

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

April 04, 2021

CEPF Grant 111747

Grantee: WWF-Cambodia

***Project Title: AD HOC - ADvancing HOg deer Conservation in
Cambodia***

Project Location: Koh Kong and Kratie Provinces, Cambodia

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: **WWF-Cambodia**
2. Grant title: ***AD HOC - ADvancing HOg deer Conservation in Cambodia***
3. Grant number: **111747**
4. Grant amount (US dollars): **200,000**
5. Proposed dates of grant: **from 07/01/2021 until 12/31/2023**
6. Countries or territories where project is located: **Koh Kong and Kratie Provinces, Cambodia**
7. Date of preparation of this document. **April 4th, 2021**

A. Project background

WWF has been working in the project area since the re-discovery of Hog deer in 2006. WWF supports Cambodian authorities and local communities in sustainable natural resources management processes, from policy dialogue to enhanced sustainable livelihoods.

This collaborative effort culminated in 2018 when the Cambodian Ministry of Environment declared as the Prek Prasab wildlife sanctuary a 12,000-ha area where this small remaining Hog deer population had been identified. This declaration was supported by two critical elements:

- 1) no community was already living inside the newly protected area, eliminating any risk of direct restriction,
- 2) after declaration of the protected area, the 13 local communities living around the sanctuary keep their whole rights to access the protected area and sustainably collect non-timber forest products or do small-scale agriculture, which contribute significantly to the livelihoods of the poorest community members.

In addition, since 2018, WWF has supported the voluntary establishment of Community patrolling teams composed of 29 community patrolling members living in the 13 villages around the sanctuary, who dedicate a part of their time to patrolling and protecting the sanctuary from illegal activities, showing a strong community engagement to protect their natural resources.

The proposed project comes a few years after the sanctuary designation and will not affect in any way the existing rights of the local communities. The project will provide direct protection and crucial information for further steps to conserve the last two Cambodian populations of the endangered Indochinese hog deer with less than 200 remaining individuals. The project promotes a multi stake-holders approach, involving the active participation and collaboration of local authorities, scientific organizations and local communities living around the Hog deer area. A number of key activities will include Hog deer scientific field research (population size, DNA analysis...), stakeholders' workshops to agree on a Hog deer national action plan, wildlife sanctuary patrolling by community members and rangers, and local community environmental outreach sessions.

Protection of Hog deer entails protection of the endangered ecosystems the species depends on, such as increasingly threatened natural forests, grasslands and wetlands protecting from flooding or critical watersheds. Protecting Hog deer, therefore its habitat, contributes to securing long term provision of ecosystem services for the well-being of people as well as to the ecotourism attractiveness of the area, which will support local communities to generate supplementary income for their livelihoods through provision of ecotourism-based services.

B. Participatory implementation

The project will support the prevention of illegal activities inside a protected area where there is no human settlement. The project will specifically help tackle illegal hunting and persecution of threatened and legally protected species including Hog deer. Given the very small size of its population, Hog deer poaching is largely opportunistic and is certainly not a significant source of income for local communities. Therefore, preventing poaching of Hog deer will not reduce livelihoods and income within communities. Anti-poaching efforts including the removal of snares inside the sanctuary, as well as environmental awareness and behavior change within their own communities towards forest and wildlife will actually be supported by the existing 29 Community Patrolling Members (Hog deer champions).

WWF activities which may involve access restrictions of local communities are guided by WWF's framework on human rights which include WWF's Guidelines Prevention of Restriction of Rights and Involuntary Relocation and Resettlement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. These recommend measures to avoid involuntary resettlement and involuntary restriction of access and help ensure that project-affected people improve or at least restore their standard of living as a consequence of WWF-funded activities.

About this proposed project, WWF does not believe that the project will have any negative impacts on livelihoods of communities currently living in the project area or introduce involuntary restrictions on their current, and potential future, access to natural resources. Nevertheless, there is a need to ensure that any impacts are monitored and an appropriate grievance mechanism exists.

As such, WWF-Cambodia will pursue regular consultations with the 13 communities surrounding Prek Prasab Wildlife Sanctuary and ensure that community members and community leaders have regular opportunities to raise any concern with WWF Cambodia project staff.

The longer term goal beyond the proposed project is to reach a form of co-management of the sanctuary by the Provincial Department of Environment and the local communities living around PPWS.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

The project does not foresee that there will be any groups and persons eligible for assistance and mitigation measures.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

The project does not foresee that there will be any groups and persons eligible for assistance and mitigation measures.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism

Recognizing that addressing complaints in a timely and effective way helps resolve conflicts, improves mutual understanding, strengthens accountability and provides a foundation for increased collaboration, WWF has set up a clear grievance mechanism for all of its project stakeholders.

Each WWF office is responsible to develop and maintain procedures to enable individuals or groups impacted by WWF supported activities to raise and seek resolution to concerns and grievances about activities supported by WWF in that country. These procedures are customized to respect the local context, by considering localized cultural and linguistic needs and logistical constraints, as well as where possible support or supplement existing community complaints mechanisms. They must be communicated as needed to ensure that individuals and groups can easily find information about, understand, and be able to make use of the procedures.

For the proposed project, WWF will provide local communities with a means to grievance in case they feel the project triggers some form of negative impact.

The following information will be shared in printed form and local language to local communities:

- Email and telephone contact information for WWF:
Mr Chandet HORM - +855 71 60 22221 - chandet.horm@wwf.org.kh
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- The following text: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail.”

Grievances that cannot be fully addressed or resolved at project level will be escalated to WWF International’s Ombudsperson’s office, which is intended to supplement localized grievance mechanisms. It provides an impartial mechanism for parties to resolve disputes through mediation. The grievance can be lodged by an affected party, WWF management, and/or WWF staff. All parties must agree to engage in dispute resolution.

F. Implementation Arrangements

The WWF project manager will be the focal point responsible for ensuring all implementation arrangements of the complaint resolution mechanism as needed on a case-by-case basis at the project level.