

**Social Assessment**

**Date April 30, 2017**

**CEPF Grant: 66557**

**Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society**

***Project Title: Mainstreaming Effective Conservation Models into Cambodia's Environmental Code***

**Project Location: Northern Plains Dry Forests**

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization: The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
2. Grant title: Mainstreaming Effective Conservation Models into Cambodia's Environmental Code
3. Grant number: 66557
4. Grant amount (US dollars). \$80,000.00
5. Proposed dates of grant: July 01, 2017
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Northern Plains Dry Forests
7. Date of preparation of this document: April 30, 2017
8. **Indigenous People affected:** This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

The proposed activities of this project affecting indigenous communities (such as zonation, conservation management plans and collaborative management) occur primarily in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS). Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS) covers three provinces, Siem Reap, Preah Viheah and Oddor Mean Chey Province with a total area of 402,500 ha. KPWS was established by Royal Decree in November 1993. WCS supports the conservation management of KPWS in the Preah Vihear section covering an area of around 238,040 ha. WCS conducted survey in and around KPWS that identified 36 villages as having significant access to the natural resources of KPWS in Preah Vihear section. Only one village, Krala Peas, is identified as belonging to the minority Kuy ethnic group (John A. J.I. et al, 2012). The livelihoods of the communities in KPWS are dependent on rice production, farming, collection of non-timber forest products (NTFP) and fishing (McKenney & Prom 2002, McKenney et al. 2004).

9. **Summary of the proposed project:** This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.

This project intends to inform the development of a new sub-set of statutory instruments which will be required under Cambodia's Environmental and Natural Resources Code by documenting effective conservation models and promoting integration of conservation good practice. In achieving this, the main activities to be conducted include:

- *Conducting Commune and village level consultations within KPWS to clarify strengths and weaknesses within existing zonation and collaborative management framework.*
- *Developing a case study for a rights-based participatory zonation process in KPWS.*
- *Conducting a targeted provincial training and consultation with key members of the Preah Vihear provincial working group*
- *Conducting Sub-national and national workshops with all relevant stakeholders*
- *Developing education/awareness materials for implementation of protected area zonation and collaborative management*
- *Piloting a process for establishing Collaborative Management Committees*

These activities will be implemented in KPWS through a participatory approach. Communities will be represented at all commune and village consultations and sub-national workshops. The project will ensure that the Kuy indigenous group plays an integral role in the participatory process to develop zoning plans

and regulations. Impacts will be avoided through consultation, ensuring that areas important to Kuy are zoned appropriately (as either sustainable use or community zones), thereby ensuring their future access to natural resources.

Moreover, the provincial working group, will support outreach activities concerning new laws and guidelines, sub-decrees, and related documents for protected area management plans, and will oversee the dissemination of this information to local communities and stakeholders through outreach activities and by producing and distributing posters detailing, not only new information, but the grievance mechanisms that will enable sufficient free, prior and informed feedback consultation and consent. Additional collaboration and coordination between local communities and civil society organisations will facilitate grievance, consultation, and consent mechanisms.

**10. Potential impacts:** This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.

Kuy populations in the KPWS are very low, and most consider themselves now to be Khmer. Only Krala Peas village identifies themselves as an indigenous group, and even this community is highly mixed. In line with the provisions of the environmental code, the zonation process will restrict access of local communities to any Core Zone. Access to Conservation Zones will be limited controlled by permit in KPWS, limiting access to individuals and communities that rely on NTFP collection. According to Article 11 of the Protected Areas Law 2008, local communities have the right to access community and sustainable use zones, and have restricted access to conservation zones. The Core Zone is an area identified for its high conservation value, containing threatened and critically endangered species and/ or fragile ecosystems. Access to this zone is therefore prohibited to members of the public. Conservation zones are areas that have been identified as having high conservation values containing important natural resources, ecosystems, watersheds and natural landscape, and access to this zone is restricted. The proposed project will help local communities by protecting their access rights to the limited natural resources from overexploitation through developing zonation plans accompanied by conservation management plans that are agreed upon by local communities.

Moreover, the project will assist local communities in improving livelihoods through supporting management agreements for eco-tourism and Wildlife Friendly Ibis Rice and will engage them in protecting the natural resources on which their livelihoods depended upon. This project will improve the decision-making process of local communities through supporting participatory activities on zonation and collaborative management. The case study resulting from these activities will be document and inform the policy decision making in support of traditional land use rights within protected areas, with the intention that local communities in other protected areas around Cambodia will benefit from these mechanisms.

