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**PROCESS FRAMEWORK FOR INVOLUNTARY
RESTRICTIONS**

**Community protection of eastern Sarus Crane and its
habitat in Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and
Conservation Area, Cambodia**

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1. CEPF AND THE WORLD BANK'S INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT POLICY

The Letter of Inquiry (LoI) to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for the project, *Community protection of eastern Sarus Crane and its habitat in Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area, Cambodia*, outlines the implementation of law enforcement activities and the ongoing support of the legally designated management and conservation area, and how these continued activities have the potential to trigger CEPFs Safeguard policy to address social impacts from restrictions of access to natural resources as per the World Bank's Involuntary Resettlement Policy (OP 4.12).

CEPF has requested CCK and its partners to produce this document, the Process Framework (PF), to address how the project will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potentially adverse effects of restrictions of access to natural resources. The PF, will also outline how the local communities will participate in the project activities and how they will be involved in the decision making process. Please note that no indigenous peoples live at the project site, or regularly use its natural resources.

2. POLICY AND LEGISLATION TRIGGER

Since 2003, the Forestry Administration (FA) and BirdLife International-Cambodia Programme completed comprehensive monthly and annual reports. These reports detail all conservation activities carried out in Boeung Prek Lapouv (BPL), however, the reports do not indicate if any of these activities have caused negative impacts to the local community by limiting access to natural resources.

Negative social impacts on the people and communities who currently use BPL may exist if law enforcement is continued at the site and given that the site has legal protection as a protected area. The negative social impacts would be due to restrictive or limited access to or total loss of access to income generating natural resources.

If negative social impacts on the people and communities occur while continuing to support the protected area, it's conservation objectives and law enforcement activities, relevant provisions of the laws of Cambodia, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, *Forestry Law* (2002), the Ministry of Environment's *Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management Law* (2006), the *Royal Decree on the establishment and designation of Natural*

Protected Areas (1993), other legislations and the World Bank Operational Policy, OP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement are invoked.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Chamroen Chiet Khmer (CCK) and its partners will support BPL by introducing the project *Community protection of eastern Sarus Crane and its habitat in Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area, Cambodia*. The objectives of the project are to:

- 1 Minimize threats to BPL habitat for Sarus Crane and other plant and animal species;
- 2 Develop a Community Outreach Programme and actively engage the community;
- 3 Enhance the capacity of the LCG team and the local community; and
- 4 Facilitate partnerships for long-term collaboration and funding solutions.

4. PROJECT COMPONENTS

The proposed project is structured to achieve its objectives within four components:

Component A: Continue supporting the conservation objectives of the site under the Prime Ministerial sub-decree by ensuring the sub-decrees objectives will continue to be supported by relevant stakeholders including the local community.

Component B: Continue law enforcement patrols and monthly bird counts and introduce community awareness raising activities, by (i) continuing monthly patrols by the Local Conservation Group (LCG), (ii) training the LCG to conduct awareness raising activities for Sarus Crane conservation and other values of the site by CCK, and (iii) establishing regular Sarus Crane conservation awareness raising in the local community will improve the capacity of both LCG staff as well as the local community on Sarus Crane conservation and participatory management.

Component C: Initiating Community Outreach Program by establishing local volunteer groups, by (i) informing relevant authorities comprising of District Governors, respective commune and village Chiefs and relevant provincial government agencies (ii) organizing village meetings to discuss the objectives of

the volunteer group (iii) vote casting will be completed, (v) group will be formed, and (vi) trained on awareness raising techniques.

Component D: Monitor project completion, by (i) conducting monthly field trips to BPL to meet with the LCG to discuss issues and opportunities that the group may have during the period; (ii) completing a monthly report of all activities carried out during the month to monitor the success of the project; and (iii) completing a six month and end-of-project report for CEPF, the project will have continued monitoring throughout the project life.

5. REQUIREMENTS OF THE WORLD BANK OP 4.12 ON INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT

Component A gives the biggest cause for concern. This does involve, albeit limited, involuntary restrictions to resources. However, since the designation was completed before this project (received the approval of the ministerial meeting on 14 September, 2007), the Safeguard Policy does not apply. Furthermore, the LCG will only enforce against activities which are illegal, unsustainable and destructive as listed below:

- Burning of vegetation (grass and forest burning for the purpose of encroachment, wildlife poaching or unsustainable resource collection).
- Poaching of wildlife (including all species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, other invertebrates, and their eggs or offspring).
- Trapping of rats in the core zone during the dry season.
- Use of illegal fishing gear (vertical slit traps, long traps, electrocuting devices, fishing nets and/or bamboo fences with mesh size of less than 1.5 centimeters).
- Land encroachment (for the purpose of agricultural expansion, urban development or canal development for irrigation).
- Unsustainable resource exploitation (all activities that are excessive, including abusive collection of native timber, forests or wetland pollution, forests or grassland fires, uprooting of Chinese water chestnut, *Eleocharis dulcis* and Water lily, *Nymphaea sp.*).

All these activities will be enforced under the following legislation:

- Prime Ministerial Decree (Sub Decree) on establishment of a Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area for Sarus Crane and other

birds located in Borei Chulsa and Koh Andeth districts, Takeo province. Received approval of the ministerial meeting on 14 September, 2007.

- *Forestry Law, 2002*
- *Fisheries Law, 2006*
- *Land Law, 2003*

6. MEASURES TO ASSIST AFFECTED PERSONS

Although, as stated in the previous section, some local people may be affected in a limited way by involuntary restrictions facilitated by this project, none of these people will be eligible for mitigation or compensation measures because all of the restrictions that will be enforced are against activities which, as explained above, are all illegal, unsustainable, and destructive.

If the site should introduce further restrictions that may trigger the Safeguard Policy i.e. the development of a management plan, re-demarcating the boundary etc., CCK will assess if local people will be negatively affected by these activities, by conducting consultations with communities to assess potential impacts. CCK will put in place appropriate measures to remedy impacts on any eligible affected people. If local people are found to be affected by involuntary restrictions, CCK will evaluate if these people are eligible for mitigation or compensation measures.

Nonetheless, CCK with assistance from its partners will in any case be aiming to improve the income base of the local people and will thus mitigate project impacts. Such measures will include introducing a Community Outreach Program (COP) for the community and ensure the LCG disseminate information to the local people on project activities.

This COP will be used as a system to regularly inform the local community on project related activities and ensure local people have a say in the decision making process of the site. The LCG will ensure that no stakeholder is forgotten or excluded and the dissemination of information from government agencies to the local community is open and transparent. Information below outlines the role of the LCG and COG.

Local Conservation Group (LCG)

The LCG was established in 2003 to undertake conservation activities in BPL. In this project, the LCG will conduct law enforcement activities and be trained in

environmental awareness raising and establishing Community Outreach Groups (COG). The LCG currently consists of five members and have some experience engaging the community and will need further training from CCK on the process of engaging and communicating with the community more effectively.

Community Outreach Groups

COG will comprise of members from the community with an equal number of men and women. CCK will promote the objectives of COG by:

- Fostering community ownerships;
- Encouraging higher participation among local communities in society;
- Providing a forum to address the needs of local people relating to the project such as eco-tourism opportunities and Sarus Crane conservation and awareness raising, as well as promoting sustainability; and
- Encouraging other discussions i.e. income generation, education and health issues.

CCK will source members from the two villages they will be working in and once members join, CCK, with support from its partners, will build capacity among the local community.