

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Chamroen Chiet Khmer (CCK)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Community Actions to Improve Livelihoods linked to Protection and Conservation of Sarus Cranes and other globally threatened species in Boeung Prek Lapouv Conservation Area, Cambodia.
<b>Date of Report:</b>	November 21, 2011
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**CEPF Region:** Indo-Burma

**Strategic Direction:** The Conservation of non breeding populations of Sarus Crane and its habitat in the Lower Mekong Delta project links directly to CEPF investment strategy, CEPF strategic directions 1. **Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats**, and under the CEPF investment priorities 1.1. **Identify and secure core populations of 67 globally threatened species from over-exploitation and illegal trade**, also links to CEPF investment priorities 1.6 **Publish local-language reference materials on globally threatened species**. The project had also developed local-language environmental awareness material on the threats and values of Boeung Prek Lapouv, wetland ecosystems, particularly Sarus Crane conservation.

Strategic Direction 2. **Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 biodiversity areas** particularly investment priority 2.1. **Establish innovative local-stakeholder-based conservation management and caretaking initiatives**. The project had established more a community outreach volunteer groups in addition to the previous CEPF project. These groups would be used to conduct joint environmental awareness initially, then, in the long-term co-management activities such as joint patrols.

**Grant Amount:** \$19,999.00

**Project Dates:** 2010/11/1 - 2011/10/31

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

This project had been implemented by CCK, in partnership with Wildfowl & Wetlands Truth (WWT), BirdLife International in *Indochina–Cambodia* Programme (BirdLife) and the Forestry Administration (FA). CCK had collaborated with a number of other stakeholders during the project implementation, including collaborating with local authorities and other NGOs specialized in the areas of environment such as Mlup Baitong (MB), Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development (CIRD). CCK, in partnership with MB and CIRD, had shared experiences and knowledge, and learnt from each other during NGO project coordination committee meetings related to alternative livelihood and poverty reduction projects.

BirdLife had supported CCK every step of the way in this project and still maintained a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and has established an excellent working relationship with them especially FA and other government agencies. BirdLife provided advice and consultation only and had not received any CEPF funds from this project.

WWT had overall coordinating role and directing the application of sustainable management structures as well as offered technical support to this project and assist in training local communities as well as CCK staff on the site's values, particular the status of Sarus Crane in the site, key threats in the site and other issues involved in protecting the site.

MB is responsible for the formation of community groups (self help savings groups and community based ecotourism groups). MB has also facilitated the development of ecotourism at the site and worked closely with local communities and individuals, especially on getting communities to organize themselves around a common goal (e.g. ecotourism). Their current project is running alongside that of WWT and will end in June 2013.

CIRD has worked on supporting agricultural improvement activities and undertake a feasibility study investigating the labelling of wildlife friendly products to generate income to support management of Anlung Pring (KT) Sarus Crane Reserve.

FA is one government institution of MAFF and has cooperated with BirdLife International Cambodia Programme to form Local Conservation Group (LCG) since 2003 in Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area for Sarus Crane and Other Birds (BPLMCA) in Borei Chulsa and Koh Andeth districts, Takeo province. These relevant agencies had supported CCK on technical issues in management and conservation at the site and worked with the relevant government institutions at the national and provincial levels. Significantly FA had been actively involved in designating the site as BPLMCA which the Royal Government of Cambodia declared establishing in October 2007.

## Conservation Impacts

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

To meet the fundamental purpose of the CEPF in engaging civil society, such as community groups, NGOs and national and provincial government institutions in biodiversity conservation in the hotspots and strategic direction 2 *Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 biodiversity areas*, CEPF funded project which was implemented by CCK focusing Community Outreach Programme (COP) had established five Village Volunteer Committees (VVCs) in five villages including Dei Leuk, Banteay Sleuk, Sangkum Meanchey, Keo Kamleung and Banteay Thleay. Due to the limited project funding, two among the five villages were selected for livelihood development because these two villages are located close proximity to the core conservation area of BPLCMA which law enforcement efforts have concentrated nearby. The community volunteer groups had initially conducted environmental awareness, then, in the long-term co-management activities such as joint patrols.

Moreover, the project had also linked directly to CEPF strategic directions 1 *Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats*. Therefore, this project had played a vital role in wetland conservation in the Lower Mekong Basin and forms part of one of the largest and continuous natural habitats remaining in the Mekong Delta. This wetland supports extensive floating vegetation which is becoming increasingly rare in the Mekong Delta and also supports the eastern Sarus Crane population which the population proportion in *Indochina* is approximately 33% and other three globally threatened species including Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*), Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) and Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*); and five globally near threatened species including Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Asian Golden Weaver (*Ploceus hypoxanthus*) and Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*).

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

To maintain the relationships, support on the ground conservation activities, and increase the capacity of the LCG and other stakeholders after a series of projects implemented by BirdLife collaboration with FA, CCK had implemented the second CEPF project titled "*Community Actions to Improve Livelihoods linked to Protection and Conservation of Sarus Cranes and other globally threatened species in Boeung Prek Lapouv Conservation Area, Cambodia*" in BPLMCA with the following the three main objectives:

1. Facilitate community communication with site managers (organizing stakeholder meetings to solve problems and to improve the implementation of the plan),
2. Strengthen community support for site conservation (raising awareness in larger communities on site protection and conservation in the target area, providing livelihood supports (plastic water tanks and cows) to

people in two target villages which are located adjacent to the reserve, and training in leadership to VVCs and CCK's staff through exposure visit),

3. Promote reinvestment by Self-Help Groups to support long-term funding of VVCs (expanding the project area to include 3 new villages, one in Borei Chulsa district, and two others in Koh Andeth district).

LCG has conducted education and awareness raising activities on the protection and conservation of wildlife and biodiversity, monthly law enforcement patrols, bird surveys and monitoring at BPLMCA. CCK had worked closely with them who have been managed and supported by CEPF project implemented by WWT including individuals from the Takeo FA Division, Takeo Fisheries Administration Cantonment, Police Inspections in Koh Andeth and Borei Chulsa districts, and Chiefs of Kampong Krosaing and Chey Chouk communes. All project activities and outputs were achieved as described in CCK's Lol to CEPF and some photographs of the BPLMCA biodiversity and the project implementation are in Annex 7.

## **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

CCK had implemented one year CEPF project to fulfill the three main objectives as mentioned above, intending to have pressures/threats reduction at BPLMCA by linking to livelihood development of local community living in and around the site. The below is accomplishment against project activities and outputs:

### **1.1. Awareness raising meetings at district level and at local schools, Borei Chulsa 25 participants, Koh Andeth 34 participants, 6 schools around the protected area, 600 students altogether**

#### Awareness raising activities conducted in the community:

Two separated meetings were organized to disseminate the meanings of the Prime Ministerial decree (sub decree), establishing BPLMCA in Borei Chulsa and Koh Andeth districts, Takeo province with an area of 8,305ha and to present CCK's CEPF project workplan to stakeholders in Koh Andeth district with 34 participants in November 2010 and in Borei Chulsa district with 27 participants in January 2011. During these meetings, the district governors offered some advices to the relevant institutions to continue disseminating the meanings of sub decree and requested for involvement from stakeholders in wildlife conservation to do somehow in achieving these objectives successfully for future generations and good environment. Stakeholders who attended these meetings included Koh Andeth and Borei Chulsa district governors; commune administration police post chief; Koh Andeth and Borei Chulsa district police inspectors and military police commanders; 7 commune council members; chiefs of the district agricultural office and water resources; chief of the district land management, urban planning and construction; local people from the target villages; and CCK staff

CCK organized three more separate meetings with the total 139 participants on the project introduction in January 2011 in the three target communes comprising Prey Khla, Chey Chouk and Kampong Krosang. These meetings had come up after the requests were made by local villagers and authorities during VVC establishment in three relevant communes. The purpose of these meetings were to provide local people's awareness and understanding on fisheries law and fishing lot boundary map in intension of prevention of illegal fishing practices.

#### Awareness raising activities conducted in primary schools:

In February 2011 CCK staff team conducted awareness raising activities with school children in six primary schools located around BPLMCA to disseminate and provide: 1) knowledge and general understanding on wetland importance and wildlife and biodiversity conservation, 2) school children's braveness in communication among their community, and 3) lessons learned in schools pertaining to wildlife (cranes) protection and conservation to talk in their community. During the awareness meetings, some materials were used for the programme such as BPLMCA designation sub decree, posters of waterbirds and flipcharts with pictures describing wetland benefits, value, bad and good environment context (given by Live & Learn), and questionnaires for school children to answer for gift such as T-shirts and candies (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of participants in awareness raising activities

No.	Primary school name	No. school children		No. school teachers		No. village chiefs		VVCs members		Dates
		total	female	total	female	total	female	total	female	
1	Keo Kampleung	135	71	10	0	2	1	5	2	21 Feb 2011
2	Banteay Thleay	188	96	11	0	2	1	5	2	22 Feb 2011
3	Sangkum Meanchey	124	74	5	0	2	0	5	2	23 Feb 2011
4	Chey Chouk	101	56	3	0	2	0	0	0	24 Feb 2011
5	Tarakum	72	36	9	0	2	0	0	0	25 Feb 2011
6	Sangke Chuo	66	31	3	0	2	0	0	0	28 Feb 2011
<b>Total</b>		<b>686</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	

### 1.2. Set up and strengthen the capacity of 5 VVCs, about leadership of VVCs and about the implementation of the sub-decree on the site protection and conservation

As raised in this project, CCK had set up 3 more Village Voluntary Committees (VVCs) in addition to the two existing VVCs established since CCK's previous CEPF project. These VVCs were established in three different meetings held on 29 November 2010 in Keo Kampleung village with 33 participants (14 women), on 30 November 2010 in Banteay Thleay village with 40 participants (21 women), and on 30 December 2010 in Sangkum Meanchey village with 66 participants (35 women). All the 3 VVCs were officially recognized by the commune councils (Table 2). The purpose of VVC establishment was to promote stakeholder involvement in wildlife and biodiversity conservation, especially Sarus Cranes in BPLMCA and community livelihood development.

Table 2: Three more VVCs established in the three different villages

No.	Village name	Members	Position in VVCs	Position in villages	Age (Year)	Established Date
1	Keo Kamphleung	Mr. Dul Mos	chief	villager	44	29-11-2010
		Ms Tuy On	vice chief	villager	40	
		Ms Chhuok Sauny	member	villager	40	
		Mr. Kuo Ran	member	villager	46	
		Mr. Phen Phyrarn	member	villager	31	
2	Banteay Thleay	Mr. Sau Sophal	chief	villager	29	30-11-2010
		Ms Chap Dany	vice chief	villager	30	
		Ms Pov Pisey	member	villager	41	
		Mr. Sat Hon	member	villager	34	
		Mr. Maing Phy	member	villager	40	
3	Sangkum Meanchey	Mr. Vy May	chief	villager	37	30-12-2010
		Ms Chan Sreypouv	vice chief	villager	20	
		Ms Tiv Mach	member	villager	42	
		Mr. Pen Kosal	member	villager	59	
		Mr. Kun Sokda	member	villager	38	
<b>Total</b>		<b>15 members</b>				

### 1.3. Support awareness activities of 5 VVCs in their respective villages

#### VVCs training:

A training course was provided to all members of the five VVCs. The training purpose was to provide knowledge on solution methodology of confliction, happening in their community or among their members, meanings of sub decree on BPLMCA designation, and role, duty and responsibility written in Guidelines devised since the past collaborative CEPF projects to establish VVCs and Self Help Groups (SHGs) in natural resource protection and

conservation in BPLMCA. 22 participants, with 2 from LCG and 20 from VVCs, attended the training course.

