

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

*Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions, below.*

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	<i>Mlup Baitong</i>
<b>Project Title</b>	Embedding Sustainable Community Management Practices at Key Sarus Crane Wetlands in the Cambodian Lower Mekong: Environment and Livelihood Improvements at Anlung Pring Sarus Crane Reserve
<b>CEPF GEM No.</b>	64116 (application Code)
<b>Date of Report</b>	November 29, 2016

**CEPF Hotspot:** KMH11 Kampong Trach Wetland Important Bird Area (IBA).

**Strategic Direction:** 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats.

**Grant Amount:** USD 69,949.00

**Project Dates:** 2014/7/1-2016/9/30

### **1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)**

Key partners involved in the project implementation include WWT, BirdLife International in Indochina, the Forest Administration (FA), and Local Conservation Group (LCG).

WWT is a leading UK conservation organization saving wetlands for wildlife and people across the world. WWT cooperated with MB alongside FA, which has legal responsibility for the Crane Reserve. It facilitated, through its staff team in Cambodia, timely and effective liaison of all partners and activities to ensure the effective participation of all stakeholders. As part of this, it delivered a targeted wetland training and awareness program together with MB and provided expert technical advice on sustainable wetland management.

BirdLife International (Cambodia Programme) provided much expert guidance and advice regarding the reserve, as well as local knowledge and advice for CBET advertisement and management. They also contributed to the project by building a bird watching tower.

Mlup Baitong has very good relationships with FA based on the previous three year project. FA has direct legal responsibility for the management of Anlung Pring Sarus Crane Reserve. The FA's Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity (DWB) and Ministry of Environment were directly involved in supporting all relevant activities at the site and collaborating with all other relevant government agencies.

LCG is a group of eight people composed of 2 Commune Chiefs, 3 militaries, 1 police man, 1 Forest Administration (FA) officer, and 1 villager. It was established in year 2004 through coordination of the FA to undertake conservation activities in Kampong Trach IBA. In this

project, LCG took a lead in law enforcement and implementing appropriate monitoring protocols.

### **Conservation Impacts**

#### **2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile**

Farmers from 3 target villages were trained in how to make and use compost and botanical pesticide to increase agricultural production. Most of the trained farmers continued to use compost and botanical pesticides on their farms nearby the Sarus Crane Conservation area. These practices contributed to reduced pollution of water sources within the Sarus Crane reserve.

The beneficiaries in the 3 target villages were formed as CBET service providers (homestays, guides, cycling groups etc.), and provided their services in the 3 target villages and the Sarus Crane reserve. The CBET group made a profit of US\$ 3,144 and ensures strengthened Sarus Crane reserve protection up to date.

Eco-schools with 320 grade 4, 5, and 6 pupils (116 girls) and 10 teachers (4 women) were established. Teachers were trained in environmental knowledge and educational material development, based on which they developed an environment education material set with 10 lessons (environment, biodiversity, waste, sources of water, environment pollution, agricultural pesticides, the importance of compost, the Sarus Crane and its habitat, waste reduction, and wetlands). The pupils were trained in these 10 lessons and conducted waste collection campaigns to educate other villagers to clean up their households and stop disturbing Sarus Cranes.

Villagers were trained in environmental knowledge and Sarus Crane conservation. They also conducted waste collection campaigns to educate villagers to clean up their homes and villages, and to urge them to participate in Sarus Crane conservation activities.

#### **3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project**

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

*List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal*

Contribute to sustainable improvement of natural resource management at important feeding areas of non-breeding populations of Sarus Crane in lower Mekong Delta in Cambodia.

#### **4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion**

The Anlung Pring Landscape Protected Area (APLPA) has used effective management mechanisms including CBOs (CBET Group, SHGs, and VECATs) and a Local Conservation Group (LCG) to successfully protect the APLPA from any illegal activities. The APLPA and its natural resources (e.g. species of grass, plants, small trees, and fish) have been protected and reserved

for the Sarus Crane and other birds to feed and live safely. This contributed to maintain the non-breeding populations of Sarus Cranes in the lower Mekong Delta in Cambodia.

