

## +CEPF Final Project Completion Report

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

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	Wildlife Alliance, Inc.
<b>Project Title</b>	Stemming the Tide: A Coordinated Community and Law Enforcement Response to the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Cambodia
<b>CEPF GEM No.</b>	64021
<b>Date of Report</b>	October 14, 2016

**CEPF Hotspot:** Indo-Burma Hotspot

**Strategic Direction:** Strategic Direction 2. Demonstrate innovative responses to illegal trafficking and consumption of wildlife

**Grant Amount:** USD\$180,000

**Project Dates:** 2014/5/1-2016/7/31 (original Project End date was 2016/4/30 but extension was requested due to administrative changes in the Forestry Administration which caused delays in the WRRT's workplans)

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

Cambodian Forestry Administration (FA): FA judicial officials applied articles of the Forestry Law related to hunting, transporting and trading of wildlife, and submitted infractions to court. FA seconded four officials dedicated to fighting the illegal wildlife trade to this project.

Royal Gendarmerie Khmer (RGK): The RGK provided seven military police who dedicated 100% of their time to the WRRT and served in a variety of capacities, including conducting operations and investigations, as well as gathering intelligence.

Cambodian WEN Coordination Unit (CCU): CEPF's prior grant instituted the CCU as the Cambodian representational office of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN). Situated within the FA, the three-person office is the national and international focal point for implementation and enforcement of laws pertaining to the illegal wildlife trade. The CCU shared data, facilitated approvals for signage with the FA logo (at the borders, within Phnom Penh, and in the airport), communicated with other government agencies on issues related to the illegal wildlife trade and supported tougher penalties for wildlife traders.

## **Conservation Impacts**

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

This project contributed to all four investment priorities of Strategic Direction 2 by supporting:

#### **2.1: *enforcement agencies to unravel high-level wildlife trade networks* through**

- continued implementation and capacity development of the WRRT;
- an expanded network of trained informants enabled to participate in surveillance and preliminary investigation tasks;
- increased reward payments to informants to supersede those from major traders;

#### **2.2: *collaboration among enforcement agencies and non-traditional actors to reduce cross-border trafficking of wildlife* through:**

- continued support to Cambodian-WEN;
- strengthened collaboration between CCU and ASEAN-WEN agencies in neighboring countries;
- facilitated communication with CCU and national agencies;
- continued engagement with police, customs, border patrol, and informants;

#### **2.3: *private (logistics and transport companies) and public sector adoption of voluntary restrictions on the international transportation, sale and consumption of wildlife* through capacity building of internal policies and procedures in Cambodia's main port in Sihanoukville as well as Phnom Penh and Siem Reap International Airports;**

#### **2.4: *campaigns, social marketing and media outreach, and other long-term communication programs to reduce customer demand for wildlife and build public support for wildlife law enforcement* through collaboration with Wildlife Alliance's environmental education project, the Kouprey Express, to support nationwide public education campaigns, promote the wildlife crime hotline and iPhone app, and raise awareness in schools, rural communities, and border areas through community outreach events, teacher and community trainings, and billboard campaigns.**

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

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

The intended long-term impact of this program was the reduction in the illegal and unsustainable overexploitation of protected wildlife species in Cambodia, in the form of poaching and illegal wildlife trade and also to disrupt the illegal wildlife trade throughout S.E. Asia and beyond.

This impact was intended to directly support and eventually accomplish - in the context of other efforts by linked and unrelated institutions - CEPF's Strategic Direction 2 for the Indo-Burma Hotspot, to "Demonstrate innovative responses to illegal trafficking and consumption of wildlife."

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

Activities implemented under this grant directly complemented concurrent wildlife counter trafficking and awareness raising activities implemented through USAID's ARREST program, which engaged a large contingent of partners around the region and beyond to disrupt wildlife trade and reduce demand for wildlife and wildlife parts in Asia. As a result, both the WRRT and the KE are recognized in Cambodia and beyond as effective leaders who are spearheading these efforts. Furthermore, the WRRT and KE serve as examples of cost-efficient Best Practices for effective holistic approaches to combating the wildlife trade that can be replicated in other countries.

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

Short term impacts identified for this project were:

1. Increased communication amongst agencies and organizations involved in implementation and enforcement of laws pertaining to the illegal wildlife trade. A focus will be reinforcing the communication and sharing of data between the WRRT and CCU, but also include enhanced communication between: agencies in Cambodia (FA-CCU with Customs, NACD, border police), Cambodian agencies and agencies in other countries at ASEAN-WEN meetings (e.g. CCU/WRRT with officials from Thailand, Vietnam, Laos), international NGOs combating the illegal wildlife trade (WA/WRRT with FREELAND Foundation, Education for Nature – Vietnam, Wildlife Conservation Society – Lao). (record of communications and between whom/"minutes" of informal meeting)
2. Decrease and disruption in the transit phase of the illegal wildlife trade in Cambodia, specifically along: the checkpoint near Snoul in Kratie Province; National Rd 13 and 7; National Rd 78 from Banlung to VN, Ratanakiri Province; National Rd 1, Svay Rieng Province to VN; National Rd 21 Koh Thom District of Kandal Province to VN; Prey Veng Province, small trails, and Mondulkiri province, small trails. This will be done through improved capacity of WRRT and provincial FAs to implement and enforce wildlife protection laws in Cambodia, both national legislation and international agreements (CITES, CBD) and increased intelligence regarding networks engaged in the illegal wildlife trade at these areas and through improved intelligence from the informant network achieved through the growth in numbers and capacity of informants (# of informants, % of informant information which leads to an operation or raid, at least 12 operations in these key areas, # of non-re-offense contracts, penalties, cases sent to court in these areas, for bigger traders: #/% of penalties over \$3000, #/% cases sent to court)
3. Increased awareness on the importance of Cambodia's biodiversity and the wildlife protection laws, leading to increased participation by the public (more calls to the hotline) and by the private sector (company regulations developed) 8 community engagement events held, 4,500 participants expected, signs installed in strategic locations (location and number of signs to be determined by signage availability) and location of signage, a 50% increase of calls from the general public to the hotline, a minimum of 5 companies that have initial training, 95% of companies maintain communications, a majority of those companies institute policy)