Community forums:

Minor changes of CCK's workplan were happened after meeting with WWT representatives. This needs to be incorporated into the quarterly community forums which were simultaneously conducted with WWT's workplan relating to compliance with CEPF social safeguard policies. The first community forums were conducted between March and April 2011 of which the first day of the meeting was conducted in Sangkum Meanchey village on 27 March 2011 with the presence of WWT staff to make sure this community forum going well especially asking questions for participants to raise issues and problems. And subsequent community forums were conducted in other target villages on following days with participation from the commune councils, the five target villages, five VVCs and villagers representing each household and LCG (Table 3). And the second community forum meetings were conducted between August and September by using the same questionnaires and attended by WWT staff in the last community forum meeting held on 06 September in Banteay Thleay village (Table 4). CCK staff followed the same activities as they did with school children and added some more points on locals' issues with conservation objectives, roles and responsibilities of VVCs and LCG.

*Table 3: List of participants in the first community forum meetings between March and April*

No.	Village name	Participants		Dates
		total	female	
1	Sangkum Meanchey	62	26	27 March 2011
2	Dei Leuk	28	15	27 March 2011
3	Banteay Sleuk	29	19	18 April 2011
4	Keo Kampleung	76	49	19 April 2011
5	Banteay Thleay	71	52	20 April 2011
<b>Total</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>161</b>	

*Table 4: List of participants in the second community forum meetings between August and September*

No.	Village name	Participants		Dates
		total	female	
1	Bantaey Sleuk	20	13	24 August 2011
2	Dei Leuk	18	10	25 August 2011
3	Sangkum Meanchey	43	21	30 August 2011
4	Keo Kampheung	45	20	31 August 2011
5	Banteay Thleay	120	73	06 September 2011
<b>Total</b>		<b>246</b>	<b>137</b>	

12 of 13 questionnaires with readily prepared answers were used during the community forums (prepared answers were not allowed for participants to see while answering each question) in order to measure local people's knowledge and understanding in the area of wetland conservation and management, especially activities are allowed and not allowed in BPLMCA. Then CCK staff asked to find out the percentage how many participants who supported answers given by their participants (Graph 1, Annex 8 & 9). And question 13 was used to provide local people's opportunity for raising issues, problems and suggestions happening in their community regarding their daily livelihood activities, conservation and law enforcement implemented by LCG at BPLMCA. After that CCK staff added some more answers that participants could not think in order to let them know more on what are permitted and unpermitted by laws within the Sarus Crane Reserve (Table 5). Some issues, problems and suggestions for question 13 were raised by local people during the community forums regarding the conservation and management of Sarus Crane Reserve and their daily livelihood activities. However, most issues and problems that they raised were related to their daily livelihoods but one issue among those "impact on dry season rice" raised during the community forums was discussed on 03 June 2011 in BirdLife/WWT office in Phnom Penh between WWT staff and CCK staff to ensure that this issue is not an involuntary restriction by implementing the CEPF projects at the BPLMCA through some following clarifications:

- local people were prevented by fisheries officials from cutting grass in their existing dry season rice fields during the flood season because grass needs to be kept for fish spawning ground and they will be permitted when water starts receding. Local people want to cut grass during flooding because they would spend less labors and money (grass is still short), but this is prevented by fisheries law.
- local people prevented by fisheries officials and LCG members from enlarging land for dry season rice fields in new places where there are intact grassland areas. This is regarded as land encroachment activity which is prevented by fisheries law as well as sub decree dated 15 October 2007 establishing BPLMCA.

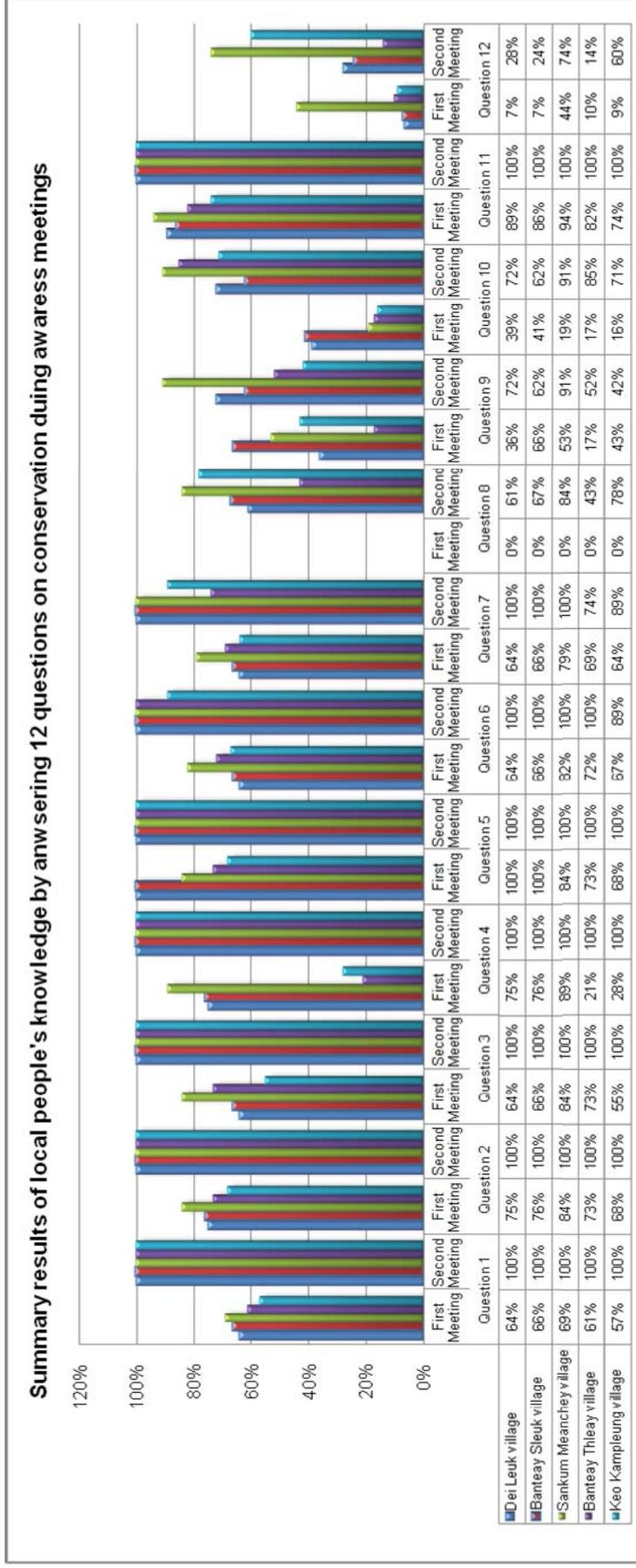
*Table 5: Questions and answers prepared for awareness raising activities, participants provided answers in brackets*

Question 1: What activities that are not allowed by laws to hunt wildlife?
Answer 1: (Poisoning, using fishing nets and microphone with recorded bird songs to trap wild birds), using spotlights, poaching and collecting bird's eggs and chicks.
Question 2: What illegal fishing gears are not allowed by laws?
Answer 2: (Fine mesh nets, electro-fishing), pumping to catch fish, net or all kind of seine with mesh size of less than 1.5 cm, explosive stuff, or all kind of poisons.
Question 3: To prevent birds from being hunted what can we do?
Answer 3: (Reporting to commune chiefs, policemen and LCG), arresting offenders, telling relatives not get involved in hunting wildlife.
Question 4: Is there any punishment when someone kills birds by any way?
Answers 4: Yes, e.g. if anyone kills cranes, he/she will be fined and punished.
Question 5: Do you know VVC working in your village? How many people and their names?
Answer 5: Some participants answered YES and some participants answered NO, because some of them did not attend meetings VVC establishment.
Question 6: Does conservation area provide any benefits to community?
Answer 6: (Fish, vegetation, firewood, grass for cattle, water for dry season rice cultivation), habitat for wildlife and fish.
Question 7: Who is responsible for managing conservation area?
Answer 7: (Local people and community living in and around the site), authorities and concerned government agencies.
Question 8: When is the closed fishing season?
Answer 8: 1 <sup>st</sup> July - 31 <sup>st</sup> October for fishing areas located in the south of Tonle Chaktomuk (including BPLMCA).
Question 9: What purposes to establish the conservation area for?
Answer 9: (Providing benefits to local people), protecting waterbirds, biodiversity.
Question 10: What values/benefits are of/provided by the conservation area?
Answer 10: (Agricultural cultivation, foods for wildlife and human beings), vegetations, transportation, habitat.
Question 11: What resources or products are provided by the conservation area or wetland?
Answer 11: water lily, morning glory, fish, grass, water, firewood.
Question 12: What are the important functions of conservation area or wetland?
Answer 12: (Vegetations), flood control, storm prevention, environmental maintenance, weather purification, researches.
Question 13: What issues happening to you regarding conservation and law enforcement activities implemented by LCG at the conservation area?
Answer 13: Local people raised issues and suggestions during both community forums as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An issue which was raised is impact on dry season rice cultivation,</li> <li>• Local people had requested to have explanations from the skilled officials related to fishing areas and in the dry and wet seasons,</li> <li>• Land grabbing (encroachment) is still committed by a handful of villagers,</li> <li>• Rice price is low and price of fuel, insecticide and chemical fertilizer is high. Local people had</li> </ul>

suggested to have more agricultural land for dry season rice cultivation,

- Dry season rice products provide low yield because their field fields are more acidic,
- Local people had suggested to restore some canals for their dry season rice cultivation with the length of 1.6 km and 3.5 km from the main canal No.98 to Canal No.89,
- The cost of payment in getting water for dry season rice irrigation was increased by water using community,
- Some local people would lack rice seed because floods had destroyed their rice,
- They had suggested having some *Melaleuca* seedlings to grow around their houses to protect storm,
- They had suggested having more water tanks for water storage to use in the dry season,
- They needed lifejackets for use in the wet season,
- They needed some funding for elevating their housing plots,
- Fisheries officials prohibited local people not to cut grass for their dry season rice fields during the flood season.

Graph 1: Comparative percentages of locals who were aware and supported answers given by participants during first and second community forums



Graph 1 above, shows that over 50% of local people during the first community forum meetings were able to provide answers as in brackets to questions except for question 10 and 12 that percentages are lower than 50% and they could not answer question 8. For the second community forum meetings most participants understood and were aware and could provided answers almost questions 100% regarding wetland benefits, value and importance. And they could answer question 8 over 60% in average that they did know anything at all during the first community forum meetings. This inflects that local people are aware and understand a lot through community forum meetings organized by CCK.

In addition local people said that there were lots of fish this year which they could catch up to 3 kg per night by using long-lined fishing hooks. The reason was that there were no any illegal fishing gears used at the moment in BPLMCA. They also said water quality was not good because human and solid wastes and insecticide bottles after being used were discarded in these wetlands. Such situation would cause impacts on human health and much money was spent to cover medical treatment.

#### **1.4. Produce 4 sign boards, 175 T-shirts, 100 posters to provide information about the conservation importance of the site**

175 T-shirts were bought and produced since January 2011 for awareness raising activities with logos of CCK in front, BirdLife International in *Indochina* on the left sleeve, CEPF in the sleeve and a Sarus Crane on the back. And the meanings which were written on T-shirts are “we unite conserving birds and natural resources”. These T-shirts were distributed to Koh Andeth and Borei Chulsa offices (6 T-shirts), to three target commune offices (9 T-shirts), five target villages (15 T-shirts), to five VVCs (25 T-shirts), in 6 awareness extension meetings with school children (60 T-shirts), in 5 awareness extension meetings in community (50 T-shirts) and in CCK office (10 T-shirts).

