

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Assessing the Status and Distribution of Eld's Deer in Western Siem Pang Dry Dipterocarp Forest, Stung Treng Province
<b>Date of Report:</b>	30 November 2013
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## **CEPF Region:**

Indo-Burma hotspot

## **Strategic Direction:**

Strategic Direction 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats. Investment Priority 1.1 Identify and secure core populations of 67 globally threatened species from overexploitation and illegal trade. Strategic Direction 2. Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 key biodiversity areas. The project will specifically address the Priority Investment 2.1: establish innovative stakeholder-based conservation management and caretaking initiatives at 28 key biodiversity areas.

## **Grant Amount:**

\$19, 995

## **Project Dates:**

01 March 2013 to 31 October 2013

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

This project was carried with relevant partners such as WCC (Wildlife Conservation Cambodia, a local NGO attached to RUPP), BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, Provincial Environmental Department of Stung Treng, local authorities, and community inhabiting in the project area. Cooperated works were done through coordination and facilitation, field survey, and awareness raising. BirdLife has facilitated the field work for RUPP researchers, including identifying community support team in Prek Meas commune, provision of jungle station for lodging, food preparation and training, liaison with district governor and local foresters, and providing technical support on eld's deer survey. WCC gave two staff members to conduct field survey and has facilitated the work for RUPP students to join the survey team. In addition, Provincial Environmental Department sent three Virachey National Park rangers to join the survey team for the first field work in May 2013. There was also strong legal support by local foresters and authorities (village, commune and district) for implementation. For instance, Siem Pang District governor permitted for the installation of signboard for propaganda of eld's deer in the district capital, and on road junction leading off to western Siem Pang critical habitat of Eld's deer (BirdLife's jungle station). Commune chiefs in Prek Meas and Thmor Keo assisted and facilitated the project team for the awareness raising and staff security during the project period.

## Conservation Impacts

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

Assessing the Status and Distribution of Eld's Deer in Western Siem Pang Dry Dipterocarp Forest, Stung Treng Province project directly addresses Strategic Direction 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats. Investment Priority 1.1 Identify and secure core populations of 67 globally threatened species from overexploitation and illegal trade. Strategic Direction 2. Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 key biodiversity areas. The project will specifically address the Priority Investment 2.1: establish innovative stakeholder-based conservation management and caretaking initiatives at 28 key biodiversity areas.

The project intended to estimate the population of eld's deer in the Western Siem Pang proposed protected forest which is being under threat due to irreversible conversion to agricultural plantation, illegal logging and local community encroachment. The area is seen to host the larger assemblage of eld's deer population than other places of Cambodia (Mondulhiri, Preah Vihear, and Banteay Meanchey provinces). The results derived from the project will have provided foundation support to relevant agencies to claim this forest area to be the Western Siem Pang Protected Forest. Furthermore, BirdLife International Cambodia Programme will also utilize the survey results for their follow up conservative initiatives, as they have been working on protection and conservation of not only Eld's deer, but also endangered wildlife.

The project promoted the capacity building on the eld's deer survey techniques to key community members, park rangers, BirdLife staff based in Siem Pang office, WCC staff and students from RUPP. The survey techniques are very useful that has provided them with both theoretical and practical skills for their future career pertinent to not only eld's deer, but also other mammal species. Moreover, the awareness raising in terms of video clip and signboard has also stimulated the interest and aspiration of general civilians (teenager and adults) in project site of two communes (Prek Meas and Thmor Keo) about the importance and conservation of eld's deer and subordinated wildlife dwelling in the Western Siem Pang forest. In line with strong support and involvement of local community by awareness raising and capacity building, the project has furnished the mind set of local community, especially teenagers and students, about significance of wildlife conservation, and how this inherently embeds with prosperity of their livelihoods and continuous existence of resource base to bestow their peaceful living, culture and tradition. The long term engagement of local community in conservation and protection activities would, however, ensure the success of project investment chiefly contributing to existence and achievement of biodiversity conservation goal.

