

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Wildlife Conservation Society
Project Title:	Mainstreaming Effective Conservation Models into Cambodia's Environmental Code
Grant Number:	66557
CEPF Region:	Indo-Burma II
Strategic Direction:	6 Engage key actors in mainstreaming biodiversity, communities and livelihoods into development planning in the priority corridors
Grant Amount:	\$79,997.22
Project Dates:	July 01, 2017 - June 30, 2018
Date of Report:	August 30, 2018

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

- **DoE:** play very important roles at subnational level in term of coordination with all key relevant provincial state departments, office of wildlife sanctuaries and local authorities to achieve the project objectives.
- **GDANCP/MoE:** play very important roles to manage all the protected areas in Cambodia. GDANCP legitimately approve all the protected areas zoning before sending to get final approval from the royal government of Cambodia. GDANCP is also taking lead in law enforcement as well as to develop the relevant policies. For the example, the development of zoning guidelines for the protected areas in Cambodia and drafting environmental and natural resource code.
- **Vishnu Law Group:** is a leading institution in the drafting environmental and natural resource code in partnership with MoE. The drafting code covers participatory zoning, collaborative management and other aspects related to environmental sector.
- **CEDT:** document effective conservation models demonstrated by WCS in KSWs with the existing collaborative management pilot sites being implemented by Vishnu and CEDT. Lessons learned and case studies on the proposed frameworks for collaborative management are documented to inform national guidelines and subordinate regulations of the new Environment and Natural Resource Code.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The important steps of KPWS participatory zoning was adopted into the zoning guidelines for the protected areas in Cambodia signed by the MoE Minister in December 2017. This new guideline becomes the national policy to be implemented in the nationwide for the zoning of protected areas in Cambodia.

After the consultations at village, commune and provincial level, the KPWS zoning summary report is submitted to GDANCP/MoE minister and provincial governor to inform them about the zoning steps as well as to seek for their supports for further process.

The case study of collaborative management was produced by CEDT as the result of their participation and consultation with WCS, DoE, local authorities and community members. The experience of zoning and collaborative management in KPWS are integrated to national guidelines and subordinate regulations of the new Environment and Natural Resource Code.

Progress was made on developing approaches to combat illegal wildlife trade in Preah Vihear province. This included the completion of market surveys to understand the characteristics of wildlife trade across the province. A workshop was also conducted to engage the provincial wildlife trafficking taskforce on the illegal wildlife trade issue and establish a plan for future law enforcement actions.

Two separate wildlife/forest law enforcement trainings were held in CWS and KPWS with participation from key taskforce members. The trainings covered the use of new MoE natural resource crime documentation and case preparation protocols, court case submission processes, wildlife/forest laws, and identification of wildlife protection/threat mitigation priorities.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Protected Area and natural resource management takes place in a coordinated manner that is informed by fair and open consultation with local communities and guided by the Environmental and Natural Resource Code.	Finalization of a government and community led zoning arrangement for KPWS, which involved a strong FPIC component (community consultations) has built a strong foundation for coordinated protected area management. This success will have sustained impacts on biodiversity and community well-being in to the future. Law enforcement resources can be better prioritized and deployed and communities will have legal recognition of their right to farm and use NTFPs sustainably (within the scope of the law). By delegating the authority to manage forests to communities they are in a position to cooperate with the government to prevent unsustainable resource use.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Models are established that demonstrate best practice for the process of participatory zonation, creating conservation management plans, and	All steps of protected area zonation in KPWS have been integrated into the national guidelines on zonation (attached file). It is learned that the guideline considered WCS's experience on zonation is admirable

collaborative management of protected areas in Cambodia	and applicable for protected area zonation in Cambodia
Novel data management infrastructure and processes will enable inter-agency collaboration to enforce these subordinate regulations against wildlife crime.	Through engagement with MoE/DoE on the establishment of national SMART/LEM systems, buy-in and commitment has been established that lays the groundwork for future activities in this area. Furthermore, by engaging a broad spectrum of Preah Vihear provincial law enforcement stakeholders in the illegal wildlife trade taskforce, support for priority law enforcement actions has been built.
These models inform subordinate regulations of the new Environmental and Natural Resource Code where relevant to areas including collaborative management of protected areas (including participatory zoning) and inter-agency collaboration on wildlife crime	Lessons learned and recommendations for collaborative management and Participatory PA zonation approach were incorporated draft 11th of Environmental Code. WCS, CEDT, Vishnu Law Group and MRLG continue to inform the development of the Environmental and Natural Resource Code.