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

### **1. Increased communication amongst agencies and organizations involved in implementation and enforcement of laws pertaining to the illegal wildlife trade:**

The WRRT conducted regular trainings of provincial FAs, military police, informants and close consultation and information sharing with Cambodian and regional NGO partners, thus comprehensively involving all relevant and necessary stakeholders during this period. During all available opportunities whilst conducting operations WRRT members provided training and actively involved provincial authorities in investigations, operations and the preparation and lodging of prosecution case files. This increased level of collaboration with partner organizations allowed WRRT to pass on its knowledge learnt through extensive experience to other agencies including Provincial Forestry Administration officers, National Police, Military Police, Customs officers and Economic Police and provided them with the training and guidance to substantially improve investigation techniques, provide a better understanding of wildlife laws and equip them with the ability to employ best practice methods to initiate wildlife crime investigations, operations and prosecutions.

### **2. Decrease and disruption in the transit phase of the illegal wildlife trade in Cambodia, specifically along: checkpoint near Snoul in Kratie Province; National Rd 13 and 7; National Rd 78 from Banlung to VN, Ratanakiri Province; National Rd 1, Svay Rieng Province to VN; National Rd 21 Koh Thom District of Kandal Province to VN; Prey Veng Province, small trails, and Mondulkiri province, small trails:**

Increased collaboration and training of enforcement agencies; recruiting and training of additional informants; and, intensive efforts of WRRT to focus on wildlife transit routes and particularly those stationed at the above locations and those near border check points has resulted in reduced corruption and a significant increase in the number of wildlife cases instigated by those agencies. Prior to the CEPF grant, wildlife prosecutions by provincial and border agencies were a very rare occurrence with authorities involved in conservation preferring to solely focus on illegal timber sale and transportation. Throughout the grant period the numbers of interceptions and prosecutions by partner government agencies have steadily increased to the extent the team is now being called upon to assist with high level wildlife cases instigated by those agencies on a weekly basis.

Increased levels of WRRT vehicle interceptions and searches, patrolling, and targeted operations in the above areas has significantly disrupted the activities of wildlife traders to the extent they no longer utilize cars or trucks to transport any large quantities of wildlife and have been forced to resort to transporting wildlife in small quantities using motorcycles and avoiding any major roads or border crossings where officials are stationed.

### **3. Increased awareness on the importance of Cambodia's biodiversity and the wildlife protection laws:**

The Kouprey Express mobile environmental education and community outreach project (KE) exceeded its goals in terms of the number of events held, increasing public participation, and general awareness raising about Cambodia's wildlife laws. A total of 35 Community Night Shows reached an estimated 6,721 villagers, while an additional 5,000 people attended an event in

Phnom Penh. The KE distributed a total of 16,760 posters, t-shirts and stickers featuring the WRRT 24-hour nationwide wildlife rescue hotline number and installed 7 billboard signs at strategic locations.

As a result of this signage, the comprehensive community outreach events and classroom engagement, calls to the hotline from the general public increased by approximately 61%. The increase in understanding of wildlife species, threats, laws, and action that can be taken to protect them increased 66% among students and 34.1% among teachers and community educators. These percentages varied, ranging from as low as 15% in remote areas where the majority of the adults were illiterate, to as high as 93% among students. Remoteness did not necessarily determine high or low level of understanding but areas with very low literacy almost always had the lowest scores.

Training and communication was maintained with So Ngoun Transportation, Teng Lay Transport, DHL, FedEx, Hong Leng Hour, SRVC Freight Services and TSS Transport Company. Communications with larger transportation companies indicate they self-regulate and have policies and procedures relating to wildlife and its derivatives. The smaller and less organized companies have employees that are poorly trained and informed relating to detecting illegal shipments of wildlife. Many are unwilling to assist or participate in any organized training sessions. Whenever possible WRRT has informally trained and advised representatives and other staff from these companies of wildlife laws, identification and detection methods.

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

WRRT met with an array of challenges not new to Cambodia, including corruption, an unwillingness to comply with or enforce wildlife laws and a general perception amongst the population and government agencies that wildlife crimes are of little importance. Despite this, the WRRT met and in most cases exceeded goals set under this grant with the recruiting and training of additional informants, the training of staff from partner organizations and closer ties with other agencies involved in disrupting the illegal wildlife trade being particularly successful.

