

**Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

**13 March 2020**

**CEPF Grant 110374**

**Conservation International**

*Community based wild-fire management on Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake*

**Boeung Chhmar Key Biodiversity Area, Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia**

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization: Conservation International
2. Grant title: Community based wild-fire management on Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake
3. Grant number: 110374
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 180,000
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2022
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.
7. Date of preparation of this document: 13 March 2020
8. **Introduction:** This section will briefly describe the project including design elements and potential social and environmental issues. Where possible, include maps of the project site and surrounding area.

The Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone is increasingly threatened by dry season wildfire which presents an unmanaged risk to the integrity of the remaining flooded forest. Most fires are believed to be either deliberately or accidentally started by people, both locals and outsiders, for a range of reasons including to clear land for agriculture and facilitate fishing. The cumulative impact of fires negatively affects the Tonle Sap ecosystem by reducing biomass and nutrient levels, flowering and seed production, and seedling survival and recruitment to a level that may reduce vegetation cover and make it difficult to restore degraded areas

Our project addresses the problem of wildfire on the Tonle Sap floodplain by increasing the capacity of local communities to manage them. We plan to work with three community fisheries (CFis) located in and adjacent to the Boeung Chhmar Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) -- Doun Sdaeung, Pov Veouy Sen Chey and Boeng Prasan -- in Kampong Thom province (Figure 1), and relevant government authorities to pilot Community Based Fire Management (CBFiM). CBFiM is a holistic approach to fire management in which local communities are actively engaged in the development and implementation of strategies that prevent and control fires. It is a global community of practice which has been implemented by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and others for several decades. In implementing CBFiM we will build on the recommendations of our flooded forest replanting site firebreak study (Spindel et al., 2019) and long running fishing community capacity building program, the Fisheries and Families Resilience Building Model.

For each selected CFi we will develop and implement a fire management plan that considers the local environment; community needs, desires and capacity; available resources and relevant government policies. These plans will follow the 5R's approach which is consistent with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030:

1. Review: Analysis of the fire issue and identification of options for positive change.
2. Risk Reduction: Prevention—focusing resources on the underlying causes of fires.
3. Readiness: Preparing to fight fires.
4. Response: Ensuring appropriate responses to unwanted damaging fires.
5. Recovery: Community welfare, repairing infrastructure and restoration of fire-damaged landscapes.

We see the project has having few adverse social and environmental issues. Wildfire has been identified as a serious problem by many communities on the Tonle Sap lake. As most fires are caused by people and are not a natural part of the landscape there is no issues surrounding changes to cultural burning practice. Our initial discussions suggest that most local people would like to suppress all fires in the flooded forest. However, we will be conducting an extensive program of community engagement to understand local people's attitudes towards wildfire and how they wish to manage fire within their CFi's.



Figure 1. Target CFI's in and adjacent to Boeng Chhmar KBA

9. **Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:** If the grantee has undertaken any activities to date, including information disclosure and/or consultation, provide the following details:
- Type of information disclosed, in what form (e.g., oral, brochure, reports, posters, radio, etc.), and how it was disseminated;
  - The locations and dates of any meetings undertaken to date;
  - Individuals, groups, and/or organizations that have been consulted;
  - Key issues discussed and key concerns raised;
  - Grantee response to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions; and
  - Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders.

We have held extensive discussions with senior members of the three proposed Community Fisheries Committees of our target communities: Doun Sdaeung, Pov Veouy Sen Chey and Boeng Prasan regarding the issue of wildfire in the flooded forest. We are currently working with these communities to implement our Fisheries and Families Resilience Building Model (FFRBM). As a part of this we have undertaken a detailed situational analysis of each community and forest fire was identified as an issue in all three. Each of these three Community Fisheries Committees has expressed an interest in gaining the capacity to manage wildfire.

We have been working closely with Dr Peter Moore (Fire Management Specialist, FAO) who is currently developing the fire management component of the CAPFISH project to ensure that the two projects can complement each other.

We have had discussions with the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) who are regional providers of CBFiM training. They have expressed an interest in providing their services in-kind (with the project covering costs for travel, per diem and accommodation) but require the approval of the country focal point, Mr Hang Suntra, Deputy Director Department of Forest Industry and International Cooperation Forest Administration. We have contacted Mr Hang and provided him with details of our proposed project for further discussion with AFoCO.

These discussions are in their early stages and we are in the process of developing detailed actions based on these discussions.