In addition to T-shirts regarding awareness programme, the same 4 signboards (2m x 1.40m) were made with review and edition by the staff of WWT Cambodia Programme and BirdLife to make sure everything is acceptable together. The signboard with the title “*protecting and maintaining the valuable natural resources in Boeung Prek Lapouv wetlands for local community and the nation*” presents the positive context (wetland values, functions and biodiversity), and negative context (prohibition of illegal activities on biodiversity), and summarized sub decree with an official map. These signboards were placed on house walls of local people where they can be easily seen in the target villages of Banteay Sleuk, Dei Leuk, Banteay Thleay and Sangkum Meanchey (Annex 7, figure 3 & 4).

#### **2.1. Semester meeting with LCG, VVCs, armed forces, local authorities and NGOs, 2 meetings for 2 districts, 30 participants/each meeting**

##### Meeting with WWT representatives:

On 03 February 2011 a discussion meeting was held in CCK office based in Koh Andeth district and attended by staff of WWT, CCK and 5 chiefs of VVCs. Some CCK’s project activities were discussed during the meeting. The detailed discussion results can be found in Rob Shore’s February 2011 field trip report (Annex 1). And on 16 March CCK met with representatives of WWT and BirdLife’s CEPF-RIT Cambodia Programme ahead of a community forum that was planned for the next morning. Work carried out by CCK in February was discussed (awareness raising in primary schools). Guidelines for conducting community forums were introduced by staff of WWT Cambodia Programme to CCK and discussed at length. The detailed discussion results can be found in Robert van Zalinge’s March 2011 field trip report (Annex 2).

##### Consolidation of BPLMCA planning into the district development planning:

CCK staff were invited by the district governor to attend a meeting held on 11 March 2011 in Borei Chulsa district office to discuss on a 2011-2013 district development planning. Other stakeholders such as government officials of relevant offices within the district were also participated. Some CCK’s project activities related to community development, those linked to the conservation, were consolidated into the district planning. In addition, the district governor addressed strong support for the conservation of BPLMCA.

##### The first semester meeting:

The meeting was organized on 15 August 2011 at BPLMCA Headquarters and attended by Borei Chulsa and Koh Andeth district deputy governors, staff of LGC, CCK and members of the five VVCs totaling 29 people (9 women). The session was started from 8:00 until 11:30 am. The meeting objective was to share information, issues and report among VVCs members and discuss all issues either relevant to conservation or their daily livelihood activities.

##### The second semester meeting:

The meeting was organized on 21 October 2011 at CCK office and attended by Borei Chulsa and Koh Andeth district deputy governors, staff of LGC, CCK and members of the five VVCs totaling 30 people (10 women). The session was started from 8:00 until 11:30 am. The meeting objective was to share information, issues and report among VVCs members and discuss all issues either relevant to conservation or their daily livelihood activities.

During meetings almost the same issues, problems and suggestions were raised as the same as community forums (Table 5, question 13). However, Mr. Seng Vanna, LCG chief, explained and clarified some points raised by participants related to BPLMCA conservation and management activities. He said that LCG had educated local people who were met in the field during regular law enforcement patrols not to up root water lily, electrocute

fish, burn inundated forest/grass. Grass cutting for dry season rice can be conducted after the closed fishing season (01 July-31 October) because these habitat areas were kept for fish breeding. Local people can conduct family-scale fishing in public areas in both dry and wet seasons but in fishing lots in the wet season only. In addition, the relevant district governors had promised to work out other issues and suggestions. Related to the increasing cost of payment for water to irrigate dry season rice they would take this issue to be discussed with relevant stakeholders, especially water use community. And he suggested to having good cooperation to prevent illegal fishing practices and reporting to fisheries office if any illegal activities would happen.

## 2.2. Study tour for staff of CCK and VVCs to forest protected areas

A study tour to Bengal Florican Conservation Area and Ang Tropeang Thmor Sarus Crane Reserve of the Cambodian Lower Mekong Wetlands Project implemented by WWT was organized for LCGs working at BPLMCA in Takeo province and Anlung Pring Management and Conservation Area for Sarus Crane and Other Birds (APMCA) in Kampot province, staff from CCK and VVCs members from BPLMCA. The objective was to exchange and share experiences and knowledge on wildlife and biodiversity conservation and management, especially those linked to community development activities. 19 people were involved in this study tour trip. The detailed results can be found in Seng Kim Hout’s field trip report (Annex 3).

## 2.3. Set up 2 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in 2 villages to manage cattle-banks, with 4 cows per village, and support their regular (monthly) meetings

Two SHGs were already established since April 2011 in Banteay Sleuk and Dei Leuk villages with CCK coordination. The purpose to establish these groups is to combine local people in managing cattle bank and saving funds within their villages. This can help local people borrow money with low interest rate among their members to create jobs and any urgent needs, for example, a lady giving birth needs to be sent to a hospital for medical treatment.

## 2.4. Provide big water jars to 30 families in 2 villages

After having many meetings with local community on this work, they had requested CCK to provide them with plastic water tanks rather than cement made water jars because local people could use them during the flood water in any incident in their villages. CCK staff team had provided 30 plastic water tanks (with the volume of 700 liters per water tank) to 30 families which were selected in the two target villages including 14 families in Banteay Sleuk and 16 families in Dei Leuk. CCK staff team had also provided 8 cows to these two villages including 4 beneficiaries in Banteay Sleuk and 4 beneficiaries in Dei Leuk.

This is one part of the project implementation regarding community livelihood development which is linked to Sarus Crane conservation in BPLMCA. Beneficiaries were asked to thumbprint on contracts that some points were required beneficiaries to get involved in the conservation work when receiving plastic water tanks and female cows (Annex 4 & 5). However, through this project implementation some difficulties of local people in these two target villages could be mitigated especially the lack of fresh water to use in the dry season and locals’ livelihood improvement gradually goes forward but could not be addressed during this project period.

Table 5: 8 beneficiaries identified to receive female cows in these two target villages

No	Beneficiaries	Female cows	Village name	Miscellaneous
1	Mr. Sep Sona	1	Dei Leuk	
2	Mr. Im Sokhan	1		
3	Mr. Rong Komsot	1		
4	Mrs. Sum Tem	1		widow
5	Mr. Lay Dong	1	Banteay Sleuk	
6	Mr. Chhan Kin	1		
7	Mr. Ken Kim	1		
8	Mr. Sam Sean	1		

Table 6: 30 beneficiaries indentified to receive water tanks in these two target villages

No.	Beneficiaries	No. of water tanks	Village name
1	Mr. Rong Komsot	1	Dei Leuk
2	Mr. Sip Sona	1	
3	Mrs. Him Navy	1	
4	Mr. Pak Cheng	1	
5	Mr. Im Sokhan	1	
6	Mr. Sim Ra	1	
7	Mrs. Sum Tem	1	
8	Mr. Phong Phea	1	
9	Mr. Hom Chhan	1	
10	Mr. Hin Sanh	1	
11	Mr. Hom Chhoeun	1	
12	Mr Hon Han	1	
13	Mr. Kheav Hom	1	
14	Mr. Lay Thy	1	
15	Mr. Suy Phalla	1	
16	Mr. Deang Doeun	1	
17	Mr. Kak Khun	1	Banteay Sleuk
18	Mr. Meum Nam	1	
19	Mr. Set Sok	1	
20	Mr. Set Seam	1	
21	Mr. Von Leung	1	
22	Mr. Keo Koeung	1	
23	Mr. Pak Sonhim	1	
24	Mr. Von Tay	1	
25	Mrs. Kuon Lay	1	
26	Mr. Em Thon	1	
27	Mr. Sang Yao	1	
28	Mr. San Soknoeun	1	
29	Mr. Hom Hoeun	1	
30	Mr. Kun Meum	1	

### 3.1. Generate contributions from members of cattle-banks to build capital of the SHGs

#### In Banteay Sleuk village:

SHG was established in May 2011 comprising 37 members (27 women) and managed by Mr. Kau Soeun-chief, Mr. Kun Py-vice chief and Mrs. Mong Chanry-casher. The SHG members had determined 4 beneficiaries to receive female cows and 14 beneficiaries to receive plastic water tanks (Table 5 & 6). Then each female cow beneficiary agreed to pay 50,000 Riel (around US\$12) and each water tank beneficiary agreed to pay 20,000 Riel (around US\$5) for SHG's saving funds. Until the end of the project this SHG has 680,000 Riel (around US\$170).

#### In Dei Leuk village:

SHG was established in May 2011 comprising 20 members (13women) and managed by Mr. Rong Komsot-chief, Mr. Sep Sona-vice chief and Mrs. Him Navy-casher. The SHG members had determined 4 beneficiaries to receive female cows and 16 beneficiaries to receive plastic water tanks (Table 5 & 6). Then each female cow beneficiary agreed to pay 50,000 riel (around US\$12) and each water tank beneficiary agreed to pay 20,000 riel (around US\$5) for SHG's saving funds. Until the end of the project this SHG has 664,000 Riel (around US\$166).

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

**Hectares Protected:** 8,305 ha

**Species Conserved:** eastern Sarus Crane and other globally threatened bird species

## **Corridors Created:**

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

### *Short-term impact objectives:*

30 households of local communities in the two target villages would mitigate some difficulties in getting fresh water for consumption in the dry season because they had already obtained plastic water tanks from the project. Through training courses provided by CCK staff team, they are able to manage cattle bank and to work in their community groups in terms of fund saving process. Many local people had received knowledge on BPMCA conservation and relevant laws through community awareness meetings and extension activities. Moreover, through this project LCG had some opportunities working meeting with VVCs related to the management and conservation of this internationally important wetland and local people's livelihood development in addition to the main activities such as data collection relating to birds, site monitoring and awareness extension.

### *Long-term impact objectives:*

The LCG has had received several training courses since the previous projects implemented by BirdLife in collaboration FA including bird identification, survey and monitoring techniques; uses of compass, GPS, maps; data collection methodology and report writing. Moreover, the LCG will be trained by WWT's CEPF project on expanded monitoring programme to better manage the site and conserve wildlife and other biodiversities, especially Sarus Cranes. With support from CCK and WWT, the LCG could support and work closely with the community volunteer groups in BPLMCA which was established by the Royal Government of Cambodia since 2007. Through this CCK's CEPF funded project some livelihood developments were implemented in the two target villages including Banteay Sleuk and Dei Leuk.

CCK understands the need to address these issues, however, due to the scope of funding; these livelihood improvement and threats issues cannot be fully addressed during this project period. However, CCK will facilitate the process of collaboration between BirdLife, FA and International and local NGOs to continue supporting the site and seek long-term funding to contribute to this key wetland management. This means that CCK will combine all efforts to protect and improve the natural values of BPLMCA, in particular the habitat of non-breeding population of Sarus Crane and to reduce pressure on these resources through supporting livelihood activities of local communities.

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

CCK has established five VVCs when implementing the two CEPF project and this last one ended in October 2011 and worked on livelihood development of local people in the two the target villages, therefore what is concern is that after this project ended in October 2011 there will no probably following up work on this activity and other activities with the VVCs regarding the conservation and community involvement activities at BPLMCA due to the lack of funding to be continuous.

## **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)***

Lessons learned during the project design process are as follows:

- The project that was designed with participation from the relevant stakeholders such as staff of WWT, BirdLife, Mlup Baitong, CCK and LCG members can address all issues at the site and make precisely budgeted preparation for every project activities in avoiding fat budgeting.
- More discussions were made to have Lol revised after receiving comments from CEPF.

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

Lessons learned during the project implementation are as follows:

- One year workplan was developed to include all project activities as raised in Lol to be implemented within the week period of the month. However, some schedules of the project activities had been changed to fit WWT's CEPF workplan regarding the community forums and the project budget constraints.
- Participation, cooperation and support from stakeholders of the relevant government agencies make the project satisfactorily achieved such as establishment of VVCs, local people's livelihood development etc. ,in BLPMCA.
- Awareness raising is a key tool which can help reduce illegal activities on wildlife and biodiversity at the site in addition to law enforcement.
- CCK has learned lots of new things from the collaborative CEPF projects and obtained experiences from other NGO partners.
- Good collaboration between local, international NGOs and the government relevant agencies was made through stakeholder meetings, a formation of VVCs and SHGs. Alternative livelihood activities can make a significant contribution to local stakeholders' motivation through VVCs and SHGs formed by previous and current CEPF projects to support or participate in the site management and conservation activities which meet the project objectives.
- Community forums provide opportunity to local people to voice issues and comments relating to the conservation work and their daily living conditions.