From the academic point of view, RUPP have gained substantial benefit in using the knowledge derived from survey, data analysis through close interaction with highly experienced technical adviser, and awareness raising for teaching and supervising students on identical issues. We have an attempt to expand our conservation activities to other sites known to have housed eld's deer. Together research and conservation closely linked with one another would build up the ever lasting culture of two way information between local community and academe, and this would however gain mutual benefit in term of conservation.

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

There are three expected results listed in the project document. We hereby comment the achievements against expected results that RUPP has gained in achieving the project aim.

- 1) Report on status and distribution of Eld's deer species (with maps of relative abundance of eld's deer), and other endangered species and their threats in Western Siem Pang Forest

The survey was undertaken in order to assess the status and distribution of the eld's deer population in the Western Siem Pang proposed protected forest which is being under adverse threat due to economic land concession and other detrimental deforestation related activities by local community (see survey map in appendix 3). The survey employed both the professional and social methods, in which these methods could capture as many aspects of eld's deer data and from diverse angle as possible. By combining the analysis of data from the field survey carried out in May and June 2013 to detect the sightings and signs, and suitability analysis of habitats in the surveyed forest area, the population of eld's deer was estimated to be about 56 deer in the Western Siem Pang forest (the technical report to be provided upon request).

The survey has strongly addressed the conservation need, particularly the status and distribution of Eld's deer, together with their favorable critical habitats in the stretch of forest area which will be used to support the claim of Western Siem Pang protected forest, by setting aside of habitat destructive economic land concessions. Furthermore, findings assisted us to develop capacity building program such as awareness raising materials including signboards as well as learning materials for the community in project site and RUPP students.

- 2) Policy brief on status and distribution of Eld's deer species and their threats which will be used to influence the policy and decision makers for a claim of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest

Because of limited findings of eld's deer derived from the field survey chiefly due to incomplete set of seasons (the survey was conducted on the onset of wet season, and missed dry season), the project was unable to produce the policy brief for the stated purpose above. However, the project summarized the current status and threats of eld's deer based on data from field survey in May and June 2013, and the summary was published in BirdLife's newsletter.

- 3) Awareness raising materials including posters and video clips on Eld's deer protection and conservation

Based on the findings, the project developed two awareness raising packages: short video clip (available upon request) and two signboards in order to raise awareness of local community so that they could partake in the protection and conservation of endangered eld's deer in the project site of Western Siem Pang forest. The video clip lasts about 7 minutes and describes five main messages pertinent to eld's deer: 1) characteristics of eld's deer; 2) global, regional and local status and distribution of eld's deer; 3) threats and detrimental activities of eld's deer in Cambodia and Western Siem Pang forest, including the survey activities of RUPP researchers and local community assistants; 4) extracted articles of Forestry Law saying about the punishment on forest and wildlife related offences; and 5) protection and conservation actions that everybody should contribute to. The signboards also intended to provide similar message as indicated in the

video clip, but these messages were cohesively condensed depicting four important photos with extracted articles of forestry law like eld's deer, forest fire, slash and burn plot of forest land for agriculture, and chainsaw, for which last three photos were marked with warning as they are illegal activities. The video clip was presented and organized as public show about 2:30 hours during evening to the local people within six villages of two communes (Prek Meas: Svay, Thmey, and Phong Kreal villages; and Thmor Keo: Pabang, Lakay and Nhang Sum villages) in Siem Pang district. We estimated that some 50% of the total population of 5,780 persons in these two communes attended the event (Appendix 1). For the signboards (Appendix 2), the project planned to erect one in urban area front of Siem Pang district building, and another on road junction to Prek Meas commune, leading off to BirdLife's jungle station. However, these signboards were not installed during the project period due to different idea and opinion of BirdLife regional manager. The signboard will be sooner installed on the above mentioned locations after settling the disagreement ideas with the project staff and regional manager.

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

**Hectares Protected:** Studied site of western Siem Pang forest as presented in the surveyed grids (see Appendix 3: map of project area)

**Species Conserved:** Eld's Deer (*Rucervus eldii*)

**Corridors Created:** No

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

1. Estimate the Eld's deer population, including status and distribution, and assess the main threat to its habitat with chief aim of generating sufficient information to support conservation purposes.