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

*List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal*

1. Size of protected Sarus Crane habitat area in Kampong Trach will be maintained at 2014 level of 217 hectares.
2. Number of Sarus Crane population will be maintained at 2014 level of 333 or will increase.
3. Livelihoods of communities living around the Sarus Crane Conservation Area at Aulung Pring significantly improved, thereby reducing pressure on the species and its habitat.
4. Engagement in and understanding about the advantage of Sarus Crane and other bird species conservation among local community members increased.
5. Number of visitors and tourism revenue yearly increases at least 50% (in 2013, the number of visitor is 89 and tourism revenue is \$255).
6. Mlup Baitong organizational capacity will be maintained at least at the 2014 in the Civil Society Tracking Tool.

**5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion**

1. The APLPA Sarus Crane habitat area in Kampong Trach has been protected and maintained at 2014 level of 217 hectares.
2. In January 2014, 340 Sarus Cranes came to Anlung Pring, while in December 2014, we counted only 78 cranes. In 2015, 321 Sarus Cranes came to Anlung Pring, and we found 227 Sarus Crane lived in the APLPA up to June 2016. Thus the number of Sarus Cranes living in the reserve has decreased compared to 2014.
3. The existing 9 SHGs accumulated US\$ 24,581 of revolving funds and provided 90 loans with an amount of US\$ 20,527 to 90 SHG members. The revolving funds increased by 14% over the three months period. We found that the poverty rates of the target communes declined during the project period: The rate for Preaek Kroes commune declined from 19.7% in 2012 to 16.7% in 2015, and the rate for Boeung Sala Khang Tboung also declined from 23.5% in 2012 to 11.8% in 2015. The data was collected from the Ministry of Planning, and official statistics on poverty rates for 2016 are not available yet.
4. The sub-decree of allocating Kampong Trach Wetland as a conservation area for the non-breeding population of the Eastern Sarus Crane has been used and disseminated to farmers and students. The new sub-decree "Anlung Pring Landscape Protected Area" which relates to ecosystem management, protected area management, and species protection, was enacted on May 9th, 2016 and disseminated to the related CBO members. They are aware of Sarus Crane and other bird species conservation and did not engage in illegal activities in the landscape protected area. On the other hand, pupils of three target primary schools learned about waste collection through community campaigns and about environment, Sarus crane conservation and wetland through school training program.
5. Five CBET services (bird watching, home-stay, bike cycling, food preparation, and boat trip to shrimp farm) established for Cambodian and foreign visitors to visit Anlung Pring Landscape

Protected Area. CBETMC received 555 visitors of whom 242 were foreigners visited AP CBET and generated an accumulated income of US\$ 3,164.

6. Mlup Baitong's organization capacity remained constant, at the 2014 level, in the Civil Society Tracking Tool.

**6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impacts**

The project found it difficult to raise financial support from the government, especially from commune/sangkat development funds, because Commune Councils (CC) used these funds for infrastructure development projects (e.g. road construction). On a more positive note, CC actively participated in events (e.g. trainings, workshops, meetings) and provided administrative support to speed up project implementation.

The government put Anlung Pring Sarus Crane Reserve under Ministry of Environment's control and enacted new sub-decree "Anlung Pring Landscape Protected area. Therefore, the project reviewed CBET management structure two times, one time more than originally planned and reintroduced new sub-decree and person responsible for.

**7. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

N/A

**Results planned and achieved under each component and deliverable**

**8. Results expected**

**Component 1:** Improvement of community members' livelihoods so that the pressures on Sarus Crane habitat and feeding areas are reduced for sustaining the presence of the Sarus Cranes and other water birds.

Deliverables:

1.1 Ten existing Self-Help Groups (SHG) receive additional required technical support so that they can continue the development of alternative livelihoods in the three target villages.

1.2 Three Farmer Field Schools (FFS) will be established to run sustainable farming demonstrations.

1.3 Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs) are established and have the capacity to organize common marketing for their members.

1.4 Capacity of Community-Based Ecotourism Team (CBET) will be improved so that they can enable provision of high quality experience based around Sarus Crane conservation at Anlung Pring

**Component 2:** Improvement of community environment in order to safeguard the Sarus Crane habitat and feeding areas.

Deliverables:

2.1. Three Eco-Schools (ES) servicing at least 1,000 students will be established in order to raise awareness about environmental knowledge and practices especially on Sarus Crane protection.