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

Following the adoption of zoning guidelines for protected areas in Cambodia, it is believed that the state agencies, development partners and non-governmental organization will implement the guidelines nationwide in Cambodia.

Case study on zoning and collaboration management according to the current practice in KPWS to inform the national drafting environmental and natural resource code based on consultation meetings with various stakeholders including WCS, community representatives and provincial department representatives

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Following the MoE's guidelines, federation of Community Protected Areas were established for three protected areas in Preah Vihear province namely KPWS, Boeung Per Wildlife Sanctuary and Chheb Wildlife Sanctuary.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Policy brief detailing effective approaches with regard to co-management of PAs, participatory PA zonation, landscape conservation, and community-based monitoring demonstrated by WCS and other CEPF grantees relevant to implementation of the new Code	1.1	Section of policy brief written, detailing proposed frameworks for creation of participatory protected area zonation plan through consultation with communes and villages of KPWS in conjunction with MoE, Vishnu Law Group and CEDT	Together with WCS, Community Empowerment Development Team (CEDT) participated in various meetings and consultations at village, commune and provincial levels. A case study was produced by CEDT based on meetings with the provincial working group on protected area zoning, consultative meetings with community protected area members and village consultations on zoning in KPWS. In the case study, CEDT focused on the public engagement process through its zoning consultation process with all stakeholders at various levels. This case study on the collaborative management is to inform national guidelines and subordinate regulations of the new Environment and Natural Resource Code in the next reporting period.
1	Policy brief detailing effective approaches with regard to co-management of PAs, participatory PA zonation, landscape conservation, and community-based monitoring demonstrated by WCS and other CEPF grantees relevant to	1.2	Section of policy brief written, detailing proposed frameworks for creation of conservation management plans for each type of zone in KPWS in collaboration with the MoE, Vishnu Law Group and Community Empowerment	The case study recognized that it is an effective conservation models demonstrated by WCS in KPWS with the existing collaborative management pilot sites being implemented by Vishnu and CEDT in other provinces. The paper also reflected the current practice to inform national guidelines and subordinate regulations of the new 11th drafting Environment and Natural Resource Code.

	implementation of the new Code		Development Team (CEDT).	
1	Policy brief detailing effective approaches with regard to co-management of PAs, participatory PA zonation, landscape conservation, and community-based monitoring demonstrated by WCS and other CEPF grantees relevant to implementation of the new Code	1.3	Section of policy brief written, detailing proposed frameworks for creation of collaborative management structures through consultation with communes and villages of KPWS in conjunction with MoE, Vishnu Law Group and CEDT	<p>WCS's community (zoning) team in partnership with the chair of the provincial zoning working group for KPWS have conducted 10 commune consultation meetings on zonation with participants from 11 Sangkat/communes including village vice-chiefs/chiefs, commune council members, district/municipality representatives, provincial department representatives and provincial deputy governor (chief of provincial working group on zoning), in total there were 200 participants including 26 women. There were no significant comments or changes on the draft zoning boundaries from the consultation meetings. All draft management zoning maps were signed by commune chiefs, district governors and chief of provincial working on zoning.</p> <p>The village level awareness raising and PA zoning consultations were completed in 28 villages with participation from village representatives, commune council members, district representatives and provincial authorities. During the 28 village consultations on KPWS zoning, the principles of the four different management zones were explained and the proposed zoning boundary maps were presented by the working group members and endorsed by 1,373 participants including 733 women between February and April 2018.</p>
2	Participatory approach to the development of guidelines and sub-ordinate regulations for the new Code developed, with particular emphasis on co-management of PAs, landscape conservation management (zonation) and community-based monitoring.	2.1	Minutes of consultations with community reps in KPWS and Preah Vihear technical PA working group on the proposed policy brief and frameworks to inform national guidelines and sub-ordinate regulations of	All consultations at villages, communes and provincial levels were documented and signed by relevant persons. These documents are very important to support the zoning process at national level as well as to inform national guidelines and sub-ordinate regulations.