A decision by the Forestry Administration to restructure the management of all operations and prosecutions posed a significant challenge as it removed the team's autonomy and ability to independently make decisions. Prior to January 2016, WRRT FA staff had responsibility and control of all prosecution action taken against wildlife traders they apprehended. After January 2016, that responsibility fell to local authorities. These changes resulted in WRRT FAs not having actual ownership of prosecutions mounted and reduced the team's ability to independently take action. Despite the reduction in the level of decision making, WRRT has successfully continued to urge local authorities to apply the harshest possible penalties under the relevant legislation and has reduced the level of impact of this administrative change.

Training sessions provided to key customs staff has been particularly effective and has led to WRRT having a closer working relationship with customs staff with follow up contact, regular meetings and exchanges of information now regularly occurring. This has assisted with significant importation results, including the below two wildlife importations that were detected shortly after staff training:

- May 9, 2014: From Mombasa, Kenya through Singapore to Cambodia. 3,008 kg of elephant tusks were seized at Preah Sihanouk harbor (501 tusks concealed in a container of beans).
- October 4, 2015: From Angola through Ethiopia, Seoul to Siem Reap. A Vietnamese national was arrested with 2 suitcases filled with 46.1 kg of:
  - 15 pieces of elephant tusks
  - 11 elephant tails
  - Cheetah teeth and nails

Customs invited the WRRT to collaborate and support their investigation of this case, which was the first time ever customs had invited the cooperation of the WRRT.

On-the-ground awareness increased significantly. Interestingly, even in areas of low literacy and lacking in basic education, the communities were often already aware of environmental challenges as they are directly and negatively impacted by wildlife and habitat destruction. These communities welcomed the wildlife outreach activities of the KE and were very vocal in rallying support among their members and those from neighboring villages to band together to actively protect and prevent the destruction of wildlife and habitat. Prior to the training, participants were unaware of the potential health consequences and increased financial costs related to consuming wildlife, as well as of the laws and financial and legal consequences of committing wildlife crimes. Many stated that they had witnessed such crimes but were unaware of what action to take. Learning of the hotline number made them feel empowered. The KE was very impressed with the initiative and grassroots interest among village and commune leaders and teachers to continue the KE's message of wildlife protection.

Minor challenges included heavy rains, which resulted in the cancellation of several scheduled Community Night Shows. A significant increase in price for an intended sign along the road to Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, arguably the most traveled road in Cambodia, proved cost-prohibitive as it jumped from \$16,000 in 2013 to \$31,000 in 2014. This was unfortunate but resulted in the KE being able to diversify its signage options to allow the most impact.

Funding shortages for the KE's core operations in 2015 threatened to cause delay or cancellation of core activities. However, the KE was able to not only source new funding but forged a new partnership with Winrock International under USAID's Supporting Forests and Biodiversity project. This took the KE into new areas.

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

In 2016 responsibility for protected areas moved from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to the Ministry of Environment. Fortunately, these changes have had little direct impact on WRRT operations and the team is now actively pursuing new partnerships and closer working relationships with Ministry of Environment officials to encourage the flow of information and reporting of wildlife crimes and intelligence. The closer collaboration with the Ministry of Environment will continue to improve the team's ability to disrupt the illegal wildlife trade. It has also led to improved knowledge relating to possible release sites and monitoring of released wildlife in specific locations agreed upon within protected areas.

The unexpected impacts in terms of environmental education and community outreach were unanimously positive. During this grant period the KE reached very remote areas that are under considerable threat from rampant deforestation for new and existing agribusiness concessions and illegal logging. Community members are often engaging in the deforestation by outside companies. In the past, it was very challenging to host Community Night Shows and other activities because anti-deforestation messages posed a threat to local livelihoods. However, the KE is seeing a shift as rural residents recognize that not only is this kind of employment unsustainable in the long-term, but it is destructive to their communities. Though many will stay employed in logging for the near-term out of economic necessity, focusing on these areas to help protect and educate communities to preserve fragmented landscapes is invaluable. Community members stated that the KE's visit opened their eyes to many things that they were unaware were illegal or problematic. Most importantly, the visits inspired them to collectively take initiative.

### **Project Components and Products/Deliverables**

#### **Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)**

**Component 1:** Enhance implementation of Cambodian-WEN

##### **Deliverables for Component 1:**

- 1.1. Formal and informal meetings at least once a month or once every other month, to further relationships for Cambodian agencies, facilitated by WA. Deliverables of these meetings will be to identify and nominate key personnel within each jurisdiction as contact points for information and intelligence related to cross-border trading leading to interception.
- 1.2. Selected members of the WRRT/CU will play a more active role in ASEAN-WEN by traveling to neighboring countries and attending regional WEN meetings maintain critical cross-border relationships with government counterparts, e.g. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual ASEAN-WEN meeting in 2014 in Vietnam and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual ASEAN-WEN meeting in 2015.
- 1.3. Enhanced communication with at least 3 other local, regional, and international NGOs involved in the wildlife trade

**Component 2:** Enhance the capacity to implement and enforce wildlife protection laws in Cambodia

##### **Deliverables for Component 2:**

- 2.1 WRRT and CCU attend capacity building opportunities offered at an international level by ASEAN-WEN.
- 2.2 WRRT conducts at least 2 trainings in each province for provincial FA in response to the decentralization of law enforcement procedures.
- 2.3 WRRT conducts three trainings for 15 informants each who will be able to conduct preliminary surveillance and investigations.

