

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Research Centre for Resources and Rural Development (RECERD)
Project Title:	Using and systematizing fishers' local ecological knowledge to monitor and manage fisheries, with emphasis on three globally threatened fish species (the Giant Catfish [<i>Pangasianodon gigas</i>], Sanitwongsei's catfish [<i>Pangasius sanitwongsei</i>] and Jullien's Golden Carp [<i>Probarbus jullieni</i>]), in the Lower Mekong River system of Long An Province, Vietnam
Date of Report:	11/11/13
Report Author and Contact Information	Tuong Phi Lai Email: lap.recerd@gmail.com Cell phone: 097.303.7979

CEPF Region: Indo-Burma Region, Indochina

Strategic Direction: 3.1 Support civil society efforts to analyze development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and propose alternative development scenarios and appropriate mitigating measures.

Grant Amount: US\$19,959.50

Project Dates: From 01 November 2012 to 31 October 2013

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

1) Lang Sen Wetland Reserve

They take part in all activities of this project, include:

- Cooperate with local authority and WWF in establish and monitoring activities of voluntary groups
- Support for implementing project activities
- Contact with other stakeholder of this project
- Management and monitoring mini-rescue center
- Propaganda for community on endangered fish species and fisheries conservation, mini-rescue center
- other

2) Local Authorities

- Establish and monitoring system with the participate of local communities through voluntary groups
- Take part in collect information on endangered fish species in Tan Hung district, Long An and study on LEK in conservation and development endangered fish species
- Propaganda for community on endangered fish species and fisheries conservation, mini-rescue center

3) Department of Agriculture and Rural development, Long An (Fisheries Department and Animal Health Department)

- Support for propaganda for community on endangered fish species and fisheries conservation
- Take part in monitoring system with the participate of local communities through voluntary groups
- Sharing experience on fisheries management in the workshop

- Finding further support for active of project when ending

4) Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Long An

- Support for approve of project in province and the model in the project

- Comment for publication of project

- Finding further support for active of project when ending

5) Local communities

- Take a main role in system with the participate of local communities through voluntary groups
- Participant in training and workshop of project

- Take part in collect information on endangered fish species in Tan Hung district, Long An and study on LEK in conservation and development endangered fish species

6) RIA2

- Consultation with the Identification catalog of endangered fish species in Tan Hung district, Long An and study on LEK in conservation and development endangered fish species.

- Sharing experience on fisheries management in the workshop

7) WWF

- Cooperate in establish and monitoring activities of voluntary groups

- Support for voluntary groups and other activities on livelihoods model for voluntary groups

8) Tram Chim National Park

- Sharing experience for project and Lang Sen Wetland Reserve in protect endanger species and develop livelihoods for community

Conservation Impacts

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

The project relates directly to the statement on pages 14 and 20 of the “Ecosystem Profile” document that “A shortage of available data, combined with a lack of emphasis on conducting the assessments, has left the global threat status of the vast majority of the region's fish species unassessed [and that] considerably more information on fish species status and distribution is necessary before a more comprehensive global threat assessment can be made for the group.”

The proposed project cross-cuts strategic directions. It falls clearly under “Strategic Direction 1: Safeguard globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats”, and particularly under Investment Priority 1.1. Equally, it can be argued that the proposed project falls within “Strategic Direction 2: Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation ...”.

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

(1) Development of a monitoring system based on local communities for reporting fish landings of all species, and particularly the occurrence or catching of the three focal species;

- Formation and development of 08 community volunteer group with 120 members.
- 120 uniforms have been support by project for member of volunteer group to facilitate the process of patrolling, monitoring of endanger fish species.
- The monitoring system has developed with the participate of local communities through voluntary groups, local government and Lang Sen Wetland Reserve
- The volunteer group was distributing and training how to write the fishing diary.

(2) Raising the general awareness and practices regarding fish conservation and protection of local fishing communities and related stakeholders, including that of grass-root level of authorities, and in particular for the three focal species;

- Training raising awareness and identify the endangered fish species for 30 local officials and 30 member of volunteer group
- Training on how to rescue for endangered fish species for 30 local officials and 30 member of volunteer group.
- Training on build plan of preserve and development of endanger fish species in Lang Sen for 30 member of volunteer group.
- Training on fish disease treatment for 30 Lang Sen officials
- 1000 POSTER on protect of endanger fish species have been distributed for community and pasted in public places.
- 45 banner on protection of fisheries resources have been hang at public places and residential areas.

(3) Laying the foundation for a general local fisheries governance/management system based on the combination of fishers' LEK, scientific fisheries knowledge and official policy; and

- Complete the study on LEK in conservation and development endangered fish species with the participant of local community, government...
- Complete the study to develop an Identification catalog of endangered fish species in Tan Hung district, Long An with the participant of local community, government...
- Organise workshop on Sharing information on conservation and development endangered fish species among government, experts and communities

(4) Building the capacity of a local voluntary network in monitoring and rescuing the three focal species.