			the new Code, with MoE, Vishnu Law Group and CEDT	
2	Participatory approach to the development of guidelines and sub-ordinate regulations for the new Code developed, with particular emphasis on co-management of PAs, landscape conservation management (zonation) and community-based monitoring.	2.2	Consultation workshop report and draft policy brief on proposed Guidelines and Sub-ordinate regulations of the new Code presented to relevant government ministries in collaboration with the MoE, Vishnu Law Group and CEDT	In January 2018, provincial working group on Protected Area zonation held a meeting with 31 participants including four females to reflect on the results of 11 commune consultations and agreed on the work-plan for village level awareness. Provincial working group was organized another meeting in May 2018 to focus on the results of 28 village consultations and agreed amongst 28 participants including 1 woman on the date for provincial workshop on KPWS zoning. In the meeting participants also suggested the working group secretary to review and prepare all the supported documents for the provincial workshop. In the June 2018, the provincial workshop was organized by the provincial working on protected area on zonation in partnership with WCS-Cambodia, Department of Environment, General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) with 77 participants including 5 women. As the results, participants agreed on the results of commune and village consultations, however, some participants suggested that the working group members should review, ground truth checking and finalize comments made by participants before submitting to get the approval from provincial governor and send to the Minister of Environment for further process at the national level.
2	Participatory approach to the development of guidelines and sub-ordinate regulations for the new Code developed, with particular emphasis on co-management of PAs, landscape conservation management (zonation) and community-based	2.3	Revised Policy brief drafted based on recommendations from actions (2.1 & 2.2) in conjunction with MoE, Vishnu Law Group and Community Empowerment Development Team (CEDT).	After meetings with all key stakeholders, the case study produced by CEDT were integrated into the 11th draft of the Environment and Natural Resource Code.

	monitoring.			
2	Participatory approach to the development of guidelines and sub-ordinate regulations for the new Code developed, with particular emphasis on co-management of PAs, landscape conservation management (zonation) and community-based monitoring.	2.4	Education and awareness materials produced and disseminated to 11 communes within KPWS detailing sub-ordinate regulations and grievance mechanism for implementation of the new Code for PA zonation, management plans and collaborative management agreements	A total of 1,500 copies of a PA zonation awareness raising poster and 1,000 copies of grievance mechanism were distributed to participants during the 28 village consultations and provincial workshop on KPWS zoning respectively.
3	Process piloted for creation of Collaborative Management Committees (CMCs) at a commune level among communities with and without existing management institutions, within KPWS.	3.1	Minutes written, reporting on consultation and FPIC with key community representatives and Provincial departments on the process for establishing CMCs in line with the co-management provisions of the new Environment and Natural Resource Code in KPWS.	Consultations minutes and workshop reports have been documented and used as annexed to support the zoning process and reports to provincial governor and Minister of Environment. An additional inaugural meeting for a federation that consists of representatives from all community protected area committees in Preah Vihear Province was planned for June 2018 but rescheduled due to the conflicting schedules with the upcoming National Election.

3	Process piloted for creation of Collaborative Management Committees (CMCs) at a commune level among communities with and without existing management institutions, within KPWS.	3.2	Draft document produced outlining the "Roles and Regulations" for the Collaborative Management Committees (CMCs) to be established within KPWS in line with the co-management provisions of the new Environment and Natural Resource Code.	The outputs and feedback from the proposed inaugural community protected area federation meeting provided further inputs into the "Roles and regulations" draft document by CEDT and WCS. Following the MoE's guidelines, three federation committees were established and approved by the provincial governor's decisions in three protected areas in Preah Vihear province.
3	Process piloted for creation of Collaborative Management Committees (CMCs) at a commune level among communities with and without existing management institutions, within KPWS.	3.3	"Roles and Regulations" for the Collaborative Management Committees (CMCs) endorsed ensuring CMC committees can contribute to land-use planning decisions, monitored rural development, and performed joint patrols with MoE within KPWS.	In collaboration with WCS, CEDT attended the provincial working group meetings and village consultations in KPWS. CEDT dialogue directly with the "Roles and regulations" document for the CMCs was shared with all key stakeholders including the provincial department representatives and MoE representatives in the Department for Communities and Livelihoods and Department for Northern Tonle Sap Protected Area Landscape.
4	Sub-national technical	4.1	Mandate of sub-national	An illegal wildlife trade survey was conducted by WCS/DoE at two key markets in northern Preah Vihear

