

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Community Economic Development
Project Title:	Mekong Biodiversity Protection Project
Date of Report:	
Report Author and Contact Information	Mr. Sun Kimhoeun, Program Coordinator of CED, E-mail: sunkimhoeun@ced-krt.org , (+855) 12 346 811

CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 3: Engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives, with a particular emphasis on the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor and the Mekong River and its major tributaries.

Grant Amount: US\$199,878

Project Dates: 1 September, 2010 to 30 June, 2013

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

CED project partners includes WWF-Greater Mekong and CRDT. CED, WWF and CRDT have implemented the project together that CED has been working effectively on natural resource management through establishing Community Forestry, Community Fishery, Indigenous Community Land Titling and provided capacity building to all CBOs on legal advocacy, right claiming procedure in particular coordinated with the right holders and duty Bearers to well work together in the process of natural resource management and identify the forest conservation areas.

WWF's role was to promote ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation in the Mekong region by demonstrating a process to identify, develop, and implement appropriate and flexible adaptation measures in the Central Section—a priority biodiversity area of the Mekong River. In combination with the proposed work by CED and CRDT in the region, WWF's goal was to provide concrete evidence that ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation can be feasibly implemented and mainstreamed into government land-use plans. The WWF-led activities established a robust system for the longer-term monitoring required demonstrating that these approaches effectively maintained or built climate change resiliency for ecosystems and people.

CRDT's role was to promote alternative livelihood programs along the Mekong River that have substantially reduced fishing pressure in the dolphin pools and biodiversity conservation areas that has reduced dolphin deaths in gill nets and led to more sustainable fishing practices.

CED also made use of Indigenous Community Support Organization (ICSO) expertise in the area of community media production and training. CED has also tapped the specialized skills of ICSO on Community Media production and on community network development.

CED has networked with the Non-timber Forest Product Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) to draw knowledge in the area of sustainable management of natural resources, forest management, sustainable harvesting of NTFP and community enterprise development and CED intention was to make use of NTFP-EP technical support in the areas of NTFP-Project Advisory, NTFP-EP livelihood development and NTFP value chains.

Every six month, CED, WWF and CRDT conducted a joint coordination meeting to update the social safeguard report, discussed the way of working, harmonized action plans and finding common strategy to overcome the challenges or threat.

Besides, CED has been working in good partnership with the governmental agents from local to national level such as commune councillors, district councillors, provincial governor, department of rural development, department of land urban planning and construction, department of planning and investment, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Land Urban Planning and Construction.

Conservation Impacts

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

The project contributed to CEPF Strategic Direction 3 (engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives, with particular emphasis on the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor and the Mekong River and its major tributaries). Specifically, the project helped to integrate biodiversity conservation objectives into the forestry sector in Cambodia via the development and implementation of models for community-led sustainable natural resource management in the central section of the Mekong River, between Kratie and Stung Treng.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

There are three main results which were achieved by the project:

1. Helped communities to claim their rights of access to natural resources. For instance, the activities supported a number of communities to have their land secured, and their forestry rights recognized, as well as consultation forums to find all the possible solutions for conflict resolution. By the end of the project, two villages (O Kok (1,883 ha) and Punta Chea (855 ha)) had their formal land title recognized by the Ministry of Rural Development, one village (O'Krasang) had its community forest (1,749 ha) recognized by Kratie Provincial Forestry Cantonment, and applications for community forests from two other villages (O'Kok (1,200 ha) and O'Krieng (2,713 ha)) were submitted and are expected to be approved by December 2013.
2. Developed alternative livelihoods that contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources and poverty reduction. Communities along the central section of the Mekong River in Kratie and Stung Treng provinces benefitted from the establishment of savings groups to provide capital for income generating activity, resin groups, and wild-honey collecting groups.
3. Strengthened the participation of local communities in a community forestry management committees' network linked with other networks throughout Cambodia. Their capacity was strengthened and they were able to participate in the community forestry legalization process thanks to facilitation by civil society organizations and skilled at advocacy with the local authorities and the government officers. The Community Forestry Network focused on developing community's constituency by sectoral networks, e.g. the community forestry management committee was established as a provincial network to respond to forest and land issues.

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

1. Critical habitat and biodiversity will be conserved in the CEPF Priority Site: "Mekong from Kratie to Lao P.D.R"
2. Community capacity to sustainably manage natural resources especially fisheries, forests and wild life will be developed and implemented.
3. Alternative livelihoods will be developed that contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources and poverty reduction.
4. Land reform changes and land tenure for communal lands will be developed that provide incentives for sustainable management of natural resources.

Actual Progress toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

1. Critical habitat and biodiversity will be conserved in the CEPF Priority Site: "Mekong from Kratie to Lao P.D.R"

Between September 2010 and June, 2013, the CEPF project addressed twenty one villages along the central section of the Mekong River. CED has partnered with WWF and CRDT, and all partners have implemented their activities based on their complementary roles and experiences focusing on biodiversity conservation. CRDT worked on livelihoods, and CED worked on Natural Resource Management especially community empowerment to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in biodiversity conservation and prevention. The twenty one villages CED selected were mostly indigenous communities. Two IP villages were prepared as collective land registration that both villages are recognized by Ministry of Rural Development and the ethnic communities have ability to organize the village congress by themselves under the facilitation of CED staff and competent institution from both provincial and national level. All IP land titling related documents were signed by local authorities, for 1,883 ha in O Kok village and 855 ha in Punta Chea village.