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

- The LCG approach can help to significantly reduce threats to biodiversity at the important sites for conservation. However, an active, mutually supportive relationship between LCGs and government enforcement agencies is critical to the success of the approach.
- Alternative livelihood activities can make a significant contribution to local stakeholders' motivation to support or participate in LCG activities, but these need to be closely linked to conservation objectives.
- LCG can make major contributions to raising environmental awareness and generating support for conservation in their communities. However, for their potential to be fully realized, LCG need to be provided with a considerable amount of training and a diverse information base.
- More collaborative activities between local, international NGOs and the relevant government agencies were made through discussion meetings and a formation of VVCs during this project implementation.
- Although local stakeholders rapidly recognize the benefits that LCGs can provide and are robust in their support of them, LCGs are unlikely to become financially sustainable without considerable investments of time and resources.

***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.***

The additional funding existed as in-kind contributions from CCK itself only during this project implementation at BPLMCA.

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
CCK	In-kind contribution	US\$ 2,520.00	Office supplies and maintenance, transportation, and office rental (for CCK office based in Koh Andeth district, Takeo province).

***\*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.***

Since signing of the MoU between MAFF and BirdLife International in *Indochina* in 2004, FA is committed to providing continued support and partnership with BirdLife to ensure the conservation and protection of BPLMCA continues. CCK had supported one year conservation work (July 2009–June 2010) at the site when implementing a CEPF project titled “*Community protection of eastern Sarus Crane and its habitat in Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area, Cambodia*”. For the current CEPF project, CCK was working on local livelihood development activities which were linked to the conservation work at the site. However, CCK will remain partners with BirdLife and WWT to develop future projects with them and seek for collaboration with other international and local conservation NGOs for long-term funding.

During meeting with communities in forming VVCs and in environmental awareness raising activities, local people raised several suggestions in terms of their daily livelihoods and community development. If these suggestions are not considered and met for next projects, this creates a risk that conservation activities implemented at the site and would not strongly be supported and actively participated by local people. Therefore, CCK has considered having more community development which is linked to the conservation activities at BPLMCA within the next project proposals to any potential donors.

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

### ***Safeguard Policy Assessment***

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

For this current CEPF project, CCK has only worked on awareness raising activities and establishment of VVCs and SHGs to support conservation and protection of the site as well as livelihood development in BPLMCA. WWT has worked on devising a document related to mitigation of anticipated or unanticipated environmental or social safeguard policy because WWT has overall coordinated activities among the four CEPF projects and directly supported management structures as well carried out conservation management activities at both of the sites including BPLMCA and Anlung Pring Management and Conservation Area for Sarus Crane and Other Birds (APMCA) in Kampong Trach district, Kampot province.

### ***Additional Comments/Recommendations***

- Continuous funding is needed to carry on site management and conservation. Without further funding all past efforts will be vain.
- While working with local community in terms of VVCs formation, many locals’ suggestions were raised. These should be studied in details and considered to meet their issues and needs so that it will make them trust and actively participate in the site management and conservation linked to community development.
- Ecotourism at the site should be initiated so that it can help local people develop and generate income from

this field and sustain the conservation work.

### ***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:**

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## **Annex 1: CAMBODIAN LOWER MEKONG WETLANDS PROJECT – TRIP REPORT**

Rob Shore, February 2011

### **Meetings with Project Team**

Meetings were held with the three Cambodia-based staff on the new WWT project in advance of the external meetings to review progress, highlight achievements, and identify any issues and follow up actions to address them (in particular, proposing modifications to the project workplan). In summary, these modifications included:

- Moving the workshop with provincial government in relation to the Kampong Trach sub-decree (under activity 1.1) to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February 2011. Because there is not a lot to cover in this workshop, it is proposed to include a session on gathering inputs and information for the management plan at this workshop (activity 1.4). The project Technical Advisor (Robert van Zalinge) would not be able to attend as he does not start until 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011, so if this goes ahead it is important that Robert has the opportunity to input before and after the meeting. It is also proposed to discuss the installation of boundary markers (activity 1.2) at this meeting.
- All protected forest areas and Sarus Crane reserves under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in Cambodia are awaiting a Ministerial Decree of MAFF on the process of arrangement, management and conservation, in which a PA steering committee is established. The MAFF minister had recommended the FA to draft the the decree when meeting regarding the KT proposal on 11 November 2010 (prior to the Ministers Session held in the Council of Ministers Office to discuss on KT). As a result, it was suggested that it doesn't make sense to establish a permanent committee (activity 1.3) until after this decree, and in the meantime only convene a committee to discuss and agree specific activities.
- The study tour to Ang Trapaeng Thmor is proposed to be moved to March instead of November. This was because Hong Chamnan at WCS had advised that this would be a better time to go. However in later discussions the purpose of these study tours and the potential to combine study tours between the partners were raised. It is important to clearly identify the study tour purposes and target audiences (i.e. who needs to get what from the trips) before the final plan is agreed.
- It was tentatively agreed that Robert should continue the work of coordinating the Crane census, at least this year. This seems to make sense as it is halfway through now and would not be easy to hand over. Robert was happy to do this and the time requirements were not excessive. There would be potential to include the WWT logo on the report as a result. Robert will send last year's report to Seb and it is suggested that this is passed on to species conservation colleagues to review.

These modifications were passed on to the Project Leader, Seb Buckton, for follow up with the project team.

### **Steering Group Meeting of the coordinated CEPF projects**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Group Meeting was held in Phnom Penh, attended by WWT, Mlup Baitong and CIRD project staff. BirdLife and CCK were unable to attend due to other field commitments and were updated in one-to-one meetings with WWT project staff later in the week. Mr. Kong Kimsreng, senior program officer of IUCN also attended as they are implementing a Climate Change Adaptation project in Kampot province and are considering some activities around Kampong Trach, and therefore wanted to understanding more about the CEPF-funded projects and how the IUCN work could potentially fit in.

The three partners in attendance presented their progress to date, detailed workplan over the coming months, and general longer term plans. The meeting provided a useful opportunity to question key areas of the projects and identify collaboration opportunities, particularly where community engagement effort s could be coordinated to minimise the requests on local community member's time.

A summary of points presented by CIRD and Mlup Baitong is as follows:

#### **CIRD**

- Baseline surveys have been conducted in 120 households within 3 target villages
- 3 focus group discussions have been held
- A baseline report in being prepared
- In February, training will be run in all three villages on improving soil fertility (4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb) and natural fertiliser and composting (16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb)

### **Mlup Baitong**

- One temporary committee has been established, comprised of 7 members including 3 relevant village chiefs and 4 villagers
- Two meetings have been held to draft regulations
- Meetings have been held to agree the process for election of committee members
- 4 Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been established through regional by-laws. This complements the 6 existing SHGs, to comprise the 10 agreed under the CEPF-funded project
- A 2-day training session to raise awareness on Sarus Cranes was conducted in January 2011
- A training course on bookkeeping has been delivered to SHG leaders

A key area for discussion was the proposed Community Forum within the WWT project. It was proposed that the meetings organised by Mlup Baitong on the 20<sup>th</sup> each month (or nearest suitable date if at the weekend) could form a venue for the Community Forum. The meetings are attended by Mlup Baitong staff, members of the Community Livelihood Development Management Committee (CLDMC), and commune chiefs. This does not have as wider participation as would be ideal, but as the Community Forum in a quarterly event, it may be possible to expand the participation once every three months or alternative ensure that the participants are mandated to gather inputs from the wider community ahead of the meetings. It was tentatively proposed that a structure should be developed by WWT and Mlup Baitong staff to run the first Community Forum at the meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

The issue of capacity gaps of the CEPF-funded organisations was also discussed, but steering group participants did not feel able to assess this at the meeting. It was agreed that participants would consider this ahead of the next steering group meeting and that the identification of capacity gaps would be a standing item on the steering group agenda.

### **Meeting with CCK**

As part of the visit to Boueng Prek Lapouv, a meeting was held with CCK project staff and local community representatives following the same format as the steering group meeting. Both CCK and WWT presented their respective project progress and proposed workplans. WWT also gave a brief summary of progress at Kampong Trach on behalf of all partners at that site.

A summary of points presented by CCK is as follows:

- Project started on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010
- Letters were written to the two district governors to inform of project
- Meetings held in each district with cross departmental and community representation
- 3 new VVCs established (5 members each) to complement the 2 existing and comprise the 5 planned to be established by the project
- Training course provided to the VVCs in January 2011
- A recognition letter of the VVCs signed by commune chiefs
- Agreement drawn up between CCK and VVCs
- Agreement drawn up between CCK and final beneficiaries (of water tanks and cow bank in the two previously established VVCs, actual beneficiaries yet to be identified)

Discussions were held about the structure and format of the VVCs and the SHGs that will be established (20 members each, including the 5 VVC members) and the proposed study tour to explore opportunities to combine with the study tours of other projects. CCK also raised that the Bourei Cholsar district governor had suggested that CCK help with vegetable production as part of the One Village One Product programme that is being promoted by national government.

Specific conversations were held about the establishment of the quarterly Community Forum. CCK has limited budget to travel to the field sites, and it was tentatively agreed that WWT would participate in the village meetings planned by CCK in March and June to enable the Community Forums to be held at the same time. WWT would then use its budget for the community forums to support an additional trip in September 2011. This would minimise the burden on local people's time and enable CCK to visit the communities one more time. WWT will look into the budgetary arrangements to check if this can be supported.

## **CEPF Donor Meeting**

To coincide with the visit of a CEPF donor mission, a progress meeting was held between CEPF staff, the Birdlife CEPF focal point for the region, and staff of the two large-scale projects supported by CEPF (Mlup Baitong and WWT). Key points from this meeting were:

- Because of the complexity of the logistical arrangements of the WWT project (no institutional presence and so hosted by Birdlife in Cambodia, who cannot receive CEPF funds), it is extremely likely that the WWT project will be one of the projects selected to be audited for compliance
- Concerns were raised about the financial arrangements on the WWT project, specifically that:
  - Bou Vorsak should not be a signatory on the local bank account (this will be changed once Robert van Zalinge officially joins on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011 as the account requires two signatories)
  - The account should not be in the name of the signatories but either WWT or the project name (this has been looked into but appears to be impossible; however WWT will explore other options and get back to CEPF as soon as possible)
  - The signatories to the account should not draw a salary from that same account and should not be paid in cash (WWT will look into alternative options and propose a solution to CEPF)
- Concerns were raised that the SHGs do not have conservation requirements explicitly stated in the bylaws for their establishment, contrary to what was stated in the project proposal. Sun Vann will look into the wording of the bylaws to assess if they fulfil this requirement or not.
- The processes to meet the social compliance requirement triggered by the WWT project were discussed at length. It was concluded that the Community Forum process should largely fulfil this requirement. It was stated that it is important to maintain a paper-trail in relation to this process (to show meetings were conducted, who attended, what issues were raised, and what action was taken) and that, in addition, posters should be distributed at the sites to explain the project and provide contact details for any complaints (several different contact options/people should be given). WWT should provide a report on social compliance now and the next one in July 2011 to then align to the six-monthly cycle of the project.

