

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date

CEPF Grant 112722

Grantee

NON TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFP)

Project Title

“Connecting Community Protected Areas Networks in the Northeastern Cambodia”

Project Location

**Virachey National Park and Veun Sai-Siem Pang National Park
N.E. Cambodia**

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization. NTFP
2. Grant title. Connecting Community Protected Areas Networks in the Northeastern Cambodia
3. Grant number 112722
4. Grant amount (US dollars). USD106,000
5. Proposed dates of grant. 1st of July 2022 – 30 of June 2024
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.
 - N.E. Cambodia (Stung Treng, Ratanakiri provinces) : Seven Community Protected Areas of Virachey National Park and Veun Sai-Siem Pang National Park
 - S.E Cambodia (Mondulkiri province): Phnom Lam Lear
7. Date of preparation of this document. 17th of March 2022

The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:

A. Project background

Our organization is based in the far N-E Cambodia. Since 1996, we have played a critical role in helping indigenous people secure their rights to their forests land, emphasizing a community-based approach to conservation of biodiversity hotspot. We seek to bolster key conditions such as science-based management plans, effective governance; supportive government agencies and empowered local communities.

We are the only local conservation NGO dedicated to community based conservation projects in the N.E. Cambodia. Our head office is located 45 km from the VSSP and indigenous villages.

The 3 projects phases (2007-12/ 2013-15 and 2016-19) were structured to reflect the pathway from where we were in 2007 to the changes we'd like to see in 2020. Action targets were underpinned by a theory of change reflecting a clear line-of-sight. We had focused, concrete and measurable Action Targets, so that implementation and impacts were easily monitored and assessed.

Our main goal was to obtain the registration of this forest area as a National Park, which was a long struggle until the official status was obtained in 2016.

During the first 2 phases of the project (2007-15) we initiated conservation at the Veun Sai Siem Pang forests through community engagement and environmental education (livelihoods improvement through agriculture, animal health/ animal raising, access to safe water and awareness on wildlife/forest protection among communities, schoolchildren and local authorities).

In phase 3 (CEPF-funded project, 2016-19), our strategy was to remove Veun Sai Siem Pang National Park of isolation and vulnerability by engaging Indigenous people in forest resources management. The project obtained official recognition of community protection with the creation of two Community Protected Areas (3.514ha and 1.668ha); collaboration between local communities, contributed to reducing illegal forestry and maintain gibbon population in Veun Sai Siem Pang Forest over the 3 year period. Community rangers were recognized as key actors of conservation, and patrolled with government park rangers; **208 people worked as community rangers** and undertook **63 patrols/year**, covering

average 1.500 km/year. In 2018, 20 snares were removed (vs 159 snares in 2016). 35 wild animals were rescued. The land-cover monitoring revealed an increase in dense forest cover (+**3.281 ha in the park**), against a background of forest cover loss outside of the park. A working group was established where the community wardens can bring cases of illegal activity to the attention of the local authorities. Through co-management mechanisms such as these, threats to gibbons and other threaten species within the area decreased, and 14 cases of illegal activities (such as forest clearance for agriculture and mining) were resolved.

Important steps have been undertaken to establish a solid foundation upon which further management actions can reinforce this new National Park home to more than **250 species** of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds including **10 Critically Endangered Species**.

As noted above, NTFP NGO has a long history of working with Indigenous Peoples in Ratanakiri, Stung Treng and Preah Vihear provinces.

At the site of Veun Sai Siem Pang NP and its five buffering villages NTFP NGO has worked closely with, and has a strong presence amongst, the indigenous communities where we have supported local ethnic minorities to protect their natural resources and develop alternative livelihoods. All activities were conducted in cooperation with local community members, protected area managers, commune and district authorities.

This project pursues the following goals

Long-term impact:

By 2030 the condition of unique biodiversity and ecosystem services of Veunsai-Siempang and Virachey National Parks is stable or improving through increased empowerment of indigenous people' Community Protected Areas, networking and engagement of the authorities.

By 2027, the indigenous people from 20 villages of the 7 CPAs have improved representation and decision-making in the CPA's governance structures, and have improved recognition in the roles of natural resource management.

Short-term impact:

By the end of the project, CBOs responsible for management of at least 5 CPA demonstrate increased capacity to conserve and manage the wildlife and biodiversity, based on the pre-test and post-test scores.

