

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.
Project Title:	Siamese Crocodile: icon for the restoration of the Sekong River, Cambodia
Grant Number:	CEPF-110291
Hotspot:	Indo-Burma III
Strategic Direction:	6 Demonstrate scalable approaches for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning in the priority corridors
Grant Amount:	\$180,000.00
Project Dates:	May 01, 2020 - June 30, 2022
Date of Report:	September 28, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

Fauna and Flora International (FFI) implemented two Siamese crocodile surveys in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS) during June and November 2020. They developed a Siamese crocodile reintroduction feasibility study, based on these surveys. FFI provided technical support in the selection of crocodiles from a commercial farm in Siem Reap. FFI coordinated the microchipping and DNA analysis for these crocodiles to ensure they were pure Siamese crocodile and not Siamese x saltwater crocodile hybrids. FFI also provided three male crocodiles from their breeding facility in Phnom Tamao for release in SPWS, and supported the attachment of satellite tags to five of the crocodiles prior to release. FFI shared protocols on dealing with crocodile bites, feeding in captivity and for hatchling care. Joe Rose from FFI visited Siem Pang on 8 July 2022 to provide training to the Rising Phoenix Biodiversity Monitoring Unit on crocodile handling and the FFI protocols. Rising Phoenix will continue to coordinate with FFI on the development of a publication on the release of the Siamese crocodiles at SPWS, once post release satellite data has been collated.

On 28 July 2021 Dr Steven Platt from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) visited potential Siamese crocodiles release sites along the O'Khampa and produced a short report providing further guidance on reintroduction.

Rising Phoenix collaborated with Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium (AWA) on the purchase and transportation of Siamese crocodiles in Siem Reap. The 45 purchased crocodiles were later quarantined at AWA. AWA will hold the remaining crocodiles until the second release in the 2023 dry season and cover their feeding costs. Crocodiles not released will be donated to AWA to establish a Siamese crocodile breeding facility. It is hoped this is the start of a long-term collaboration, where Siamese crocodiles hatched at AWA could be used for future population reinforcements at SPWS and elsewhere.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
By 2030, Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary supports a self-sustaining wild population of the Siamese Crocodile.	Under this project a pilot population reinforcement was implemented in 2022 with the release of 19 crocodiles. Phase two will see the release of at least 40 five-year old Siamese crocodiles, bringing the released population to a threshold of 80, and sufficient to enable a viable Siamese crocodile population.
By 2025, food security will have been increased for 2,000 families living along the Sekong River downstream of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.	This has not been achieved under this project. However it should be noted that 160 households from Nang Son, Pa Bang and La Kay are now members of the IBIS Rice programme lead by the Rising Phoenix Community Development Unit.
By 2025, the aquatic ecosystem in the Sekong River and its tributaries within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary will be restored, as demonstrated by fish catch monitoring.	<p>The Siamese crocodile an apex predator, has been returned to the aquatic ecosystem at SPWS, and one wetland has been restored. However, for the Siamese crocodile population to be viable there must be continued releases and a management regime must be put in place to reduce over fishing and minimize the risk of crocodile by-catch. Although a baseline fish survey has been implemented, the data set is small and inconclusive.</p> <p>During the writing of this report we became aware of a plan to build the Sekong A dam only 3 km north of the Cambodia/Laos border. This is being built by Vietnamese company Song Da 6. When completed it will generate only 86 megawatts of power, sufficient for c. 20,000 homes. However, it will restrict fish movements on the Sekong River and is likely to have negative consequences on sand bar nesting bird species. Despite this, Rising Phoenix remains committed to continue its Siamese crocodile rewilding programme, as well as wetland restoration and improved management along the Sekong river and its tributaries.</p>

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
By the end of the project clear protocols and a documented case study will have been developed and disseminated on reintroducing Siamese Crocodile into water system, allowing replication at other sites.	Project activities were documented at each stage including Siamese crocodile survey and feasibility study, key informant interviews, SCARE campaign development and implementation, Boueng Khampa restoration, soft release enclosure construction and release process. Rising Phoenix developed SOPs for the Siamese crocodile soft release enclosure