	working group formalized to combat illegal wildlife crimes in Preah Vihear Province.		technical working group and strategic operations formalised by draft sub-decree. Provincial task-force members identified to combat wildlife trafficking in Preah Vihear Province.	province in March 2018 (Sre'Aem, Anses). This identified the illegal sale of 21 mammal and reptile species (8 orders, 17 families) including one classified as endangered (elongated tortoise) and three as vulnerable (sun bear, pygmy loris and northern slow loris) on the IUCN Redlist. Following this, a taskforce workshop on illegal wildlife trade in Preah Vihear province was held in May 2018 with 23 participants from various provincial government agencies, including Deputy Governor for the environment, police, border police, paramilitary police, army, district and commune administrations, DoE, DoAFF and WCS. The goal of the workshop was to engage the provincial taskforce on the illegal wildlife trade issue and establish a plan for future law enforcement actions. This involved: 1. a presentation of results from recent WCS/DoE research into the illegal wildlife trade at key trafficking hubs, 2. a participatory exercise to identify appropriate law enforcement responses to illegal wildlife trade in Preah Vihear, and 3. the selection of specific law enforcement responses to address on-going illegal wildlife trade.
4	Sub-national technical working group formalized to combat illegal wildlife crimes in Preah Vihear Province.	4.2	First comprehensive national data management framework for biodiversity crimes established with relevant government authorities under the jurisdiction of the MoE.	Building on previous WCS discussions and meetings with the Ministry of Environment, Department of GIS in Phnom Penh on the development and roll out of national data management framework for SMART, a Cybertracker pilot was initiated in CWS in May 2018. This engaged 3 GDANCP staff to build awareness of SMART data collection processes and involved conducting a 3-day Cybertracker training with 19 rangers at 3 ranger substations across the protected area. Following this, feedback from rangers has informed the continued refinement of the Cybertracker app and development Khmer language functionality. This will support additional testing of Cybertracker at other sites in the Northern Plains and Seima Wildlife Sanctuary.
4	Sub-national technical working group formalized to combat illegal wildlife crimes in Preah Vihear Province.	4.3	Key members of the provincial task-force trained in basic law enforcement and investigative skills.	In January and March 2018, two separate 5-day wildlife/forest law enforcement trainings were held in CWS and KPWS with participation from key taskforce members including DoE Directors and protected area Office Chiefs, Preah Vihear provincial police and courts, and GDANCP law enforcement officials. The protected area office chiefs have jurisdictional authority to implement the PA law within protected area boundaries. Main topics covered during the trainings included the use of new MoE natural resource crime documentation and case preparation protocols, court case submission

				processes, PA laws (and associated prakas), and identification of wildlife protection/threat mitigation priorities. During the trainings, meetings were held with key DoE staff on draft versions of a working Standard Operating Procedures document for protected area law enforcement. This document will now form the basis for future engagement with MoE for the national-level establishment of SOPs.
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Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Protected Area Zonation awareness raising posters were produced and distributed to participants during commune consultations and to all stakeholders engaged in the provincial working group on KPWS PA zonation to inform and improve stakeholder understanding of Protected Area Law and PA Management Zonation.

Grievance mechanism were produced and distributed to participants during the zoning consultations at village, commune and provincial workshop for safeguarding social impacts.

A video document on customary land rights and environmental and natural resource code is produced in cooperation with Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG) and its partners. The video highlighted WCS's efforts to map customary land use and to increase the recognition of the rights of communities inside protected areas zoning. In addition, the video demonstrated the recognition of customary rights and co-management of the protected area, within the new environment and natural resources code being drafted by the Ministry of Environment with the support of Vishnu Law Group.

