

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Wildlife Conservation Society
Project Title:	Food provision to Cambodia's Vultures
Date of Report:	8 June 2011
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CEPF Region: Indochina

Strategic Direction: 1. Safeguard globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats.

Grant Amount: US\$19,859

Project Dates: March 2010 [although when did money arrive?] – March 2011

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): Wildlife Conservation Society implemented the project in partnership with the Cambodian government agencies of the Forestry Administration and the Ministry of Environment. The government is the legal authority managing the areas in which the project is based and WCS provides technical support to improve management.

Conservation Impacts

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

The Cambodia Vulture Conservation Project worked directly towards the implementation of CEPF Strategic Direction 1. We focused on conserving two priority bird species by species-focused action (CEPF Investment Priority 1.1): White-rumped *Gyps bengalensis* and Slender-billed Vultures *G. tenuirostris* by providing additional food sources – identified as a threat to vulture conservation by the CVCP in a 2005 strategic review. The vulture restaurants also attract important numbers of Critically Endangered Red-headed Vultures as well as occasional Greater Adjutants *Leptoptilos dubius*, another priority species. We have raised awareness across the range of vultures in Cambodia of the threat to these birds posed by misuse of poisons. Additionally, we worked with veterinary medicine suppliers and veterinary staff to raise awareness of the impact of diclofenac on vultures and the national ban. Both of these actions will improve the long-term conservation status of these species. Monitoring of poisoning incidents has been ongoing to ensure any afflicted birds were treated rapidly. Nest protection of vultures has improved the status of these species as well as enabling us to locate the nests of other priority species. This is carried out with the communities at each site and provides substantial local income and enables capacity building. This project has therefore also worked towards CEPF Investment Priority 2.1. We combine this community support with development of community land use plans in the key sites which helps build support for vulture conservation and protection of their habitats.

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

We presented three target outcomes in the project proposal:

1. Increased numbers of vultures in Cambodia.

In June 2010 the CVCP observed 296 vultures across Cambodia during the annual census: a record count for the country since the project started in 2004. While the census is a minimum count and not a full count of the population, this is a positive sign that the project is effective in targeting the main issues that are affecting vultures in Cambodia. The project is collaborating with Yula Kapetanacos Cornell University on genetic studies of the vulture population. This study has extracted DNA from feathers collected at vulture restaurants and nest sites and will be used to carry out mark-recapture analysis of the population. This should produce a more accurate assessment of the population size.

2. Development of ecotourism and community support for vulture restaurants.
Tourism support for vulture restaurants has grown as numbers of tourists have increased in the 2010-2011 season to 40 visitors paying for 10 vulture restaurants. These restaurants now take place at the same location as the main monitoring restaurant. This paves the way for tourists to pay for restaurants as part of the monitoring process. The number of tourists is likely to grow in future as new roads have facilitated access and improved publicity has generated more interest. Each tourist now generates revenue of approximately \$200 for the local community: a total of \$7,500 in two years (2009 and 2010 data).
3. Prevention of veterinary use of diclofenac and other toxic drugs and awareness-raising about harmful effects of misuse of poison.
We have expended considerable effort in raising awareness amongst veterinary pharmaceutical suppliers and veterinary staff of the threat diclofenac and other drugs pose to vultures. This has included visits to suppliers in four provinces and discussions with district veterinary officers in all appropriate sites. In one site (Sen Monorom, Mondulhiri province), the CVCP found diclofenac being offered for use in veterinary medicine. The supplier was advised of national regulations and the drug was withdrawn from sale. This and other suppliers in the town were monitored in subsequent months to prevent these NSAIDs from entering the vulture food chain. The drugs come from Viet Nam often with little information in Khmer. Thus the document we prepared in Khmer, which advised people of the potentially harmful effects of diclofenac, will be well received as it will be the only accessible information available. We also carried out awareness-raising amongst local communities of the severe effects on people and wildlife from misuse of poisons for hunting and fishing.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: This is not directly relevant, although CVCP does protect very small areas around vulture colonies and restaurants to prevent disturbance.

Species Conserved: White-rumped vulture, slender-billed vulture, red-headed vulture

Corridors Created: n/a

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

We have been successful in providing food for vultures in areas where food is likely to be limited. This has been particularly important recently as new roads in some areas has increased sales of livestock to towns and reduced the domestic herds which would normally provide some food for vultures through normal deaths.

We have been successful in preventing diclofenac entering the vulture food chain. This has entailed working with a small number of veterinary suppliers and veterinary staff and it will be relatively easy to maintain contact with them and continue to remind them of the regulations in force in Cambodia.

Misuse of pesticides is a major national problem as is unregulated use of pesticides for traditional agricultural purposes. The potential target audience for this is very large, covering the rural populations of at least four of Cambodia's largest provinces. Our work has been successful in starting the process of awareness-raising and we must continue these efforts to ensure that accidental poisoning has a reduced impact on the Cambodian vulture population.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The support of new partners outside the original CVCP partnership has been welcome. We received very valuable support from an agricultural NGO based in Mondulhiri which identified a pharmacy selling diclofenac. This NGO has also been monitoring this and other pharmacies in the province since this finding. Conservation International has shown interest in holding vulture restaurants in their site in Stung Treng at Voeyn Sai and took part in the 2010 vulture census.

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.

This project is a partnership between a number of government agencies and NGOs. As vultures are such a wide-ranging species, it would not be possible to implement this project and succeed without this partnership. Vultures require relatively small sites to breed and feed and these must be protected by localized forest management projects. For long term vulture conservation, a partnership involving government (the legally mandated site management authority), international NGOs (partners which have the technical capacity and financial resources to engage with government and ensure vulture conservation activities are implemented) and local NGOs and CSOs (which are efficient at communicating with local communities) is necessary to achieve success in this type of project.

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

This project was relatively simple and did not involve land issues: these are very complicated, particularly in Cambodia. Thus this project was able to achieve its objectives in a relatively small time for three Critically Endangered species with relatively limited funding.

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

Targets were well identified during planning and thus implementation was straightforward. The partnership enabled broad geographical coverage to reach all sites where awareness-raising was essential.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Vultures and many other large birds are long-lived slow breeders and long term support is required for such activities.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity	A	\$5,153	

***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.

The community ecotourism project in Preah Vihear Protected Forest contributed 10 vulture restaurants during the funded period. This is a major success for this site. However, tourists visit the site only during the dry season (December-April) and we are searching for a means to provide support to restaurants at other times of the year. The other restaurant sites around the country also require long-term support in all seasons.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None relevant.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

This project did not involve activities designed to prevent individuals carrying out legal livelihood activities.

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	n/a			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	n/a			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	n/a			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	n/a			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Yes	5	5	

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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.cepfn.org, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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