

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Fauna & Flora International
Project Title:	Cambodian Crocodile Conservation Programme: Building Civil Society Capacity to Tackle the Unsustainable Exploitation of Siamese Crocodiles
Date of Report:	16 th July 2013
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CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction: 1

Grant Amount: US\$44,393

Project Dates: 1 March, 2011 to 30 June, 2013

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association (CCFA) – The CCFA are the main civil society partner for the project. The project is working with the CCFA to develop the Association.

Fisheries Administration (FiA) – We work closely with the Fisheries Administration to provide technical advice and support to the development of the CCFA. The FiA facilitate all of the project work with the CCFA.

Forestry Administration (FA) – We partner with the Forestry Administration under the Cambodian Crocodile Conservation Programme, to conserve key Siamese crocodile populations in Cambodia.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

This project has made significant progress towards strategic direction 1, investment priority 1.1: securing core populations of Siamese crocodile from overexploitation and illegal trade. Collection of crocodiles and eggs to stock crocodile farms or for trade is still a threat to wild crocodile conservation (we received a report of one crocodile caught from Ratanakiri Province just last week). Through supporting the sustainable management and regulation of Cambodia's crocodile farming industry in line with international law, the project has helped to get the first steps in place to reduce this threat to wild crocodiles. Furthermore, key Siamese crocodile populations have been protected *in situ* from poaching and collection.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

This project has helped to protect and secure key breeding populations of Siamese crocodiles in Cambodia and to contribute to our understanding of the distribution, abundance and status of the species.

The creation of the Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association is a significant result and will help to strengthen the management and regulation of the crocodile farming industry as the Association develops. The constitution and regulations of the Association make reference to the CCFA contributing to the conservation of wild crocodiles, yet the exact mechanism by which this will occur is still under development. We hope to make progress on this in late 2013. We also provided information to farmers regarding the CITES certification process and hope that more farms will become CITES registered in the coming year. 18 proposals are currently under consideration.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

The primary long-term impacts of this project will be:

- The sustainable management and regulation of Cambodia's crocodile farming industry in line with international law (CITES).
- The in situ conservation of Siamese crocodiles and their key habitats, no longer threatened, but, rather, supported by the farming sector.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

We have moved one step closer to sustainable management of Cambodia's crocodile farming industry as a result of this project. The Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association has been established, which provides a forum for engagement with the industry and a framework for the industry to improve its practices. Typically in other countries the establishment and development of a national association has greatly boosted the development of the industry and of the industry's contribution to conservation of wild crocodiles. However, we are still a significant way off this in Cambodia as many farmers do not understand the linkage between farming and conservation of wild crocodiles. The Fisheries Administration appear to be improving regulation of the industry, supporting a further 18 farms to apply for CITES certification (only 6 farms are registered with CITES at present).

Key Siamese crocodile populations in Cambodia are protected and monitored but the farming sector does not yet actually support conservation of wild crocodiles. However, some farmers are interested in doing so by breeding purebred hatchlings which could be released back into the wild. We are yet to progress this but it is in our plan to establish the mechanisms for this hopefully later this year and to start some farms breeding purebred hatchlings for release within the next 2 years. Fisheries Administration fully support this work.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

The short-term impacts of this project will be to:

- The creation of a Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association
- Protocols and rules developed by the newly created Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association to address key industry issues, including accidental release of hybrid crocodiles and unsustainable exploitation of aquatic snakes.
- A more complete understanding of crocodile abundance, threats and reproduction at top priority sites
- Initiation of a process towards shifting the industry practice away from the unsustainable and illicit export of hatchlings towards a sustainable leather industry in line with international law (CITES).

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association has been established.

The Constitution and regulations of the CCFA have been developed, which include that the industry must contribute to the conservation of wild crocodiles and accidental releases must be avoided, but the protocols relating to these points (actually how these actions will be achieved) have not yet been developed, due to the constitution and regulations having not yet been finalised by the CCFA. This process took much longer than anticipated.

We have conducted monthly monitoring of key breeding populations and threats and monitored reproduction on an annual basis.

Technically we have not been able to actually initiate shifting the industry away from unsustainable and illicit export of hatchlings towards a sustainable leather industry in line with international law. Although both farmers and the Fisheries Administration want this to happen, it is not likely to occur until investment is made (usually on the part of a farmers association) to develop a sustainable leather industry in Cambodia. However, we have provided further support and information on CITES registration and on the role of farmers associations in other countries to encourage development of the association in the right direction. Furthermore, we will continue to try to engage key members of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group in this work – those with experience of crocodile farming and *in situ* conservation would be most appropriate to provide advice and support to the CCFA.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved: Siamese crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis*

Corridors Created:

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The challenge with implementing this project is that the project has very little leverage with the farming industry to motivate real and lasting change towards the more sustainable practices outlined below (component 3). Our leverage with planning to support the farmers to contribute hatchlings for the release programme, is that most farmers want Siamese crocodile to be downlisted from Appendix I (CITES) to Appendix II, but that won't happen until the wild crocodile population has recovered. Consequently it is in the interest of the farming industry to assist the wild recovery process in that way, which will have little economic cost for them. Other activities (e.g. moving away from reliance on aquatic snakes to feed crocodiles) will likely involve greater economic cost for farmers and has not been possible to implement within the timeframe of this project.