2. Community capacity to sustainably manage natural resources especially fisheries, forests and wild life will be developed and implemented.

In the last three years, CED has acted with a high level of responsibility in organizing forums and workshops that were participated in by all relevant stakeholders. In 2012, CED handed over this responsibility to all communities network and youth group to organize such a workshop with technical support and advice from CED program team. As a result, the communities network and youth group representatives have continued to organize such forums and workshops and ensure effectiveness and continued to improve social accountability and governance on land and natural resource management. The peoples' forums have led to the improvement of the biodiversity conservation and protection at the local levels. Through these activities, the affected communities are now able to directly address their issues with the authorities. Those meant, some issues are being heard and brought into consideration by policy makers. In case of O'Kok and Puntachea (forest abundant of NTPF where Phnong ethnic minority are relying on it for livelihood), where IPs are forest dwellers depending on the forest were able to protect it up to now while it was being threatened by Economic Land Concessions (ELCs) in 2012. The debate between local communities and authorities, especially with district councilors and governors on their basic needs and different kinds of NTFP led to a better understanding. Peoples' forums have been widened to have greater roles and responsibilities for the NRM, good governance and accountabilities. People forums are becoming an effectiveness platform to bring all stakeholders back to the peace-table and dialogue with local authority.

Two communities fisheries were established and 5 SALAPHUM research in 5 villages along the Mekong River under the support of Wetland Alliance Program (WAP) since 2008. The research activities mainly focused on the fish species and other plants in the river banks and 3 deep pools in Kratie province were identified and conserved by the local communities and local authorities. Two ranger boats with Hongda engines supported by the Faroe Islands through VSO were handed over to the two community fishery management committees in order for them to patrol the illegal activities inside the fish species areas conservation. The two communities fishery has the land area of up to 4,680 hectares with 122 households.

3. Alternative livelihoods will be developed that contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources and poverty reduction.

CED facilitated and formed 22 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) along the Mekong River in the form of savings groups. These groups saved money by themselves in order to provide a source of small community capital for supporting to each other with projects who focused on income generation activities through Micro-Businesses, NTFPs and value added services. The CEPF project supported training on NTFP processing, such as rattan, bamboo and honey, and the trainees were able to use capital from saving groups to expand their occupation and increase their income.

A number of meeting and consultations with two business groups of resin and resin protectors were conducted at village level and at the provincial level. As result, the resin business groups in the target area were very active in supporting their resin group members to protect resin trees against illegal logging their area. Together with CF's and IC's committee members, the resin groups regularly visited the resin trees sites to see the situation of resin trees and motivated resin collectors to care of the resin trees. The illegal loggings and forestland encroachment were reported by the resin groups to local authority and FA to take action. Resin tree loggings were reduced in the forest areas under management of target communities but it has heavily cut down resin trees from the Economic land concession without an agreement from community or compensation.

NTFPs including resin products are traditionally mainstays of the Indigenous Communities' economy: The resin tapping was recognized as customary rights under forestry law of Cambodia, allowing communities to extract the NTFPs resource including resin tapping in sustainable manner. CED team and resin tappers together conducted resin tree survey in November and December. The activity was conducted in forest sites in O'Krieng commune of Sambo district. During the survey, CED team has promoted 6 existing traditional groups of resin collectors in both villages. The survey team had conducted inventory of resin trees in 16 plots of which there are 2833 of resin trees. The survey team also has created resin harvesting monitoring system for those groups and ensured sustainable resin collections and qualified production. The activities are continuing.

Most of community resin based enterprises have been developed and are well functioning in business operation, meaning they ensure equal benefits among collectors and buyers, and have good quality of the resin production. As for the resin groups with small capital, they supported their members and collected all resin products in one batch for selling together, this empowered the negotiation to buyers to reach an appropriate cost. However, the resin price was low from January to June and got high in July to October and then got low in November to December again. This was due to the volume of resin production. From July to October resin collectors were busy with paddy rice plantation and harvest in November and December. In 2012, 360 Kan (1 Kan= 28kg) of resin products were collected from 27 resin collectors in 2 groups and were sold in the province. The cost in average was US\$ 21 per Kan (28kg), so the total incomes from selling the resin were US\$7,560, or an average of US\$280 per collector.

CED has continued to consult and train the 3 wild-honey groups composed of 194 Indigenous youth who have skillful in sustainable wild-honey management and harvest. The honey youth groups have been working in two different villages. All of them have a business plan for each year but they have collected the honey on seasonal time, from February to May every year. In 2012, the honey group collected 1,243 litres and sold to CEDAC enterprise in Phnom Penh, one litre costs in average of \$9.29. So, the total money was \$11,547. Each member earned \$59.52 in each season as additional income. This honey group is connected to national federation of wild-honey coordinated by NTFP-EP.

4. Land reform changes and land tenure for communal lands will be developed that provide incentives for sustainable management of natural resources.

It was recognized that there are two processes of community organization, Community Self-legalization (community internal-recognition) and Legalization (formal community organization which recognized by authority); and Community Management Plan that both have very important processes. Community self-legalization and community forestry management plan is a greater local mechanism in claiming their rights access for NRM. In 2012, CED has continued to empower target communities to claim their rights to access the forest and land effectively through the various activities that were conducted. This included field activities and coordination with authority and FA cantonment and provincial rural development department.