**Component 3:** Increase the intensive investigations and raids conducted by the WRRT

**Deliverables for Component 3:**

3.1. Expand the size (by 15), capacity, and effectiveness of the informant network resulting in more thorough and reliable intelligence for quicker response from the team, leading to improved investigation and prosecution of major traders.

3.2 WRRT receives increased intelligence regarding wildlife trade from the informants in these areas leading to measurable reduction of wildlife trade in the relevant areas.

3.3 More investigations (at least 12) and arrests of bigger traders (as shown by increased fines >\$3000), or imprisonment from cases sent to court leading to stiffer penalties, fines or imprisonment, resulting in a reduction of people entering or persisting in the trade.

**Component 4:** Advance community awareness about the importance of Cambodia's wildlife laws and biodiversity and encourage participation through WA's hotline and iPhone app

**Deliverables for Component 4:**

4.1. Increased awareness among communities in Phnom Penh, Koh Kong, and in Sihanoukville, Kampong Som province and around the country resulting in more calls to wildlife rescue hotline as a direct result of KE and WRRT community engagement events by conducting at least 8 CNS during grant period.

4.2. Signage installed at strategic points and calls to wildlife rescue hotline increase approximately 50%.

4.3. Materials (approximating 10,000) bearing the hotline number and anti-trafficking message are distributed for long-term access to those concepts resulting in increased awareness of the laws protecting wildlife.

**Component 5:** Advance private sector awareness and participation by conducting outreach with private sector, and government

**Deliverables for Component 5:**

5.1. Trainings conducted around the country with at least 4 logistics companies, container companies, port authorities, and customs about wildlife protection laws resulting in greater compliance.

5.2. Voluntary restrictions on wildlife trafficking adopted by at least 4 logistics companies operating in Cambodia resulting in reduced options for illegal traders and less opportunities for corruption.

**6. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable**

**Component 1:** Enhance implementation of Cambodian-WEN

**Results of Deliverables:**



- 1.1. WRRT members met with representatives from the CCU and the FA 41 times. Meetings with the CCU and FA helped to resolve challenges faced by the team in prosecuting wildlife crimes and the filing of documentation. Meetings with officials stationed at or near border checkpoint crossings including customs, national police and prosecuting authorities enabled establishment of contacts with new key personnel and improved information sharing. This framework led to the interception of cross border trading.
- 1.2. WRRT attended the WARN (Wild Animal Rescue Network) workshop in Phnom Penh facilitated by Free The Bears in October 2015; Regional Operation PAWS (Protection of Asian Wildlife Species) Investigative Support Meeting in Bangkok in June-July 2015; an ASEAN-WEN workshop in Singapore in December 2014 on the drafting of a manual for combatting illegal wildlife crimes; and the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> annual ASEAN-WEN meetings in Hanoi (2014), Singapore (2015) and Siem Reap (2016). During working sessions at the ASEAN-WEN meeting, we shared our experiences and gleaned suggestions and comments from counterparts working in other ASEAN nations.
- 1.3. Enhanced communication has built stronger relationship with several NGOs involved in the wildlife trade. Among these NGOs are Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Flora and Fauna International, Education for Nature – Vietnam, Four Paws and the Angkor Center for Conservation of Biodiversity. These NGOs focus on areas in Cambodia (Koh Kong, Siem Reap and Mondulhiri) and Vietnam. Matters discussed included the local wildlife trade, the sharing of information relating to active traders and seasonal trends concerning animals targeted by traders. Release sites and best practices were also discussed to improve survival rates for released wildlife. Discussions with Four Paws NGO focused on the establishment of a team in Vietnam that mirrored the successful WRRT model while conversations with Education for Nature – Vietnam concerned possible joint operations between the two countries. In 2014, WRRT and WCS discussed best practice for the release of macaques, tranquilizing wildlife for capture and transportation and the locations of wild populations in the WCS protected area before successfully releasing 17 macaques rescued by WRRT. Pythons were successfully released in Mondulhiri following similar discussions.

## **7. Repeat point 8 above for each Component in your approved proposal**

**Component 2:** Enhance the capacity to implement and enforce wildlife protection laws in Cambodia

- 2.1. Five WRRT staff participated in capacity building training at an international level by ASEAN-WEN. Three WRRT staff attended capacity building training on Transnational Crime Technology and Training to Support Patrolling and Investigations offered by Freeland Foundation in 2014. Two WRRT members attended the PROTECT Border Training held in Thailand in September 2014. They successfully passed and were invited to attend the Team Leaders Course in October 2014. Two WRRT staff attended the Asian Law Enforcement Partnership Workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam in April 2014. This training provided many valuable contacts with Vietnamese counterparts.
- 2.2. WRRT provided 3-4 trainings to FA officials in each Cambodian province. Participants received training in documentation and prosecution of wildlife cases; conducting raids, securing a site, correct handling of exhibits, destruction of seized dead wildlife, guidelines

concerning immediate care and transportation of live wildlife; and, market inspections. In several instances, Anti-Economic Police participated in the training along with FA. Customs officials at the Chey Thom border checkpoint received training as well. Environmental officials responsible for protection of the conservation area within Tonle Sap in Kampong Chhnang received training related to the handling and release of aquatic species.