The survey was carried out in order to estimate the population and together assess condition and threats of eld's deer. Furthermore, the survey provided the necessary data and idea for support of claiming the forest area to be the protected forest. Likewise, the survey laid strong foundation for very important design for project implementation such as awareness raising for the target communities in Siem Pang district, and building research skills of RUPP staff and park rangers to be specialized on eld's deer and mammal field survey. It involved key community members in the survey and informed them of the project objectives and activities in which they will get involved in the later stage, for instance with BirdLife. This has demonstrated that there are greater participation of local community, authorities and concerned competent government agencies in the protection, conservation and curbing down illegal activities in the area, although the project will have completed. There have been good examples that future conservation project could follow this project model.

However, there were some inevitable challenges towards the eld's deer survey techniques such as grid transect, deer detection, identification of eld's deer between sambar, hog deer and muntjac; because RUPP staff are new to these. Yet, there were sincere support from international technical adviser Dr. William McShea and local eld's deer expert Mr. Prom Sovanna of WWF, we have made a success over this survey. In addition, local community people who assisted us with survey have had relatively excellent knowledge and skill to identify the eld's

deer foot signs.

2. Strengthen conservation actions by carrying out awareness raising on deer protection for local communities living in the western Siem Pang proposed protected forest

The project has capacitated the local community since the beginning like being trained on eld's deer survey techniques, and joining the survey with RUPP team. Through the awareness raising events in each village of two targeted communes (Prek Meas and Thmor Keo), local people were interested in the conservation and protective messages shown in video clip, for audience, especially children and young adults were able to answer the questions we asked reflecting the messages in the video clip. We see that the model of communicating conservation message related to eld's deer by using video clip is more effective and efficient than those of poster and signboard, as this created interactive response among the audience during the event. We believe that message would, however, remember and educate them about the importance and existence of eld's deer and forest habitat in their localities, so that there will be greater involvement of local community in conservation and protection of eld's deer as it provides protective umbrella of safeguard to other biodiversity species in the area.

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

By the implementation of this project, it of course leads to generate adequate data in support of designating and creating the Western Siem Pang forest area to Protected Forest. Furthermore, the project has given a candid opportunity to RUPP staff involved in the project to have specialized skill on eld's deer survey techniques and data analysis which can be utilized for teaching, further research and community outreach. Awareness raising model by video clip and signboards has also educated local people to be engaged in the conservation and safeguard of the endangered eld's deer and other wildlife species dwelling in the project area.

## **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.***

By involving with key local community people since the beginning of the project is likely to ensure the greater success of such a conservation project, as this helped build the relationship and trust between them and outsiders (project implementers). Likewise, the community people feel they have ownership on their resources and they envisage towards conservation and protection activities, because they have been aware that their local resources are being under sever threat. Therefore, they should do something in order to protect and maintain these scarce resources upon which their livelihoods are dependent. Also, working with local community provided an updated experience and knowledge on conservation and field survey techniques in regard to eld's deer, as they have accumulated ecological technical knowledge for generations on particular wildlife species. The methods and approaches applicable in one area may differ significantly from one another due to varied ecosystems, ways of living, and different societal settings of indigenous communities in Siem Pang district. The knowledge and skills are useful for conservationist and

practitioner communities to adopt and apply in their localities. It was a good lesson that community as well as RUPP project staffs learnt practical knowledge on identification of eld's deer signs and sightings, survey grid transects, recognition of habitat, deer detection and observation techniques, and data sheet record. Moreover, the tools and techniques used for awareness raising by presenting video clip to local community has shown us the useful practical experiences for future implementation. The video was presented in the evening time which allow and attract villagers to watch because they are free from daytime work. The short video clip was followed by popular karaoke songs, comedy and local video story, and continue with question and answer session and present gift (pen, notebook, soap) to any audience who gave relatively correct answer in line with message presented in video clip. Experiences gained from the project site are vital for other part of Cambodia with similar ecosystems.

In addition, the project provided RUPP with the firm support to create the field laboratory for students' field practices and further researches, and the results derived from the implementing the project would be used to update the teaching curriculum, create journal article, and training manual. Continued support for awareness raising for local community of additional communes adjacent to Western Siem Pang forest would necessarily help protect the targeted eld's deer species and other threatened wildlife in the area by minimizing the impacts caused by their livelihood activities, above all hunting, logging and land encroachment.

