14		6	8		
12	Barred Buttonquail										2		
13	Black Drongo					9			11	26	18	17	17
14	Black-crowned Night-heron	15						39					
15	Black-shouldered Kite				4					19	11	6	16
16	Blue-tailed Bee-eater										56		30
17	Bronze-winged Jacana		4	4	6								
18	Common Greenshank							36					
19	Common Moorhen						6			2			
20	Cotton Pygmy-goose			10	8								
21	Eastern Marsh-harrier							3	1	1	1		1
22	Garganey							206					
23	Great Egret							56					
24	Greater Coucal	6							6	16	4		6
25	Grey Heron	6	12	14	16	22			19			2	
26	House Swift	35											
27	Indian Cormorant				42	25							
28	Intermediate Egret		8	38	46	480	231	600	35				
29	Javan Pond-heron			23	11	66		406	130	30			
30	Lesser Whistling-duck	10	14	20		25	24	24	6		15	16	12
31	Little Cormorant		56	38	73	100	332				12		
32	Little Egret		13	36					46	14			
33	Little Grebe		4										
34	Little Ringed Plover									8			
35	Oriental Pratincole									31	52	9	22
36	Pheasant-tailed Jacana		19	15	70	46							
37	Plain Prinia			50									
38	Plaintive Cuckoo									1		2	
39	Pied Bushchat												8
40	Purple Heron	12	10	16	10	6	16		3				6
41	Purple Swampphen		20	85	117								
42	Red-wattled Lapwing	11							6			6	9
43	Spot-billed Duck	17	20	9	18	17	18	35	20	21	24	40	38
44	Spotted Dove								8		16	8	
45	Striated Grassbird									18	12		3
46	Watercock	9	6	6		12							2
47	Whiskered Tern				50	80	130						
48	Wood Sandpiper							41					

**Reverence:** IUCN 2010. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.1. <[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)>. Downloaded on 14 June 2010.

**Annex 3: Updated list of bird records in BPLMCA in 2001-2010**

No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Globally Threatened Species</b>		
1	Bengal Florican (CR)	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>
2	Greater Adjutant (EN)	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>
3	Lesser Adjutant (VU)	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
4	Sarus Crane (VU)	<i>Grus antigone</i>
<b>Near Threatened Species</b>		
5	Asian Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus hypoxanthus</i>
6	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
7	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
8	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
9	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
10	Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>
<b>Least Concern Species</b>		
11	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
12	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
13	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Sturnus contra</i>
14	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
15	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
16	Black-browed Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>
17	Black-capped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon pileata</i>
18	Black-collared Starling	<i>Sturnus nigricollis</i>
19	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
20	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
21	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
22	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
23	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
24	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>
25	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>
26	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
27	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>
28	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
29	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
30	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
31	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
32	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
33	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
34	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
35	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
36	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
37	Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
38	Eastern Mash-harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>
39	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
40	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
41	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
42	Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>



No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
43	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
44	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
45	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
46	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>
47	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
48	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
49	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
50	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>
51	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
52	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
53	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
54	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
55	Little Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
56	Little Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
57	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
58	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
59	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
60	Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>
61	Oriental Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>
62	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
63	Pacific Golden-plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
64	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
65	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
66	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
67	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
68	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>
69	Java Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola speciosa</i>
70	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
71	Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
72	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
73	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
74	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
75	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>
76	Tricoloured Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>
77	Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>
78	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
79	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>
80	White-vented Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
81	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
82	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>
83	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
84	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>

**Annex 4: Photographs taken during the project implementation at BPLMCA**



Figure 1 & 2: View of BPLMCA in the wet and dry seasons



Figure 3 & 4: The demarcation committee discussed and confirmed on-ground boundary demarcation posts



Figure 5 & 6: CCK project officer introduced guidelines to establish COP to LCG and the project assistants





Figure 7 & 8: CCK staff met with LCG at KTIBA and a feeding flock of cranes photographed during the site visit



Figure 9 & 10: CCK project staff and LCG trained members of the two VVCs after being formed.



Figure 11 & 12: CCK staff met with Sam Veasna Center staff and visited Stung IFBA





Figure 13 & 14: LCG conducted law enforcement patrols and offenders asked to thumbprint on contract of stopping burning grass in BPLMCA.



Figure 15 & 16: Land encroachment in the buffer conservation area within BPLMCA prevented and stopped by LCG in collaboration with the provincial fisheries officials