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>construction and for trapeang restoration. In addition, FFI shared protocols on crocodile bite treatment, feeding crocodiles in captivity and for hatchling care.</p> <p>A promotional film of the Siamese Crocodile rewilding efforts at SPWS has also been produced and shared with CEPF, and will be used to raise the profile of the intervention.</p> <p>Once Phase 2 of the project is complete we plan to document our results in a peer-reviewed journal paper.</p>
<p>By the end of the project, a management regime will be in place with community support that is sufficient for the reintroduction of the Siamese Crocodile.</p>	<p>The O'Khampa is zoned as Conservation Zone under the government approved zonation plan, gained prior to project implementation. A campaign known as SCARE - Siamese Crocodile Awareness Raising and Enforcement was undertaken under which the status of the river and permitted activities under the Protected Areas Law was discussed with key stakeholders regularly at each stakeholder and village forums. Enforcement patrols were undertaken along the river but manpower limitations and issues at other locations within SPWS meant the number of patrols were less than planned.</p> <p>Additional work is planned to establish a FCZ within the conservation zone to reduce fishing practice incompatible with the presence of crocodiles, particularly the use of gill nets, baited hooks and electro-fishing. We will continue on provide outreach to the local community and develop agreed byelaws. Supporting household fish farming will provide additional protein to households counter the implementation of the FCZ.</p>
<p>By the end of the project 2 CBOs will be transferred to CFIs, and 1 CBO will be established allowing local communities to take a greater role in the management of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, with a focus on sustainable fisheries.</p>	<p>Following initial collaboration with My Village at two already established CBOs along the Sekong River, further progress was prevented by the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions on meetings and gatherings. During our brief collaboration differing approaches to working with communities were exposed which made further progress difficult. One member of one CBO later joined Rising Phoenix as a scout. In the next six months Rising Phoenix will establish a FCZ in SPWS in partnership with local communities, especially from Kampourk village but we no longer have plans to establish a formal CBO. In the context of villages like Kampourk this is an realistic expectation. The village is economically and spatially isolated from mainstream Cambodian life. Most people are ethnic Lao and exist as "outsiders" beyond government reach or control. Levels of poverty are high and standards of education are</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	low. To expect villagers with this background to have the understanding or desire to form a CBO is unrealistic.
By the end of the project 3 community groups will have strengthened capacity and implementing regular activities in joint with local government authorities as well as ecological restoration.	This has not been achieved and is partially explained by the preceding answer. However, a scout unit drawn from local villages has been established and trained. The scouts regularly patrol together with other law enforcement agencies under Siem Pang PATROL in coordination with Ministry of Environment rangers, Border Police officers and district army officers. In the remaining six months of 2022, this unit will be expanded by additional 19 scouts.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Project implementation began during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to restrictions on staff movements and the ability to hold meetings with local communities and interact with government officers. This hindered the ability of the project to work with local communities, resulting in the some of the original deliverables linked with awareness and the development of community-based organization not being met. Some of these activities are now being implemented with funding from other sources.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

1. Putting in place community led sustainable management along the Sekong River and tributaries

Rising Phoenix established a scout (community ranger) team drawn from local villages. An assessment day was held for 50 candidates which resulted in the selection of ten (2 female) who then participated in a twenty-day training course lead by Head of Enforcement Mark Bowman. Seven then signed contracts and six remained employees by the end of the project. The scout unit has supported law enforcement patrols with Department of Environment rangers, Border Police and Border Army within SPWS and along the O’Khampa as part of the SCARE Campaign (see below). The scouts also provided support on guarding the crocodiles in Boueng Nava during the soft release and advising fishermen about the presence of crocodiles in the wetland. A floating boathouse was constructed and deployed at the O’Khampa ranger station, to facilitate improved patrolling implemented as part of the SCARE campaign, and wildlife monitoring.

Following consultation with villagers in Kampourk village and at their request we improved the village supply of potable water by digging a village water tank and restoring two more. We installed solar pumps at all three water tanks to guarantee water supply. Kampourk is a remote and poor village and this intervention was designed as a confidence building measure.

2. Siamese Crocodile feasibility study

The project released 19 Siamese crocodiles into SPWS, as a pilot population reinforcement heralding the beginning of Siamese crocodile rewilding efforts which aims to establish a self-sustaining population in the wildlife sanctuary.

Two Siamese crocodile and habitat surveys were undertaken SPWS, which confirmed the continued presence of the species, although in very reduced numbers and possibly restricted to the remoter stretches of the Stung Tinh Hieng. A Siamese crocodile reintroduction feasibility assessment was developed based on the results of these surveys. Two fish assessments were undertaken by FishBio, before and after crocodile release.

