

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Wildlife Conservation Society
Project Title:	Community Incentives for Conservation in the Tonle Sap
Grant Number:	64101
CEPF Region:	Indo-Burma II
Strategic Direction:	4 Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas
Grant Amount:	\$533,637.00
Project Dates:	April 01, 2014 - September 30, 2018
Date of Report:	November 29, 2018

Implementation Partners

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

Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) – recipient of capacity building, trained farmers to grow SRP rice

Sam Veasna Centre (SVC) – recipient of capacity building, trained communities to provide ecotourism services to tourists

Community Management Committees/Community Protected Area Committees – recipient of capacity building, coordinated project activities at the village level

Ministry of Environment (MoE) – key government partner for protected area management, zoning and management planning

Conservation Impacts

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

The project made progress in all of its broad objectives, although that progress was not as rapid as was anticipated during the design phase (see below). Community-based protected area management institutions were strengthened throughout the landscape through the provision of training and support to the processes of transitioning to Community Protected Area (CPA) committees. Unlike the Community Management Committees that these replaced, the CPA committees are recognized by government, and therefore have an official role in protected area

management. As a result of the project, Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) is now a financially self-sustaining local NGO, which links farmers to markets in a way that promotes biodiversity conservation through products such as Ibis Rice and SRP.


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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
In the Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone Priority Corridor communities are empowered to engage in conservation and management of Priority Key Biodiversity Areas, therefore safeguarding populations of threatened species.	The project made good progress towards this impact, strengthening community structures and civil society to enable them to safeguard key populations of threatened species.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
- Management structures developed and propagated to create an appropriate operating environment for community engagement in management of KBAs in formal protected areas: KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor (12,659 ha), KMH25 Prek Toal (39,873 ha), KMH33 Stung Sen-Santuk-Baray (109,081 ha) and KMH34 Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay (53,543 ha).	The project completed this process in KMH33 Stung-Sen, through development of CPAs. At other sites the project provided support to existing community-based management institutions, which will be transitioned to CPA committees after the completion of the project.
- Support provided to communities to sustainably manage KBAs outside of formal protected areas: KMH10 Dei Roneat (7,251 ha), KMH23 Preah Net Preah-Kra Lanh-Pourk (69,570 ha) KMH38 Veal Srongai (5,873 ha) and KBA KMH35 Stung/Prasat Balang (100,675 ha).	The project supported communities to sustainably manage KBAs outside of formal protected areas. This meant that habitats and areas that are vital for priority species, such as Bengal Florican, were maintained.
- Scaling-up of proven conservation payment programs provides financial motivation for communities to engage in conservation and management activities at KBAs.	The number of farmers taking part in conservation incentive programs grew rapidly during the project. Families in various sites took part in wildlife conservation activities as a result.
- The capacity of two local civil society groups - whose involvement in the project institutionalizes community participation in conservation - is built so that they are financially and operationally sustainable.	The project built the capacity of SVC and SMP such that SMP is financially and operationally sustainable and SVC is operationally sustainable. SMP in particular grew during the project to be one of the most effective local NGOs in Cambodia.

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



Early in the project the management of most of the project sites was transferred from Forestry Administration (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) to Ministry of Environment. This meant that they had to rapidly transition to a new legal structure, which brought challenges as well as opportunities. For instance, the management planning process at Ang Trapeang Thmor (which was quite advanced) had to be abandoned and re-started. However, this jurisdictional change brought the opportunity for much greater community participation in management, through zoning and CPA committees, which was one of the main aims of the project. Overall we believe that the change has been positive, but it has meant that the project did not achieve all of its aims due to time delays. WCS will continue project activities with funds leveraged as a result of the CEPF investment in the landscape so although the activities have been delayed all of the project aims will eventually be achieved.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