In several instances, FA officials received on-the-job training. A joint raid in Kratie in January 2015 resulted in the seizure of large quantities of wildlife and wildlife parts from three premises with two traders being apprehended and receiving substantial penalties. Raids in Mondulkiri and Siem Reap resulted in the apprehension of three traders in each raid, for a total of six traders apprehended. In Kampong Speu in May 2014, FA officials joined in the rescue of two Asiatic Black Bears.

- 2.3 WRRT conducted 19 training sessions for 21 informants in Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Kandal, Mondulkiri Prey Veng, Ratanakiri, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, Svay Rieng and Tbong Khmum. Training included surveillance techniques, wildlife identification, wildlife concealment methods and an introduction to basic investigative techniques.

**Component 3:** Increase the intensive investigations and raids conducted by the WRRT.

- 3.1. WRRT recruited 46 new informants, who received a combined total of 40 training sessions on surveillance techniques, wildlife identification, wildlife concealment methods and an introduction to basic investigative techniques. The new informants came from Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Kandal, Phnom Penh, Prey Veng, Pursat, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville.
- 3.2. WRRT met with or had contact with informants on 1,602 occasions and received information relating to wildlife trading that resulted in 259 successful operations. Asiatic black bear, cobra, gibbon, muntjac, pangolin, silvered langur, slow loris, Siamese crocodile, sun bear, turtle, wild birds and other reptiles were among the wildlife rescued, as well as large quantities of wildlife meats and parts.
- 3.3. WRRT conducted a total of 1,348 operations, 1,137 of which were successful. Twenty-six prosecuted traders were sent straight to court and 66 received significant fines totaling \$114,630.83. More than 15 of these operations resulted in arrests and fines of more than \$3,000; several cases from 2016 are still pending. Significant results achieved included:
- October 2014: a search at Sichuan & Chongqing Chamber of Commerce in Phnom Penh resulted in the seizure of live turtles and macaques as well as 19 Clouded Leopard skins, 3 leopard skins, 10 otter skins, 2 Asian Golden Cat skins and 6 Clouded Leopard paws. The trader received a \$25,000 fine.
  - March 2015: an operation resulted in the arrest of two traders in Kampong Speu. The team located a dead bear, 24kg of meat (muntjac and wild pig) and 4 dead Burmese hares. The traders received 5 months of jail time and a \$10,000 fine.
  - May 2014: in Kampong Speu two Asiatic Black Bears were rescued from being trafficked to Vietnam; the trader received 4 months of jail time and a \$7,000 fine.

- July 2015: a raid of Pursat City restaurant resulted in the seizure of 7 horns (banteng, sambar and Eld's deer) and 4 skins (otter and python). The trader was fined \$6,000.
- July 2015: following an investigation into the killing and sale of guar by a local trader in Ratanakiri, the team seized 2 gaur heads with horns (one dried, one fresh), 3 pieces of bear skin (sun and black), 66kg of meat (guar and muntjac) and 368 AK 47 rifle bullets. Despite lengthy interviews with the trader, the team had insufficient evidence to bring charges of killing or trading wildlife. Instead, the trader received a fine of \$5,000 for possession.
- October 2014: an operation at a Vietnamese store in Phnom Penh resulted in the seizure of 5 cobras (king, monocle and spitting), 2 Bengal Monitors, 1 Southern Serow head plus 4 hoofs, 3 Loris (slow and pygmy), 4 sun bear paws and 1 piece of tiger bone with the trader being fined \$3,000.
- March 2016: WRRT launched an investigation into a major trader that resulted in seizure of pangolin, cobra, turtles and monitors from different provinces. He received a fine of \$3,883.
- April 2015: WRRT seized 1,856 wild birds and 5 snakes from a trader's house in Prey Veng. The trader was detained and received a \$3,000 fine.
- October 2015: WRRT assisted with the interception of an ivory shipment at Siem Reap airport. Two suitcases contained 15 pieces of ivory weighing 43.5kg, the tips of 11 elephant tails weighing 1.9kg and large cat jaws and claws weighing 0.2kg. All evidence and the offender were delivered to the prosecuting authorities who are handling the investigation and prosecution with WRRT oversight and guidance.
- July 18, 2016, WRRT apprehended a trader in Banteay Meanchey after an investigation concerning wildlife trafficked from Thailand. A search of her car found 4 Asiatic black bear legs and a bear gall bladder. She was charged with trading endangered wildlife and remains in pre-trial detention pending her court appearance.

**Component 4:** Advance community awareness about the importance of Cambodia's wildlife laws and biodiversity and encourage participation through WA's hotline and iPhone app

4.1. Increased awareness among communities around the country resulting in more calls to the wildlife rescue hotline.

- **Community Events:** A total of 35 Community Night Shows reached an estimated 6,721 villagers. In addition, a large concert event (co-funded by the Ambassador's Youth Council of the US Embassy, Phnom Penh) in January 2015 in Phnom Penh attracted an estimated 5,000 people. Social media messaging around this event by both Wildlife Alliance and the US Embassy focused on wildlife protection and the wildlife rescue hotline, reaching nearly 20,000 people.
- **School Outreach and Field Trips to Phnom Tamao:** The KE provided capacity building training to 773 teachers and community educators; conducted wildlife and habitat protection lessons for 7,929 students at 44 schools and 29 NGOs in the provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kampot, Kandal, Koh Kong, Kampong Cham, Kompong Speu, Kompong Thom, Kratie, Mondulakiri, Pailin, Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk, Preah Vihear, Ratanakiri, Siem Reap, and Svay Rieng; and, conducted 20 field trips to Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center for 1,375 students, teachers, and community members.