2.2. Three Village Environment and Sarus Crane Conservation Action Teams (VECATs) will be established so that they can actively participate in environmental awareness raising and practices especially on Sarus Crane protection.

2.3. Mlup Baitong organizational capacity including human resources, financial resources, management system, strategic planning, and delivery will increase so that its civil society tracking tool overall score is not less than 88/100.

## 9. Results achieved

**Component 1:** Three types of CBOs (SHGs, CBET, and FPGs) were established and have developed their capacity on savings and loans, agricultural skills, management skills, general knowledge about the environment, value chain analysis, micro- business planning, CBET guiding, and financial management. They are now empowered to conserve the Sarus Crane and its habitat, to operate their CBET site and their businesses, and to actively participate in the commune investment planning process in order to raise their concerns and needs. Villagers have gained awareness of Sarus Crane protection and laws. The site is now strongly protected: No illegal actions happened in the Anlung Pring Landscape Protected Area during the project period.

Deliverables:

1.1. Nine existing SHGs (two SHGs were combined into one SHG) with 90 members received 64 wells and trainings on SHG management, micro-business development, and climate change concept.

1.2. Three FFSs with 17 members received agricultural services (drum seeders, rice seeds, compost pits etc.) and trainings on SRI methods and vegetable planting in order to apply SRI and IFS activities. By using the SRI method, farmers obtained rice yields that were 3.5 tons higher compared to using traditional cultivation methods.

1.3. Three Farmer Producer Groups (chicken raising, grass bag production, and vegetable farming) were established with about 6 farmers in each group. They received trainings on vegetable cultivation, chicken raising, and value chain analysis. Two market channels (local market and middlemen) identified and used to sell their products.

1.4. A CBET committee with 6 members was formed. They produced a CBET by-law and management structure with a Board of Directors to supervise and advise the CBET Management Committee. The CBETMC received trainings on management and leadership, communication skills, financial management, hospitality, and effective meetings. The CBET established 6 types of CBET services, namely wetland bird watching, homestays, food provisioning, bicycling, boat trips to a shrimp farm, and cultural exchanges with the local villages. The CBETMC and CBET service providers received 555 tourists (313 Khmer and 242

foreigners) and collected US\$ 3,419 of income up to September 2016. This amount of money was used for strengthening CBET activities and supporting CBET service providers. Tourists were not interested in visiting the shrimp farm, so that the CBET was not able to provide many boat trips.

No.	Services	Income (in US\$)
1	Entrance fees	3,148
2	Bicycling	130
3	Home stays	36
4	Food provisioning	105
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,419</b>

**Component 2:** Three VECATs were established to safeguard the Sarus Crane habitat and feeding areas. They have developed their capacity on environmental and agricultural skills, and conducted waste collection and environment education campaigns in order to clean villages and Sarus Crane habitats and feeding areas. The villages and protected area are now cleaner than before the project start.

Deliverables:

- 2.1. The project produced 10 lessons related to environmental topics (Environment, Biodiversity and Ecosystem, Waste, Sources of Water, Pollution, Agricultural Pesticides, Importance of Compost, Sarus Crane, Waste Reduction, and Wetlands) for three primary schools in the project area. 1,025 pupils (620 boys and 405 girls) and 22 teachers (12 female teachers) and 3 principals (1 woman) studied the 10 lessons through campaigns and training courses.
- 2.2. Three Village Environment and Sarus Crane Conservation Action Teams (VECATs) with 12 members were established in the project area. They received trainings on general environment concept, vegetable growing, and chicken raising. They used 13 incinerators to manage waste in the villages and schools. They conducted waste collection and environment education campaigns together with teachers and pupils.
- 2.3. Mlup Baitong conducted the civil society organization capacity assessment with 9 management team members and obtained a score of 88 over 100: 19/20 for strategic planning, 18.5/20 for human resources, 17.5/20 for management system, 17/20 for financial resources, and 16/20 for delivery.