The sketch map is very important for communities because it identifies their land and natural resource layout and planning. The sketch map shows land use (agriculture and residential area), forest and other natural resources. CED program team facilitated and coordinated with target villages to produce sketch map and put in-placed for use in each village. This could support to target communities to use this for advocacy when there is development project that comes to their villages. CED did not draw the map but they trained community leaders to draw the map by themselves. As results, a number of communities exercised their rights such as activities of producing maps of land use planning, patrolling, and monitoring checked and unchecked NTFP and endorsement with the communities nearby. So far, these communities are trying and endorsing through evidence that their community forestry is organized since they have prepared the ground rules, regulated through the extension process and raised awareness to get support from their members to the local authorities.

In coordination with Oxfam Team in Kratie Province and the WAP project, women and men from communities – Community Forestry communities, Indigenous Communities Land Titling and Community Based Enterprises were trained on commune

investment planning (CIP). Recognizing that integration in their plan into CIP as an importance, a number of community leaders/ community committee members, majority of them were women leaders attended the commune councilors regularly/monthly meetings. The issues that were raised by community leaders during meetings included: land conflicts, forest illegal loggings, development projects which affected to agriculture land and conservation areas of the villagers and community development plan on Community Forestry Development, Indigenous Community legal entity registration and community based enterprises. This strategic approach was encouraged by local authorities to respect the rights of communities to participate in the commune/village development process and some commune chiefs in the target areas changed their attitudes when they realized that participation from the community in the development process is very important. The community leaders that were invited by commune chief and the communities were allowed to raise all the issues they wished. It was observed that in each integration workshop, a community development plan was written and put on the commune investment plan.

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

1. Community leaders in at least twenty one villages in and around the central section are educated in community organizing techniques.
2. Community-based micro-enterprises will be established in at least twenty one villages in and around the central section of the Mekong River.
3. Sustainable natural resource management practices adopted by at least twenty villages in and around the central section of the Mekong River
4. Communal land titling and tenure realized in at least twenty four villages in and around the central section of the Mekong River.
5. Inhabitants of at least 70% of the villages living in and around the central section of the Mekong River upstream becomes knowledgeable on environmental conservation and protection activities

Actual Progress toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

1. Community leaders in at least twenty one villages in and around the central section are educated in community organizing techniques.

The project identified indigenous community leaders able to organize their community on natural resource management and rights issues:

- The CED staff conducted regular coaching and follow-up to selected indigenous community leaders who were trained on advocacy techniques particularly on documentation of cases committed by private companies in violation of Indigenous People's rights and the Economic Land Concession agreement. As a result, two cases were filed by local communities to the Kratie provincial governor and to ADHOC (a local NGO working on human rights cases), demanding Kamadynou Company to return land (30 ha) to the local community who were the rightful owners.
- In areas organized for Community Fishery, the Community Forestry Management Committee and Community Forestry members regularly conducted network meeting at the village level. The meeting focused on patrol activity and reports on illegal activities committed by outsiders and local residents of the community. The reports were then submitted to the commune council officials and Forestry Administration triage.

2. Community-based micro-enterprises will be established in at least twenty one villages in and around the central section of the Mekong River.

The project established 22 community-based organizations in villages along the Mekong River, as described below:

- CF network was increased their members in participation as a stronger network for advocacy and networking with other networks throughout Cambodia. Their capacity was strengthened and they were able to facilitate through the participation with civil society and skilled in lobbying with the local authority and the Government officers. Their members upheld the community organization and mobilization. The CF Network had focused on developing community's constituency by sectoral networks, e.g. the community forestry management committee was established as a provincial network to respond of forest and land issues.
- The honey groups, the resin tapper group, and other NTFP product groups are the centre of the natural resource sustainability. They rely on the NTFP and spending much time in protecting them from any threat of forest degradation. They are parallelizing to the associations, community enterprises toward the cooperatives in the next few years. So that their performance is focused on maintaining the resources sustainability.
- Community based NTFP monitoring and management has been undertaken by the target communities.
- The local authority recognized the communities' action plan and merged it into the integration of community investment plan.
- The sketch map productions led to the mechanism of debating with the local authorities and the communities nearby. It is a tool of communities' rights exercising on resource use including land and forest.

3. Sustainable natural resource management practices adopted by at least twenty villages in and around the central section of the Mekong River

The project developed the communities' constitutional right for advocacy and claiming their rights of access to natural resources. For instance, the activities supported a number of communities to have their land secured, and forestry rights and the consultation forums to find all the possible solutions for conflict resolution. The following are key bullet notes of positive impacts:

- All villagers were satisfied with their endorsement of this support. One success was that 30 ha of disputed land in O'Kok village was returned to the villagers by the KAMADENOU Company (an Indian company).
- The IP communities led their members to conduct forest and biodiversity monitoring. And, they joined national network in patrolling of the Forest and report the forest crime to the Royal Government of Cambodia.
- A number of people public consultation forums were conducted to solve the land and boundary conflict. The conflict occurred with the ELCs and the boundary conflict between the two communities related to the traditional use, of the province
- The communities were able to stop the land demarcation for individual titling while they claimed for the communal land titling as they are IPs. It is occurred after the commune councilor election in June 2012. The Royal Government of Cambodia

Primer Directive / moratorium #001 Bor. Bor. issued on May 7, 2012 to appease communities that have conflicts with ELC in the country.

- The IP communities' members, community forestry management committees and community fishery management committees have worked well with the local authorities and the government agencies in protecting the forest resources and fish resources.
- The IP community members, CF management committees and community fishery management committees have ability to develop monthly report by themselves and shared to the local authorities, FA official and Fishery Administration Officers.