Crocodile experts including Pablo Sinovas from FFI and Dr Steve Platt, from the WCS identified two suitable soft release sites at Boueng Nava and Boeung Khampa on the north bank of the O'Khampa. Based on their recommendations we proceeded with a pilot soft release for which a soft release enclosure was constructed at Boueng Nava. This re-usable enclosure was constructed from bamboo and wire fencing. A ranger post was constructed adjacent to the Boueng to facilitate crocodile monitoring and to provide guidance to local fishermen. A shrine was also installed, including a Buddha statue blessing a statue of a Siamese crocodile. This was done to replace an old shrine which had fallen down. Boueng Khampa was the second release site chosen. Habitat restoration was undertaken here to deepen pools in the wetland. A total of 9,000 m³ material was removed as part of the process.

Rising Phoenix purchased 45 farm-raised crocodiles in Siem Reap. The crocodiles were microchipped and blood samples taken for later DNA analysis. The crocodiles were moved to AWA where they completed a quarantine period. DNA testing confirmed that 43 out of the 45 crocodiles were in fact Siamese.

On 31 March 2022, 15 Siamese crocodiles (3 males and 12 females) were released into the soft release enclosure at Boeung Nava. On the 15 May 2022, an additional four female Siamese crocodiles were released, and were fitted with Argos satellite tags to monitor post release movements and survival. In addition, one further crocodile was caught from the previous cohort and had a tracker attached.

Supplementary feeding of live and dead fish (8 kilos per feeding) was initiated twice weekly. The number of crocodiles present at each feeding was recorded, and reported in the monthly biodiversity reports along with the satellite tracking data. SOPs were developed for Siamese crocodile soft release, enclosure construction and trapeang restoration. In addition, FFI shared protocols on crocodile bite, feeding crocodiles in captivity and for hatchling care.

3. Changing people's attitudes towards fisheries management and Siamese Crocodiles

A plan entitled the SCARE Campaign (Siamese Crocodile, Awareness, Release, Enforcement) was developed and supported by key stakeholders during a stakeholder forum. The campaign was implemented and reported on in monthly law enforcement reports.

We installed 56 signboards at 28 key target locations along the O'Khampa, Boeung Nava and Stung Tinh Hieng within SPWS. A pair of community signboards was installed in 15 community locations in the 7 villages surround SPWS. The signboards provided information on permitted and restricted fishing practices and land uses in line with the Protected Areas law and gave information on co-existence with crocodiles.

A film entitled The Siamese Crocodile: Totem of Healthy Wetlands was produced. This film will be used to promote Siamese crocodile conservation in Cambodia. We will now create a Khmer language version of this film.

We collaborated with YEA Catalyst Co. Ltd as part of their CEPF project evaluation. Since the end of the project we have further engaged them to implement a series of community outreach events in Khampourk Village.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Conditions in place for Siamese Crocodile reintroduction.	1.6	Develop protocols for ecological restoration suitable for replication through government programs.	Rising Phoenix has developed an SOP for Siamese crocodile soft release enclosure construction and a SOP for trapeang restoration. In addition, FFI shared protocols on treatment of crocodile bites, feeding crocodiles in captivity and for hatchling care.
1.0	Conditions in place for Siamese Crocodile reintroduction.	1.1	Siamese Crocodile survey and key informant interviews report produced	A series of key information interviews were held from June to December 2020 which gathered information on fishing practice and on Siamese crocodiles, including historical sightings, and their attitude and perception towards them. Rising Phoenix interviewed members from key community groups (Fishing CBOs) and villages (Khampourk, Khet Svey, Pong Kriel) whose members fish within the waterways of SPWS. The first Siamese crocodile survey at SPWS was implemented from 1 to 10 June 2020 and the second survey was complete from the 30 November to the 9 December 2020.
1.0	Conditions in place for Siamese Crocodile reintroduction.	1.2	Feasibility study produced including consideration to suitable habitat, historic drivers of decline, current threat analysis, protection requirements, current presence of Siamese Crocodile and identification of release sites	The "Siamese crocodiles in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary Habitat Survey and Reintroduction Feasibility Assessment" was completed in January 2021. In June 2021, Dr Steve Platt, WCS together with Jonathan Eames (CEO of Rising Phoenix) implemented an assessment of potential release sites for Siamese crocodile in SPWS. They assessed two sites which had been identified in the Siamese crocodile

