

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	Environment and Health Education Organization (EHEO).
<b>Project Title</b>	Empowering communities for resource conservation and their own development.
<b>CEPF GEM No.</b>	CEPF-049
<b>Date of Report</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2017

**CEPF Hotspot:** Indo-Burma  
**Strategic Direction:** SD8 "Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels."  
**Grant Amount:** USD 20.000  
**Project Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jan - 31<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2016

### 1. Implementation Partners for this Project:

- **Community-Based Organizations:** we worked with men's, women's and youth groups from 7 target villages. The groups were previously established and supported by EHEO. These groups joined to resolve social issues and issues regarding natural resources management in the communities of Prey Lang protected area.
- **Prey Lang Network:** we worked with them to protect the environment and natural resource of Prey Lang in the project area.
- **Local Authorities:** we collaborated with village chiefs, commune councilors, district administration and the provincial administration to conduct meetings, trainings and dissemination events to community, help to monitor saving groups and patrolling.
- **NGO forum:** EHEO is a member of NGO forum. We attended the forums conducted by NGO forum and reported issues regarding project implementation to give information to other partners and seek solutions.
- **BNK (Khmer Organization Network in Kampong Thom province)** played similar roles as NGO forum but it worked only at the provincial level.

### Conservation Impacts

### 2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile

This project addressed Investment Priorities 8.1 "Support networking activities that enable collective civil society responses to priority and emerging threats" and 8.2 "Provide core support for the organizational development of domestic civil society organizations".

- Develop community savings groups that assist communities have livelihood security and to help fund protection of forest (a percentage of interest payments on loans going to community forest protection activities):
- Expansion and strengthening of the community groups through regular meetings and activities to tackle common problems in the community.
- Support communities to be involved in a strong network for the broader Prey Lang Network.
- Support meetings to prepare regulations, internal roles and responsibilities for the various levels of community collaboration.
- Conduct Forest Crime Patrols to prevent loggers and plantation logging and to block sand and wildlife extraction.
- Encourage youth to share experiences related to forest management, transparency and natural resource management.
- Support women's groups to exchange experiences with Kui indigenous communities challenged by a Chinese company's concession for sugar cane cultivation.
- Support use of social media, for information exchange and advocacy
- Supporting the communities to have the ability to restore forests and operate a nursery.
- Strengthening EHEO management and finance systems.

### 3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

Community members in the seven target villages are more confident in advocating on big issues. They are less afraid of people with power, are able to participate in meetings of their commune councils by themselves, and are able to organize meetings themselves. Target communities are better able to assert their rights, organize the community network, villages' forums, exchange studies, link with other networks for support, conduct patrolling activities, and prepare plans by themselves. Community members have a more clear understanding of the importance of protecting their land and livelihoods rights, as well as understand their rights in using natural resources. All of these capacities that have been built through this project will continue after the end of the project. In addition, communities are effectively supported in these community organizing and advocacy efforts by a stronger and more stable EHEO.

#### Planned Goal

The residents of seven target villages (Kbal Kla, Sre Chong, Chhuk, Sampor Thom, Sre Vel Ket, Cham Svay, and Sam Ong in Sandan District, Kompong Thom Province) are better able to protect the natural resources on which they depend, and secure their livelihoods, through stronger village-level civil society organizations, able to work more effectively with neighboring villages.

### 4. Actual progress toward Goal at completion

In total, 21 patrolling groups from 7 target villages were established and are fully functioning. Each patrolled the community protected areas regularly, and all groups joined to conduct patrolling 3 times each month in Prey Lang protected area. They also engaged in forest restoration and management activities.

Seven target villages nominated 14 saving groups, and 3 village fund groups are now better functioning. Some group members used their saved money to generate family income such as through opening new grocery stores and expanding crop production that can supply 3 villages. We integrated the education and hygiene activities supported by another donor in the savings meetings and capacity building program. As a result, we noted that 60% of people in the target villages changed their behavior regarding health and education as they now have access to clean water, latrines, and sent their children to school. These results impacted from EHEO's previous interventions, since 2007.