4. Communal land titling and tenure realized in at least twenty four villages in and around the central section of the Mekong River.

The project facilitated to ensure the processes of IPs by-law, community forestry self-legalization and community forestry legalization:

- 2 IP communities have declared their self-identification and submission the applications to relevant departments. The 2 IP communities have submitted the application for legal entities registration to the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Interior.
- There are 10 communities forestry within and around the Mekong Section that 3 of those supported by CEPF (O'kok, O'krasang and O'Krieng). O'krasang CF has CF agreement signed and reached CF Management Plan and other two CFs has been finalized as CF agreement that would be signed in December 2013. The other 7 community forests were supported by Oxfam GB (Puntachea, Khsachleav, Kohkhne, Angkor En, Kompong Damrey, Koh Enchey, Kampong Kboeung).
- A community forestry management committees' network has been established for networking with the Government relevant department
- The capacity of the Community Base Organizations (CBOs) has been enhanced in dealing with financial and management skills and communication skills.
- The Community Forestry Management Committees have monthly action plans and have regular patrolling 3 times per month to patrol the illegal activities inside their forest and report to the local authorities.

5. Inhabitants of at least 70% of the villages living in and around the central section of the Mekong River upstream becomes knowledgeable on environmental conservation and protection activities

The project used radio and video shows to raise public awareness about environmental conservation and protection activities:

- A radio talk show on Natural Resource Management and Local Livelihoods was broadcast through a sub-contract to Radio 98.5 FMz in Kratie town for one hour a day (from 12:00 to 1:00pm). Two staff were trained in radio talk show with thematic area to be discussed and were sent to be speakers at least 3 times a month.
- The radio talk show increased the voice of community expressed their concerns to the society and to the provincial authority. The program attracted the public, especially the youth from different walks of life to talk about good governance on land and forest management in the current context. Thematic areas that were discussed included: rights to access land tenure security based on land law; current context of illegal loggings; customary rights of access to forest resource use, including NTFPs collection for livelihood like resin and wild honey collection and sustainable agriculture; sustainable forest and land management; community rights to participate in land forest management in the form of Communal Land Titling; community forestry and other forms of forest protection; and climate change and adaptation.
- The program also encouraged peoples from all walks of life to protect the land and forest for today's livelihood and for the young generation. The speakers and callers also raised those issues to local authority and made comments on how to solve land issues with respect to the rights of local communities.
- CED observed that all cases that were raised on Radio talk show were heard by the local authority and government. For example in case of communal land titling, at the beginning, the local authority included provincial office put a lot of pressure on the villagers claiming communal land titling when the Premier's students came to do individual land titling and villagers rejected and then the provincial authority accused the villagers of making a state within a state, but when community network speakers talked on the Radio talk show, they seemed to realize the process and reduced their pressure towards the villagers.
- Many incidences of law breaking through illegal logging were inspected by the Forest Administration (FA) and local authorities thanks to the project. The FA and local authorities were responsive to their public service on land and forest management and worked more closely and recognized the importance of community participation in land forest management. They now have a better supported for Community Forestry legalization and Communal Land Titling process.
- Video presentations on community based natural resource management and indigenous people's culture were played in five villages with a total audience of 350 people watching the show. As a result, the community actively participated in advocacy campaigns for forest protection and conservation and documented private companies' illegal activities with regard to Economic Land Concessions.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

- CED with RECOTFC have coordinated with Kratie Forestry Administration Cantonment (FAC) trained the Community Forestry Management Committees (CFMCs). As result, they could prepare three CFs in target area such as O'krasang with a total of forest area up to 1,749 hectares, O'kok with a total of up to 1,200 hectares and O'Krieng with a total of up to 2,713 hectares.
- Outside the scope of the CEPF project, 7 Community Forests were established with support by Oxfam GB with a total forest area of 9,292 hectares. These community forests are nearby and adjacent.
- The Indigenous Community through legal entity with Ministry of Interior and toward Indigenous People collective registration. CED has coordinated to prepare two ethnic communities on actual planned as O'Kok village has 1,883 Hectares and Punta Chea village has 855 Hectares. These forest protected areas were identified and demarcated by local authority and officials from Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Land Management Urban

Planning and Construction and also ILO and GIZ officers including Department of Rural Development, Department of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction and Provincial Department of Planning and Investment.

Species Conserved:

N/A

Corridors Created:

N/A

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

Engagement with commune authority for integrated CBOs plans into Commune Investment Plan (CIP): In coordination with Oxfam Team in Kratie Province, women and men from communities – CF communities, Indigenous Communities and NTFP processing groups were trained on commune investment planning. Recognizing that integration in their plan into CIP as an importance, a number of community leaders/ community committee members, majority of them were women leaders attended the commune councilors regularly/monthly meetings. The issues that were raised by community leaders during meetings included: land conflicts, forest illegal loggings, development projects which affected to agriculture land of the villagers and community development plan on Community Forestry Development, Indigenous Community legal entity registration and NTFP processing groups. This strategic approach was encouraged by local authorities to respect the rights of communities to participate in the commune/village development process and some commune chiefs in the target area changed their attitudes when they realized that participation from the community in the development process is very important part. The community leaders that were invited by commune chief and the community representatives were allowed to raise all the issues they wished. It was observed that in each integration workshop, a community development plan was written and put on the commune investment plan.