During the project there was a major El Nino event and Prek Toal experienced the worst fires in living memory. These threatened to completely destroy the waterbird colony. CEPF provided additional funding through this ongoing project to support fire-fighting efforts. These were ultimately successful, and the most critical areas of habitat were saved thanks to this timely support. As a result, the numbers of breeding waterbirds have remained stable.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Protected area management effectiveness enhanced in four Priority KBAs (Ang Trapeang Thmor, Prek Toal, Stung Sen-Santuk-Baray (Baray-Chong Duong BFCAs) and Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay (Stoung-Chikraeng BFCAs) through enhanced community engagement	1.1	Community management committees established in four additional villages at ATT	The project supported community management committees in two villages in ATT, and established one additional community management committee to represent the seven villages of Kon Kleng to the north of the reserve.
1	Protected area management effectiveness enhanced in four Priority KBAs (Ang Trapeang Thmor, Prek Toal, Stung Sen-Santuk-Baray (Baray-Chong Duong BFCAs) and Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay (Stoung-Chikraeng BFCAs) through enhanced community engagement	1.2	Management plan produced to formalize the role of community management committees in management of ATT	Owing to jurisdictional changes this was not achieved, however it will be implemented over the next three years.
1	Protected area	1.3	Management	The management plan for the BFCAs in under

	management effectiveness enhanced in four Priority KBAs (Ang Trapeang Thmor, Prek Toal, Stung Sen-Santuk-Baray (Baray-Chong Duong BFCAs) and Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay (Stoung-Chikraeng BFCAs) through enhanced community engagement		plan produced to formalise the role of community management committees in the management of BFCAs	development. The zoning plan is complete, and based on the regulations of the functional zones a management plan will be produced.
1	Protected area management effectiveness enhanced in four Priority KBAs (Ang Trapeang Thmor, Prek Toal, Stung Sen-Santuk-Baray (Baray-Chong Duong BFCAs) and Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay (Stoung-Chikraeng BFCAs) through enhanced community engagement	1.4	Community management committees meet at least twice yearly with protected area managers at ATT, Stoung-Chikraeng BFCA, Baray-Chong Duong BFCA and Prek Toal	At all sites, community management committees met almost monthly with protected area managers.
1	Protected area management effectiveness enhanced in four Priority KBAs (Ang Trapeang Thmor, Prek Toal, Stung Sen-Santuk-Baray	1.5	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores show an increase in management effectiveness at Ang	METT scores showed an increase in management effectiveness at all sites except Prek Toal. This was because Prek Toal was negatively impacted by the process of decentralization during the project, which meant a transfer of management responsibility from national level Ministry of Environment to provincial level Department of Environment. Management lines at Prek Toal are still unclear, because although all protected areas are now managed under provincial Departments of

	(Baray-Chong Duong BFCAs) and Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay (Stoung-Chikraeng BFCAs) through enhanced community engagement		Trapeang Thmor, Prek Toal, Baray-Chong Duong and Stoung-Chikraeng protected areas over the lifetime of the project	Environment, Prek Toal is the core area of a Biosphere Reserve that spans six provinces and is under the responsibility of national level Ministry of Environment. This lack of clarity has been disruptive, and moreover provincial Department of Environment staff have less capacity than national staff.
2	Community managed conservation areas established and/or supported in three Priority KBAs (KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, KMH10 Dei Roneat)	2.1	Local level regulations to promote sustainable management of resources and prevent hunting are developed and enforced in one Community Forest at ATT	Local level regulations were developed, and the community and Department of Environment now undertake joint patrols of the Community Forest throughout the year to enforce no-hunting regulations.
2	Community managed conservation areas established and/or supported in three Priority KBAs (KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, KMH10 Dei Roneat)	2.2	One Community Protected Area established and managed at Prek Toal	The Community Protected Area has not been established at Prek Toal, owing to institutional issues with management of the site. All of the paperwork and community consultation has been completed, and the documents are with the Ministry of Environment.
2	Community managed conservation areas established and/or supported in three Priority KBAs (KMH1 Ang	2.3	Community based waterbird protection model (developed at Prek Toal) replicated at Dei Roneat	The Oriental Darter and Lesser Adjutant colony at Dei Roneat was protected by community rangers annually, following the model developed at Prek Toal. Dei Roneat is located within a Community Fishery managed by the Fisheries Administration. Currently, the waterbird protection arrangements are informal – the birds are protected by community rangers (collection of eggs and chicks of these species is illegal under law because they are protected species, not because they are in a

	Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, KMH10 Dei Roneat)			protected area) – but the area in which they are located is not protected
2	Community managed conservation areas established and/or supported in three Priority KBAs (KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, KMH10 Dei Roneat)	2.4	In at least four Community Forests used by Bengal Florican, local level regulations to promote sustainable use of natural resources and prevent hunting are developed	Local level regulations were developed and enforced by joint teams of local people and Department of Environment rangers at four sites used by Bengal Floricans during the non-breeding season: Prey Ou Kambot Community Forest (389 ha) Prey Samaki Community Forest (624 ha); Srae Prey Community Forest (825 ha); and Trapeang Lapeak Community Forest (383 ha). These are all located in KMH35 Stoung/Prasat Balang KBA.
2	Community managed conservation areas established and/or supported in three Priority KBAs (KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, KMH10 Dei Roneat)	2.5	Forest fires raging in Prek Toal during the exceptional dry-season of 2016 are extinguished	The forest fires of the 2016 El Nino were successfully extinguished. Although there was considerable damage to the flooded forest, the main waterbird colony was saved.
3	Management of Priority KBAs by communities incentivized through scaling-up of proven conservation payment programs in three Priority KBAs KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, and KMH34	3.1	Supply chain for Ibis Rice, linking participating farmers and marketing centres, established or maintained in at least four communes within two Priority KBAs (KMH1 Ang	At Tonle Sap Inundation Zone KBAs Ibis Rice was replaced with Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) rice. The supply chain for SRP rice was expanded.

	Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay		Trapeang Thmor and KMH34 Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay)	
3	Management of Priority KBAs by communities incentivized through scaling-up of proven conservation payment programs in three Priority KBAs KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, and KMH34 Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay	3.2	At least three well-trained guides and sufficient local people with other relevant tourism service skills exist at each ecotourism site	Training was provided to local guides at all of the ecotourism sites (with a focus on Stoung-Chikreang BFCAs and ATT) so that local people could receive financial benefits from showing birds to tourists.
3	Management of Priority KBAs by communities incentivized through scaling-up of proven conservation payment programs in three Priority KBAs KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, and KMH34 Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay	3.3	Ecotourism facilities expanded in at least two KBAs and potential for expansion to additional KBAs evaluated	We evaluated the potential to expand ecotourism facilities, and a decision was made not to improve facilities at the BFCAs, because of fears that it could encourage more buildings to be built in the grasslands. Improvements were made to the visitor facilities in ATT and Prek Toal.
3	Management of Priority KBAs by communities incentivized through scaling-up of proven conservation	3.4	At least 40 community members receive financial incentives for waterbird nest	Each year, more than 40 community members received financial incentives to protect nests at the large waterbird colony in Prek Toal, and to protect nests of the Bengal Florican in the BFCAs.