- By the end of the project, a network of CPA (VeunSai-Virachey National Parks) is created, strengthened and represented at provincial, national and regional level, based on the CEPF Network Capacity Tracking Tool.

In terms of biodiversity

- By the end of the project, threats of the biodiversity within the 7 CPAs are reduced in terms of the intensity of snaring (nb of snares removed and destroyed, nb of wildlife released) and incidence of fires (nb of cases solved)

In terms of human well-being

- By the end of the project, the indigenous communities around the 7 CPAs are increased income and food security in terms of the increase harvest of Malva nuts, and resin.

B. Participatory implementation

The primary focus of the project is to utilize participatory community-based approaches to conservation of the parks biodiversity that have been implemented by POHKAO and NTFP since 2009. All aspects of the project will maintain a participatory focus, through consultations with the communities and relevant stakeholders, so that communities can make informed decisions and can be empowered to have active roles in the decision-making processes regarding natural resource use and conservation. NTFP project team members have extensive experience with conducting community consultations and implementing participatory methodologies, as well as in education, awareness-raising, and capacity building.

At Veun Sai Siem Pang National Park, NTFP conducted awareness-raising activities and participatory consultations and cooperation with five communities prior to and during the previous CEPF grant project - *Community Networks for Gibbon Protection at Veun Sai Siem Pang National Park*. Five Community Based Organizations were created (in each villages) through election of its president and members. CBOs roles were 1/ to ensure representation of community members (including vulnerable /persons, young and women) 2/ to organize community patrols in the park and report to the project team 3/ to represent CPAs rights and seek assistance of local authorities (to enforce the law when offences are reported by CBOs) during meetings conducted every three months at commune levels. CBOs at VSSP being mechanisms for reaching consent amongst local communities and support among local authorities.

The working group (CBOs/CPAs representatives-DoE staff-local authorities), through its quarterly meetings, has solved many cases, conflicts, repelled even powerful and supportive intruders, and strengthened the network of the two CPAs.

Through this project, we propose to follow exactly the same process for the additional 5 CPAs (the 5 CPAs that will join the existing VSSP network to form the Veunsai Virachey Network).

In total, 3 working groups will be operational: at Siempang, Veunsai and Taveng town.

The aim is to bring the 3 working groups together in a first workshop in Banlung city, to define their common strategy and in a final workshop to present their recommendations and requests for support to the park and FA authorities.

The process is designed to ensure conservation actions are determined by local stakeholders, and as such there has been full participation and consent in determining the activities included in this element of the grant application. NTFP will seek to ensure that opinions and input are sought from a diversity of groups (regarding age, gender, ethnicity, income level, etc.) during community consultations and during the participatory processes, and that the distinct priorities of each group are taken into account during project implementation.

The process will be conducted in the Kavet minority languages for the 5 additional CPAs villages where consultation meetings are held to ensure full understanding of the project objectives and activities. We will ensure representation of women in the process. Consent will be documented by the CBOs/CPAs structures.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

Indigenous groups in the North Eastern Cambodia that have been affected by forest destruction, already experience considerable disadvantage, including high levels of poverty, lack of infrastructure and access to government services, creating a situation of structural marginalization and a lack of education, healthcare, opportunities, political participation and representation.

All the 21 Indigenous communities with which this project will work are subject to specific vulnerabilities (ref. the Social Assessment) and rely on forest rice cultivation and forest products for subsistence

The project will strengthens Indigenous communities' ability to protect their CPAs and Sacred Forested Mountains within the two National Parks (ecosystem services improved), while the participatory consultation process will seek to identify and respond to issues specific to Indigenous people. The traditional knowledge, customs and culture of Kavet/Brao communities on natural resources management, will be fully respected and considered during the planning of CPAs. The relevant actions to revival the relevant cultures will be encouraged to be considered and integrated into the CPAs Network Strategy & management plans.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

The engagement of local communities in the proposed conservation actions will be conducted on a wholly voluntary basis with full community consultation and participation. The main project approach is to empower local communities to strengthen own-managed community protected areas to conserve their natural and cultural heritages and reconcile development and conservation needs. It may change the governance regime of local communities and enhance their consensus and commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Nevertheless, it may bring challenges to a specific group of villagers in the communities whose livelihoods have high dependence on the unsustainable use of natural resources in the past but have limited resource and capacity to develop alternative livelihoods.