**10. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?**

All components and activities were implemented over the project period.

**11. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results**

Beside bird watching, the project facilitated the CBET Management Committee (CBETMC) to develop other CBET services in order to serve tourists who come to visit Anlung Pring Landscape Protected Area.

**Home-Stay:**

The project set up home-stay selection criteria after which the project facilitated the CBET Management Committee (CBETMC) to select households for establishing home-stays. During the meeting, two homeowners decided to volunteer as home-stay owners. The project provided training on how to decorate the home-stays, how to cook and prepare food for tourists, and on reception of tourists. The project also provided materials to the home-stay owner such as mattresses, covers, blankets, and pillows. Tourists pay US\$ 4 per person per night.



Home-stay at Anglung Pring CBET

**Food Preparation:**

Three women decided to form a food preparation team. They were trained in how to cook Khmer food and in hygiene standards. Tourists can buy breakfast for US\$ 2, lunch for US\$ 3, and dinner for US\$ 3 per person.



**Bicycling:**

The project produced a bicycling map and discussed it with CBETMC and local authorities to make sure roads were safe and provide access to historical sites. The project then developed rules and prices for renting bicycles, and defined a management structure for the service. The CBETMC received 6 bicycles from the project, which tourists can now use to explore a six kilometer long trail featuring village sights such as local livelihoods, culture, religion, and dry and wet season rice cultivation.



Bicycling to visit village and rice field around Anlung Pring Landscape Protected Area



Seeing Kampong Trach district sight from KrongLorn Mountain

**Benefits to Communities**

**12. Please describe the communities that have benefited from CEPF support**

*Please report on the size and characteristics of communities and the benefits that they have received, as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited **from project start to project completion**.*

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Size of Community				Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health_care_education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									
Koh Thnot	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Koh Chamkar	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Chres	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

\*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:



These additional CBET services to bird watching attracted more visitors to come to Anlung Pring CBET site, generated more profits for community members, and contributed to the protection of the Sarus Crane and its habitat.

### **Lessons Learned**

#### **13. Describe any lessons learned related to organizational development and capacity building.**

Mlup Baitong is a learning organization. During the project we learned a lot about our external environment (e.g. administration reform of the government, Law on Association and NGOs - LANGO, sustainable development goals, global and government's trends, climate change policies etc.) and our own organization (e.g. staff performance appraisal results, employment and financial policies etc.). Based on this assessment, Mlup Baitong updated its by-law to fit LANGO, restructured its management to its new by-law, and revised job descriptions and specifications to fit the organizational structure. Mlup Baitong also updated its financial guideline based on audit comments. All this progress contributes to Mlup Baitong's development as an organization. Based on its internal assessment, Mlup Baitong established a resource center for providing consultancy services to other organizations and for building the capacity of its project staff members through training and coaching programs.

#### **14. Describe any lessons learned related to project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

A participatory approach was used as the basic tool to design the project. Mlup Baitong studied the Commune Development Plan/Commune Investment Plan (CDP/CIP) to identify rights holders' needs and subnational objectives, policies, and resources. After that, Mlup Baitong met with local authority, competent institutions (Provincial Department of Tourism, Forestry Administration etc.), community members and teachers to figure out their concerns and needs. Women were encouraged to participate in the data collection and analysis process. This thorough preparation during the design phase contributed to the project's success in setting the right direction and goals from the beginning.

#### **15. Describe any lesson learned related to project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

All partners (WWF, BirdLife, Mlup Baitong) working in Anlung Pring Landscape Protected Area produced a common work-plan and meeting schedule. We conducted joint meetings and shared ideas and experiences with each other to improve our performance. This helped all stakeholders to understand activities to be implemented, reduced tensions among partners during project implementation, and ensured that all partners, communities, and local authorities were on the right track to reach the same objectives.

The project introduced "Help to Self Help" to the project target groups in order to make them aware of project ownership: communities are the project owners. Mlup Baitong is not the owner, only the facilitator to implement activities. After that, Mlup Baitong involved stakeholders in project activity implementation by facilitating communities, district education officers, Forest Administration and authorities to participate in liaison meetings with partners, in provincial and district meetings to revise the CBET management structure and bylaws of the board and CBET management committee, and in campaigns for waste collection and environmental education.