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:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Main lessons learned included the following:

- **At the start of the KPWS zoning process, the national level MoE zoning guidelines were not finalized. These were first made publicly available in August 2018 right after the zoning consultations had been completed and provincial workshop held. However, most of the experiences and practical steps applied in KPWS zoning process were integrated into this national guideline. Therefore, there was no discrepancy between the approach we adopted**



and those agreed at the national level. In fact, our efforts on the ground informed the national level guidelines. The participatory consultations we completed in this project proved very crucial to engage local and provincial government stakeholders. Using visualization, for example, maps and posters, we were able to inform the stakeholders on the zoning principles as well as their rights to access the natural resources within the scope of the PA Law (2008). Coordination of the zoning process through the Preah Vihear provincial working group on zoning was essential in building provincial government buy-in before we started our consultations at village, commune and provincial levels.

- To balance our landscape approach of building incentives for conservation alongside disincentives for illegal activity. Support to the provincial illegal wildlife trade taskforce took the form of establishing the group, holding government stakeholder meetings and conducting law enforcement training. To ensure that the illegal wildlife trade is eliminated in Preah Vihear, enforcement operations involving information gathering, investigations, arrests, in addition to cooperation with the courts is essential. Through implementation of this project it has become clear that future work on the illegal wildlife trade issue needs to focus more on these aspects of law enforcement.

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

As outlined in the Protected Area Law (2008), wildlife sanctuaries can be zoned according to a tiered set of protection/usage categories. Since the designation of Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary in 1993, no zoning arrangement has been in use. Now through this project with progress towards the finalization of a government and community led zoning arrangement for KPWS a strong foundation exists for providing clarity on enforcement and community development. This success will have sustained impacts on biodiversity and community well-being in to the future. Law enforcement resources can be better prioritized and deployed and communities will have legal recognition of their right to farm and use NTFPs sustainably (within the scope of the law). This zoning also links closely with the establishment and management of CPAs. Through this project we have expanded the role of CPAs as a mechanism for community-led biodiversity management. By delegating the authority to manage forests to communities they are in a position to regulate use and prevent illegal activity in the medium to long term.

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

Through the deployment of social safeguards, this project ensured that Kuy peoples living in Krala Peas village played an integral part of the participatory process to develop zoning guidelines and regulations. Firstly, this involved the completion of CEPF indigenous peoples safeguard assessment



and a free, prior and informed consent process. This FPIC process involved various stages of engagement with community members. The first phase of this was for WCS to work in collaboration with the Preah Vihear Department of Environment (DoE) to conduct an awareness raising event on protected area zoning in Krala Peas in March 2017. This was followed by a formal FPIC meeting in May 2017 in the provincial capital with village level and commune council representatives from Krala Peas to review and discuss the proposed guidelines for PA zonation. During zoning consultation meetings at the village level, 1,500 protected area zoning and 1,000 grievance mechanism posters (2 different posters) were distributed to participants during the village level zoning consultations. These consultations and posters explained to Krala Peas community members their rights under the context of protected area zoning and how they can lodge objections with regard the process if they wish. Following this, the Krala Peas village chief, in representation of the village, have full approval of the protected area zoning arrangement in and around Krala Peas village. This approval was documented as a signature on a map of the zoning for Pring Thom Commune.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

The development of the Cambodian Environmental Code is part of broader reform agenda for natural resource management and green growth. This project has taken the first steps in piloting potential mechanisms to strengthen sub-national stakeholder and community participation in developing protected area and collaborative management approaches. The 11th revision of the Code is currently being reviewed by the Council of Ministers and once ratified these recommendations provided by this project will form integral recommendations for the development of sub-statutory instruments to support implementation of the Code.

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 CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$226,312.00

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of 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)*

A. Project co-financing

206,312 USD - Mekong Regional Land Governance (MRLG) “Securing user-rights for communities in KPWS through participatory zoning”

B Grantee and partner leveraging

20,000 USD – MacArthur Foundation sub-grant “Steps towards environmental governance”

150,000 USD - Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies – “Multi-scaled Conservation in the Lower Mekong and Ayeyarwady River Basins”

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.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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