Three communities Forestry with a total of 5,662 ha locate in O'Kok, O'Krasang and O'Krieng villages are recognized by the local authorities and Forestry Administration Cantonment (FAC) where Indigenous People become legal CF members who are able to legally manage their forest based on CF Management Plans and to use NTFP such as honey, resin, bamboo, wild vegetable, wild mushroom...etc. Two IP land Titling Communities with a total of 2,738 ha locate in both villages of O'Kok and Puntachea are also legally recognized by the sub-national authorities and national authorities means that the IP communities and CF members have their land and forest secured without any encroachment and grabbing from ELCs.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Through the project implementation in the past 3 years under support by CEPF, there are two villages named Ksach Liev and Koh Khnge nearby have initiated to establish community forestry by themselves by seeking technical and fund assistance from CED and local FA officers to provide capacity on the process of establishing community forestry in accordance with the CF guideline and sub-decree in order to protect their forest resources from being abused by ELCs and powerful businessmen and political elites and there are four villages named Koh Khnge, Beung Char, Kampong Damrey and Koh Entrachey nearby have initiated to establish land titling by themselves by seeking technical and fund assistance from CED and the Department of Rural Development and Department of Planning and Investment in order to secure their ancestral land converting legal land for sustainable management and utilization.

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: Community forest conservation and protection increased and sustainable use of natural resources enhanced in at least twenty villages along the central section of the Mekong main stream.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

As projects actual plan addressed on Communities forest conservation and protection increased and sustainable use of Natural resources enhanced in twenty one villages in target area along the central section of the Mekong main stream, CED has worked much on Natural Resources protected by Community Based Organized (CBOs) and the communities members. Their capacity was built up by CED and Forestry Administration Triage Officer and Provincial Department of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (PDLMUPC) trained on Land Law and Forestry Law including rights-based approach and other way, CED has supported CBOs Committees or Community members to learn with NGOs partners and moreover they have applied what they have learnt from the study tour outside the province in connection with community forestry protection. The CF management committees and CF members were trained with NGO partners to gain more knowledge in terms of community human resources level, each village has a regular patrolling or monitoring when they went to collect NTFPs. Within three years of the project implementation, one village has completed the process to designate its Community Forest, and the agreement has been signed with the cantonment chief of FA; and two other villages have reached the Community Forest management plan step.

Component 2 Planned: Income generating activities through Micro business NTFP and value added services developed in at least twenty one villages along the central section of the Mekong mainstream.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

The project provided NTFP processing training that makes more income with clear Micro Business plans. CED had a first research in each village in the target areas about the potentials NTFP such as rattan, honey, resin and bamboo and selected the local key volunteers to participate in NTFP processing, As result, there are 6 groups of rattan processing, 5 groups of bamboo processing and 3 groups of honey processing. Prior training started, CED staff with volunteer from VSO went to orient

the interested community volunteers about importance of NTFP processing in terms of NTFP and forest protection. The topics CED selected for the training courses was small business plan, market and value chain and the Opportunity Marketing Analysis for the poor. The six groups of rattan processing have 54 members (18 women), the five bamboo groups have 27 members (10 women) and the three honey groups have 15 members (10 women). The members were trained and they have now earned extra income from selling NTFP products to support their families who had low income caused their children left school and the children can now go to school.

As for the self-help groups established under CED facilitation, they have much more saved money of up to \$3,000 per group (7 saving groups) and all the members of the saving groups were trained on cash management and bookkeeping record that they are able to manage the cash count and record properly their money as monthly basic. They also have their own internal rule in managing their cash and loan to the members. The members can be allowed to borrow money from the group up to but not exceeding their own contributions.

Component 3 Planned: Land title and land tenure (ownership) training done in three strategic locations covering at least twenty villages located along the Mekong central section. Land tenures realized in at least 30% of the communities living in and around the central section of the Mekong River.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

CED focused on communities' empowerment, especially with Indigenous Communities involved in land titling and land tenure ownership training done in three strategic locations covering in twenty one villages located along the Mekong central section. Land tenure was realized for two communities living in and around the central section of the Mekong River. The IP communities' rights to access and use their land were secured and other IP communities nearby became interested in the process of land titling and asked CED to help them do the land titling in the next phase. Natural resource management network groups were formed in each village. All natural resource management network members were trained on legal advocacy, right claiming to access land and Natural Resources by CED and they have learned more about the advocacy methodology from NGO partners such as NGO forum on Cambodia, IRAM, EISEI, NTFP-EP, WGPD, CFIN and CPN.

Community members and CBO committees dared to claim their rights and voiced out to the local authorities for what they have concerns regarding the land and forest issues. They also mobilized all local people to protect biodiversity and forest resource. Two villages of ethnic community land titling are preparing the government-required documents to apply for IP land registration as collective ownership. Both villages were identified with recognition by Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) through commune council, district governor and provincial governor and would be submitted to Ministry of Interior for issuing legal entity.

Component 4 Planned: Community organizing capacity improved through advocacy and protection training in twenty one villages.

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

The two programs of CED are Natural Resources Management (NRM) and Livelihoods that CED has been strongly and actively focusing on the IP community's and CBO empowerment. As result, the IP communities' members and CBOs' members have been networking with one another to do strong advocacy with companies with Economic Land Concessions and the local authorities to respect their cultural rights and forest spirit affected by the companies' development until they stopped doing their activities until 300 hectares of the forest land were transferred to the IP communities.