## **LCG Meetings**

Meetings were held with representatives from the LCGs at both Kampong Trach and Boueng Prek Lapouv. The main purposes of these meetings were to introduce the WWT Technical Advisor to the LCGs and to conduct a preliminary needs assessment with the LCGs. Discussions were held about the history of the LCGs, self-perception of roles of LCG members, current issues and challenges the sites face, and the daily/monthly routines of the LCGs. More detailed notes of these meetings can be found in Annex 4. A summary of the preliminary needs assessments is as follows:

### Kampong Trach

#### *Training*

- LCG members feel that their bird species identification skills are reasonable but not comprehensive. They are able to identify the main species but would like to know more
- LCG members seemed to be struggling with the new monitoring formats that require habitat usage information to be collected as well as bird counts. More training should be provided to ensure reliable and useful data is being collected
- Would also like to know more about general wetland ecology and identification of other species, including plant species
- Able to use GPS but only very basic functionality (taking UTM) as so would value a refresher training that also goes into more detail on more advanced functionality
- Training to accompany any new monitoring that will be required by the project

#### *Equipment*

- Security of the headquarters is a concern. It is currently a bamboo structure (although on concrete foundations). As well as not feeling secure for LCG members the property is not sufficiently secure for the new equipment to be stored there
- Lack of fresh water supply at site (wetland is brackish). It was previously proposed to build tanks to collect rainwater but didn't happen as no budget

- Equipment is poor and not suitable. The new binoculars were shown but not provided yet. LCG felt the binoculars were good but would like more magnification. It was mentioned that the telescope would help with this

### Boeung Prek Lapouv

#### *Training*

- Feel confident with existing monitoring efforts (bird surveys and bird habitat usage monitoring) but would require and would welcome training for any new monitoring requirements.
- Would like training in habitat management techniques, particularly to manage for Sarus Cranes. From observations, Mr. Seng Vanna believes that the cranes feed best in shorter grasslands. In April 2010 Mr. Vanna burned back a 5ha area to test this theory and says that food plant growth was enhanced and that this year the cranes have used the area extensively.
- Additional invasive species (beyond *Mimosa pigra*) control techniques

#### *Equipment*

- New boundary markers to replace the 9 previously destroyed
- Fencing around headquarters building to improve security. This would be helpful to prevent boats driving right up to HQ during peak of the wet season as well as generally establishing a boundary to the HQ.
- Require boots (lightweight) and small backpacks for conducting patrols
- Better optics to monitor from the HQ. The location and elevated nature of the HQ makes it a good site for informal/ad-hoc monitoring. It was mentioned that the telescope should help with this.

### **Takeo Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology**

In recognition of the need to better understand the hydrology of the two sites and the structures and processes relating to water resource management in the surrounding landscape, a meeting was arranged with the Takeo Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology. Although the senior staff members were not available, Mr. Yuk Narin (Deputy Director of Administrative Office) provided a great deal of useful information based on his extensive previous experience in a technical role, including:

- The department is responsible for hydrological development (irrigation systems) and the sustainable management of water resources (both surface water and groundwater).
- Have stations across the province to monitor and manage flooding. One station is located close to BPL (approx. 20km away) in Borei Chulsar district. The Borei Chulsar station is the only one with dedicated staff and so takes water level measurements on a daily basis. Water quality is not measured as don't have equipment/budget.
- Rainfall monitoring is conducted in all 10 districts, with broader meteorological information collected at the head office in Takeo town.
- The department previously collaborated on the "EU's PRASAC Project" at BPL from 1995-2003. This was connected to the construction of Canal 03. As part of this project they recorded information on surface and groundwater.
- Confirmed that the soils in the BPL area are very acidic and the water is slightly brackish
- Several years ago, the province established community use groups with varying degrees of success. Of the 93 established, 41 are still operational and 26 are actively managed. One of these falls within the core area of BPL in Kampong Krasang commune. Here, the community has the responsibility to collect fees from rice growers for water use. They collect a fee of 140kg of rice per hectare of land and this money is used to maintain and restore the irrigation system. A copy of the statute for the community use group at Kampong Krasang was given to WWT that explains the detailed arrangements.
- These groups are coordinated by water use committees. The "Koh Borei Kiri" committee is responsible for community use groups in Koh Andeth, Borei Chulsar, and Kirivong districts. Water flow is from Borei Chulsar to Koh Andeth and then to Kirivong (where the water use structures apparently work particularly well). BPL falls within Borei Chulsar and Koh Andeth districts.
- The idea of installing structures to manage water levels at BPL was mentioned and was viewed as entirely possible by the department. Some concerns about the potential impact on fisheries were mentioned.

- The provincial water resources department expressed their willingness to cooperate with the project

#### Project Coordination Meeting with Birdlife

A meeting was held with Birdlife International in *Indochina* - Cambodia Program to discuss the practicalities of hosting the WWT project. Issues that arose in the CEPF donor meeting were addressed specifically. A summary of additional points is as follows:

- Birdlife reiterated that they do not view CEPF project implemented by WWT as being the end of Birdlife involvement at the sites, but that they would be interested in exploring collaborative opportunities with WWT in the longer term.
- Through their MoU with MAFF, Birdlife will help WWT to build and maintain relations with the Cambodian government.
- The National Project Manager and Technical Advisor will sit together in the conservation office at Birdlife, with the finance officer located nearby. In the longer term, Birdlife is considering renting the second floor of the building and if this goes ahead there may be potential for the WWT project to relocate to its own office upstairs.
- In the shorter term, because of the absence of dedicated space, Birdlife will arrange for a meeting space and facilities (including purchase of a table) to be created upstairs for the WWT project staff to use as necessary.
- Clear wording and branding of the project needs to be developed that enables it to be clearly identified as a WWT project but also that it is implemented in collaboration with Birdlife and the Forestry Administration.

#### **General Issues and Recommendations**

In addition to specific points noted above, a number of issues and considerations arose throughout the course of the visit. A summary of the main points is as follows:

- At present there seems to be very limited coordination between the four “nested” projects supported by CEPF at the two sites. In particular there is very little connection between the livelihood development work and the conservation efforts. Particular issues include the approaches for targeting community interventions to ensure it reaches the correct people, the extent to which the community work and conservation efforts are mutually reinforced by those implementing the different projects, and the level of coordination and collaboration at a local level (e.g. between the LCGs and the various community structures). Addressing this will be a priority task for the new Technical Advisor.
- The recent conflict between the LCG and local people at BPL highlights the importance of connecting conservation and development efforts. Due to the nature of enforcing regulations at a protected area, conflict will be impossible to avoid but could be minimised if stronger links with the community and the associated community development projects are forged and measures that isolate the LCG are avoided.
- In some instances the approaches taken to reach the local communities are very hierarchical and this raises some concerns that the benefits may not be shared equitably between community members. It is accepted that the existing structures must be respected and the respective heads must be involved in decision-making processes, but in some cases it may be beneficial to consider that where new groups are established (e.g. the VVCs, SHGs, and Community Forums), the leadership of those groups is not comprised of the ‘usual suspects’.
- Limited information could be gathered on how effective and representative the LCG patrolling routines are in terms of covering the entire area and at various times. This will need to be explored in more detail before any modifications to patrolling routines are proposed
- The idea of an additional member of staff with good English skills that would be able to assist the Technical Advisor on field work was raised and discussed during the trip. The reasoning behind this should be noted however this was not budgeted for or planned for in the project proposal.

#### **Additional priority areas for development are:**

- Gain a better understanding of hydrological issues, both through direct monitoring of water quantity and quality, and by investigating where useful information may already exist.
- Identify and quantify the values of the sites beyond Sarus Cranes and other waterbirds. If the sites are going to be maintained in the long term it is important to be able to demonstrate the broader ecosystem service

values that they provide to strengthen arguments (particularly to government) for their continued management.

- Securing additional financial resources to continue activities beyond the current life of the project. This is both in terms of project funding and sustainable finance options.

**Annex 2:****FIELD TRIP FOR TRAILING COMMUNITY FORUMS**

Robert van Zalinge, March 2011

Participants: Seng Kim Hout (WWT), Meas Rithy (CEPF-BirdLife), Robert van Zalinge (WWT)  
Dates: 16-18 March 2011  
Objective: To practice conducting a community forum with CCK and Mlup Baitong  
Trip report:

On 16<sup>th</sup> March the team met with CCK ahead of community forum planned for the next morning. Work carried out by CCK in February was discussed (awareness raising in primary schools). Guidelines for conducting community forums were introduced to CCK and discussed at length. It was agreed that the community forum combines very well with awareness raising as being conducted by CCK. The ecosystems services questionnaire was reviewed and it was decided that it would be too lengthy and complicated to use as is, but that certain ecosystem services could be taken from the questionnaire and discussed during the community forum.

On the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> a community forum & awareness raising session was conducted. Around fifty people from Sangkum Meanchey village participated. CCK introduced the participants, the project partners and the project objective. VVC members from the village were also introduced. The sub decree, purpose and location of the reserve was explained. A lengthy question and answer session was conducted about illegal activities. Ecosystem services were discussed and an opportunity for participants to bring up involuntary restrictions was provided at the end of the meeting. CCK is preparing minute meetings for all community forums.

In the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> the team met with Mlup Baitong (Sorya & Houi) at their new office in Kampong Trach. Mlup Baitong has not yet prepared material for awareness raising that will be conducted in April and June. In future (June onwards) community forums will be combined with awareness raising sessions. The community forum on the 18<sup>th</sup> overlapped with a monthly meeting between Mlup Baitong and the CLDMC (they also invited SHGs to attend as it became a community forum). As Mlup Baitong was not yet prepared and the LCG was not attending, it was agreed that Kim Hout would help in the upcoming meeting

On the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> 49 people from the three target villages (Koh Chamkar, Chres and Koh Tnaot) attended the community forum. Kim Hout and Soriya facilitated the meeting by introducing the project & partners, explaining the sub decree and location of reserve, introducing the LCG and CLDMC, discussing illegal activities, explaining about wider benefits and providing an opportunity for people to mention any involuntary restrictions imposed.

**Evaluation/Recommendations:**

- More and better awareness raising material should be prepared if possible and a course on educating communities on natural resource management would be helpful. Meas Rithy made many suggestions for improvement as he has past experience in educating local communities. In discussion with BirdLife we have agreed that Rithy will help the project for a few days in providing a training-of-trainers course for Mlup Baitong and CCK.
- During awareness raising local knowledge should be evaluated through question and answer sessions. By measuring the response from the whole group (e.g. number of hands raised in confirmation of an answer) local knowledge can be quantified.
- Awareness raising should not only be done by the local NGO. The role of the NGO becomes unclear if they are explaining about laws, rules and regulations and answering people's questions about illegal activities particularly if related to the reserves. This part of awareness raising sessions should be done either by the LCGs or by the NGO with the LCG present to step in and answer specific questions raised by people.
- The involuntary restriction part is still complicated as people raise a variety of issues, mostly outside of the project control and not examples of involuntary restrictions as defined by the project (e.g. legal activities blocked by the LCG). Kim Hout helped explain why people had been restricted, according to the law or sub decree, etc. but this may be difficult for the NGO to do on their own. In that case they will have to simply make a note of the issue. This is however less satisfactory as it leaves the community with the idea that the project has done something wrong and expectation of recompense. The NGOs will therefore have to be trained so that they are clear what involuntary restriction means and to be able to inform people clearly what is meant by an involuntary restriction.

**Annex 3:****FIELD TRIP REPORT ON STUDY TOUR TO STOUNG BENAL FLORICAN CONSERVATION AREA  
AND ANG TROPAENG THMOR SARUS CRANE RESERVE**

Seng Kim Hout, April 2011

Activity 2.8 (Study tour to Bengal Florican Conservation Area and Ang Tropeang Thmor Sarus Crane reserve) of the Cambodian Lower Mekong Wetlands Project implemented by WWT was organized for Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) working at Boeung Prek Lapouv (BPL) Sarus Crane Reserve in Takeo province and Anlung Pring Sarus Crane Reserve in Kampot province, staff from CCK and Village Volunteer Committees (VVCs) members from BPL. The objective was to exchange and share experiences and knowledge on wildlife and biodiversity conservation and management, especially those linked to community development activities. The study tour agenda and activities are in (Table 1) and 19 people were involved in this study tour trip (Table 2).

