

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Sam Veasna Center for Wildlife Conservation (SVC)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Conservation of Black-shanked Douc through community-based ecotourism
<b>Date of Report:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2012
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Nick Butler, SVC, PO Box 93045, Siem Reap, Cambodia. Tel; +855 (0)63 963710. Email; coord@samveasna.org

**CEPF Region:** Indo-Burma

**Strategic Direction:** Identify and secure core populations of 67 globally threatened species from overexploitation and illegal trade

**Grant Amount:** \$19,000 USD

**Project Dates:** 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012

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

1. Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) Forestry Administration (FA)

The FA with advice from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is responsible for conservation of the Siema Protected Forest (SPF) where this project was implemented

2. WCS

Initiated community based ecotourism (CBET) with SVC in the SPF based from the FA HQ in Keo Seima. This project was developed from the groundwork already prepared as part of the wider REDD for SPF

3. The Greenhouse, Sen Monorum

The Greenhouse was selected by SVC as the local tour operator that would promote and run trekking trips to the project site at Andong Kraloeng to independent travellers in Sen Monorum because of its support for conservation

### Conservation Impacts

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

The project aimed to develop a model of tourism development and conservation where multiple stakeholders contribute to the conservation area and focus on the conservation of the Black-shanked Douc

These objectives have been achieved in the 3 villages; Sre Lvi, O Rona and Andong Kraloeng where the FA assisted by WCS patrols the protected area for illegal logging and hunting and the tourism partners SVC and the Greenhouse are bringing tourists who pay for services received from local communities after the relevant training that has been provided by SVC. The sustainable income from tourism has given the communities an incentive to restrain from illegal hunting of the Black-shanked Douc and reduces illegal logging by the villagers.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.***

The number of tourists traveling with SVC to Keo Seima the FA HQ adjacent to the villages of O Rona and Sre Lvi and the village income and conservation contributions raised have exceeded expectations. The level of commitment generated amongst the O Rona and Sre Lvi villagers is disappointing with the local guides, cooks and house keepers proving to be unreliable despite the training they received. As a result not all of the income generated has been passed back to the local communities, going instead to the station staff.

At Andong Kraloeng a greater level of commitment amongst the Andong Kraloeng community has meant that 6 local guides have been appointed who are already guiding the tourists that SVC and the Greenhouse have brought. The Greenhouse was identified and appointed as the local tour operator to promote and manage the wildlife viewing tourism at Andong Kraloeng.

During the grant period SVC has produced a new brochure promoting wildlife viewing at Andong Kraloeng which is helping the Greenhouse to sell the trips and information boards for the tourists with codes of conduct and wildlife details

2 international tour companies have conducted 'fam trips' to the Andong Kraloeng sites in preparation for the next dry / tourist season.

SVC promoted the Keo Seima site at the British Bird Watching Fair in August 2011 with the specialist bird tour companies who subsequently included the site in their Cambodia itineraries. Various blogs and trip reports were written as a result with favorable comments about the site.

SVC continues to place advertising in the international specialist press promoting SVC tours including Seima and a new SVC website was finished with a more detailed section on Seima.

***Please provide the following information where relevant:***

**Hectares Protected:** The core area of SPF is approx. 150,000 Ha or 1500km<sup>2</sup>, the total area approx. 300,000 Ha or 3000km<sup>2</sup>

*Note; this project aims to deal with the local community / Black-shanked Douc interaction and give incentives for the local community to view the douc an asset that will bring a sustainable income through tourism rather than the short term and limited gain from hunting*

**Species Conserved:** Principally Black-shanked Douc also Green Peafowl

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

The project had 2 components;

1. Tourism managed by SVC with benefits to Sre Lvi and O Rona villages

Year	Tourist Nights	No Groups	Pax	Village Service Payments	CC	TOTAL
2009	48	5	22	\$ 705	\$ 660	\$ 1365
2010	76	11	33	\$ 1259	\$ 1040	\$ 2299
2011	80	9	29	\$ 1304.50	\$ 870	\$ 2174.50
2012	120	12	47	\$ 1584	\$1410	\$ 2994

There has been a steady increase in tourist numbers managed by SVC staying at the FA HQ in Keo Seima; 33 before the grant period in 2010 to 47 to June 2012 with increased provision of services to the tourists by selected and trained villagers resulting in increased payments to local community members \$1259 in 2010 to \$1584 to June in 2012. Total payments to the village including conservation contribution increased from \$2299 in 2010 to \$2994 in 2012 to date. Note there will be more groups staying from November this year, which will increase the 2012 total.

Despite the potential for increased income from tourism it has been hard to get commitment from local communities who receive income from illegal logging and cassava planted in the cleared forest. It is hoped the continued eco-tourist activity and potential income that can bring will convince the local communities that the long term gain from tourism outweighs short term gains from fluctuating cassava prices and a diminishing forest.

2. Establishment of responsible tourism from Andong Kraloeng Village managed by local tour operator in Sen Monorum the Provincial Capital of Mondulhiri

During the project period a series of walking trails were identified in the protected forest around the village of Andong Kraloeng and local guides were selected and trained to lead tourists along these trails.