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				Feasibility study. This included Boueng Nava and Boeung Khampa, which were both identified as suitable soft release sites for head started Siamese crocodiles. A report was produced from this survey which provided guidance on a soft release approach for crocodile population reinforcement.
1.0	Conditions in place for Siamese Crocodile reintroduction.	1.3	Operation plan for protection measures implemented, monitored and evaluated.	The information within the feasibility study was used in support of the development of an operation plan for protection measures entitled "SCARE Campaign (Siamese Crocodile, Awareness, Release, Enforcement)". This Campaign plan was produced in April 2021. On the 22nd June 2021 a stakeholder forum was held at Siem Pang District Hall. Within this meeting the SCARE Campaign was presented to the attendants (key stakeholders of SPWS) and they provided their agreement and support of the SCARE campaign. The SCARE campaign was implemented for the remainder of the project and activities were reported on in the monthly law enforcement reports produced by Rising Phoenix.
1.0	Conditions in place for Siamese Crocodile reintroduction.	1.4	Report on pilot release and post-release monitoring of Siamese Crocodiles (dependent on deliverables 1,2 & 3 being completed)	The first pilot release of Siamese crocodiles occurred in March and May 2022 with 19 Siamese crocodile release in total (3 males and 16 females), and a report was produced and shared. Satellite post release monitoring data of 5 crocodiles has been gathered from May 2022 onwards, and trackers should

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				operate for at least 1 year before their battery runs out. Additional data on the crocodiles is gathered during supplementary feeding sessions at Bong Nava.
2.0	Changing people's attitudes towards fisheries management and Siamese Crocodile	2.1	Attitude survey reports at project start and end, focusing on the results of this component of the project	Not produced due to COVID-19 restrictions.
2.0	Changing people's attitudes towards fisheries management and Siamese Crocodile	2.2	Awareness raising programme for Siamese Crocodile and sustainable fisheries management designed and interpretation material produced.	<p>FFI provided designs for a pair of signboards for posting in community areas which provided information on positive behaviors towards crocodiles and highlighted which behaviors have a negative impact. Thirty (15 pairs) of these signboards were installed in key community areas across seven villages and near army posts. Rising Phoenix designed regulation signboards and printed and installed 56 of these in 28 locations along the O' Khampha, Boeung Nava (lake of crocodiles) and Stung Tinh Hieng within SPWS.</p> <p>A promotional six-minute film was produced and shared with CEPF. This will help to promote Siamese crocodile conservation in Cambodia and promote the replication of efforts at SPWS.</p>
2.0	Changing people's attitudes towards fisheries management and Siamese Crocodile	2.3	Awareness programme implemented for Siamese Crocodile and sustainable	Awareness raising completed in the quarterly stakeholder and village forum meetings, but COVID-19 restrictions prevented additional awareness raising events being implemented.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			fisheries management and reported on.	Rising Phoenix has now consulted YEA Catalyst to implement a series of community outreach events in Khampourk Village. YEA Catalyst implemented an assessment on Khampourk village the first week of June 2022. Outreach events will continue for the remainder of 2022.
3.0	Putting in place community led sustainable management along the Sekong river and tributaries	3.1	Compliance with CEPF Social and Environmental Safeguards monitored and reported to CEPF	A project launch workshop was held in June 2022, and a grievance mechanism was distributed across key locations surrounding SPWS. Quarterly stakeholder and village forums were held across the length of the project which allowed any grievance to be raised by the community. Rising Phoenix monitored and reported on the safeguarding every 6 months over the life of the project.
3.0	Putting in place community led sustainable management along the Sekong river and tributaries	3.2	Registration certificate and membership list for Community Based Organisation (CBO) at Kham Pourk Village	Not undertaken
3.0	Putting in place community led sustainable management along the Sekong river and tributaries	3.3	By-laws, map of no-fish zones, list of management committee members and activities plan for CBO at Kham Pourk village	Not undertaken
3.0	Putting in place community led sustainable management along the Sekong river and tributaries	3.4	Approval letter for Kham Pourk CBO from district governor; minutes of regular meetings between CBO and district officials	Not undertaken