4.2. Signage installed at strategic points and calls to wildlife rescue hotline increase approximately 50%

- Installed 7 billboard signs in Phnom Penh, Kompong Thom (at junction of National Roads 6 and 8), Kompong Chhnang along National Road 5, Banteay Meanchey along National

Road 5 near the Thai border, Kompong Cham (at junction of National Roads 7 and 11), Poipet near the main land border crossing with Thailand, and Bavet, the main land border crossing with Vietnam. Millions of passengers saw these signs over the course of their one-year installation, which resulted in an increase of just over 60% in calls from the public to the wildlife rescue hotline number.

4.3. Materials (approximating 10,000) bearing the hotline number and anti-trafficking message are distributed for long-term access to those concepts resulting in increased awareness of the laws protecting wildlife.

- Printed and distributed a total of 16,760 stickers, t-shirts, and posters bearing the hotline number and anti-trafficking message to students, teachers, and community members in Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Svay Rieng, Kandal, Battambang, Siem Reap, Pailin, Banteay Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Kompong Thom, Monduliri, Ratanakiri, Kratie, Kampot, and Kompong Speu as well as around Phnom Penh.

**Component 5:** Advance private sector awareness and participation by conducting outreach with private sector, and government

5.1 Several key training sessions were implemented during this grant:

- **July 2016:** Wildlife Alliance organized a training (co-funded) at the request of Bangkok-based partner Freeland on WildScan, an app for law enforcement and the general public to identify wildlife species and report wildlife crimes. This training included participants from Customs and Excise, Ministry of Environment, FA, and field staff from conservation NGOs.
- **April 2015:** Conducted a Species ID and Anti-Trafficking training at Phnom Penh Airport in April 2015 at the request of Airport Customs. This training included 20 Customs officers (15 from Phnom Penh and 5 from Siem Reap), 2 CamControl officers. Training covered methods of smuggling, identification of wildlife and their parts, as well as relevant laws, and fraudulent documentation.
- **May 2014:** Conducted 1 training at the New Beach Hotel in Sihanoukville with a total of 33 personnel from 6 different agencies and freight forwarders working in the Port of Sihanoukville – 16 port staff, 10 customs officers (including 1 officer who participated in USAID-sponsored DETECT training in 2011), 2 immigration police, 2 CamControl officers, 2 staff from So Ngoun Transportation, and 1 from Teng Lay Transport.

The WRRT contacted the Phnom Penh Dry Port to conduct a training in the first quarter of 2015. However, staff was reluctant and disinterested and so no training was implemented with the Dry Port during this grant. We will continue our efforts to engage with them. An airport-wide training to be held in late 2014 was proposed to Cambodia Airports, which manages Phnom Penh International Airport. Due to ongoing refurbishment of the airport and the demolition of several administrative buildings, this training was declined, citing lack of training facility. As a result, the training was conducted solely with customs in April 2015.

Wildlife Alliance continued to make progress in developing a strong working relationship with customs and excise officers at both Phnom Penh and Siem Reap International Airports through

continued training support as well as political will building. The senior leadership team of Wildlife Alliance met with the Director General of Customs and Excise in October 2015 to discuss collaboration on busts and seizures concerning customs following the ivory seizure in Siem Reap Airport. Customs invited the WRRT to collaborate and support their investigation of this case, which was the first time customs had invited our cooperation. Customs expressed interest in further training, specifically on investigation and CITES. We have submitted a draft of standard operation procedures and a Memorandum of Understanding and awaiting a response. Wildlife Alliance is hopeful there will be continued progress of this partnership.

**5.2** All major logistic companies in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville were regularly contacted and monitored to ensure staff were equipped with a competent working knowledge of wildlife trafficking concealment methods and were well aware of appropriate action to be taken upon detecting or having suspicions regarding packages they could relate to the illegal wildlife trade.

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

No suitable regional capacity building opportunities offered during this reporting period. Freeland, being the major source of training providers in the region, is no longer focusing on Cambodia which restricts available options.

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

The KE distributed its materials more widely and in areas in which the team had not worked before. Materials that included our interactive presentations, poster and t-shirt designs, art activities, and games, were shared freely with all national schools, relevant ministries, and other conservation NGOs, including those who sought capacity training in order to build their own environmental education team. The KE's simple yet effective model is easily replicable, can be scaled to suit any age and education level, and is having a positive impact. Furthermore, the KE and the WRRT regularly share their experience and expertise to not only encourage grassroots efforts in Cambodia but to help other organizations in the region establish their own wildlife protection and environmental education initiatives with the common goals of combating the wildlife trade and protecting Cambodia's natural heritage.

Surveillance techniques previously employed by WRRT have had to be significantly altered within the past two years in order to keep up with the heightened levels of suspicion the traders are now displaying. What was once a relatively simple task has now become far more difficult with major traders employing lookouts. Any new or unusual vehicles in the areas of their operations are quickly approached to ascertain their purpose in the area. This has resulted in the team having to devote far more human resources into surveilling targets over longer time frames in order to obtain the necessary intelligence to proceed with investigations and operations.