**10. Project Stakeholders:** This section will list the key stakeholder groups who will be informed and consulted about the project. These should include persons or groups who:

- Are directly and/or indirectly affected by the project or have “interests” in the project that determine them as stakeholders; and
  - Have the potential to influence project outcomes (examples of potential stakeholders are affected communities, local organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government authorities. Stakeholders can also include politicians, companies, labor unions, academics, religious groups, national social and environmental public sector agencies, and the media).
- Doun Sdaeung, Pov Veouy Sen Chey and Boeng Prasan CFI Committees;
  - Doun Sdaeung, Pov Veouy Sen Chey and Boeng Prasan Womens Savings Groups;
  - Doun Sdaeung, Pov Veouy Sen Chey and Boeng Prasan fisher folk and outsiders who visit these CFI’s to fish;
  - Provincial and District Fisheries administration and Ministry of Environment officials;
  - Dr Peter Moore (Fire Management Specialist, FAO);
  - Mr Hang Suntra, Deputy Director Department of Forest Industry and International Cooperation Forest Administration.

**11. Stakeholder Engagement Program:** This section will summarize the purpose and goals of the program. Briefly describe what information will be disclosed, in what formats, and the types of methods that will be used to communicate this information to each of the identified groups of stakeholders. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:

- Newspapers, posters, radio, television;
- Information centers and exhibitions or other visual displays; and
- Brochures, leaflets, posters, non-technical summary documents and reports.

CI Greater Mekong has extensive experience in stakeholder engagement on the Tone Sap Lake and throughout Cambodia. We plan to implement our standard protocol during this project which is as follows.

When we begin a new village level project, we organize a meeting with the commune chief, village chief, village elders and a small number of community members. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the project, seek feedback and their support. Using the information from this initial meeting we then organize a larger meeting which can be attended by the entire community where we introduce the project and begin to organize voluntary representatives who will participate in the project. An important part of this process is a facilitated discussion whereby the community describes the problems they need to overcome and develops a project goal and designs a workplan. This leads to the community agreeing on the relevant issues and ways to solve them and providing a commitment to implementing and follow up on the action plan. Thus, the process is community lead with CI is playing the role of coordinator and trainer, but not as the implementor. We also engage the community in a mapping exercise whereby through group discussion they provide a spatial description of their village and local environment and lists

important components, in this case it will be related to fire risk. Through this process we will develop a community lead CBFiM plan.

Aside from direct engagement with local communities informing floodplain users of issues concerning wildfire management is an important component of CBFiM. Floodplain users will be targeted via a fire prevention information campaign which will likely involve the deployment of information sign boards at high fire risk locations and development of materials to be delivered at community information events, such as film nights.

Similar to our community consultation program we will approach government officials in initial face to face meetings to inform them of the project and seek their support and ongoing engagement. This will largely be through involving relevant officials in the fire suppression training.

**12. Consultation methods:** This section will describe the methods that will be used to consult with each of the stakeholder groups identified in previous sections. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:

- Interviews with stakeholder representatives and key informants;
- Surveys, polls, and questionnaires;
- Public meetings, workshops, and/or focus groups with a specific group;
- Participatory methods; and
- Other traditional mechanisms for consultation and decision-making.

Consultation will take the following forms

- in person meetings between CI project staff and CFC members and their nominated representatives;
- in person meetings with government officials to explain and obtain support for project activities;
- in person meetings and workshops to undertake Participatory Rapid Appraisal of community attitudes to flooded forest wildfire;
- Explain project progress to government officials and CFi representatives (including non-participating CFis) at Kampong Thom District and Provincial level Fisheries Action Team meetings;
- Community fire mapping and fire management plan workshops within each CFi
- In person interviews to gain an understanding of the success of fire prevention and suppression activities.
- As we often deal with communities with low levels of literacy our approach to stakeholder engagement is highly visual and uses illustrations and direct spoken communication rather than written literature.

**13. Other Engagement Activities:** This section will describe any other engagement activities that will be undertaken, including participatory processes, joint decision-making, and/or partnerships undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders. Examples include benefit-sharing programs, community development initiatives, resettlement and development programs, and/or training and microfinance programs.

We will work with Womens Savings Groups in the three CFi's to establish a CBFiM sustainable financing mechanism. This will involve the Saving Group committee working with the CFC to plan, budget and implement fire management activities funded using the interest generated from the CBFiM fund which will be deposited to each Saving Group.

We will also train local community members in fire suppression activities and techniques for monitoring the extent of fires they suppress.

14. **Timetable:** This section will provide a schedule outlining dates and locations when various stakeholder engagement activities, including consultation, disclosure, and partnerships will take place and the date by which such activities will be incorporated into project design.