Furthermore, since the project was developed provincial authorities now have the ability to distribute permits to crocodile farmers allowing transport and trade of crocodiles between provinces. This makes the national and international trade in crocodiles even more difficult to regulate.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

We have a much more positive working relationship with Fisheries Administration as a result of this project, which is very good as we move towards reintroducing crocodiles back into the wild, for which their support and collaboration will be very important.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned:

Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association established and operational with at least 200 crocodile farms enlisted as members and paying annual membership fees.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association established and operational. Membership fees have been suggested but not yet agreed by the CCFA.

Component 2 Planned:

Seed fund sub-grant provided to Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association in quarterly installments for administration activities.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

Not completed because we were informed early last year (2012) that the sub-grant was not required. The CCFA already had an operational office.

Component 3 Planned:

Protocols and rules developed by the Cambodian Crocodile Farmers Association that will encompass, inter alia:

- (i) official registration of all Cambodian crocodile farms with the Fisheries Administration;
- (ii) a national marking system for farm crocodiles and their products (to unequivocally distinguish captive from genetically pure wild stock);
- (iii) preventing the accidental or deliberate release of hybrid crocodiles into the wild;
- (iv) reducing the industry's heavy exploitation of aquatic snakes as crocodile food by promoting alternative food sources;
- (v) development of a sustainable in-country skin and leather production industry.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

Some of these issues are represented within the constitution and regulations which have undergone a process of development and are awaiting finalization by the CCFA. Protocols by which to implement these measures have not yet been developed due to the constitution and regulations taking much longer to develop than anticipated.

Notably, there was no traction with the CCFA or FIA on the national marking system, FFI was told this was too difficult and too costly for farmers to implement.

Secondly there was no traction on reducing the industry's heavy exploitation of aquatic snakes as crocodile food.

Component 4 Planned:

Monitoring program established to evaluate project impact on the wild stocks of Siamese crocodiles in Cambodia.

Component 4 Actual at Completion

Completed.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Component 2 was not required because we were informed in early 2012 that a sub-grant was not required by the CCFA because they already have an operational office. This has not affected the overall impact of the project.

Secondly, due to the process taking much longer than anticipated, we have not moved past the

stage of developing the constitution and regulations of the CCFA. These both include mention of some of the points in component 3, excluding point 1 and point 4. Although we had hoped to complete all of the above activities, it took longer than expected to work with new partners to implement the project. Furthermore, there was no interest from either partner in point 3.1 and 3.4 at the present. Possibly this will be a priority during a later stage of the industry and CCFA's development. However, it should be noted that prior to this project, the CCFA was yet to be established despite many years of discussions and recommendations from the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, and the constitution and regulations were reportedly in draft form for more than 7 years. This project therefore marks significant progress despite not quite achieving all of the deliverables.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

It is my impression that this project would have benefitted from greater participation from the CCFA and FiA in the design phase. I was not working for FFI at the time however so it is difficult for me to say for sure, but it strikes me that the objectives of the project were rather ambitious to achieve within the timeframe, given the current situation of crocodile farming in Cambodia.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The new partnership between FFI and FiA and the CCFA led the project to take longer than anticipated I believe, however we now have a very solid basis for future collaboration with a new government partner. Furthermore, the change of project management staff within FFI and handover delayed the project implementation by a few months in early 2012.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
FFI	In-Kind	20,000	
Disney Worldwide Conservation fund	A	25,000	Component 4 only
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	A	30,000	Component 4 only

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The project has established good links between the CCFA and the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, who we hope will provide further guidance to develop the CCFA. A number of Cambodian crocodile farmers already attend IUCN-SSC CSG meetings providing regular opportunities for exchange of ideas and provision of advice.

The CCCP continues to focus on building capacity of government staff and Cambodian nationals to conserve wild crocodiles and this project has helped us to reach out to the Fisheries Administration, who are formally responsible for Siamese crocodile in Cambodia.

The membership fees have not yet been determined by the CCFA, so this remains to be achieved, but we are hopeful that at least some farmers will begin contributing to the conservation of wild crocodiles soon via breeding hatchlings for release, as a result of this project.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2012 to May 30, 2013. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.				Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?				Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.				

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