To avoid potential adverse impacts, the project will assist the CBOs to conduct a survey to understand the current use pattern of natural resources in the communities and identify the vulnerable groups that may be affected by the proposed project activities. The potential negative impacts will be assessed with an alternative scheme developed and proposed to the affected groups by working closely with the leaders and key representatives of the local communities.

We will hold quarterly meeting sessions with community/CPA/local authorities/DoE participants to assess the community response to the project, including encouraging community members to share any negative aspects of the project, such as regarding restrictions on access to natural resources. Ensuring social safeguards are a high priority for NTFP and we will make assessments at least quarterly, based on the ongoing monitoring of social safeguard issues.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

NTFP will ensure that community members receive contact information for all NTFP field personnel, as well as for key partner organization personnel, and the CEPF Regional Implementation Team at IUCN (public notices, public announcements in Khmer language displayed at villages' public houses). Community members will be encouraged to contact NTFP, or the RIT immediately if project-related conflicts or grievances arise.

Before, during, and after project implementation, we will consult with community members to discuss their suggestions, misgivings or concerns about the project. We will use an adaptive management approach to project implementation to make adjustments as needed according to conservation needs, to incorporate community members' suggestions, and to reduce the likelihood of potential conflicts or grievances arising from the project. If grievances arise, we will work with the community members involved, with participation from other organizations where appropriate, to resolve conflicts and reach mutual agreements between all parties. Any grievances raised will be brought to the attention of CEPF Grant Director and the RIT within 15 days, together with a plan for remedial action.

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 or via the CI Ethics Hotline (toll-free telephone line: +1-866-294-8674 / secure web portal: <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/10680/index.html>)

F. Implementation Arrangements

| | Component | | Deliverables | Activities | Timeline | Project staff |
|---|--|---------|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| # | Description | Sub - # | Deliverables' Description | Activities' Description | | |
| 1 | <i>Consolidate the protection of Veun Sai Virachey CPAS network by 2024 through co management mechanisms with MoE/DoE and local authorities.</i> | 1.1 | 2 Letters of agreement signed with PDoE in Stung Treng and PDoE in Ratanakiri to consolidate partnership and expand cooperation at the field. | 1.1.1 Organize meeting with VSSP/Virachey park director and DoE at Stung Treng and Ratanakiri levels to prepare the Letter of Agreement (role, duties) for signature. | 1 st July to 30 Sept 2022 | NTPF team |
| | | 1.2 | Invitation Letter to MoE, H.E KHIEU Borin, to consolidate good relationship and convey a strong influence to provincial authorities (field visit invitation to meet with CPAs Network). | 1.2.1 Organize meeting with H.E KHIEU Borin to deliver Invitation Letter for Inception workshop and field visit | 1 st July to 30 Sept 2022 | NTPF team / 4 persons from MoE |
| | | 1.3 | At least 45 participants attended a 1-day workshop (gov authorities, local authorities, CBOs/CPAs representatives) Indicators (tangible output): - participant list, workshop agenda, evaluation report (Jack demand) - Nb of participants per category (men/women-CPAs /CBOs representatives/ authorities) - Nb of flyers distributed (project short term impact/components/activities/implementation timeframe) | 1.3.1 Organize Inception workshop in Banlung town, Ratanakiri: <u>Morning:</u> all stakeholders <u>Afternoon:</u> CBOs/7 CPAs members, working group led by CEDT staff (Sreymoch) and NTFP-mobilize the key participatory to integrate the plan with role and responsibility with clear timeline | 1 st July to 30 Aug 2022 | NTPF team / CEDT |
| | | 1.4. | A constructive dialogue is consolidated between participants through meetings to promote the continuation of dialogue and cooperation to reach the objectives of biodiversity conservation and livelihoods | 1.4.1 Organize meeting (informal and formal-3times) to brainstorm with CPAs, then local authorities to discuss transport permit. Participation of 7 CPA committee to quarterly meeting platform (PDoE): community can voice their | 1 st Nov 2022 to 30 May 2024 | NTPF team / CEDT |