#### Planned Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Village savings groups are strengthened, enabling the use of income from interest generated to support the protection of community forests (CFs).
- **Objective 2:** 7 village-level Civil Society Organizations (people's groups) are strengthened, and so are better able to solve local problems (particularly regarding community forestry and natural resource management in Prey Lang forest).
- **Objective 3:** Members of target communities have increased capacity for rainforest restoration.
- **Objective 4:** EHEO is a strong and stable organization that effectively supports communities

### 5. Actual progress toward Objectives at completion

14 savings groups were strengthened through training on savings management, such as the principle of saving, recording savings, and interest. They can now take the lead in facilitating monthly meetings of the savings groups, and contribute the interest from saving to spend on social activities and building toilets, kitchens, wells, and tree nurseries.

The 21 women, men, and youth groups (total 315 members, including 150 women) were restructured, with clarified roles and ground rules, and working modalities. As a result, the groups conducted meetings every three months to discuss issues related to patrolling, illegal acts of forest cutting, land scraping, sand pumping, and wildlife poaching. In 2016, they confiscated 12 chainsaws, 2 small tractors, 60 logs, 230 traps, and 2.4 cubes of timber. The 9 illegal offenders arrested were contracted with education and released.

70 community members (including 6 females) received two training courses. The first course was about tree seed germination and seeding transplant to nurseries, and the second course was on techniques for planting and caring for tree seedlings. After the training, they built two nurseries and planted 200 small trees in the community protected forest.

The EHEO accounting system has been improved through upgrading to new software to align the vouchers. The finance and accounting staff members are familiar with using Quickbooks, enabling them to prepare financial reports and record expenditure, etc. The process of EHEO financial and staff policy review has started, and it will be completed by March 2017. The staff communication and coordination with stakeholders is improving through daily performance and capacity building through English literacy training at the university, and report writing.

## **6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its goal and objectives**

### **a) Success:**

- The project was designed with participation of target villages, so their needs were identified and the project designed in response to them. Therefore, the communities had a high level of ownership in the project implementation.
- The project team had the necessary capacity to implement the project successfully, and was committed to deliver the planned project activities. Sometimes they worked about 15 working days without taking holidays or weekends, and they travelled long distances (from 78km to 100km) in the field.
- The project started with an orientation workshop for relevant stakeholders such as communities, local authorities, line offices of provincial departments, NGO partners, and other networks so that they had a better understanding of the project and actively engaged in the project implementation.
- The Board of EHEO actively provided guidance, direction and governance in project management and implementation of the organization, to make sure that the project was implemented effectively and efficiently.

### **b) Challenges:**

- Methodologies of working to support the community by some NGO partners were different from each other. That generated some misunderstandings, and reduced participation by some community members in implementing the project activities.
- The Current modality of payment (80% + 20% upon completion) for project implementation created difficulties in implementing the action because EHEO had no extra fund to cover 20% to complete the project implementation.
- Funds from CEPF to support the planned activities were not flexible to implement other activities that also would have contributed to the achievement of project objectives
- The capacity of the EHEO management team on strategic planning, fundraising and proposal development, and English language is still very limited
- The materials, facilities and equipment supported by the project were not sufficient
- The funding supported by the project was not enough to respond to the needs of target communities as identified during project planning.

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

We integrated the education and hygiene activities supported by another donor into the savings group meetings and capacity building program. As a result, we noted that 60% of people in target villages changed their behavior in health and education as they now have access to clean water, latrines, and sent their children to school.

Some community leaders who were strengthened by the project to have roles in natural resource management left the groups to find personal interest with some government staff and land and economic companies who support the illegal acts.

## **Project Activities and Deliverables**

**Objective1:** Village savings groups are strengthened, enabling the use of income from interest generated to support the protection of community forests (CFs).