## Benefits to Communities

### 10. 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 Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit											
Community Name	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 forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									
NA																				

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

## **Lessons Learned**

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

WRRT continues to encounter difficulties in relation to the recruiting of reliable informants that will willingly report wildlife crimes. In many instances informants are those close to or previously involved in the illegal wildlife trade and their motivation for reporting is generally related to removing competitors or revenge and not out of good will or with a conservation ethic in mind. Concerted efforts are continuing to identify and recruit more reliable informants. However, this is one issue that, together with the wildlife traders offering larger monetary incentives to suspected informants, continues to reduce the likelihood of information being passed onto the WRRT.

Corruption also continues to hamper the WRRT's ability to ensure adequate sentences are passed down by the courts or that cases are finalized without court staff being paid to have matters either withdrawn or delayed for 2-3 years in the hope that the matter will be forgotten and eventually disposed of. The WRRT continues to vigorously pursue such matters to ensure all cases are adequately handled. However, the decentralization of FA documentation procedures restricts the team's ability to follow up on cases that have been submitted by provincial authorities that WRRT does not have ownership or control over.

As the reputation of the KE continues to grow, the KE is recognized as the 'go to' team for all things environmental education across Cambodia. As a result, the KE has been contracted by WWF, WCS, and FFI to work in their respective project areas to build local capacities as well as to train their staff in environmental education and community outreach to build their capacities and aide them in developing and implementing their own education program. A dual focus on building internal capacities of the KE team as well as sharing experience and materials with other NGOs and communities around the country not only supports our common goals of protecting Cambodia's natural heritage but also demonstrates that significant things can be achieved with a little investment in developing a dedicated team.

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

Additionally, the WRRT found that the advice received from Four Paws in Vietnam suggests that they are of the view that a WRRT style team in Vietnam was unlikely to be achieved in the short term due to the government's perceived lack of support for the creation of a similar team. This is only their view and no formal approach to government has been made. Unfortunately, all else remains constant in relation to corruption, lack of will to prosecute and or place wildlife offenses at an appropriate level of importance, lenient court sentences, and lack of acceptance by the public that wildlife offenses are anything more than a minor traffic infringement.

'Expect the unexpected' and 'Always have a backup plan' are mottos to live by in Cambodia. Despite every foreseeable safeguard and precaution taken, circumstances beyond our control always arise, such as inclement weather, breakdown of the KE bus, and last minute changes in schedule. The KE is well versed in the changeability and unpredictability of Cambodia so the team 'rolls with it' and moves on to Plan B, Plan C, and so on to mitigate disruption to project activities as much as possible. As such, the KE always has a backup plan in anticipation of changing schedules or other factors beyond its control. Therefore the team is still able to meet, come close to, or exceed its goals. A key example is that rain always poses a risk of curtailing the KE's activities; if a Community Night Show (CNS) is rained out or

likely to be rained out, which is most likely during June-October, the KE schedules additional daytime indoor activities to compensate and still reach a large audience that would otherwise not be reached if only a CNS was planned.

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

Despite the overall success of the design and implementation of the education and outreach component of the grant, there are always lessons to be learned.

One such lesson was the power of social media in Cambodia, particularly for addressing sensitive issues. Given Cambodia's recent history, citizens are still hesitant about speaking out publicly. However, social media such as Facebook and other outlets offer a safe platform to freely express their concerns and views. As the number of internet users is growing rapidly in Cambodia, social media is fast becoming a major source of news and information, especially among young adults, and therefore presents an ideal opportunity to generate dialogue, raise awareness, and promote respect for and protection of Cambodia's natural heritage. Furthermore, social media now plays a very important role in disseminating information in Cambodia. An increase in distrust and perceived politicization of local TV stations and news has led many Cambodians to turn to Facebook, Twitter and other forms of social media for news. This creates a great opportunity for the KE, who have created their own Facebook page in Khmer and English to advertise their work, donors, and partnerships, promote interest in environmental education and awareness of the wildlife trade, generate idea sharing on how Cambodians can protect their natural heritage, and also share news about efforts around the world to combat threats to the environment. Social media will also help the KE reach urban Khmer youth, which is a relatively new demographic for us, and will also enable us to share educational and outreach activities, news of and rescues by the WRRT, and other forms of community engagement. This is an excellent means to maximize outreach with minimal cost.

Another revelation was that CNS in rural areas can attract large audiences, sometimes over 500 people, as it is often the only entertainment for miles around. However, expanding CNS to more urban areas, such as Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh, as well as Battambang and other large provincial towns through partnerships with NGOs has provided an interesting lesson and challenge. Drawing large crowds in these areas is difficult as the CNS compete with cable TV and the 'mod cons' of urban life – people would much rather sit in their air-conditioned living rooms than stand in a dirt field at our CNS. This was discovered at the CNS held in Sihanoukville for the first time in 2014 with a small turn out of around 100 participants. In other more remote areas a crowd of at least 400 would have been expected. The KE is reconsidering CNS in urban areas and has decided to hold off on standard CNS in Phnom Penh as it will likely not draw a large crowd. Instead, we will build off the success of the *Wild for Life* concert held in January 2015 and plan large-scale CNS at venues that already attract large crowds every 1.5-2 years in Phnom Penh. The KE will continue to hold regular CNS (weather permitting) in the provinces.