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
3.0	Putting in place community led sustainable management along the Sekong river and tributaries	3.5	Official letters designating two CBOs along the Sekong River as Community Fisheries; institutional capacity scorecards for CBOs	Not undertaken
3.0	Putting in place community led sustainable management along the Sekong river and tributaries	3.6	List of community ranger team members and inventory of equipment	Completed and shared with CEPF
3.0	Putting in place community led sustainable management along the Sekong river and tributaries	3.7	Community ranger team and CBO's members are trained in patrolling, and joint patrols are implemented and reported on.	Completed
3.0	Putting in place community led sustainable management along the Sekong river and tributaries	3.8	Reports of fish-catch monitoring for along the Sekong River and its tributaries.	From the 31 May to the 3 June 2021 a FishBio team implemented fish and habitat sampling at SPWS. A second survey in February 2022 was implemented by Fish Bio with support from Rising Phoenix's Biodiversity Monitoring (BMU) and Logistics Support units. The reports of these surveys were shared with CEPF. Additional funding has been secured for the remaining six months of 2022 to contract FishBio to provide training to continue implementing fish surveys twice a year.
1.0	Conditions in place for Siamese Crocodile reintroduction.	1.5	Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for pilot Siamese Crocodile reintroduction	An environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan was prepared for the population reinforcement of Siamese crocodile at SPWS. This was shared with CEPF and received their approval.

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

Rising Phoenix has developed a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Siamese crocodile soft release enclosure construction and trapeang restoration. In addition, FFI shared protocols on treatment of crocodile bites, feeding crocodiles in captivity and for hatchling care.

A film entitled The Siamese Crocodile: Totem of Healthy Wetlands was produced. This film will be used to promote Siamese crocodile conservation in Cambodia. We will now create a Khmer language version of this film.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
4.2	Number of priority corridors with biodiversity and ecosystem service values integrated into land-use and/or development plans.	1	Demonstration project for ecological restoration developed in at least 1 priority corridor (Mekong River and Major Tributaries).	1	Rising Phoenix has implemented ecological restoration and the restoration of an apex predator into SPWS within the Mekong River and Major Tributaries priority corridor. This project has been documented as a case study and protocols have been developed.
1	Number of civil society organizations, including domestic organizations, that actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.	1	One civil society organization (Rising Phoenix) actively participates in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile	1	Rising Phoenix has actively implemented a project in SPWS which has included a wide range of conservation actions, which have been guided from conception by the ecosystem profile.

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
3	Number of key biodiversity areas targeted by CEPF grants that have new or strengthened protection and management.	1	At least one KBA targeted by the grant (Sekong River) has new or strengthened protection and management	1	The project has allowed increase in protection and management of SPWS, through the recruitment and patrolling of community scout, and implementation of SCARE campaign.

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Western Siem Pang	KHM40		133,707

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
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Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
27	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rising Phoenix policies and standard operating procedures 2. Apply remote first aid in the forest environment 3. Radio communication in the field 4. Apply basic navigation in the forest environment 5. Apply basic field craft and living in the field 6. Apply basic patrol safety in the field 7. Fitness 8. The final unit was an exercise which brought together all the participants new competencies.

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
0	0	

Benefits to Communities

View the characteristics column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the benefits column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the topics column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
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Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
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Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
FFI	2020	Cambodia	Yes	Conservation of Siamese crocodile in Cambodia, and Siamese crocodile rewilding in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.
Angkor Wildlife Aquarium	2021	Cambodia	Yes	Rewilding of Siamese crocodiles at SPWS
WCS Laos	2021	Cambodia	Yes	Rewilding of Siamese crocodiles at SPWS

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
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Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Crocodylus	siamensis	Siamese Crocodile	CR	Pilot population reinforcement, species habitat protection	Unknown

LESSONS LEARNED

Future projects should have a simpler project design and avoid deliverable that rely on the support from other parties. Deliverables must be achievable and take into account the capacity of partners and not be included to please the donor.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been two main areas that the project has been delayed in, this includes the establishment of a community-based organization in Khampourk village, and a large-scale awareness raising campaign. The project ended in June 2022. Rising Phoenix has a series of interventions planned for the next 9 months, that will deliver on these two areas. Additional funding from a Darwin Initiative and USAID Morodok Baitang project will be used to implement these interventions. Rising Phoenix has agreed to provide a supplementary report to CEPF on these interventions at the end of 2022. The interventions include:

1. A fish conservation zone (FCZ) will be developed in SPWS along the waterways which fall in the conservation zone of the Ministry of Environment approved zoned map for SPWS. Rising Phoenix will work in partnership with Khampourk village and the already establish Village Marketing Network (part of the IBIS Rice scheme) and FishBio to develop the rules around this FCZ. 5 villagers will be recruited from Khampourk village to join the Rising Phoenix scout team, whose main activities will be supporting the implementation of the FCZ rules.
2. Stung Treng Provincial Department of Environment in partnership with Rising Phoenix CDU will implement a series of awareness raising meetings in August across 11 villages surrounding SPWS. This awareness raising will focus on the protected areas laws and the rules around the different zones (leading to the establishment of the FCZ). In addition, signboards will be installed at the villages and key entrance points into SPWS.
3. YEA Catalyst have been contracted to implement four community outreach events in Khampourk village from August 2022 to February 2023. These events will target groups of people to help with the outreach, which includes village elders, key local monks, key teachers from relevant schools and village outreach team members.
4. A study tour to Laos is planned for October 2022, for key members of Khampourk village to visit the WCS Siamese crocodile site in Savannakhet province. The aim of this study tour is for an exchange of experience between the villagers from Laos and Khampourk. As the Laotian villages coexist successfully with the Siamese crocodile at this site.
5. Rising Phoenix in partnership with 400 Farm will provide low tech integrated fish farming training to at least 10 households in Khampourk Village, to allow them to grow fish at their homes, utilizing water from the community wetlands dug in the earlier stage of this project. This intervention is aimed to increase the food availability in Khampourk village to balance the loss of access to some fishing grounds.
6. Rising Phoenix will establish fish catch monitoring in SPWS, through support from FishBio. This fish monitoring will be implemented by the BMU and support from the scouts. Fish monitoring will occur twice a year.

7. Study tour to SPWS for conservation practitioners and key government officials will be held in December 2022 and be funded by CEPF 112517 project. The study tour will share the experiences of Rising Phoenix in ecological restoration and release of Siamese crocodiles (as well as outputs under CEPF 112517, 112516 & 111977 projects), with the aim of passing on protocols and allowing other sites to implement similar activities as have been completed in SPWS.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

A Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions was prepared and approved by CEPF at the start of the project. An Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for the population reinforcement of Siamese crocodile was prepared and approved in 2022 prior to the pilot release of Siamese crocodile.

A project launch workshop was held on the 16 June, 2020 at the Siem Pang District Hall. This meeting was attended by the Stung Treng Provincial Governor, Siem Pang District Governor, Head of the Provincial Department of Environment, Prek Meas and Thmor Keo Commune Chief, Khes Sway, Khes Krom, Pong Kriel, Nhang Sum, Lakay, Phabang and Kham Pouk Village chiefs, as well as representatives from different law enforcement agencies.

A grievance mechanism was produced for the project, in three languages included Khmer, English and Lao. A poster in each language was printed and distributed across seven villages, in three communes at 26 locations. Also, a letterbox was set up at the three commune halls to provide an additional method for stakeholders to express any grievances, recommendations or suggestions. No written grievances were received.

An Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan was produced for the pilot population reinforcement. Mitigation measures were implemented including DNA testing of crocodiles to ensure purity, quarantine period, transportation methods to ensure welfare of crocodiles, soft release enclosure and protocol as well as engaging key stakeholders within the release, and the installation of signboards across the waterways in SPWS.

Regular stakeholder and village forums were held quarterly throughout the project. At the village forum held in Khampourk village in June 2022 some community members expressed worries about the Siamese crocodiles at Boeung Nava. A similar report was received by YEA Catalyst when they implemented a community survey at Khampourk village as part of FishBio CEPF project. This feedback occurred because at that point we had not been able to carry-out awareness raising as planned because of restrictions placed on village meetings during COVID-19. In response to these concerns Rising Phoenix has since contracted YEA Catalyst to implement a series of community outreach events in Khampourk village with support of Rising Phoenix Community Development Unit (CDU). In addition, a study tour to the Xe Champhone Wetlands in Savannakhet Province, Laos is scheduled for members of Khampourk village, to visit the WCS Laos Siamese crocodile project site to meet with villagers that live harmoniously with the Siamese crocodiles.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The conservationgrants.force.com portal is restrictive for offline collaboration in the development of proposals or grant reports. If a word template could be provided for the progress report or Letter of Inquiry, this would make offline collaboration a lot easier and save time. As currently I make my own word document from the online portal, and use this for collaborative proposal or report writing.

Once a report is completed or a proposal is submitted, a pdf of the application can be downloaded for internal records. This pdf format is a little limited, and difficulties arise when try to copy text from the pdf back to a word document. If the format of the pdf copy of the online submission could be a better layout this would be appreciated.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$43,325.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc 501 (c.) (3) provided two grants to Fauna and Flora International with a combined total of US\$ 43,325.

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

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