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Activity 1.1:</i> Visit households, and encourage them to join the savings groups by explaining the benefits.	First meeting held, with participation of at least 25 households. Second meeting held. Third meeting held. Fourth meeting held.
<i>Activity 1.2:</i> Conduct quarterly meetings with savings groups, to monitor their progress.	First meeting held with 2 saving groups in seven villages. Second meeting held Third meeting held Fourth meeting held.
<i>Activity 1.3:</i> Organize a training event on book-keeping (theory, and practical examples) for representatives of 14 savings groups.	Training event held, including at least 70 participants
<i>Activity 1.4:</i> Conduct follow-up coaching sessions on book-keeping for representatives of 14 savings groups, to assist them with implementing what they have learned.	7 coaching sessions held

### **8. Describe the activities implemented and deliverables met under Objective 1**

#### *Activity 1.1:*

89 households inside and outside of the groups were visited by project staff to discuss and encourage them to participate in saving groups.

#### *Activity 1.2:*

We conducted 4 quarterly meetings with all saving groups to follow-up on their progress. The main topics discussed were on 1) – Saving record, 2) Saving fund, and 3) Problems and solutions

#### *Activity 1.3:*

We conducted a training course on bookkeeping at each target village to 14 saving groups of 7 villages. The course duration was 1 day per village with a total of 84 participants includes 46 females. The training focused on:

- The benefits of saving, rate and calculation (income), and expenditure.
- Actual practice on saving recording form.

#### *Activity 1.4:*

We conducted 7 coaching sessions to saving groups to monitor book keeping , interest rates, expense on patrolling and village traditional festivals and to collect the problems for bigger groups with participation of men and women.

**Objective 2:** 7 village-level Civil Society Organizations (people's groups) are strengthened, and so are better able to solve local problems (particularly regarding community forestry and natural resource management in Prey Lang forest).

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Activity 2.1:</i> Conduct a meeting with representatives of the people's groups, to help them develop internal regulations and define the roles and duties of group representative.	Meeting held. Internal regulations and roles/duties included in meeting minutes.
<i>Activity 2.2:</i> Assist 7 village-level people's groups in organizing 4 meetings to discuss their achievements and challenges (regarding community forestry, and Prey Lang forest), and to share information and experiences.	First meeting held. Second meeting held. Third meeting held. Fourth meeting held.

<i>Activity 2.3:</i> Organize team-building exercises for youth groups from 7 villages, at Jombok Hoas Center.	Team Building Exercises conducted.
<i>Activity 2.4:</i> Organize study tour for representatives of the people's groups to a community affected by land-grabbing in Pre Me Commune, Tbeng Mean Cheay District, Preah Vihear Province, to learn about their advocacy strategy and experience in community organizing.	25 representative Study tour conducted.
<i>Activity 2.5:</i> Support 7 communities to develop monthly and quarterly plans and schedules for patrolling of community forests.	7 villages have developed monthly and quarterly plans and schedules for patrolling community forests.
<i>Activity 2.6:</i> Support the attendance of 7 women from the people's groups to attend training events on the use of Social Media, organized by Organization For the Promotion of Kui Culture.	7 women have attended training workshops.

## 9. Describe the activities implemented and deliverables met under Objective 2

### *Activity 2.1:*

We organized a meeting with representatives of the people's group to develop internal regulations, and set roles and duties of group representative. The meeting was conducted on 15-20 June with total participation of 78 people (57 females). The internal rules were developed consisting of 1) Membership, 2) Monthly meeting, 3) Fund management, 4) Saving and loan disbursement, 5) Meeting agenda, 6) Role and responsibility of saving committees.

### *Activity 2.2:*

The 21 women's, men's and youth groups (total 315 members including 150 females) were restructured, with clarified roles and ground rules, and working modalities. As a result, the groups conducted meetings every three months to discuss issues related to patrolling, illegal acts of forest cutting, land scraping, sand pumping, and protected the wildlife poaching. In 2016 they confiscated 12 chainsaws, 2 small tractors, 60 logs, 230 traps, 2.4 cubes of timbers. The 9 illegal offenders arrested were contracted with education and released.

### *Activity 2.3:*

We organized a team-building exercise for youth groups from 7 target villages at Jambok Hoas Center. The total participants were 34 people (18 females). The main topics were 1) Experience sharing about group management, community participation and cooperation with local authority, 2) Group value, transparency and natural resource advantage, 3) Community analysis based on SWOT and 4) Practice on actual exercise building game.