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

A general observation, based on Wildlife Alliance's own experience over the past 16 years, is that law enforcement and environmental education, along with alternative livelihoods are all required in order to affect a comprehensive and effective means of tackling the wildlife trade. Even with strong law enforcement, grassroots community engagement, and support from the government, given the furtive



nature of all black market trades there remain considerable obstacles and hurdles to overcome. However, a comprehensive ‘out of the box’ approach that addresses the drivers of both the supply and demand sides is the way forward. Implementing training and awareness programs without any law enforcement or providing only law enforcement but no alternative means of income to rural villagers whose only source of survival is to engage in destructive environmental practices is a recipe for failure. Donors to the conservation community often provide considerable funds to support training courses and consumer demand reduction campaigns, which are necessary but law enforcement is often overlooked as a critical component, and thus underfunded, to achieving the goal of increased awareness, reduction in demand, and other behavior changes. Implementing a strong law enforcement project in Cambodia is extremely challenging and expensive, particularly given the levels of corruption; however, if any NGO is to have a positive impact they must consider a comprehensive and diversified approach – if they do not have the funds or means to implement these components then there needs to be closer and complementary collaboration among organizations who do have these components in place, since in general the conservation community shares the same common goals.

### **Sustainability / Replication**

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

Funding always poses a significant challenge to sustainability, expansion, and replication of any project and this holds very true for Cambodia where there is a sense of ‘donor burnout’. Both the KE and WRRT have experienced unexpected loss of funding in recent years which resulted in the need to streamline and reshuffle priorities in order to achieve project goals with very limited resources. This also limits the development of new project components or expansion of successful existing components. Furthermore, lack of political will to address this problem, rampant corruption, a weak judiciary and lack of will to impose strong punishments, and political instability in the coming years could pose a threat to long term lasting change. In general however, both the KE and WRRT enjoy strong government support so the risk of immediate disruption to their respective activities is relatively low.

Though development of Cambodia-WEN has not had the effect throughout Cambodian institutions as originally hoped, the recognition of the WRRT as the national task force indicates that prospects for the long-term sustainability of the Cambodia-WEN program remain strong. Likewise, the CCU remains within the Legislation and Litigation Office of the FA, with staff members still available for governmental information and support. The ASEAN-WEN PCU, headquartered in Bangkok, aligned with the Thai national police and the ASEAN Secretariat, is committed to the next twenty years of ministerial-level cooperation on addressing transboundary wildlife crime, and is emphasizing long-term capacity-building within all ASEAN member state agencies tasked with enforcing national and international wildlife protection regulations. This international support also lends sustainability to the CCU.

Wildlife Alliance provides the WRRT with technical support but the team is managed by a Cambodian national and all of its officers are Cambodian FA or military police staff. This is an important factor in terms of long-term sustainability. Although it is too soon to implement such a change, our goal is to transition the team to full control under the government. At present, government-funded units are paid little and, as the premium on the trade of illegal wildlife increases, susceptible to corruption. With WA leading by example and advocating for a tough stance on wildlife traders, the union of the FA and WA has been able to be successful. When measures like this can be fully adopted under the FA, the RGC could assume more direct control of the WRRT.

Lastly, the project sustainability of the WRRT and a more developed Cambodia-WEN will benefit from a long-term, generational shift underway in Cambodia in terms of pride in natural heritage. By providing a direct line of communication with the public, the WRRT is able to generate investigative support for their work and demonstrate how community members can work together with the WRRT to protect Cambodia's endangered species.

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

The levels of environmental degradation and scale of threats to the remaining landscape in Cambodia are having an unintended benefit on our community engagement and outreach activities. The vast majority of Cambodia's population is rural and thus feels directly the impact of species loss, deforestation, climate change and other environmental challenges – even urban dwellers that regularly experience flooding during heavy rains or record high temperatures during the hot season are making the connection between the destruction of Cambodia's forests and the negative impact on humans. As a result there is a very strong interest in environmental education, particularly in rural areas where the destruction is happening and where education standards are extremely low. This is actually of great benefit to our outreach efforts and to help ensure its sustainability because the impetus to protect their environment is coming from the communities. The KE has been integral in facilitating the start of this dialogue with entire villages coming together to collectively look at these issues for the first time and learn what they can do to mitigate them. This does not mean our job is done but it certainly is an unexpected fringe benefit and helps ensure that our message not only continues but has lasting and real impact.

More and more NGOs are requesting capacity building training by the KE, in many cases with the goal of implementing their own environmental education project. The KE welcomes this as it will benefit our own efforts and help make environmental education a sustainable concept in Cambodia. As the national curriculum still lacks an environmental component, it is hoped that as Wildlife Alliance's education and outreach capacity gains more traction among conservation NGOs and continues in popularity, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport will follow suite and integrate an environmental module into the national curriculum with the assistance and support of the KE. This would be the ultimate goal of the KE.

**1. 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**

- 2. 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**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
USAID ARREST Program	A	\$50,140	Consumer demand reduction – KE and WRRT 2014-2016
US Fish & Wildlife Service	A	\$115,405	Kouprey Express 2014-2016
Regional Environmental Office, US Embassy, Bangkok	A	\$49,875	Consumer demand reduction – KE and WRRT 2014-2016

*\* 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**

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

In March 2015, WRRT received the 2015 Asia Environmental Enforcement Award, which recognizes countries, organizations and individuals in Asia that demonstrate fearless dedication to combating environmental crime, from the United Nations Environment Programme.

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

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