Activity #	Activity Description	Start Date	End Date
1.1.1	We will discuss the project with the Doung Sdoeng, Poy Veouy and Boeng Prasan Community Fisheries Committees and reach an agreement with them to cooperatively develop CBFiM for each of their CFi's	1 Jul 2020	10 Aug 2020
1.1.2	We will conduct Participatory Rapid Appraisal surveys in the three CFis as well as two nearby communities, Peachakrey and Balot, to understand the social and environmental dynamics and impacts of forest fires.	10 Aug 2020	30 Sept 2020
1.2.1	We will meet with relevant District and Provincial level Government officials (including Fisheries Administration and Department of Environment) to introduce the project and receive support for our activities.	1 Jul 2020	31 Aug 2020
1.2.2	We will brief the wider community of CFi's and government officials on the progress of the project at biannual Kampong Thom District level Fisheries Coordination Team meetings, of which there will likely be four during the project period.	1 Jul 2020	30 June 2022
1.2.3	We will brief the wider community of CFi's and government officials on the progress of the project at biannual Kampong Thom Provincial level Fisheries Coordination Team meetings, of which there will likely be four during the project period.	1 Jul 2020	30 June 2022
2.1.1	We will determine risk reduction strategies by presenting communities with a range of options based on our experience in Pursat Province and the literature to select those most likely to be successful.	1 Sept 2020	31 Oct 2020
2.4.1	Situational analysis conducted by fire-management expert to determine a suitable brigade structure and equipment requirements. Conducted in collaboration with local CFis to ensure local suitability.	2 Nov 2020	31 Dec 2020
2.4.3	Qualified trainers instruct local fire fighters in fire suppression techniques using equipment provided by Activity 2.5.2.	1 Mar 2021	30 Apr 2021
3.1.1	Develop a community readiness plan, based around a community developed 'fire map' which details fire detection, communications and response trigger levels in the event of a fire.	1 Sept 2020	31 Oct 2020
4.1.2	2021 fire season fire suppression monitoring and assessment, summarizing how fires were believed to have started, how they were detected, response times, the effectiveness of suppression and area burnt.	1 Mar 2021	29 Jul 2021
4.1.4	2022 fire season fire suppression monitoring and assessment, summarizing how fires were believed to have started, how they were detected, response times, the effectiveness of suppression and area burnt.	1 Mar 2022	30 June 2022
5.1.1	With each CFi we will produce a CBFiM Plan which will guide their 2021 fire season management activities. Plans will be developed from the activities described in components 1-4.	1 Dec 2020	26 Feb 2021
5.1.2	After the 2021 fire season we will review with the effectiveness of fire prevention, fire pre-suppression, and fire suppression activities. We will then update and finalize each plan prior to the 2022 fire season.	1 Jun 2021	31 Dec 2021
5.1.3	Using the information provided by the end of 2021 fire season review each CFi, CBFiM Plan will be revised and finalized prior to the 2022 fire season.	1 Sep 2021	31 Dec 2021
6.1.1	Gather information on community members experiences of the two fire seasons and compare them to previous years and conditions experienced in areas without active fire management. Will also use information derived from activities 2.3.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.4	1 Jun 2021	30 Jun 2022
7.1.1	Hold several community presentation sessions describing the outcomes of the project.	2 May 2022	30 Jun 2022

15. **Resources and Responsibilities:** This section will indicate what staff and resources will be devoted to managing and implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Who within the project team will be responsible for carrying out these activities? What budget has been allocated toward these activities?

This Stakeholder Management plan is embedded within the project activities and will be implemented as an integral part of the programme. Overall responsibility will be held by the project manager Dr. Nicholas Souter, but the entire team will implement these activities. No specific budget has been allocated for the plan.

16. **Grievance mechanism:** All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

We will provide written details of the following grievance mechanism to each of the project stakeholders at the beginning of the project and remind them of its existence at six monthly intervals. We will produce and Khmer translation upon confirmation of this project being funded.

**Grievance Mechanism for the CEPF Funded project *Community based wild-fire management on Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake*.**

Should you have any serious problems with the content or implementation of Conservation International's *Community based wild-fire management on Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake* project you may raise your concerns as detailed in this grievance mechanism (document). Stakeholders will be informed of the objectives of the project through a range of activities including face to face meetings and workshop. This document will be presented at each community workshop held by the project and copies made available for dissemination. It will also be presented directly to the [NAME OF VILLAGE] village chief, [NAME OF COMMUNE] Commune Chief, [NAME OF CFI] CFC members and [NAME OF SAVING GROUP] Women's Saving Group committee members and [RELEVANT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS], each of whom will retain a copy for further reference.

Should you have a grievance with the project please initially contact the project coordinator Mr Heng Sokrith, Phone: +855 88 999 9802 or via email: sheng@conservation.org. To raise your issues. If you do not feel comfortable doing so, please raise any issues directly with the village chief who will forward them onto CI.

We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team (Mr Lou Vanny, IUCN Cambodia Program, Room 592, 5th Floor, Phnom Penh Center, St. Sothearos, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Phnom Penh, Tel. +855 12 703 033, Email: Vanny.lou@iucn.org) 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.

17. **Monitoring and Reporting:** This section will describe any plans to involve project stakeholders (including affected communities) or third-party monitors in the monitoring of project impacts and mitigation programs. Describe how and when the results of stakeholder engagement activities will be reported back to affected stakeholders as well as broader stakeholder groups.

We have no plans to specifically monitor and report on stakeholder engagement activities for this project.