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

This project is designed to estimate the population of eld's deer and assess the conditions and threats imposed on eld's deer population, and strengthen conservation capacity of local communities in Western Siem Pang forest area. Because there is a lack of data on eld's deer population to lay out the firm conservation strategy, this project is useful that assist BirdLife and Forestry Administration to claim this forest area to be Western Siem Pang Protected Forest which is under private economic land concession. As Cambodia has limited finance and little number of competent technical staff to directly protect the endangered eld's deer species and natural resources, it is therefore that strong involvement of local community or direct beneficiary is inevitably required at this period. During the proposal development, we intended to train about 15 key community people as ToT (training of trainers) for farther dissemination of our awareness raising materials to as many people as possible in the project site, but due to dearth of financial support, we instead employed video show by our project team (presented video clip to surrounding community) in six villages of two communes (Prek Meas and Thmor Keo) of Siem Pang district. However, some of these key 15 people partook the video show, they might receive additional skills on awareness raising in addition to survey and protection ones.

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

There has been success and smooth implementation of project, as there was strong support of partner organizations such as BirdLife International, WCC, local community and authorities. The project arrived at the right time that eld's deer and forest resources are badly required for urgent protection, because they are under threat. In addition, BirdLife has worked extensively on the conservation of endangered bird biodiversity for nearly decade, so their investment could not cover all aspects of conservation and protection, and BirdLife surely need other NGOs, government agencies, and local community to put hands



together for the sake of conservation. Overall, the implementing process of the project was undertaken systematically, i. e. through step wide process like estimating the population of the eld's deer; designing awareness raising materials by involving with local community, expert and partners; and implementation of awareness raising elements with local communities.

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

Local community and RUPP staff are new to eld's deer survey techniques, including designing survey grids, deer detection of sighting and signs, and data analysis. With project investment, they have gained substantial skill and experience on aforementioned aspects.

**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.***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>

***\*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.***

The project was built on the existing works that BirdLife International Cambodia Program has worked extensively in the project site in order to achieve the conservation goal of endangered and threatened wildlife species such as eld's deer, birds and other mammals. Also, the key local community people were trained by BirdLife to engage in conservation activities. Based on the survey results, both BirdLife and local community people will continue our work, particularly integrating our findings into their long-term conservation strategy. With great deal of good experiences derived from project, RUPP has utilized the knowledge and skill for teaching and research activities with students, and we intended to expand the conservation activities to other forest locations in Cambodia that are believed to have housed eld's deer. For this initiative and support, the idea of conservation would spread out to local community that will build up stronger institution and network among the members and competent agencies, and their experiences on conservation become credibly mature and feel confident to be autonomous in their own organization and operation in the short future. Using their local knowledge and their involvement to protect the natural

resources means to improve their livelihood as well.

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

For successful and long-term conservation of eld's deer, the single approach of law enforcement is not sufficient, it needs a combination of approaches available in the area or introduced with regard to local context, for instance greater involvement of local community, and local authorities. Awareness raising and education by use of video clip and signboard would significantly increase involvement of many community members to protect and conserve the endangered wildlife species. The conservation integrated with livelihood improvement of involved households definitely ensures long-term sustainability of our investment.

**Safeguard Policy Assessment**

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

N/A

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

<b>CEPF Global Targets</b>				
<b>(Enter Grant Term)</b>				
<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>				
<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, 2011 to June 30, 2012. (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	138,137 (western Siem Pang IBA)	138,137 (western Siem Pang IBA)	We have not dealt direct conservation enforcement, but we have worked with local community on eld's deer survey and community awareness raising. The project trained 15 key community members on eld's deer survey and protection, but not awareness raising, because our project team conducted this activity. We estimated that some 50% of the total population of 5,780 persons in these two communes (Prek Meas and Thmor Keo) attended the awareness raising events during the project period.
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity	No			



conservation in management 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.	No			