Village network members are active to have monthly patrolling on illegal activities occurred within their forest and around the target areas of the Mekong River. The village and communes networks have a monthly planned meeting for sharing information and raised up all case issues to the commune council members happened in their villages aiming at finding a common resolution, for instance, one case with 30 hectares of land grabbing by the Global Agricultural Development (Cambodia) CoLtd, Company named as KAMADINOU in O'Kok village, the IP representatives had three times submitted to the commune council but was not successful and then continued submitting to the district governor, but still not successfully, they finally submitted to ADHOC, who worked on Human Rights, CLEC and CIYA based in the province level that this network brought this issue to the provincial governor then the governor had called the company representatives and IP representative for a meeting to find a common solution. At the end the governor had decided to set-aside the land with 30 ha by KAMADENOU Company to the IP community.

Component 5 Planned Increased knowledge and awareness of how to use video, radio and other media for environmental education in at least 70%of the villages in and around the central section of the Mekong

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

The radio talk show on Natural Resource Management and local livelihoods were continued with sub-contract station to Radio 98.5 FMz in Kratie town for one hour a day (from12:00 to 1:00PM). Two staff were trained on radio talk show with thematic area to be discussed and were sent to speakers at least 3 times per month. The Radio talk show has increased the voice of indigenous people to express their concerns to their communities in particular about developments affecting their culture and livelihood. The program attracted the public, especially the youth from different walks of life to talk about good governance on land and forest management in the current context. Thematic areas that were discussed included: Rights to access land tenure security based on land law, current context of illegal loggings, customary rights access to forest resource use included NTFPs collection for their livelihoods like resin and wild honey collection and sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest and land management, Community rights to participate in land forest management in a form of Communal Land Titling, Community Forestry and other form of forest protection as well as climate change and adoption.

Component 6 Planned: Ensuring compliance with CEPF Safeguard Policies on Involuntary resettlement and Indigenous People

Component 6 Actual at Completion:

For the last 6 years, World Wide Fund for Nature in partnership with Cambodia Fisheries Administration and Forestry Administration has advocated for the issuance of a Proclamation (Prakas) declaring the 33,808 hectares within the Central Section of the Mekong mainstream as Special Management Site. The Prakas creating a Special Management Site for the Mekong Flooded Forest and sustainable livelihoods was issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in April 2013. In parallel, the Council of Ministers recently approved a new dolphin sub-decree dated August 24, 2012 creating Dolphin Protection and Management Areas thus prohibiting the use of gillnet within the Central Section of the Mekong mainstream. The establishment of the new protected areas may have a big impact in fishing dependent communities. Based on the social assessment study conducted in 2011 majority of the IP community in 15 villages used gillnet and other traditional fishing gears to catch fish for food security and for their livelihood. WWF together with CRDT, CED, ABE, and other groups have worked to mitigate the impact of the sub-decree through outreach and alternative livelihood programs. Furthermore, although the implementation of recommendation cited in the Social Assessment Report was delayed (due to much later than expected approval of the protected areas), WWF, CRDT and CED took steps to comply with the IPP principles and standards.

Specifically, the Indigenous People's Plan for the project was translated into Khmer in a simple version that could easily be understood by the IP community. The IPP document is too technical that the partners are planning to design a module on how to effectively disseminate information to the community. The document also included the name and contact numbers of proper authority and organization whom they can seek help in the case of grievances. In addition, the project provided the indigenous communities with a list of contacts of personnel and officers of government agencies, newly elected commune council official and staff of partner NGO's. WWF, CRDT and CED requested the presence of commune chiefs, and relevant government personnel at meetings, and to some extent even subsidized the cost of transportation and allowance to ensure their attendance in community consultation, workshops and training. This was also a good opportunity for the indigenous communities to meet the proper authority to address their concern and problems.

The proposal community forest management plans prepared under the project were translated into Khmer and distributed throughout the project area. CED in cooperation with RECOTFC and Forestry Administration Cantonment capacitated the Community Forestry Management Committees and the Community Forestry members in the preparation of documents for the formulation of 3 Community Forestry Management Plans. These plans outlined the proposed developments and goals of the CF community for the next 15 years. The 3 CFMP were submitted to FA Cantonment for their approval. The annual ordinary assembly for Community Forestry was also organized in order to get more support from all relevant stakeholders over the CF Management Plans in term of participating in protecting the conservation areas.

In addition, the project used alternative livelihood and development activities to mitigate any negative impacts to people in the project area. Most of these livelihood activities were provided by CRDT, which worked with local communities to improve their food security and income generation contributed to conservation through forming CBOs. CRDT provided capacity building to group members to be able to apply on livestock and rice productivities. A total of 30 livelihood CBOs were formed along the central section of Mekong mainstream. The majority of the CBOs adopted chicken and pig raising as an alternative livelihood to address over dependency on natural resources. Saving mechanisms also played a major part in CBO activities as they provided livelihoods, especially to the Kouy and Phnong ethnic groups. Based on monthly record from communities, the activities of livestock raising are increasing an indication that the community applied the techniques learned in the training; monthly savings activities have also been recorded by the group which indicated a good impact of the project. All livelihood activities of CBOs were recognized by the relevant commune council.

To complement these activities, CED trained six micro-business groups on rattan processing and three micro-business groups on quality control of wild honey. The business groups sold their rattan products such as clothes hanger, closet/drawer, cabinets, tables and chairs with an income of \$200 per community. While the three micro-business groups were actively processing honey with a total of 1,243 litres and sold to CEDAC shop in Kratie province and Phnom Penh City.