*Table 1: Study tour agenda and activities*

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES	WHERE
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	07:00-12:00	LCGs from BPL and KT as well as CCK and VVCs left Takeo and Kampot provinces for Phnom Penh	Phnom Penh
	14:00-17:30	The study tour team left Phnom Penh for Kampong Thom provincial town	Kampong Thom town
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	06:30-7:30	The study tour team left Kampong Thom town for Stoung BFCA	Stung district, Kampong Thom province
	07:30-9:00	The study tour team conducted a site visit to Stoung BFCA	Stung district, Kampong Thom province
	9:00-11:30	The study tour team met with Prolay– North CMC	Stung district, Kampong Thom province
	12:00-14:00	Lunch (meeting meals)	In Stoung district
	14:00-16:00	The study tour team left Stoung district for Siem Reap provincial town	Siem Reap province
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	5:30-8:30	The study tour team left Siem Reap provincial town for ATT in Banteay Meanchey province	Banteay Meanchey province
	8:30-11:30	The study tour team met with ATT conservation team and rice bank community members at ATT office	ATT in Phnom Srok district, Banteay Meanchey province
	11:30-12:30	The study tour team conducted site visit at ATT (Sarus Cranes, other waterbirds, El's Deer...)	ATT
	12:30-14:30	Lunch (meeting meals)	At ATT
	14:30-17:00	The study tour team left ATT for Banteay Meanchey provincial town	Banteay Meanchey province
30 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	07:30-13:00	The study tour team left Banteay Meanchey provincial town for Phnom Penh	Phnom Penh
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2011	08:00-.....	LCGs from BPL and KT left Phnom Penh for Takeo and Kampot provinces	Takeo and Kampot provinces

Table 2: People involved in the study tour trip to Stoung BFCA and ATT on 27<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

No.	Name	Position	NGOs/Agencies
1	Mr. Seng Kim Hout	National Project Manager	WWT
2	Mr. Hang Phoeung	Chief	LCG at Kampong Trach IBA
3	Mr. Uong Seth	Vice chief	LCG at Kampong Trach IBA
4	Mr. Ek Neang	Member	LCG at Kampong Trach IBA
5	Mr. Seng Vanna	Chief	LCG at Boeung Prek Lapouv IBA
6	Mr. Dy Thon	Member	LCG at Boeung Prek Lapouv IBA
7	Mr. San Suong	Member	LCG at Boeung Prek Lapouv IBA
8	Mr. Ses Vong Sambat	Programme Coordinator	CCK in Takeo province
9	Mr. Um Sokun	Programme Coordinator	CCK in Takeo province
10	Mr. Dul Mos	chief	VVC in Keo Kampheung village
11	Ms Tuy On	Vice chief	VVC in Keo Kampheung village
12	Mr. Sau Sophal	Chief	VVC in Banteay Thleay village
13	Ms Chap Dany	Vice Chief	VVC in Banteay Thleay village
14	Mr. Kheav Hom	Chief	VVC in Dei Leuk village
15	Ms Him Navy	Vice chief	VVC in Dei Leuk village
16	Mr. Nuon Krel	Chief	VVC in Banteay Sleuk village
17	Ms Chhin Chhuon	Member	VVC in Banteay Sleuk village
18	Mr. Vy May	Chief	VVC in Sangkum Meanchey village
19	Ms Chan Srey Pouy	Vice Chief	VVC in Sangkum Meanchey village

The study tour objectives were as follows:

- Meeting with Prolay–North Community Management Committee (CMC) established by Wildlife Conservation Society–Cambodia Programme (WCS) and the Forestry Administration (FA) to help conserve Bengal Floricans and their seasonally inundated grassland habitat in Stoung Bengal Florican Conservation Area (BFCA) in Kampong Thom province. Activities were prepared for discussion during the trip including:
  - Habitat management, focused on prevention on illegal activities
  - Confliction solution, how and what ways that CMC can deal with
  - Reporting, where or what institutions do they report to regarding management activities and intervention on conflict issues
  - What kinds of official documents and support that CMC has (statute, provincial deika)
  - Weakness, what kinds of unworkable activities
  - Ecotourism, how CMC keep incomes generated from tourists and how to use those incomes for community development.
- Meeting with ATT team established by WCS/FA and rice bank community members (established since 2003) which were focused on:
  - ATT management activities (illegal activities, issue solution...)
  - Wildlife research and data storing
  - Ways of rice bank management
  - ATT site visit
- More focused topics for study tour added by Mr. Robert van Zalinge, WWT Technical Advisor and Mr. Hong Chamnan, Bengal Florican and ATT Project Manager
  - Capacity building trainings given to CMCs
  - Village Marketing Network (VMN), community involvement in the wildlife–friendly rice initiative
  - Land use mapping within the BFCAs
  - Field visit to the grasslands to see Bengal Floricans
  - How CMCs had been set up and what they do
  - Ecotourism initiative and the community roles, focusing on Stoung BFCA, but could be brought up by Kamsan in ATT as well
  - How communities and patrol teams collaborate in Stoung BFCA
  - Patrolling and monitoring of bird numbers in ATT.

## I-Field visit in Stoung BFCA

A field visit to see Bengal Floricans and their habitat was conducted to Stoung BFCA in the morning at 7:00 am–9:00 am on 28 March 2011 before the meeting taking place with members of Prolay–North Community Management Committee (CMC) that had been established to conserve and manage Stoung BFCA, geographically located in the villages of Kampong Vaing, Prey Kla and Chhuok in Prolay commune, Stoung district, Kampong Thom province. This site visit was recommended by Mr. Suon Kanil, CMC chief so that the study tour team would have chance to see Bengal Floricans and had some ideas in mind for discussion. In fact, the original plan for this visit was conducted after the meeting. Fortunately, two males (one was seen in display for couple of times) and one female of Bengal Floricans were sighted during the visit in a location with UTM: 0443781-1435840.

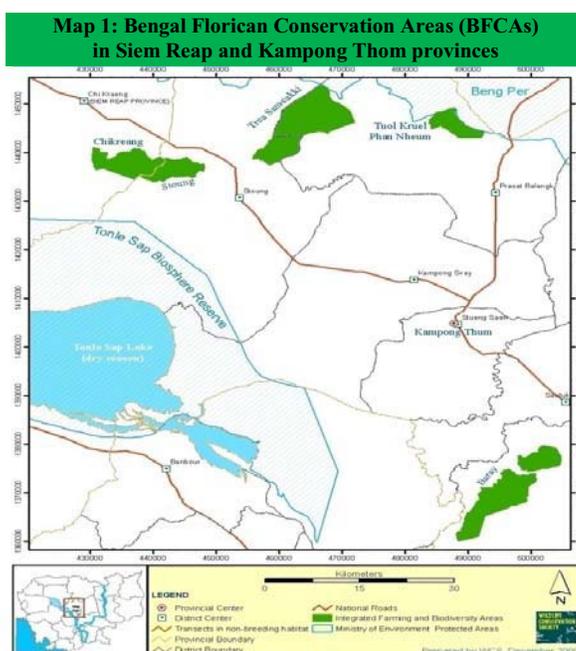


Figure 1 & 2: Study tour group was watching Bengal Floricans (Photo: Seng Kim Hout and Ses Vong Sambath).

## II-Meeting with Prolay-North CMC members

The CMC had been established and recognized by Stoung district governor through district order (district deika) with technical support from WCS/FA staff on 30 June 2009 to help conserve Bengal Floricans and their seasonally inundated grassland habitat in Stoung BFCA in Kampong Thom province. This CMC has 6 members working in collaboration with the law enforcement patrol team led by Mr. Duong Saroeun. When Mr. Saroeun conducts law enforcement patrols, he will work with one policeman and one local guide (BFCAs conservation team) and if necessary plus 1 more CMC member. The roles and responsibilities are determined in the district deika and the CMC's statute. After introducing meeting participants, Mr. Duong Saroeun reported on some works and activities which had been implemented at BFCAs.

BFCAs have the total area of 31,159ha which are divided into five different areas in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom provinces comprising 3 dry season breeding areas (Chikraeng=4,636ha, Stoung=2,812ha and Baray=9,883ha) and 2 wet season non-breeding areas or refuge areas (Trea-Sameakki=11,138ha and Toul-Phan Nhum=2,690ha). The BFCAs were upgraded from the provincial order (provincial deika) to the ministerial decree (Prakas) of the Ministry of Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) on 08 February 2010. 10 days per month of law enforcement patrols are conducted by Mr. Saroeun and 3 days per week are undertaken by the CMC members. Furthermore, informants are also selected in some concerned villages to report illegal activities to the patrol team or the CMC by mobile phones, letters, verbal talks etc. Then the law enforcement patrol team would come down and find out information. During the patrols, awareness raising activities are also conducted as reported by Duong Saroeun. The patrol team prepares monthly reports and, using GPS data, monthly maps are produced showing the areas visited by the team.



Illegal activities had occurred at BFACs including wildlife hunting, land encroachment, use of illegal fishing gears, pumping wetland to catch fish. To prevent all these illegal activities, the patrol team needs to cooperate with the provincial government officials of the Forestry Administration (FA), Fisheries Administration (FIA), the Department of Environment (DoE) and local authorities (chiefs of village and commune, district governors and armed forces). And the CMC is to report to local authorities and relevant skilled government officials for assistance and intervention to prevent and stop illegal activities. Mr. Duong Saroeun reported that most offenders were requested to thumbprint on contracts to stop committing such illegal activities.

Weakness and strength were also raised by Mr. Duong Saroeun. Prolay commune chief seems not to have the commitment to support the conservation activities rather than his own interest from land sale. Therefore, some illegal activities could not be prevented and stopped on times. However, the patrol team and the CMC had strong support from Stoung district governor, relevant village chiefs and provincial government institutions. Approximate 40ha of land within Stoung BFCA had been converted by a company to dry season rice cultivation because Kampong Thom provincial governor issued a provincial deika for this development although this BFCA was declared by MAFF Prakas. No solution was made yet until nowadays regarding this issue.

Ecotourism section was implemented at Stoung BFCA since November 2009. The ecotourism purpose is focused on the conservation of natural resources such as forest, wildlife, watershed and natural lakes which can attract national and international tourists to come to the site. WCS has cooperated with Sam Veasna Center (SVC) to promote and disseminate this domain through SVC's Web Page ([www.samveasna.org/home.php](http://www.samveasna.org/home.php)) and skilled tourist guides are provided by SVC to work with the CMC members. The CMC records all incomes from ecotourism and other sources so that they can know how much money are obtained. Each foreign tourist will pay US\$10 for one trip to a community development fund (which is kept by SVC until requested by the CMC after discussion within their community about how to use these funds). The CMC also receive direct income from tourists. One tourist guide and one assistant of the CMC will get paid US\$5 per day and US\$2.50 per day respectively and a further amount of US\$2.50 per day is provided to support the CMC activities. So far this year the total money that the CMC earned is US\$1330. The community development funds have not yet been used, as reported by Mr. Suon Kanil, CMC chief.

