

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Action For Development (AFD)
Project Title:	Integrate Bengal Florican into Conservation in Community Forestry Management
Date of Report:	31 May, 2011
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CEPF Region: Indochina

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

Grant Amount: \$ 9,999.00 USD

Project Dates: 01 June 2010- 31 May 2011

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

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) on Farming and Biodiversity Program

AFD collaborated closely with WCS in the implementation of all project activities at 5 CF sites located in the north-east of the Stung/Chikreng/Kampong Svay/ Brasat Balang IBA (KH 016 and KH 017) in Samaki, Damrei Slap, and Nipech Commune. WCS contributed to the project by providing technical support, staff, forestry officer, fishery officer, pictures, advisement and other equipment. AFD and WCS worked together in facilitating meetings, resolving conflicts, completing the forms to monitor the community forestry management committee (CFMC) patrol, and data collection.

Sangkat Forestry Administration (FA) of the Brasat Balang and Kampong Svay District

The Sangkat FA provided technical support at 5 community forestry (CF) sites involved in this project. The support focused on facilitating meetings and data collection.

Commune Councils (CCs) and village chiefs in the Samaki, Damrei Slap and Nipech commune

The CCs in the Samaki, Damrei Slap and Nipech commune, and 8 village chiefs supported all the activities of the project including: raising awareness with the villagers, inviting villagers to attend the meetings, and encouraging the villagers to stop illegal logging and wildlife hunting in their CF area.

Community Forestry Management Committees (CFMC) and villagers

The CFMC of 5 CF sites and the villagers of 8 villages participated in all of the project activities such as: patrols, meetings, encouraging villagers to stop illegal logging and wildlife hunting, data collection, interviews and providing information on the location of the Bengal Florican (as well as other water birds and wildlife) in the CF sites.

Oxfam Great Britain (OGB) in Cambodia

Oxfam GB in Cambodia has supported the project activities and the process of CF establishment in 18 CF sites, including the 5 CF (Ou' Plov Louk, Ou' Chrang Sor, Thlok Popel, Samaki and Trapang Larpeak) in which this project took place. Therefore OGB was an indirect partner concerning this project.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) ecosystem profile.

This project has focused on Strategic Direction 3: "Engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objective, with a particular emphasis on the Northern Limestone Highlands and Mekong River and its major tributary." All of the activities in the project had the common goal to protect the Bengal Florican water birds.

The Bengal Florican was classified as a critically endangered species in 2007. Their reclassification into the group of world's most endangered species was especially due to habitat loss within their breeding grounds in the floodplain of the Tonle Sap lake. Bengal Floricans have been recorded from line transects in the direct vicinity of Samaki CF and it is expected that this also occurs within the CF itself. The Samaki CF has a good potential to be important for Bengal Florican if proper management is in place. The Samaki Community Forest Management Committee (CFMC) is in need of a complete review due to poor performances, and this review provided a good opportunity to integrate wildlife conservation objectives into CF site management.

This project integrated the protection of Bengal Floricans and other endangered water birds, into the Community Forestry Management Plan through wildlife protection CF guidelines recognized by all stakeholders, especially the local forestry administration. The project focused also on the relevance of innovative conservation strategies that addressed both threats to rural communities natural resource use and to Bengal Florican, Lesser Adjutant, Surus Crane and other water birds through awareness raising. Conservation can benefit both local communities and threatened water birds simultaneously. This scenario provides a genuine opportunity for local communities to benefit from the forest that they use everyday.

This project contributed to 3 priority areas (3.1, 3.2, 3.3), through different activities and to different extents. Concerning priority 3.3, the project activities focused on the villagers and local authorities, not journalists and lawyers because they are not part of AFDs target group.

3.1 Support civil society efforts to analyze development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and propose alternative development scenarios and appropriate mitigating measures.

- Conducted a meeting with local authorities and other stakeholders to inform Community Forestry Management Committee groups and explain the need for linkages between Community Forestry (CF) and wildlife conservation. People have understood and are willing to protect species in their target areas.

3.2 Support initiatives that leverage support for biodiversity conservation from development projects and programs.

- Supported CFMC with patrolling.
- Provided equipment to CFMC for patrolling.
- Held a meeting to review the CFMC management structure.
- Held a meeting to integrate wildlife conservation into by-laws and regulations for CFMC implementation.
 - Data collection for the participatory learning appraisal (PLA) in Samaki CF.
 - Collected information on forest resources, wildlife, and the number of families that hunt.

3.3 Conduct targeted outreach and awareness-raising for decision makers, journalists, and lawyers.

- Conducted 3 meetings with the village chiefs to disseminate CFMC roles and responsibilities and wildlife conservation concepts to villagers.
 - Worked to raise awareness on wildlife protection and forestry laws with the villagers.

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

Objective 1: Integrate conservation objectives into the Samaki Community Forest Management Plan and strengthen community forest management.