	payment programs in three Priority KBAs KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, and KMH34 Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay		protection at two KBAs	
3	Management of Priority KBAs by communities incentivized through scaling-up of proven conservation payment programs in three Priority KBAs KMH1 Ang Trapeang Thmor, KMH25 Prek Toal, and KMH34 Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay	3.5	Threatened bird species populations stable or increasing at Priority KBAs	In Prek Toal, despite the fires the waterbird population is stable (Milky Stork: 2 nests in 2017, compared with 2 in 2014. Greater Adjutant: 25 nests in 2017, compared with 24 in 2014. Lesser Adjutant: 28 nests in 2017, compared with 35 in 2014. Painted Stork: 298 nests in 2017, compared with 221 in 2014; Spot-billed Pelican: 177 nests in 2017, compared with 143 in 2014. Oriental Darter: 743 nests in 2016, compared with 620 in 2014. Asian Openbill: 1,367 nests in 2017, compared with 620 in 2014). In Stung-Chikreang BFCA the population of Bengal Floricans is stable (44 displaying males in 2018, compared with 46 in 2014), despite ongoing declines elsewhere.
4	Local communities supported to effectively manage habitats and conserve threatened species across the Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone Priority Corridor	4.1	At relevant sites, local level regulations developed to protect Bengal Florican and large waterbirds, and to promote sustainable use of natural resources outside the BFCAs in the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone KBAs	The project worked with local communities to develop local level regulations to protect the Bengal Florican and other threatened birds. These regulations aimed to end the hunting of birds in rice fields, and to reduce the use of pesticides in areas that are important for Bengal Florican.
4	Local	4.2	At relevant	The project created three Community Protected Area

	communities supported to effectively manage habitats and conserve threatened species across the Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone Priority Corridor		sites, community management committees established	(CPA) committees at Stoung-Chikreang BFCA and will replicate this model at the other sites to replace the existing community management committees. Unlike community management committees, CPA committees have a legal right to take part in the management of protected areas.
5	Two local NGOs, SVC and SMP, are financially and operationally independent and able to mobilize grassroots support for conservation interventions, through targeted capacity building and sub-grants awarded and overseen by WCS	5.1	SVC has sufficient staff (management, financial, administrative and guides) with appropriate skills to fulfill its mission	As a result of capacity building and other support during the project, SVC's staff is sufficient to fulfill its mission. Ongoing training of the bookings manager is needed, because there has been considerable turnover in this role over the past five years.
5	Two local NGOs, SVC and SMP, are financially and operationally independent and able to mobilize grassroots support for conservation interventions, through targeted capacity building and sub-grants awarded and overseen by WCS	5.2	SMP has sufficient staff (management, financial, administrative and guides) with appropriate skills to fulfill its mission	As a result of capacity building and other support during the project, SVC has a large and rapidly growing staff, with sufficient skills to fulfill its mission. SVC now have a field office and a Phnom Penh office, and are managing a range of grants to link communities with markets that value wildlife conservation.

5	Two local NGOs, SVC and SMP, are financially and operationally independent and able to mobilize grassroots support for conservation interventions, through targeted capacity building and sub-grants awarded and overseen by WCS	5.3	SVC is financially self-sustaining	SVC reached a point where it was self-sustaining at the mid-point of the project. However, a number of the senior guides left to set up their own bird guiding organization, and this has set SVC back and it is now no longer financially self-sustaining. SVC has identified what is needed to become self-sustaining again, and is developing a business plan with which to plan expansion.
5	Two local NGOs, SVC and SMP, are financially and operationally independent and able to mobilize grassroots support for conservation interventions, through targeted capacity building and sub-grants awarded and overseen by WCS	5.4	SMP is financially self-sustaining	SMP is self-sustaining, and now requires grants only for expansion.
5	Two local NGOs, SVC and SMP, are financially and operationally independent and able to mobilize grassroots support for conservation interventions, through targeted	5.5	Sub-grants to SVC and SMP awarded and monitored by WCS	The sub-grants to SVC and SMP were awarded and monitored by WCS without any issues.