Cooperation between all stakeholders and ownership and empowerment of communities enabled a successful project implementation. Without these elements, the project goals could not have been reached and the project would not have generated the same sustainable long-term impacts for the communities.

#### **16. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community**

In the first phase, the project employed two mechanisms: SHGs and a CBET group for Sarus Crane conservation. SHGs provided savings and loan services to villagers for micro business operation, and the CBET group provided CBET services to visitors. Their role for conservation education was narrow, and community members found it difficult to stop illegal activities in the conservation area. Based on these insights, the project established two more mechanisms, namely three Village Environmental and Sarus Crane Conservation Action Teams (VECATs) and three Eco Schools. Both mechanisms play an important role in educating students and villagers about environmental topics and conservation, in conducting conservation campaigns, and also in monitoring the villagers' engagement in conservation activities and renouncement of illegal practices. This led to more people being actively engaged in conservation activities and in a successful protection of the area. In the long-term, this awareness hopefully contributes to a change in mindset among families and coming generations, who get knowledge passed on from their children, siblings, parents, and friends.

Additionally, the project set up the article "SHG members do not engage in any illegal activities in Anlung Pring Sarus Crane reserve, but involve in conservation interventions" in their SHG by-laws.

As a result of both VECATs and Eco Schools and strong SHG by-laws, we found that no more illegal activities were happening in the Anlung Pring conservation area.

#### **Sustainability / Replication**

#### **17. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated**

All implementing partners facilitated the CBETMC and related government institutions to revise the CBET management structure in order to involve all relevant parties in the CBET and conservation management system. This management structure defined clear roles and responsibilities for each concerned party and strengthens law enforcement in the long term.

The CBO executives and their member were trained in management skills, financial management, communication skills, value chain analysis, marketing etc. Furthermore, villagers, pupils, and teachers learned about the environment, conservation, and the sub-decree on Anlung Pring Landscape Protected area. We hope the capacities and knowledge helps them to continue their good practices and improve their livelihoods and conservation in the future.

MB has applied the "Help to Self-Help" principle to strengthen the target groups (SHGs, FPGs, VECAT, and CBET), and to maximize the use of local human resources and local products. Following this principle, the CBOs participated in the process of CIP/CDP development in order to raise their concerns and needs to commune councils. The needs of communities might be put into the CIP/CDP for financial and administrative support, contributing further to the sustainability of the project results.

To ensure the sustainability of the project results and benefits, MB facilitated the CBOs to be in line with the guidelines of local authorities and provincial technical departments for technical and financial support, provided trainings to upgrade the capacity of the CBO executives and their members for improving and strengthening their business management practice, facilitated CBOs to regularly control negative impacts on the environment, encouraged CBOs to make sure the methods and new technologies they use do not negatively affect local social-culture, facilitated CBOs to develop human resource planning for fulfilling the CBO structures, and strengthened CBO ownership by gradually scaling up the volume of their revolving funds.

**18. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability**

Because of administrative reform of the government, the Anlung Pring Sarus Crane Conservation Area which was under FA’s control shifted to Ministry of Environment’s management. It was renamed of Anlung Pring Landscape Protected Area by Sub-Decree 84 enacted on May 9, 2016. MB perceives the new administration and sub-decree to be a stronger tool to protect and improve the protected area.

**Safeguards**

**19. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social and environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered**

N/A

**Additional Funding**

**20. 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 CEPF investment**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
None			

\* Categorize the type of funding as:

- 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)*

## **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

### **21. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF**

Communication: CBOs (CBETMC, SHGs, VECAT, FPG...) should participate in commune monthly meeting organizing by commune councils (CC) in order share information, solve problems together, and raise CBOs' work plan to CC for supports.

Every year primary schools in the target area organize the environment and hygiene day event. It is good if schools link conservation with the environment and get community members involve in the event. This make all stakeholders understand each other and work together for environment and Sarus Crane conservation.

CBETMC should closely cooperate with Provincial Department of Environment in order to strengthen law enforcement and with Department of Tourism for any supports.

### **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](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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