Conducted a meeting with local authorities and other stakeholders to inform Community Forestry Committee (CFC) groups and explain the need for linkages between community forestry and wildlife conservation. This meeting was attended by 19 people (2 females). After the meeting all the participants supported the idea of wildlife conservation and integrating this concept into the Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP). Conducted 3 meetings with villagers/village chiefs to disseminate CFMC roles and responsibilities, and wildlife conservation

concepts. These meetings were attended by 144 persons (104 females) and were facilitated by both AFD and WCS staff. As a result, the people in the target area understand the concept of wildlife protection, and the different wildlife species that need to be protected have been identified in the CF, including the Bengal Florican. Conducted a meeting to review the CFMC structure in Samaki CF which was attended by 9 people (2 females). The CFMC now understand their roles, responsibilities and the structure of the community forestry management including wildlife protection around CF site. A meeting was held to integrate wildlife conservation into by-law and regulation for CFMC implementation, which was attended by 8 people (including 2 females, 1 FA, and 1 commune council). Supported CFMC with patrolling every month. The data collection participatory learning appraisal was attended by 232 people (137 females).

Some illegal activities and unsustainable uses of upland natural resources around the CF site within the Integrating Bengal Florican into Community Forestry Management (IBFCFM) program were prevented and stopped during the project period. All people in the village who committed activities as described below were requested to sign a contract to stop the activities. However, no one was arrested. The illegal activities that were discovered include: A trapped female Bengal Florican was saved at the Samaki CF side with cooperation by WCS team.

- 14 cases of tree cutting at the CF site were reported to the CCs.
- 4 cases of land encroachment in CF site were reported.
- 1 case of monkey hunting was discovered in the CF site.
- 1 case of shooting storks was discovered in the CF site.
- The CFMC checked the boundary post of CF which was installed after CEPFs previous project.
- The CFMC chiefs attended CCs monthly meeting to report their progress, activities and issues or problems to CCs and stakeholders. As a result any problems were solved and the activities were integrated into CIP.

Objective 2: Survey and assessment of biodiversity value of 5 community forests in the Stung/Prasat Balang Important Bird Area (KH017) and conduct outreach program for wildlife conservation among communities. Collected information on the forest, wildlife hunting families, and wildlife in 8 villages in 5 Community Forestry's (CF) in Samaki, Nipich, and Damrei Slab commune. 135 people (20 females) participated in this. Conducted awareness-raising on wildlife protection to villagers in 8 villages which was attended by 463 people (229 females). The awareness meetings focused on water birds (Bengal Florican), and animal wildlife species protection around CF site that is relevant to forestry law chapter 10 (article 48-51) and chapter 15 (article 90-98). Collected information on forest resources, wildlife and the number of families hunting in 8 villages. 135 people (28 females) took part in this.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 6,417 Hectares (Please refer to Annex A for maps of the CF).

Species Conserved: Bengal Floricans, Sarus Crane, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, other water birds and endangered wildlife in CF.

Corridors Created: N/A

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

The project's short-term goals were successfully achieved, and all project activities were implemented such as meetings, data collection, review of the CFMC management structure, and integration of wildlife conservation into by law and regulation of CFMC. Some results exceeded the expectations at the project planning stage. WCS cooperated with AFD to strengthen the capacity of the CFMC and to achieve conflict resolution in CF. Integrating the Bengal Florican and animal wildlife into community forestry management is of interest to the commune councils and forestry administration. They plan to do so when they have the budget for completing a CFMP. Furthermore, CFMC and community members patrolled the area 2-4 times per month in order to protect the CF area against illegal activities.

Most of the objectives and all activities were completed during this period of time. This includes the process framework for one year of integrating Bengal Floricans into CFMP process and awareness raising about Bengal Florican, and other water birds and wildlife species such as pangolin, porcupine, loris, as well forestry law relating to illegal activities and the benefit of wildlife protection. The CFMC chiefs have attended CCs monthly meetings to raise their concerns, issues, problems, progress and activities to commune councils. They also integrated natural resources management activities into Commune Investment Plans (CIP). The CFMCs were recognized by CCs and Forestry Administration (FA) for a period of 5 years in terms of community forestry management. All of the CF sites (Samaki, Ou'Plov Louk, Ou'Chrang Sor, Thlok Popel and Trapang Lar Peak) have maps and accurate boundaries which are now recognized by Kampong Thom Forestry Administration and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF). Additionally, the CF site has got an agreement from Kampong Thom Forestry Administration to manage by CBOs for 15 years from 2009 to 2024 which was supported by a previous project of Oxfam GB. Samaki CF is part of the area of Bengal Florican conservation where a sub-degree was issued by MAFF as an area for Bengal Florican conservation. The big challenge and problem is that people from outside the area encroach on the land and the FA does not take action in time to protect the CF site. The people encroach on the land to plant potatoes and rubber trees.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The overall results of the project were positive. However, the local villagers exceed AFD's expectations when the people in Samaki CF reported to the CFMC when they saw a female Bengal Florican in a

trap. Then the CFMC informed AFD's staff to take action with this problem, and AFD cooperated closely with WCS team to save this Florican. Furthermore, Samaki CF site has been issued recognition as an area for Bengal Florican conservation by MAFF which while extremely positive, it was not originally expected.