Village Marketing Network (VMN) was reported during the meeting by Meas Than, Prolay-North CMC vice chief, who is responsible for VMN project which is recognized by the commune chief, reported that the project was started in June 2010 with technical support from WCS/FA staff to produce Phka Maliss, seed imported from Takeo province by using only organic fertilizers. 10 local families voluntarily participated in this project to cultivate this rice. When they receive the rice products they will sell to VMN with the price of 1300 riels (approximate US\$0.33) per kg higher than local markets around 300 riels. The purpose of establishing VMN is to oversee the purchase of wildlife-friendly rice according to the criteria set under this initiative (see below) and to encourage more local people to be wildlife-friendly rice farmers and participate in the conservation activities (Bengal Florican nests protection) by not being involved in any illegal activities such as inundated forest clearance/cutting, wildlife hunting, use of illegal fishing gears etc. As reported by Mr. Than more local people wanted to get involved in this project but he said that he encountered some difficulties to manage the rice sale produced by these 10 families within the project to CMC in order to avoid any fraudulence with the same rice type brought from outside using chemical fertilizer and insecticides. In 2010-2011 CMC bought 1509kg of rice from 9 families (one did not meet the criteria as the farmer used chemicals). At the beginning of this initiative a rice yield comparison had been made between two rice varieties: Phka Rumduol and Phka Maliss (rice names in Khmer). Phka Maliss rice provided yields up to 32kg while Phka Rumduol provided 30kg on the same plot size of land of 100 square meters (10m x 10m). It was therefore decided to continue to grow Phka Maliss under the wildlife-friendly rice initiative as this is also the variety that high-end consumers prefer. There are three people working in the VMN comprising one chief, one vice chief and one cashier (the VMN chief is from CMC).

The criteria the VMN use for buying rice from a farmer are: 1) the farmer has not expanded his land by converting natural habitat, 2) the farmer has abided by the rules and regulations of the BFCA, 3) the farmer has not been involved in hunting wildlife or other destructive practices such as illegal fishing, 4) the farmer does not use pesticides or other chemicals on his land (this last rule is being re-considered, in future it may be that certain pesticides/chemicals may be used if they are found to not have much environmental and social impact).



Figure 3 & 4: Meeting between study tour team and Prolay–North CMC in Stoung district (Photo: Seng Vanna).

### III-Meeting with ATT conservation team and ecotourism committee

After introducing meeting participants, Mr. Sum Song, WCS's Bengal Florican conservation assistant, reported some more points on CMCs, established in BFCAs for Bengal Florican conservation work in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom provinces as he could not join the meeting held with Prolay-North CMC in Stoung district because he had been engaged in providing training course to ecotourism committee members established at ATT in March 2010.

In fact, there are altogether 4 CMCs that have been established to work in BFCAs and he also described on how to establish CMCs. All local people in one of the relevant villages were invited for a meeting regarding CMC member selection. Participants were requested to name 10 volunteers and then only 2 volunteers were finally voted to become CMC members and doing the same way like this in other relevant villages. Meeting minutes were signed by commune chiefs. The process of CMCs establishment is as follows:

- a) Selecting management and user villages
- b) Organizing meetings in those villages
- c) Organizing meetings in commune level
- d) Submitting proposals to district governors in selecting committees
- e) Selecting CMC members
- f) Providing CMC members capacity building
- g) Providing roles and responsibilities to CMCs
- h) Submitting district deika for district governor signatures
- i) Preparing statutes
- j) Disseminating awareness activities

Training courses provided to CMCs:

- a) Community establishment and management
- b) Coordination and leadership skills
- c) Natural management and monitoring skills
- d) Ecotourism services and guiding
- e) Account management
- f) Report writing

### Zoning

The zoning purpose was initiated to demarcate different land using areas for local people's daily activities within BFCAs. Those areas are rice fields (dry season rice, deep water rice, and rain fed rice), grasslands, grazing, and fishing (in the wet and dry seasons). However, the main concern is to demarcate agricultural fields within the BFCAs and prevent further expansion. The process of this work was as follows:

- a) Meeting with WCS conservation team to finalize plan
- b) Meeting with relevant village members (CMC, local authorities) to have joint agreements
- c) Mapping of all agricultural fields on a plot by plot basis together with local communities (e.g. CMC, village chief, commune council). Mapping is done together with farmer and village chief who sign form with details of year cultivation started, UTMs of plot, etc. FA or FiA representative provides comments on the back of the form

- d) Meeting with local authorities (village chiefs, commune council, district governor, FA, FiA) for discussion on which agricultural lands may be permitted and which not (e.g. recently expanded fields after official designation of reserve)
- e) Disseminating results to communities with support of local authorities
- f) Finalization of decisions regarding agricultural areas permitted within the BFCA. District governors sign final agreements to let (permitted) farmers use the land within the reserve (only a use right, they do not get a title as the land belongs to the government)
- g) Demarcation of permitted agricultural areas with concrete markers

### **Research and monitoring**

29 Bengal Floricans were either satellite-or radio-tagged by Ms Charlotte Packman, UK-based PhD student of University of East Anglia between 2008–2010 to study habitat use and movement of the birds in the wet and dry seasons. The research and monitoring showed that Bengal Floricans stay in seasonally inundated grasslands in BFCAs of Tonle Sap inundation zone throughout much of the year but will move to open deciduous forest in the wet season if flooding prevents them from staying in the floodplain grasslands. In 2011, one nest of White-shouldered Ibis with two chicks was discovered in Baray BFCA as well as one nest of Black-necked Stork. There is a small permanent population of White-shouldered Ibis in the southeastern part of the Tonle Sap floodplain. In the BFCAs all wildlife research and monitoring data are stored in excel spreadsheets created by WCS–Cambodia Programme (they do not use MIST).

### **ATT conservation activities**

After Mr. Song finished his presentation, Mr. Ngin Kamsan, WCS's ATT conservation assistant, reported that ATT is an artificial reservoir that was made by human being's labors during 1976-1977 in the Khmer Rouge's reign and was declared as a Sarus Crane reserve by the Royal Decree on 22 February 2000 on an area of 12,650ha which is surrounded by 27 villages comprising 50,000 people of which around half depend on using natural resources in the reserve. The conservation work was started in 2000 by ICF in collaboration FA, followed by WCS/FA in 2005, and has the same purposes and activities to the Sarus Crane reserves in Boeung Prek Lapouv and Anlung Pring such as habitat protection (regular law enforcement patrols), awareness raising, and community development activities linked to conservation. ATT conservation team has 6 members including 1 commune chief, 3 policemen, 1 district official and 1 local villager. Threats occurring at ATT include land encroachment (rice paddies, crop farming, human settlement), forest cutting (construction and charcoal), nocturnal hunting, grassland raking to catch crabs. Cases of illegal activities are solved by the communal or/and district officials.

During the meeting, Mr. Kamsan also reported on rice bank, established in 2003 in two villages namely Sambuo and Pong Ro, which is linked to ATT conservation. At the first start of rice bank, the project bought 15 tons of rice for 142 families in Pong Ro village and 10 tons of rice 76 families in Sambuo village. Until nowadays Pong Ro village has increased up to 43 tons of rice and 168 families, and Sambuo village has increased up to 25.9 tons of rice and 85 families.

After meeting, the study tour team conducted a site visit to the northern part of ATT to see Sarus Cranes and Eld's Deers by vehicles taking around half an hour from ATT office. During the visit two Eld's Deers were sighted by the study tour team at a location with UTM: 0320506-1536286. No Sarus Cranes were observed at that location. However, ATT team said that cranes probably fed at lower part of the reserve approximate 7km from the sighting location of the two Eld's Deer where there was no access road by cars. As reported by Mr. Kamsan around 60 Eld's Deers are present at ATT.



Figure 5-8: Meeting between study tour team and ATT conservation team and Ecotourism Committee in ATT office (Photo: Seng Vanna and Seng Kim Hout).

**Key points learned from the study tour trip**

- Different land use areas are being clearly mapped in Stoung BFCA,
- Some community development projects linked to wildlife conservation such as ecotourism area and the wildlife-friendly rice initiatives were occurred,
- CMC has informants in relevant villages and are able to prevent illegal activities in good collaboration with skilled government institutions like provincial FA, FiA, DoE and Land Management in addition to BFCA conservation team,
- Incomes from ecotourism were generated for future community development,
- Well income management from ecotourism and information dissemination through SVC's Web Page for this field,
- ATT office is sufficiently equipped for conservation work,
- WCS has cooperated with other relevant NGO partners to work on community development linked to the conservation work comprising SVC, AFD, CEDAC and ACCB,
- Ecotourism Committees had been established at Stoung and Chikreng BFCAs and at ATT.

**Copied documents in Khmer received from the study tour trip**

- Statute of Prolay Ecotourism Community
- Stoung district deika on recognition of Prolay-North CMC
- Statute of Integrated Farming and Biodiversity Area Committee

**Annex 4:**

**Project title: “Community Actions to Improve Livelihoods linked to Protection and Conservation of Sarus Cranes and other globally threatened species in Boeung Prek Lapouv Conservation Area, Cambodia”**

**CONTRACT AGREEMENT ON RECEIVING WATER TANKS**

Name: ....., spouse's name .....,dependent children:.....persons, female:.....persons, present address .....village ..... commune ..... district..... Takeo province.

I have received a plastic water tank with volume of 700 liters from CCK organization and promised in front of the Village Volunteer Committee..... , and CCK that I:

- will maintain this water tank in good manner for storing fresh water for consumption in my family. This given water tank is a property of all family members and not allowed for selling, pawning and other purposes.
- agree to make a contribution in amount of 20,000 riel (around US\$5) for saving funds in the group.
- will not cause any domestic violence (beating and insulting) with my family members and neighbors from now onward.
- will participate in activities of Village Volunteer Committee....., respect and implement activities of BPLMCA conservation by being not involved in clearing and burning forest, grabbing land, poaching, hunting and poisoning wildlife and fish, and reporting to competent agents on time.
- In case I contrarily practice this contract, village chief and Village Volunteer Committee have rights to advise or intervene for improvement and solution according to relevant laws.
- agreed to thumbprint on this contract as evidence.

Date.....Month.....Year 2011

CCK representative

Village chief

Village Volunteer Committee chief

Recipient

**Annex 5:**

**Project title: “Community Actions to Improve Livelihoods linked to Protection and Conservation of Sarus Cranes and other globally threatened species in Boeung Prek Lapouv Conservation Area, Cambodia”**

**CONTRACT AGREEMENT ON RECEIVING FEMALE COWS**

Name: ....., spouse’s name .....,dependent children:.....persons, female:.....persons, present address .....village ..... commune ..... district..... Takeo province.

I have received a female cow from CCK and promised in front of the Village Volunteer Committee....., and CCK that I:

- will take good care of this female cow for draught in my family. This female cow is a property of all family members and not allowed for selling, pawning and other purposes.
- agree to make a contribution in amount of 50,000 riel (around US\$12.5) for saving funds in the group.
- will not cause any domestic violence (beating and insulting) with my family members and neighbors from now onward.
- will participate in activities of Village Volunteer Committee....., respect and implement transferring principle (after this cow has one cub and she will be given to other) and activities of BPLMCA conservation by being not involved in clearing and burning forest, grabbing land, poaching, hunting and poisoning wildlife and fish, and reporting to competent agents on time.
- In case I contrarily practice this contract, village chief and Village Volunteer Committee have rights to advise or intervene for improvement and solution according to relevant laws.
- agreed to thumbprint on this contract as evidence.

Date.....Month.....Year 201...

CCK representative

Village chief

Village Volunteer Committee chief

Recipient

**Annex 6:**

**CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

Between Village Volunteer Committees (VVCs)  
and Chamreun Chiet Khmer Organization (CCK)  
On

“Community Actions to Improve Livelihoods links to protection and conservation of Sarus Cranes  
and other globally threatened species in Boeung Prek Lapouv Conservation Area,  
Koh Andet and Borey Cholsa Districts of Cambodia”

**Part A:** CCVs and CCK have mutual agreement as follows:

- establishing long term fundamental basis in protection of natural resources, birds and biodiversities in Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area for Sarus Crane and Other Birds (BPLMCA).
- establishing long term fundamental basis in improving local livelihoods in target villages.