In a related project, WWF worked with the Fishery Administration to stop illegal gold mining activities in the project site. This had no impact on Indigenous People in the project area. WWF also worked with FA to stop some illegal logging activities and confiscated some wood and timber. This affected only a few people and had no effect in any of the Indigenous communities in the project site.

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

NO

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

Community Forestry Establishment, Land Titling Processes, NTFP grouping, Help Self Grouping CF networking and IP networking linked with other communities are the methodologies that resulted from this project and also contributed to the planned 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.

- These are the causes of traditionally driven communities since the empowerment and self-determination are not yet standardized. But, CED is like the local NGOs who support human rights and is known to use local and indigenous knowledge promotion to fight against poverty.
- The value of people taking responsibilities in analyzing and responding to the impacts of development rather than being driven to do so by outsiders is priceless.
- CED did not have the funds as planned for its budget for 2013, so some expected results were not met.
- Through this project, CED staff has good partnership and cooperation with the government agencies from local to national level and learned and shared experience from each other (WWF and CRDT) in implementing the project.
- The staffs who are involved with the project have significant knowledge and experiences in community forestry establishment, the process of land titling and the concept of biodiversity conservation.

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

The project design process was early done by CED's management team and field staff with good consultation with local beneficiaries in doing the need assessment and information collection and key stakeholders such as Forestry Administration Cantonment, Department of Rural Development, Department of Land Management, Urban planning and Construction, CRDT and WWF.

The project aligns well with the objective and priorities of the Call of contributing to poverty reduction and promoting equity through improved governance capacity of sub-national level administrations, and strengthened role of civil society and communities in decentralization reform. It is in line with Lot 1 of the Call which focuses on civil society activities in support of the National Programme for Sub-National Democratic Development (SNDD) 2010-2019 and the Three Year Implementation Plan (IP3) 2011-2013¹. It has contributed to the progress in the implementation of the decentralization reform by improving the capacity of the sub-national authority and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to promote transparent, responsive and accountable governance regarding the natural resource management. Through capacity building and partnership approach, the project has promoted effective cooperation between state institutions and non-state actors at the sub-national level, in pursuit of good governance of land and natural resources, and in better protection of the rights of the indigenous people, particularly the poor and vulnerable. The project thus also gave important attention in empowering minorities and indigenous people by building their capacity for leadership, advocacy and claim-making.

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

CED supported and prepared two indigenous communities to become legal entities and then to register their community land in O'kok and Pon Chea villages. The village chiefs and representatives of ethnic elders from nearby O'Preash and Pon Chea villages were invited to participate in special event meeting, such as Indigenous People by-law evaluation evaluated by Ministry of Interior (Mol) and village congress meeting. Finally, the village chiefs and community ethnic elders were very interested in replicating the approach in their villages. When CED staffs went to work with other projects there, they had good welcome and presented their purpose of high commitment to actively participate in protecting their forest and land.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

CED's staffs, officials from Department of Rural Development, Department of Planning and Investment, Forestry Administration Cantonment, District Council and Commune Council have good learning over the processes of community forestry establishment and Land Titling.

CED works with community representatives to empower the poor and vulnerable people in land and forest resource rights. The affected communities where we support have a strong advocacy and voice, as a result, CED has been accused of working to oppose the government, empowering communities against authority. Learning from this, CED has strengthened its staff members to review our community representatives and CBOs to have an independent stance.

2013 was the end of phase I strategy from 2008-2012, CED has been a bit slow in implementing its programs due to the busy arrangement of new 5-year strategy in mid-2013.

One field staff resigned, it caused a delay in some of activities to date. CED has temporary replaced one project assistant to do activities.

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 (US\$)	Notes
Action Aid	B	185,591.21	Child rights, livelihood and IP rights
CED	In-Kind	39,357.16	Labor, Human resources,
Trocaire	B	27,866.27	Indigenous People voice mining issues
Wetland Alliance Program	B	95,466.00	Securing livelihoods through environmental education and Action.
Oxfam GB	B	45,243.00	Community Forestry and Disaster Response, Preparedness and Rehabilitation.
NPA	B	42,616.00	Indigenous People voice mining issues.
Faroe Island	B	7,500.00	Community Fishery and provided two Ranger boats.
Voluntary Service Overseas	B	1,212.00	Community Committees Fishery capacity Building.

***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/Reliability

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

The project activities with the different target groups were designed to be sustainable as they are centred around partnership, engagement, and capacity building. Strengthening partners' institutional and project capacity to work with and engage the local government administrations and authorities in a partnership and a participatory approach, is key for continuing and taking forward the activities of the project. All the implementing local communities and authority are working in the project's target sites. Most of their on-going activities are focused on supporting the local governing councils and community groups in the sustainable management of land, forest, fisheries and natural resources, and in empowering women and vulnerable groups dependent on these resources, improving their ability to protect their rights, and ensuring their livelihoods and food security. The project has complemented and reinforced their activities and improved effectiveness of their work.

The recognition of the relevance and effectiveness of the Partners' project activities by local government administration and other state agencies, has promoted commitment in taking forward the activities of the project even at the end of the grant, and are enable ownership and sustainability. This has, at the same time, enabled expansion or adaptation of the project strategies to other areas, and ensured the multiplier effect of the project impact.

With their strengthened capacity, the local communities, in partnership with the local government, community-based organisations and other civil society groups have been able to work effectively together in engaging communities and local citizens, especially those who are marginalised and living in poverty, to ensure that issues affecting them are articulated and addressed, and that their rights including land rights are protected.