- Training raising awareness and identify the endangered fish species for 30 local officials and 30 member of volunteer group
- Training on how to rescue for endangered fish species for 30 local officials and 30 member of volunteer group.
- Training on build plan of preserve and development of endanger fish species in Lang Sen for 30 member of volunteer group.
- Training on fish disease treatment for 30 Lang Sen officials
- Building the mini-rescue centre and set up a system on monitoring, patrol, rescue of endanger fish species with the participant of community.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: Main in 5000 Ha of Lang Sen Wetland Reserve and another water rive zones in Lower Mekong River system

Species Conserved: The Giant Catfish [*Pangasianodon gigas*], Sanitwongsei's catfish [*Pangasius sanitwongsei*] and Jullien's Golden Carp [*Probarbus jullieni*]

Corridors Created: N/A

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

*** The success**

- Adequate management system has been established to minimize such negative impacts, resulting in little/no mitigation of damage to the regional fisheries and conservation endanger fish species.
- + A monitoring system based on local communities for reporting fish landings of all species, and particularly the occurrence or catching of the three focal species (08 community volunteer group with 120 members)
- + Implementing many activities related to raising awareness on conservation and protection of fish for local communities and related stakeholders (04 training courses, 1000 poster and 45 banner)

+ Beside, implementing 02 study on LEK in conservation and development endangered fish species (the study on LEK in conservation and study for Identification catalog of endangered fish species in Tan Hung district, Long An). The project have been organise the sharing experiences workshop among government, experts and communities.

+ The mini-rescue centre have been designed to make sure the condition for the largest fish, and set up a system on monitoring, patrol, rescue of endanger fish species with the participant of community.

- The project received support from multi stakeholders than expected.

*** The challenges**

- The budget of project can not support training for all volunteer member of 08 group;

- Training is only available in the training equipped with knowledge, not to fulfill the practical training in the field because lack of budget.

- Process of monitoring the occurrence of endanger fish species is a long process and takes time. So the system set up by the project can not have effect immediately;

- Many activities regarding fish conservation and protection can not implementing in time of 01 year project as livelihoods; endanger fish species living environments; implementing conservation and protection plan of community...

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

- There are no positive or negative unexpected impacts

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 is an invaluable treasure of knowledge, if you know how to exploit and apply will bring many benefits

- State workforce is limited, while the management scope is large and complexity, apply the model with the participatory of local community will help save costs, increase accountability and democracy in the community.

- For implementing better conservation and protection should:

+ Development of additional livelihood or replaced to minimize the impact on a natural resource;

+ Beside in room training should have the practical training in the field

- Many endanger species died partly due to a lack of rescue stations

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

The aspects of the project design that contributed to its success:

- Project approach is better

- Project defined clearly stakeholders and engage them take part in all activities.

- Project have been defined the unexpected impacts (positive or negative)

- Personel for project have good experience.

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

The aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success:

- Project have received support from multi stakeholders, especialy local authority and local people.

- Project have coordinated with WWF in implementation to get objective of both

- Lang Sen's staff is dynamic and proactive in time of Implementation;

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

As mention before

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

There aren't any 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

****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 have high sustainability because of following reasons:**

- The conservation and protection of endanger fish species have been interested by government, beside establish Wetland Reserve, National Park, government have a decision no 1479/QĐ-TTg date 13/10/2008 plan 45 of inland water protection areas.
- Fisheries management with the participant of local people are encouraged by government (MARD have national guidelines on small scale fisheries co-management - decision no 67/QĐ-TCTS-KTBVNL, date 7/6/2010)
- Project have received interested of local authority and they also have a commitment to maintain and develop the result of project.
- Lang Sen Wetland Reserve have a commitment to maintain and develop the result of project.
- Community are happy and have a commitment to maintain and develop the result of project.
- The output of this project also have been maintain by further support of WWF.
- Lang Sen in time of propose for RAMSA, this is a good condition for sustainability of project.

*** Replicability**

- Model is set in the project can be replicated for many protected areas, national parks and other inland waters.
- The model of systematize the fishers LEK of project will be a case study to develop policy for government.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

There aren't 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.

- Project have propaganda for community on ban the use of destroyed fishing gear and limited use of plant protection product in the waters around protected areas to protect habitats for endanger species.
- Coordinate with WWF to develop sustainable livelihoods model for community to reduce impact to living environment of endanger species.

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

(1 st November 2012, to 30 th November 2013)

**Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.**

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.				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?				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.				
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity 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.	YES			

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 L a n d o w n e r s	S u b s i s t e n c e e c 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 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	I n c r e a s e d f o o f s u s t a i n a b l e f i s h i n g h ...	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 c h n o l o g y i n l a n d o r o t h e r n a t u r a l r e s o u r c e s 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 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 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 a c c e s s t o t r a d i t i o n 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 u e t o s t r e n g t h e n e d c i v i l s o c i e t y ...	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 i n g a n d 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										
Vinh Dai commune	x	x	x					x	x				x	x					x	x		
Vinh Loi commune	x	x	x					x	x				x	x						x	x	
Total	2	2	2					2	2				2	2					2	2		

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

NO

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.ceph.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Tuong Phi Lai

Organization name: Research Centre for Resources and Rural Development (RECERD)

Mailing address: No 23 Lane 1 Van Phu Urban Zone Ha Dong District Ha Noi Viet Nam

Tel: 84-043 25 95 872

Fax: 84-043 25 95 872

E-mail: recerd@gmail.com