### *Activity 2.4:*

We organized a study tour for target group representatives from 7 villages to visit Pro Me community. It is a place of Kuoy indigineous community, located in Preah Vihear province. There were a total of 27 participants (25 females). The study aimed to learn about the issue and negative impacts of land-grabbing committed by a Chinese company named Lan Fen and Roy Fen. It also aimed to share advocacy experiences, traditional culture and living conditions among Prey Lang in Sandan district and Kuoy in Pro Me community.

### *Activity 2.5:*

We supported the target villages in patrolling their community forests. The seven communities had set a schedule for daily and monthly patrolling of their community forests. They are still patrolling their community forests, after the end of this project.

### *Activity 2.6:*

Social media were trained to 14 participants (12 women). As a result, women's groups understand the benefits of social media, types of media through publishing and electronic, what to give information, what to information to be received, types of press and strategy for advocacy

**Objective 3:** Members of target communities have increased capacity for rainforest restoration.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Activity 3.1:</i> Organize a meeting to mobilize the community to participate in forest restoration	Meeting held, with at least 180 participants.
<i>Activity 3.2:</i> Organize a training event on "Tree Seed Germination and Seedling Transplant to Nursery".	Training event held, with at least 30 participants from targeted villages.
<i>Activity 3.3:</i> Organize a training event on "Techniques for Planting Tree Seedling and Caring".	Trainings event held, with at least 180 participants from target villages.
<i>Activity 3.4:</i> Build (and give technical support to the operation of) 2 tree nurseries for the production of tree seedlings for sale and for planting in community forests.	2 tree nurseries have been built and are fully operational.

#### 10. Describe the activities implemented and deliverables met under Objective 3

*Activity 3.1:*

We organized a meeting with the community to discuss forest restoration activities. 84 representatives participated (38 women) from 3 villages (Sre Chang, Kbal Kla and Sampor Thom). The meeting we discussed and agreed that:

- A plantation ceremony will be conducted at Kbal Kla village in July-August 2016 and that time take chance to construct the meeting hall in the community forest.
- The forest community meeting hall will be constructed in Sampor Thom village at Kbal Neangku, a good place surrounding by Prey Kras field, river, and will organize a ceremony in the place around July-August 2016.
- Communities requested EHEO to join this ceremony.

*Activity 3.2:*

We organized a 1-day training on seed germination and seedling transplant for 35 community members (1 woman). The training covered topics of 1) Seed selection, 2) Good seed testing, 3) Soil mixture, 4) Tree nursery preparation, 5) Bed preparation and 6) Actual practice.

*Activity 3.3:*

We organized 1-day training on planting techniques and caring, for 35 community members (5 women). The training covered 1) How to identify the zone and land to plant seedlings, 2) Caring techniques.

*Activity 3.4:*

2 places for tree nurseries was developed at two separate communities, one located at Kbal Khla forest's community, and the other at Kbal Otakong forest community located in Sampor Thom village. 10 valuable tree species were planted - Beng, Neang Nourn, Kranhoung, Cheteal, Kahoa, Trach, Chres, Pdeak, Koki, and Tatrao.

**Objective 4:** EHEO is a strong and stable organization that effectively supports communities

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Activity 4.1:</i> Recruit a new Executive Director and an Advisor.	New Executive Director and an Advisor have been recruited.
<i>Activity 4.2:</i> EHEO staff and Financial Consultant revise EHEO's finance and staff policies and salary scale, and submit to the Board for approval.	Finance and staff policies, and staff salary scale have been revised and submitted to the Board for approval.
<i>Activity 4.3:</i> Financial Consultant will train EHEO management and admin/finance staff on book-keeping and financial reporting using QuickBooks.	Training event conducted.
<i>Activity 4.4:</i> Financial Consultant will conduct training on proposal and report writing and communication skills for EHEO management.	Training event conducted.
<i>Activity 4.5:</i> Arrange for members of the EHEO management team to attend English courses, to assist communication with international donors.	Five members of EHEO management team have completed English course.

## **11. Describe the activities implemented and deliverables met under Objective 4**

### *Activity 4.1:*

An adviser was successfully recruited, although he left after 3 months of employment with EHEO. The EHEO Board were not satisfied with his work, and decided not to continue to employ him.