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| | | | improvement Indicators (tangible output) : - meeting minutes, participant lists, (Jack demand) - Nb of participants per category (men/women-CPAs /CBOs reps/ authorities) | concerns and plan related forest product transport | | |
| 2 | <i>The capacities of seven CPAs to conserve wildlife, spirit forest and to manage the biodiversity are developed.</i> | 2.1. | The CBOs understood roles and had capacity to apply their roles. <u>Indicators:</u> --pre-test and post-test scores. - training evaluation report (Jack demand) - 5 CBOs/CPA's capacity to conserve and manage the wildlife and biodiversity increased (including nb of young adults and women). | 2.1.1 Hold 7 community meetings at villages (with 7 CPAs CBOs) to refresh the principles, internal regulation 2.1.2. Provide training at 2 districts level to strengthen CBO's roles and responsibilities of the 7 CPAs representatives | 1 st Nov 2022 to 30 Dec 2022 | NTFP team / CEDT |
| | | 2.2 | The CBO's knowledge and skill are developed <u>Indicators:</u> - Numbers of CBOs/CPA's members gained knowledge, including nb of young adults and women receiving structured trainings --pre-test and post-test scores. - workshop training report | 2.2.1. Provide 2 training courses (2days/training) at district level about relevant laws including the Laws of CPAs, Conservation, RBA, CBD and other FPIC. Training conducted by NTFP staff and DoE. 2.2.2. Provide 2 trainings courses (2days/training) at district level for the CBO on related skills such as Facilitation, Community Mobilization, Negotiation, Recording, SMART Book/Patrolling and Planning. Training conducted by NTFP-CEDT staff and DoE. | 1 st July to 30 august 2023 1 st Sept to 30 Oct 2023 | NTFP team / DoE staff CEDT |
| 3 | <i>The CBO/CPA network/alliance of the national parks is created and strengthened to conserve wildlife, the</i> | 3.1 | The CPA's network strategy is created, forest patrols conducted <u>Indicators:</u> - Network strategy document is signed - 12 meetings (3 working groups) | 3.1.1. Facilitate the consultation with the 7 CPAs CBOs in VSSP/Virachey to create the network strategy. 3.1.2. Organize 2 meetings to create the internal rule and regulation of CPA's network 3.1.3. Support the CBO/CPA to | 1 st Jan to 28 Feb 2023 1 st march to 30 may 2023 1Nov2022 | NTFP team /DoE staff |

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|--|--|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| | community's spirit forest and to manage the biodiversity. | <p>- 7 patrol groups (5 community wardens/group= total 35c.w) patrol 2 times (at least 3 days/patrol) at beginning & end of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nb of snares removed, nb of wildlife released - nb of forest encroached/fire/illegal mining - nb of illegal logging - nb of cases solved <p>- kg of malva nuts collected per CPAs and income generated (month 1 and month 23)</p> <p>Quantity of resin collected per CPAs and income generated (month 1 and month 23)</p> | <p>patrol forest and wildlife for 14 times.</p> <p>3.1.4. Support the CBO/CPA to gather data on malva/resin' collection and income at the beginning of the project and at the end</p> <p>3.1.5. Facilitate quarterly meeting (capacity development CPAs) between all CBOs/CPAs - DoE ranger-commune authorities and project advisory team = "the working group", to increase support in enhancing the forest monitoring methods as well as proposing new methods to deal with illegal activities and resolving conflicts.</p> <p>3.1.6. Facilitate quarterly meeting between all CBOs/CPAs mentoring to better track and document the forest and wildlife crimes. Each community warden group will be provided a <u>smartphone</u> or GPS-tracked camera to picture offenses and share with other forest protection networks</p> | <p>to 30 May 2024</p> <p>1Nov2022 to 30 May 2024</p> <p>30Sept 2022 to 31May 2024</p> <p>30Sept 2022 to 31May 2024</p> | |
| | 3.2 | <p>CBOs/CPA' network/alliance at provincial, national and regional levels are linked through existing platforms.</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u> Numbers of CBO/CPA committee from all 7 CPAs participated at the provincial, national and regional levels.</p> <p>Event report a) exchange visit, nb of participants etc) b) case study share with EASACCN</p> | <p>3.2.1. Organize the exchange visit to exchange good practice with CPA network at Phnom Nam Lyr in Mondulikiri, supported by CEDT.</p> <p>3.2.2. Facilitate the CBO/CPA from VSSPN and Otung to join the CBO/CPA network at national level (NGOF or MoE).</p> <p>3.2.3. Link the CBO/CPA's voice to regional network like the East Asia Southeast-Asia Community Based-Conservation network (EASACCN).</p> | <p>1st Nov to 31 Dec 2022</p> <p>1st Feb 2024 to 30Apr 2024</p> <p>1stFeb to 30May 2024</p> | <p>NTFP team / CEDT</p> |