	capacity building and sub-grants awarded and overseen by WCS			
5	Two local NGOs, SVC and SMP, are financially and operationally independent and able to mobilize grassroots support for conservation interventions, through targeted capacity building and sub-grants awarded and overseen by WCS	5.6	Civil Society Tracking Tool scores show an increase in organizational capacity of SMP and SVC over the lifetime of the project	Civil Society Tracking Tool scores showed an increase in organizational capacity of SMP and SVC over the lifetime of the project. The increase was greater for SMP, which reflects the better situation that it is in relative to SVC.
5	Two local NGOs, SVC and SMP, are financially and operationally independent and able to mobilize grassroots support for conservation interventions, through targeted capacity building and sub-grants awarded and overseen by WCS	5.7	SVC has at least ten well-trained guides and sufficient capacity to develop ecotourism at new sites	SVC has a sufficient number of guides, and senior guides now train the junior guides, such that it is able to increase the number of guides and the capacity of guides as needed to fulfill its mission. SVC is developing ecotourism at Bakan (in the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone) and training community members there to be local guides.
5	Two local NGOs, SVC and SMP, are financially and operationally independent and	5.8	SMP staff are able to introduce and manage Ibis Rice at new villages	SMP has well trained staff, who are able to introduce Ibis Rice or SRP rice (depending on the context) to new villages. They no longer need WCS support to expand their operations.

	able to mobilize grassroots support for conservation interventions, through targeted capacity building and sub-grants awarded and overseen by WCS			
6	Project is compliant with the CEPF Social Safeguard Policies	6.1	Semi-annual safeguard monitoring reports submitted to CEPF, including summary of any grievances raised and remedial actions taken (if required)	Semi-annual safeguard monitoring reports were produced and submitted to CEPF. No grievances were raised.

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

The zoning of Stoung-Chikreang BFCA was completed, and this process will serve as a template for the zoning of small protected areas, of which there are a number of others within the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone. Zoning small protected areas is particularly difficult, because there are typically a large number of people who use them, but at the same time the protected areas are typically vital for certain species. Agreement needs to be sought from a range of stakeholders, and the key people brought into the management structure.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

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

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

It is not always easy to predict how successful organizational capacity building will be. At the beginning of the project, SVC looked to be the much more likely than SMP to achieve financial sustainability by the end of the project. However, many of the SVC guides left during the project to form their own ecotourism organization – Cambodia Bird Guides Association (CBGA) – and SVC has required rebuilding as a result. Nonetheless, CBGA retains many of the characteristics of SVC, including a commitment to supporting community-based conservation, and so they can be said to have benefitted from the CEPF project as well. SMP have grown rapidly and are now able to handle grants to expand Ibis Rice and SRP in key biodiversity areas throughout Cambodia.

Sustainability / Replication

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

During the project the management jurisdiction for ATT and the BFCAs switched from Forestry Administration to Ministry of Environment. This created new opportunities for institutionalizing community-based organisations and government management structures at these protected areas. The project began to do this, and this work will be continued over the next three years with co-financing.

Safeguards

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

In correspondence with CEPF it was decided that the above project might possibly trigger the CEPF safeguard policy at one of its main target sites (Prek Toal) and one of its smaller target sites (Dei Roneat). CEPF funded project activities do include support to some law enforcement activities involving involuntary restrictions on wildlife collection, primarily waterbird eggs and chicks, and the prevention of disturbance to breeding colonies of these birds by limiting access immediately adjacent to the bird colonies for other natural resource collection and fishing activities. In the Process Framework the focus was put on participatory monitoring of potential impacts, with mitigation activities only required if the impacts become significant.

The project continued to enforce current involuntary restrictions of access to resources with no changes made to restrictions discussed with communities during village meetings. No people attempting to exploit waterbird eggs or chicks were encountered. No cases were identified where

compensatory measures were required, fish can be caught legally in the Community Fisheries that surround the Core Area.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

We are grateful for the advice and support that we received from CEPF during the project. WCS's work in the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone, and that of our partners, truly feels like a growing partnership between us and CEPF.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)
\$6,120,000.00

Type of funding

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

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

Fundacion Ensemble (A) \$120,000


MacArthur Foundation (A) \$100,000

Margaret A Cargill Philanthropies (ongoing grant – A) \$500,000

Margaret A Cargill Philanthropies (regional grant – C) \$2,000,000

KfW (B) \$500,000 to WCS, \$2,000,000 to Ministry of Environment for management of Prek Toal

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy



CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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

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