**11. Participatory preparation:** This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.

WCS has worked in partnership with the Ministry of Environment in KPWS for more than 10 years providing technical support for the protection of wildlife and wild places, as well as supporting livelihood improvement schemes for the local communities living within the protected area. Several Communities in KPWS, including Krala peas, are involved in Wildlife Friendly Ibis Rice, where farmers are paid a premium for employing sustainable rice production practices. Each community participating in this scheme develops a village level institution called a “Village Market Network”, which engages the community in activities such as monitoring compliance and participatory land-use planning activities. The implementation of these participatory activities is not new to local communities in KPWS. Prior to this project, local communities, including indigenous people,

have been involved and engaged in the management of KPWS and community based conservation. The community in Krala Peas has already been informed and consulted on the proposed participatory process for protected area zonation. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017, WCS in collaboration with the Department of Environment (DoE) conducted an Awareness Raising event on Protected Area Zonation in Krala Peas village followed by an FPIC meeting (8th May 2017) in Tbeng Meanchey with Village Level and Commune council authorities representatives from Krala Peas on the proposed guidelines for PA zonation.

Communities have been informed and consulted in the zonation process to date, through the Provincial Working Group on Community Zoning which was established to ensure a participatory process with local communities and related authorities to solve any issues occurring in marking boundary identified during the process of planning management zones inside the protected area.

Moreover, the proposed project will be co-funded by Mekong Regional Land Governance (MRLG) grant which it is in the process of receiving FPIC from KPWS communities in the development of a participatory approach to Protected Area zonation. A series of consultation meetings have been held in March and April 2017 to consult on zoning guidelines and on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017, WCS in collaboration with the MoE, chaired a multi-stakeholder meeting with representatives from 11 communes in KPWS as well as representatives from the Provincial Government, to consult and agree upon a set of draft guidelines for the zonation process in KPWS.

**12. Mitigation strategies:** This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

As well as bolstering protection for globally threatened species and critical habitat, this project is designed to strengthen protection of the indigenous land-use rights of people living in protected areas, through ratifying community protected areas in consultation with these indigenous groups. Part of this process involves FPIC which, as outlined above, has already commenced in KPWS with support from MRLG. Additionally, through the production of a policy brief, this project will document best-practice processes, providing recommendations for sub-ordinate regulations of the new Environment and Natural Resource Code, enshrining best-practices that will prevent adverse impacts on future generations of indigenous communities across Cambodia's protected area landscape.

**13. Monitoring and evaluation:** This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.

All grievances raised will be documented along with a summary of the response taken. This will be reported to CEPF every 6 months.

**14. Grievance mechanism:** All projects that trigger a safeguard are required to provide local communities and other interested stakeholders with means by which they may raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank. Affected local communities should be informed of the objectives of the grant and the existence of a grievance mechanism. Contact information of the grantee, the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director should be made publicly available, through posters, signboards, public notices or other appropriate means in local language(s). Grievances raised with the grantee should be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response. If the claimant is still not satisfied following the response, the grievance may be submitted directly to the CEPF Executive Director via the dedicated email account

([cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org)) or by mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Secretariat, the grievance may be submitted to the World Bank at the local World Bank office. Please describe the grievance mechanism that you will use for your project, and how you will ensure that stakeholders are aware of it.

Posters detailing contact details of the project implement team, and the CEPF Regional Implementation Team (RIT) will be produced and distributed at meeting places and commune posts in Krala Peas and other villages across KPWS. Local communities and stakeholders will be able to raise any issue or grievance directly through telephone to WCS anonymously. Awareness of this grievance mechanism will be raised through village meetings.

Complaints and grievances can also be submitted to the project implementation team for assessment and response at any one of numerous consultation meetings that are planned for this project. A written response to all complaints and grievances will be provided.

WCS will notify the RIT and CEPF of any grievances received within 15 days, together with a plan of remedial action. If the claimant is still not satisfied following the response, they will be advised that their grievance may be submitted directly to the CEPF Executive Director via the dedicated email account ([cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org)) or by mail.

**15. Budget:** This section will summarize dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples. These costs should be incorporated into the budget of the CEPF grant and/or covered by co-financing.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Design, Printing and posters	\$500	Design and printing the telephone number and contact information to be post for grievance mechanism.
Travel	\$500	Posting the contact information in KPWS