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.

It is integrated the wildlife conservation into the community forestry management plan (CFMP) other local authorities and CFs became interested. The other CFs now want to do the same with their CFMPs. This should help integrate wildlife conservation into all community forestry sites in Cambodia. The lesson is that wildlife conservation can sometimes be easily integrated in other projects. Moreover, due to the wildlife conservation the inventory done during the making of the CFMP became easier.

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

Our project design was successful in part because it was both flexible and thorough. However, in the original project proposal we did not include the police in the information sessions about the project. This led to some difficulties as they became involved after, but were not fully informed about the projects goals and design. From this project we learned the importance of ensuring all stakeholders take part in the original information sessions.

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

The project was successfully completed with all project activities and local authorities, stakeholders and partners supporting this project. In the project AFD cooperated with partners like WCS and Oxfam GB which work in NRM and wildlife conservation. AFD also cooperated with Sangkat FA in Kampong Svay and Brasat Balang district as well as local authorities and villagers in the community for each activity in the project and also helped to solve conflict in CF sites. Part of the reason that the project was such as success is that AFD worked cooperatively with everyone involved.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The CFMC can help wildlife conservation around CF and significantly reduce threats to biodiversity at this site such as illegal hunting, illegal tree cutting, land encroachment, unsustainable use of forest resources, and illicit infrastructure development around CF site (social land concession).

Integrating Bengal Florican into the Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) is very important in order to divide block the CF into categories such as: deep forest, jungle/high trees, small forest and grassland in order to look at the habitat of water birds and as feeds for cows and buffaloes during the rainy and dry seasons. If the Bengal Floricans are not integrated into

the CFMP there is the possibility that the grassland will be replaced with trees or developed into rice paddies/farm land for communities. If the land is not legally secured as a protected area there is a risk that the Bengal Florican habitat could fall into the hands of powerful individuals for financial gain e.g. social land concession.

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.

Donor	Type	Amount	Notes
Oxfam GB	Indirect	35,000 USD	Oxfam GB have provided support for the CF establishing process according to the forestry law guidelines

****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.

This project has been successful in achieving planned sustainability, both in terms of implementing work in the coming months, as well as long-term sustainability through conservation action, awareness raising, data collection, supporting CFMC patrolling, and integrating natural resources into commune investment plan (CIP). Furthermore, in the future AFD as well as the CFMC, will conduct a community forestry management plan to ensure the grassland will kept for Bengle Floricans conservation.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The Samaki CF has issued a sub-degree from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF) to recognize the area for Bengle Floricans conservation. As well, the CFMC have deika (law) recognized by commune councils for managing CF area for 5 years from 2009-2014.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

AFD understands that there can be conflicting views between different people. Our goal was to get people together (such as the police and the CFMC), and help them understand the concept of wildlife conservation despite their different views. AFD conducted a meeting with stakeholders to introduce the project activities as well as the objective of the project to all. Integrating the Bengle Florican and wildlife protection into the CFMP was very important for sustainable wildlife protection/conservation and official recognition by local authorities, FA, government agencies and other stakeholders in Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM).

Performance Tracking Report Addendum				
CEPF Global Targets				
(Enter Grant Term)				
Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant. Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.				
Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from June 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 (Attach annexes if applicable)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	6,417 Hectares	6,417 Hectares	AFD integrated wildlife conservation into the CFMP (See annex A for names of the areas)
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	N/A			
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	Yes	6,417 Hectares	6,417 Hectares	AFD integrated Bengle Florican, Adjutans, Sarus Crane and other endangered wildlife in

hectares.				
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	N/A			
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	5 CF	5 CF	AFD promoted NRM for the through awareness raising, patrol, providing equipment, collection. The benefits for are things like NTFPs, grass (See annex B for number of 5 CF area)

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

While the project did result in tangible socio-economic benefits for the local communities, as the project did not integrate the livelihood program with the villagers, we did not collect the data that would be required to fill out the chart. However, annex B will provide more information about the people who benefited from this project.

Table 1. Socio-economic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socio-economic benefits to local communities. community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

For success with the biodiversity protection/conservation we should build up capacity of Community Base Organization (CBO) leaders and community members to give them a deep understanding of the benefit of the principle of conservation. They should also be aware that this type of work takes a long time to do successfully. A long term project would require additional funding as we have to follow the forestry guidelines for the government relevant to establish the CF. There are 8 steps to the CFMP, and currently Samaki, Ou Plov Louk, Thlok Popel Trapang Larpeak and Ou' Chrang sor CF have reached step 6. A longer project would be needed to be successful with this wildlife protection project and to ensure people understand the concept of wildlife protection and sustainable community forestry management. This project should also integrate the livelihood program in order to support poor people or families that rely on illegal hunting to ensure they no longer have to partake in these activities as a means to support their daily livelihoods.

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.

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