A local tour operator The Greenhouse was selected in Sen Monorum because of the organisation's commitment to conservation. English speaking guides from the Greenhouse were taken along the trails with the local guides.

SVC has promoted the Andoung Kraloeng trails to 2 international tour operators in Siem Reap, the tourist capital of Cambodia and produced promotional material for the Greenhouse to 'sell' the trails to independent travelers passing through Mondulkiri.

The above activities were completed by January this year and to date 10 pax have travelled with the Greenhouse on the Andong Kraloeng trails generating \$100 in conservation contributions and \$60 in local guide payments.

A review meeting is planned for June between the partners involved in the project (WCS, FA, SVC) to make a formal agreement with the Greenhouse and confirm their commitment to the project.

The continuation of illegal logging and hunting causes the Black-shanked Doucs to be shy of any human activity reducing the chance of sightings for the tourist making the trip harder to sell. It is hoped increased promotion from the Greenhouse and the tour operators and the increase in income for the village will lead to greater awareness, income and commitment.

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

No

## Lessons Learned

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

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

SVC's experience in successfully managing wildlife viewing tourism at other community based eco-tourism sites (CBET) enabled us to implement this project with systems already established.

We understand from our flagship site at Tmatboey in the Preah Vihear Protected Forest that it takes time to build awareness and for the local communities to understand the link between the tourists, the conservation of in this case the Black-shanked Douc, its habitat and a sustainable income.

The 2 objectives of the project have been achieved; to increase the income the local communities of O Rona and Sre Lvi receive from eco-tourism and to set up a wildlife viewing responsible tourist project at Andong Kraloeng. The sustainability of the projects cannot yet be judged and will depend on the continuing efforts of the partners involved.

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

SVC had already established bird watching trips to Keo Seima related to O Rona and Sre Lvi villages, which facilitated our activity in Andong Kraloeng about 30km distant.

The distance from the SVC's office in Siem Reap to the project sites complicated its management.

**Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:**

This project is an integral component in the overall REDD of the SPF as managed by the FA advised by WCS, contributing to the conservation of the SPF its ultimate goal.

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

**Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
WCS	A	\$50,000	As detailed in the LOI
SVC	A	\$6060	As detailed in the LOI

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

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF 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 project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

**Sustainability/Replicability**

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

In our experience establishing Cambodian CBET projects takes years not months so while the CEPF funded element of the project undoubtedly contributed to its success it wasn't by itself enough to ensure it.

The project sustainability will be ensured by SVC's continued involvement in Keo Seima (Sre Lvi and O Rona villages) with bird watching tours and The Greenhouse promotion of wildlife viewing around Andong Kraloeng to independent travelers passing through Mondulkiri.

CBET projects are difficult to implement as stand alone initiatives and need to be part of a planned and coordinated approach to conservation of protected areas involving local communities; the relevant government agencies, international conservation organisations and a professional project manager in this case SVC

**Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.**

The partnership with local tour operator The Greenhouse has been at least initially more successful than expected opening up the possibility of working with other local Khmer tour operators around Cambodia.

### **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

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

The key to the social safe guard policies in this project has been free, prior and informed consent from the communities involved.

This project built on past project activities including a large element of awareness raising about the REDD issues at the heart of the project.

Specific to the grant period were regular consultations between the project partners the FA & WCS with the local communities involved to address any concerns arising from the tourists and agree on benefit sharing.

Additionally the project officer appointed for the project spent at least 2 weeks per month at the sites dealing with any issues that arose.

The project officer was responsible for coordinating the training activities provided by SVC in local guiding, cooking, house keeping and general awareness raising.

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

**CEPF Global Targets**

**(Enter Grant Term)**

**21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012**

**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.**

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant ?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012 (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
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	Approx. 20 families	Approx. 20 families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals from 20 families in 3 villages were trained and involved in eco-tourist activities giving them an income</li> <li>• An eco-tourist project was established for the first time at</li> </ul>

				<p>Andong Kraloeng</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The numbers of tourists visiting Keo Seima &amp; the village payments have increased by 30% benefitting O Rona and Sre Lvi villages</li><li>• SPF has been internationally promoted</li></ul>
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If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.





### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

This project has built on previous activity to implement a REDD in SPF advised by WCS with CBET activities sub-contracted to SVC since 2009. A similar CBET project on which this was based was first started in 2006 at Tmatboey in the Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary. Tmatboey, now earns in excess of \$10,000 per annum in village payments and conservation contribution and attracts over 120 pax. Consultations with villagers at Tmatboey now indicate an understanding of the project and its sustainability with a resultant increase in the target species of protected birds; Giant and White-shouldered Ibis. This has taken 5 years. The point being that 12 months is too short a time to ensure the sustainability of a CBET project in Cambodia within a protected area and consideration should be made to extending the grant period and its funding.

### **Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

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

#### **Please include your full contact details below:**

Name: Nick Butler

Organization name: Sam Veasna Center

Mailing address: Sam Veasna Center, PO Box 93045, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Tel: +855 (0) 63 963710

Fax:

E-mail: [coord@samveasna.org](mailto:coord@samveasna.org)