VVCs agree with:

1. trying all efforts in the suppression and curbing forestland encroachment for agriculture, personal property and other purposes,
2. trying all efforts in elimination of electro-fishing, hunting and poisoning all wildlife and fishes in the prohibited areas and illegal trades of wildlife in the communities,
3. helping protect inundated forest, birds and all wildlife species in the conservation area.

In return, CCK has agreed to support the resources which have been set forth in this agreement to improve and promote the livelihoods of the community members.

**Part B:** CCK and CEPF, has signed agreement on the financial support for project implementation in BPLMCA titled “Community Actions to Improve Livelihoods links to protection and conservation” with the support from Birdlife International in *Indochina*, starting on 11 November 2010 until 30 October 2011.

**Part C:** VVCs have agreed on conditions as follows:

- a- protecting inundated forest and eliminating forest clearance and land encroachment in BPLMCA
  - all community members must not burn grass/forest in the prohibited area,
  - all community members must not be involved in land encroachment for dry season rice cultivation,
  - all community members must not be directly or indirectly involved in all activities as mentioned above.
- b- protecting all wildlife, especially birds in BPLMCA
  - all community members must not use all kinds of equipments for hunting, catching and poisoning all wildlife,
  - all community members must not participate in all kinds of wildlife trades.

**Part D:** CCK will provide support for community as follows:

- providing trainings on roles and responsibilities to VVCs and leadership skills at CCK office,
- establishing Self Help Groups (SHGs) for receiving cow bank and water jars,
- providing awareness extension for students and local people to understand conservation advantages of Sarus Cranes and other wildlife, especially birds,
- arranging a study tour for VVCs members to a conservation area in Cambodia.

CCVs and CCK will select the prioritized beneficiaries amongst the poor that have high requirement and mainly rely use of natural resources:

- providing 4 cows for 4 beneficiaries (see contract agreement for details),
- providing 10 giant water jars for 10 beneficiaries to stock clean water for consumption,
- installing one signboard, described “no wildlife hunting” in one respective community.

Budget for 12 months, in total amount: .....USD

**Part E:** In case, any party will not comply on what have already been stated in Part C of this agreement will be

responsible for relevant laws in effect.

Community has agreed to perform this agreement effectively and this agreement comes into effect from the date of signatures.

Date: .....

Commune Chief

CCK Representative

Village Chief

VVC Chief

**Annex 7: Photographs of BPLMCA biodiversity and the project implementation**



Figure 1 & 2: Sarus Cranes and other large waterbirds feeding in BPLMCA during the dry season



Figure 3 & 4: A signboard was hung on the house's wall of a villager

The signboard is a project implementation poster in Khmer. It features a title at the top: "ប្រតិបត្តិការ គម្រោងការងារសម្រាប់ការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ប្រជាជន និងសត្វល្អិតក្នុងតំបន់ស្រូវស្រែកស្រុកស្រែចម្ការខេត្តស្រះចក" (Implementation of the project for community development and insect control in the rice fields of Srekrasie Commune, Kratie Province). The poster includes a map of the project area, several photographs of people and birds, and text in Khmer describing the project's goals and activities. At the bottom, there are logos for "CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND", "BirdLife International", and "WWF".



Figure 5-12: CCK was working with local community related to activities of education, awareness and livelihood development

**Annex 8: Summary results obtained from the first community forum meetings in 5 relevant villages between March and April**

Questions/Answers	Sangkum Meanchey 62 participants (26 female)		Dei Leuk 28 participants (15 female)		Banteay Sleuk 29 participants (19 female)		Keo Kampleung 76 participants (49 female)		Banteay Thleay 71 participants (52 female)	
	Aware	Unaware	Aware	Unaware	Aware	Unaware	Aware	Unaware	Aware	Unaware
Q1: What activities that are not allowed by laws to hunt wildlife? A1: (Poisoning, using fishing nets and microphone with recorded bird songs to trap wild birds), using spotlights, poaching and collecting bird's eggs and chicks.	43 (69%)	19 (31%)	18 (64%)	10 (36%)	19 (66%)	10 (34%)	43 (57%)	33 (43%)	43 (61%)	28 (39%)
Q2: What illegal fishing gears are not allowed by laws? A2: (Fine mesh nets, electro-fishing), pumping to catch fish, net or all kind of seine with mesh size of less than 1.5cm, explosive stuff, or all kind of poisons etc.	52 (84%)	10 (16%)	21 (75%)	7 (25%)	22 (76%)	7 (24%)	52 (68%)	24 (32%)	52 (73%)	19 (27%)
Q3: To prevent birds from being hunted what can we do? A3: (Reporting to commune chiefs, policemen and LCG), arresting offenders, telling relatives not get involved in hunting wildlife	52 (84%)	10 (16%)	18 (64%)	10 (36%)	19 (66%)	10 (34%)	42 (55%)	34 (45%)	52 (73%)	19 (27%)
Q4: Is there any punishment when someone kills birds by any way? A4: Yes, e.g. if anyone kills cranes, he/she will be fined and punished.	55 (89%)	7 (11%)	21 (75%)	7 (25%)	22 (76%)	7 (24%)	21 (28%)	55 (72%)	15 (21%)	56 (79%)
Q5: Do you know VVC working in your village? How many people and their names? A5: Two villages answered YES for all, but other three villages most answered YES and a small number answered NO (because they did not attend meetings last time to establish VVCs).	52 (84%)	10 (16%)	28 (100%)	00	29 (100%)	00 (0%)	52 (68%)	24 (32%)	52 (73%)	19 (27%)

Q6: Does conservation area provide any benefits to community? A6: (Fish, vegetation, firewood, grass for cattle (fodders), water for dry season rice cultivation), habitat for wildlife and fish.	51 (82%)	11 (18%)	18 (64%)	10 (36%)	19 (66%)	10 (34%)	51 (67%)	25 (33%)	51 (72%)	20 (28%)
Q7: Who is responsible for managing conservation area? A7: (Local people and community living in and around the site), authorities and concerned government agencies.	49 (79%)	13 (21%)	18 (64%)	10 (36%)	19 (66%)	10 (34%)	49 (64%)	27 (36%)	49 (69%)	22 (31%)
Q8: When is the closed fishing season? A8: 1 <sup>st</sup> July-31 <sup>st</sup> October for fishing areas located in the south of Tonle Chaktomuk.	00 (0%)	62 (100%)	00	28 (100%)	00 (0%)	29 (100%)	00 (0%)	76 (100%)	00 (0%)	71 (100%)
Q9: What purposes to establish the conservation area for? A9: (Providing benefits to local people), and protecting waterbirds, biodiversity.	33 (53%)	29 (47%)	10 (36%)	18 (64%)	19 (66%)	10 (34%)	33 (43%)	43 (57%)	12 (17%)	59 (83%)
Q10: What values/benefits are of/provided by the conservation area? A10: (Agricultural cultivation, foods for wildlife and human beings), vegetations, transportation, habitat.	12 (19%)	50 (81%)	11 (39%)	17 (61%)	12 (41%)	17 (59%)	12 (16%)	64 (84%)	12 (17%)	59 (83%)
Q11: What resources or products are provided by the conservation area or wetland? A11: (Water lily, morning glory, fish, grass, water, firewood).	58 (94%)	04 (6%)	25 (89%)	3 (11%)	25 (86%)	4 (34%)	56 (74%)	20 (26%)	58 (82%)	13 (18%)
Q12: What are the important functions of conservation area or wetland? A12: (Vegetations), flood control, storm prevention, environmental maintenance, weather purification, researches.	27 (44%)	35 (56%)	2 (7%)	26 (93%)	2 (7%)	27 (93%)	7 (9%)	69 (91%)	7 (10%)	64 (90%)

**Annex 9: Summary results obtained from the second community forum meetings in 5 relevant villages between August and September**

Questions/Answers	Banteay Sleuk 21 participants (13 female)		Dei Leuk 18 participants (10 female)		Sangkum Meanchey 43 participants (21 female)		Keo Kampleung 45 participants (20 female)		Banteay Thleay 120 participants (73 female)	
	Aware	Unaware	Aware	Unaware	Aware	Unaware	Aware	Unaware	Aware	Unaware
Q1: What activities that are not allowed by laws to hunt wildlife? A1: (Poisoning, using fishing nets and microphone with recorded bird songs to trap wild birds), using spotlights, poaching and collecting bird's eggs and chicks	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	43 (100%)	0 (0%)	45 (100%)	0 (0%)	120 (100%)	0 (0%)
Q2: What illegal fishing gears are not allowed by laws? A2: (Fine mesh nets, electro-fishing), pumping to catch fish, net or all kind of seine with mesh size of less than 1.5cm, explosive stuff, or all kind of poisons etc.	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	43 (100%)	0 (0%)	45 (100%)	0 (0%)	120 (100%)	0 (0%)
Q3: To prevent birds from being hunted what can we do? A3: (Reporting to commune chiefs, policemen and LCG), arresting offenders, telling relatives not get involved in hunting wildlife	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	43 (100%)	0 (0%)	45 (100%)	0 (0%)	120 (100%)	0 (0%)
Q4: Is there any punishment when someone kills birds by any way? A4: Yes, e.g. if anyone kills cranes, he/she will be fined and punished.	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	43 (100%)	0 (0%)	45 (100%)	0 (0%)	120 (100%)	0 (0%)
Q5: Do you know VVC working in your village? How many people and their names? A5: Participants in three villages did not know VVCs because they did not attend meetings last time to establish VVCs.	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	43 (100%)	0 (0%)	45 (100%)	0 (0%)	120 (100%)	0 (0%)
Q6: Does conservation area provide any benefits to community?	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	43 (100%)	0 (0%)	40 (100%)	05 (0%)	120 (100%)	0 (0%)

A6: (Fish, vegetation, firewood, grass for cattle (fodders), water for dry season rice cultivation), habitat for wildlife and fish.		(0%)	(100%)	(0%)	(0%)	(89%)	(11%)	(100%)	(0%)	
Q7: Who is responsible for managing conservation area?	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	43 (100%)	0 (0%)	40 (89%)	5 (11%)	89 (74%)	31 (26%)
A7: (Local people and community living in and around the site), authorities and concerned government agencies.										
Q8: When is the closed fishing season?	14 (67%)	7 (33%)	11 (61%)	7 (39%)	36 (84%)	07 (16%)	35 (78%)	10 (22%)	52 (43%)	67 (57%)
A8: 1 <sup>st</sup> July-31 <sup>st</sup> October for fishing areas located in the south of Tonle Chaktomuk.										
Q9: What purposes to establish the conservation area for?	13 (62%)	8 (38%)	13 (72%)	5 (28%)	39 (91%)	4 (9%)	19 (42%)	26 (58%)	62 (52%)	58 (48%)
A9: (Providing benefits to local people), and protecting waterbirds, biodiversity.										
Q10: What values/benefits are of/provided by the conservation area?										
A10: (Agricultural cultivation, foods for wildlife and human beings), vegetations, transportation, habitat.	13 (62%)	8 (38%)	13 (72%)	5 (28%)	39 (91%)	4 (9%)	32 (71%)	13 (29%)	102 (85%)	18 (15%)
Q11: What resources or products are provided by the conservation area or wetland?	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	43 (100%)	0 (0%)	45 (100%)	0 (0%)	120 (100%)	0 (0%)
A11: (Water lily, morning glory, fish, grass, water, firewood).										
Q12: What are the important functions of conservation area or wetland?	5 (24%)	16 (76%)	5 (28%)	13 (72%)	32 (74%)	11 (26%)	27 (60%)	18 (40%)	17 (14%)	103 (86%)
A12: (Vegetations), flood control, storm prevention, environmental maintenance, weather purification, researaches.										

Note: answers in brackets were given by participants during the community forums.