The capacity development on good governance and effective civic engagement is expected to significantly improve the knowledge and understanding of the laws and policies on land and natural resources management of about sub-national authorities at the commune, district and provincial levels, and as such, improving their capabilities towards achieving good governance as well as their legal competencies in ensuring the land rights of their constituencies.

The recognition of improved Sub-National Authorities-civil society cooperation and engagement facilitated by the project's provincial network, has concretely led towards creating a culture of participation and democratic consultation for formulating local policies, plans and strategies on the development and management of land and natural resources, including addressing land rights related issues. The success and achievements of the Network in effectively bringing together and establishing an enabling environment for engagement between the different levels of local government authorities, civil society and community

groups not only provided the strategic space for citizens (particularly women and other vulnerable groups) to have their voices equally heard and be able to participate in collective decision-making on land and natural resources governance and development, but of equal importance, is also expected to improve responsiveness and accountability of sub-national administrations.

For the beneficiary groups, the project's concrete results in local authorities' heightened awareness and recognition of the importance of engaging civil society groups, community-based organisations (CBOs) and those who are marginalised and living in poverty, has been improved their responsiveness and accountability and become an essential part of their governance practice. The wide acceptance and 'buy-in' with local authorities to work in partnership with NGOs and CBOs in planning and decision-making related to land and natural resources development and management has brought sustained democratic participation and accountability to citizens in local governance.

The project's emphasis and focused actions on legal awareness and education, and in building leadership, advocacy, mobilisation and claim-making capacities of women, indigenous people, ethnic minorities and the landless and land poor families, has not only empowered them to effectively engage local authorities on issues affecting them and ensured protection of their rights, but also increased their opportunities for political participation. Through continued NGO-CBO partnership even after the completion of the project, engagement and mobilising skills learnt from the project activities has been enable the communities and the grassroots to be vigilant to changing situations and issues, and effectively demand appropriate actions in line with policies and legislations, and within the framework of the decentralised governance of Cambodia. This is foreseen to bring improved social and economic conditions in rural communities and thereby contributed to poverty reduction. This, in effect, has increased the biodiversity and cultural sustainability of the project

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or explicability achieved.

In coordination with Oxfam Team in Kratie and Stung Treng Provinces, women and men from communities – CF communities, Indigenous Communities and NTFP processing groups were trained on commune investment planning. Recognizing that integration in their plan into CIP as an importance, a number of community leaders/ community committee members, majority of them were women leaders attended the commune councilors regularly/monthly meetings. The issues that were raised by community leaders during meetings included: land conflicts, forest illegal loggings, development projects which affected to agriculture land of the villagers and community development plan on Community Forestry Development, Indigenous Community legal entity registration and NTFP processing groups. This strategic approach was encouraged by local authorities to respect the rights of communities to participate in the commune/village development process and some commune chiefs in the target area changed their attitudes when they realized that participation from the community in the development process is very important part. The community leaders that were invited by commune chief and the community representatives were allowed to raise all the issues they wished.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Please refer to the safeguard monitoring report submitted separately.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

- CEPF should conduct every 6 month reflection workshop with its partners in order to reflect what has been well done, what has not been well done and to share experience in regard with the biodiversity conservation.
- CEPF should continue supporting its existing partners under phase 1 project in order to fully secure their land and forest resources in the next 3 or 5 years.
- CEPF should support its partners to conduct international exposure visit in order for the partners to learn good practice and experiences regarding the biodiversity conservation

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:

Name: Sun Kimhoeun

Organization name: Community Economic Development (CED)

Mailing address: Donchrom, Sangkat Kratie, Kratie Town, Kratie Province, Cambodia

Tel: (855)12 346 811

Fax:

E-mail: sunkimhoeun@ced-krt.org

*****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)
<p>1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p align="center">914 families</p>	<p align="center">792 families, 576 persons in total and 369 women.</p>	<p>Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.</p> <p>CF sustainable management plan had been submitted to the Forestry Administration Cantonment (FAC) for approval with a total land area up to 1,200 hectares locates in O'kok village and 2,713 hectares locates in O'kreang village. Both villages will be signed as Community Forestry Agreement between the cantonment chief of FA and the chiefs of CFMCs in December 2013. Okok village has both community forestry funded by Oxfam GB and communal land titling funded by CEPF. Community Forestry locates in O'Krasang with a total forest area up to more than 1,749 hectares and the CF Agreement was already signed between the cantonment chief and CFMC chief. The above-stated land areas provide significant benefit to 792 families in terms of reducing the entire dependence on fish resource. Two Community Fisheries were established inside the conservation area with a total of area up to 4,680 hectares funded by AIT and World Fish center. Three deep pools for biodiversity conservation are identified and protected by the community fishery management committees and 122 families.</p>
<p>2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?</p>		<p align="center">Yes,</p>	<p align="center">140 families, Total: 675 persons in those 321 women</p>	<p>Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.</p> <p>The Indigenous People's land titling for sustainable in O'KOK village have 1,883 hectares, PUNTA CHEA has 855 hectares</p>
<p>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</p>	<p align="center">Yes,</p>	<p align="center">914 families</p>		<p align="center">8,400 hectares</p>

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.	Yes	21 local communities		The 21 communities have increased their income through rattan, bamboo and Honey processing and supported CF and IP land protection. The NTFP processing is regularly processed as part-time. The incomes they earned are contributed to the patrol groups to protect the bio-diversity in the Mekong river and also the forest resources along the Mekong river.

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