### *Activity 4.2:*

The process of EHEO financial and Staff policy review was started, working with the organization Silaka. It will be completed in 2017

### *Activity 4.3:*

A 4-day training course was conducted for finance and admin staff to improve their capacity on budget planning in Quickbooks, bookkeeping, and budget comparison with actual progress. This course was facilitated by a financial consultant and other 5 additional EHEO staffs were encouraged to participate in the session.

### *Activity 4.4:*

EHE Staff learned report writing with freelance consultant. The freelance consultant provided the lesson and practice to write the EHEO report and coaching EHEO staff with CEPF and SADP report.

### *Activity 4.5:*

4 EHEO staff enrolled with ANGKOR City Institute to upgrade and enhance capacity on English program course, Association Degree.

## **12. If you did not complete any activity or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?**

All planned activities were implemented, except the recruitment of a new Executive Director. However this is not affect the overall impact of the project.

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

Submitted separately:

- Training manual on "Tree Seed Germination and Seedling Transplant to Nursery".
- Training manual on Techniques for Planting Tree Seedling and Caring".
- Training module on Social Media training for woman saving groups
- Saving Book for Saving groups and set up ToR for village level people groups

## Benefits to Communities

### 14. Please describe the communities that have benefited from CEPF support

Please report on the size and characteristics of communities and the benefits that they have received, as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited **from project start to project completion**.

Community Name	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit											
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Size of Community				Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									
Kbal Khla community (Kbal Khla village)			X					X					X		X	X			X	
Kbal Khla community (Sre Chong village)			X					X					X		X	X			X	
Kbal O'takong (Sampor Thom village)	X	X	X		X			X					X		X	X				
Kbal O'thnoang community. (Sre Veal village)	X	X	X		X			X					X		X	X				
O kranhoung (Chom Svay village)	X	X	X		X			X					X		X	X				
O'das Skau (Sam Ong village)	X	X	X		X			X					X		X	X				



## **Lessons Learned**

### **15. Describe any lessons learned related to organizational development and capacity building.**

The staff number wasn't in proportion with the workload, so the management team was more involved in operations than in strategic management, networking and fund-raising activities.

### **16. Describe any lessons learned related to project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

Joined planning with community through meeting to collect inputs and real needs have contributed to the successes of project implementation.

We learned that when the project is designed with full participation from the community, the project objectives are more likely to be achieved.

There is only a project of capacity development to strengthen natural resource management, and there not any livelihood development, it cannot respond to the needs of community and bring sustainable development.

### **17. Describe any lesson learned related to project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

Joint reflection and promoting transparency in project implementation lead to increased community participation and ownership.

Increased close cooperation with local authorities at all levels through common planning, information sharing and suggestion in any intervention is bringing opportunities and favorable conditions in the implementing and support of EHEO achievements.

### **18. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community**

With participation and advocacy from community to the conservation, the government issued a sub-decree on the protection of Prey Lang and the Environmental Code, reintegration of Prey Lang from Preah Vihear Province, and the transfer of functions from Ministry from Agriculture to Ministry of Environment.

## **Sustainability / Replication**

### **19. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated**

EHEO implemented the project activities with close cooperation with the community which has strong structure and support from local authorities.

EHEO carried out its activities based on community initiative and contribution, which is a sustainable participatory approach.

EHEO does not only provide training to the community but also coaching and mentoring

**20. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or reliability**

Strengthening the collaboration with local authority in the project activities.

**Safeguards**

**21. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social and environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered**

This project did not trigger CEPF's Safeguards policies.

**Additional Funding**

**22. 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**

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount	Notes
SADP	Co- funding	\$30,000	One year.

**Additional Comments/Recommendations**

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

We request IUCN not to withhold 20% of the project budget until the project has been completed, because EHEO has no reserve funds for carrying out the planned activities.

We request IUCN to let us use remaining funds for other purposes, or new activities.

In next future, it's very happy if CEPF could provide a medium or long term grant to EHEO because the short term and small gran could not fulfill the full support and identifying impact.

Please IUCN accelerate the release of budget as quick as possible after the budget approval.

**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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