**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																	
	S m a l l a n d o w n e r s	S u b s i s t e n c e o n o m y	I n d i g e n o u s / e t h n i c p e o p l e s	P a s t o r a l i s t s / n o m a d i c p e o p l e s	R e c e n t m i g r a n t s	U r b a n c o m m u n i t i e s	C o m m u n i t i e s f a l l i n g b e l o w t h e p o v e r t y r a t e	O t h e r	Increased Income due to:				I n c r e a s e d f o r s e c u r i t y d u e t o t h e a d o p t i o n o f s u s t a i n a b l e f i s h i n g h u m a n r e s o u r c e s	M o r e s e c u r e a c c e s s t o w a t e r r e s o u r c e s	I m p r o v e d t e r r i t o r l a n d o r o t h e r a t u r a l r e s o u r c e d u e t o t i t l i n g r e d u c t i o n	R e d u c e d r i s k o f n a t u r a l d i s a s t e r s (f i r e s , l a n d s l i d e s , f l o o d i n g e t c)	M o r e s e c u r e s o u r c e o f e n e r g y	I n c r e a s e d a c c e s s t o p u b l i c s e r v i c e s , s u c h a s e d u c a t i o n , h e a l t h , o r c r e d i t	I m p r o v e d u s e o f t r a d i t i o n a l k n o w l e d g e f o r e n v i r o n m e n t a l m a n a g e m e n t	M o r e p a r t i c i p a t o r y d e c i s i o n m a k i n g d e c i s i o n s	O t h e r					
									A d d i t i o n o f s u s t a i n a b l e n a t u r a l r e s o u r c e s m a n a g e m e n t p r a c t i c e s	E c o n o m i c r e v e n u e s	P a r k m a n a g e m e n t a c t i v i t i e s	P a y m e n t f o r e n v i r o n m e n t a l s e r v i c e s														



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

N/A

### ***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.

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Appendix 1. Photos of Awareness Raising Activities



Meeting with Vice governor of Siem Pang District to discuss about the awareness raising activities



Video show followed by questions and answers in Svay village of Prek Meas commune, Oct 2013



Video show in Thmey village, Prek Meas Commune, Oct 2013



Video show in Phong Kreal village, Prek Meas Commune, Oct 2013





Video show in Pabang village of Thmor Keo commune, Oct 2013



Video show in Lakay village of Thmor Keo commune, Oct 2013



Video show with questions and answers from participants in Nhang Sum village of Thmor Keo commune, Oct 2013



**Appendix 2. Sample Signboard of Eld's deer awareness raising**

**សូមមេត្តាកុំសម្លាប់សត្វរមាំងព្រោះវាជាសត្វជិតផុតពីស្ថានភាពស្លាប់**

ជនណាដែលបបាញ់ សម្លាប់ និងកាប់បំផ្លាញ ទីជម្រកសត្វរមាំង នឹងត្រូវផ្ដន្ទាទោស ជាប់ពន្ធនាគារពី ៥ ទៅ ១០ឆ្នាំ (មាត្រា៩៣ និង៩៧ នៃច្បាប់ព្រៃឈើ ២០០២)

ជនណាដែលប្រើវេលារយៈពេលគ្រប់ប្រភេទ ដោយគ្មានការអនុញ្ញាតិពីប្រធានរដ្ឋបាល ព្រៃឈើ និងយាយីធ្វើឲ្យរមាំង នៃប្រភេទសត្វកម្រក្នុងកម្រិតជិតផុតពីស្ថានភាពស្លាប់ ឬក្រុមមាន ដោយកម្រប្រូប្រាញ់ជម្រករបស់វានឹងត្រូវផ្ដន្ទាទោសជាប់ពន្ធនាគារពី ១ខែ ទៅ ១ឆ្នាំ ឬត្រូវពិន័យ ជាប្រាក់ពី ១លានរៀល ទៅ ១០លានរៀល (មាត្រា៩៣ និង៩៩ នៃច្បាប់ព្រៃឈើ ២០០២)



*Big flock of female Eld's Deer in Western Siem Pang  
(Photo: Jonathan C.Eames)*




**Appendix 3. Map of Project Site (Red color: surveyed grid, Green: grids with eld's deer detection)**

