

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date

CEPF Grant 103494

Sansom Mlup Prey

Conservation Livelihoods in the Tonle Sap

Kampong Thom, Cambodia

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization

Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) was created in 2009 to promote and market wildlife-friendly products grown or crafted in the communities located in all categories of land protected for their biodiversity value in Cambodia. Currently producing nearly 1,000 MT of Wildlife Friendly, organic certified paddy a year working with 900 households.

SMP has progressively incorporated new and varied expertise in specialist agronomy, community development, spatial analysis and land-use, accreditation, certification and value-chain and commercial integration.

Now working in four provinces across multiple products and compliance systems SMP has become the nantee organization.

2. Grant title.

Conservation Livelihoods in the Tonle Sap

3. Grant number

103494

4. Grant amount (US dollars).

\$199,436

5. Proposed dates of grant.

01st February 2018 to 31st January 2020 (24 months)

6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.

Cambodia

7. Date of preparation of this document.

22nd November 2017

A. Project background

The KBAs within this Priority Corridor support more than half of the global population of the Bengal Florican, as well as a suite of specialized grassland bird species. Over the last fifteen years change has occurred at a rapid pace in the Tonle Sap inundation zone. The most striking change during this period has been the almost complete abandonment of deep-water rice cultivation, and the rapid spread of irrigated dry-season rice. This process is likely to have caused a reduction in floristic and invertebrate abundance and diversity, and a concomitant decline in the bird species that rely on them. During the last two years, CEPF supported WCS to trial Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) rice. Under this grant, WCS worked very closely with SMP, with SMP implementing the farmer training and on-farm improvements, and WCS monitoring conservation impacts. At the same time, WCS has been supported by CEPF for nearly ten years (under two large grants) to protect the birds of the Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone, particularly within the Bengal Florican Conservation Areas (BFCAs – now the Northern Tonle Sap Conservation Landscape - NTSCCL), which are protected areas established to preserve traditional grassland usage by local communities, on which the poorest members of society still rely, and without which grassland would revert to scrub. A committee including local community members advises on management of the NTSCCL, based on a management plan and a zoning plan. Building on the previous CEPF-funded work implemented by WCS and SMP in the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone, this project represents an opportunity to continue and consolidate work to date, and localize it within both appropriate community structures, and, a suitable local NGO.

B. Participatory implementation

There are no permanent human settlements inside the NTSC, but there are eight villages located close to its northern edge. Based on studies conducted over the past ten years (and especially during 2015), it is evident that local livelihoods are dominated by rice cultivation, supplemented by fishing and related activities. Under a sub-grant to WCS, CEPF funded project activities include support to some law enforcement activities involving involuntary restrictions on expansion of rice fields into the Conservation Zone of the NTSC and wildlife collection, primarily collection of crickets, fishing and hunting of rats and birds.

The joint community and government patrol team will receive support to enforce involuntary restrictions on expansion of rice fields from the Sustainable Use Zone to the Conservation Zone, as well as hunting of birds and poisoning of rats, as well as the use of unsustainable and illegal fishing practices (e.g. fishing using poison) to local communities. Benign activities, such as collection of crickets and fishing using legal gears, is not restricted. Our research has shown that hunting of birds is done by less than 2% of the community, and on a very small scale, and is illegal. Fishing using unsustainable methods is regarded poorly by the community and is illegal regardless of where it is practiced. Through participatory community consultations the NTSC was zoned in 2017 and two zones identified: Conservation Zone and Sustainable Use Zone. The area where community members currently farm rice, and would like to expand rice, was zoned as Sustainable Use Zone, with the remaining area designated as the Conservation Zone. Restrictions on expansion of rice cultivation only apply to the Conservation Zone.

In summary, under CEPF funds, this project aims to continue existing enforcement of involuntary restrictions of access to resources, but these restrictions are limited in scope and geographical area, and apply to destructive activities that are illegal and unsustainable. These restrictions are unchanged from those enforced at the NTSC under two previous CEPF-funded projects implemented by. Consequently, no significant impacts exist for most livelihoods. Community members will be part of all patrol teams, to ensure that patrols are conducted transparently and in a way that does not negatively impact the community.

These restrictions have already been the subject of consultations and awareness raising as recently as October 2017, and during the project will be the subject of participatory meetings of the Community Protected Area committees (CPAs are currently being developed in the Sustainable Use Zone). Any later changes to restrictions will be determined in consultation with local stakeholders, including local communities, government and CPA committees, building on the strong relationships forged with stakeholders during previous participatory studies. Any resulting changes to restrictions will be disseminated to local communities, via village meetings and dissemination of posters or leaflets.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

As described above, the last fifteen years of surveys and law enforcement have shown that most negative impacts to livelihoods are minimal and the activities involved are illegal, destructive and/or unsustainable. However, the CPA committee will monitor law enforcement activities to identify any vulnerable resource user groups whose livelihoods are legal, non-destructive and sustainable, and negatively affected by the project, and who have no easy and comparable alternative livelihood. Exact quantitative thresholds cannot be set for whether a family is significantly affected; this will be based on a qualitative assessment, asking local stakeholders to set criteria which make sense to them.

Only people from the eight villages around the NTSC will be considered potentially eligible on the grounds that these communities are the recognised traditional users of the area. Affected persons will be identified through existing project frameworks and relationships. Our consultation process for new activities will enable concerns to be voiced prior to impacts occurring, however, the project does not

introduce any new activities that will impact access to resources in the NTSC. At regular staff review meetings the CPA committee will be asked to report any concerns circulating in the villages about the project activities, which is an effective and culturally appropriate method since they are trusted village residents and so usually well aware of the local situation. Annual focus group discussions with a sample of households using resources around the core area will be held to discuss any changes in resource use and restrictions, and the resulting impacts to local villagers. Any significant changes or negative impacts identified will be followed up by surveys to identify affected households.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

Should affected persons be identified as described above, communities will be consulted to establish fair, compensatory measures, which might involve making the family a priority for social assistance, training for taking part in the SRP scheme or ecotourism activities. However, given that criteria for affected households includes that the livelihood activity should be legal, non-destructive and sustainable and the law enforcement activities conducted by the community patrol team have been designed to target only illegal, destructive and unsustainable activities in a small geographical area, should any households be identified as negatively affected and fitting the criteria, this would also require a review of the law enforcement activities, as it would imply that rangers were targeting legal, sustainable and non-destructive activities, which is not their purpose.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

As has been done for previous WCS CEPF-funded projects within the Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone, a poster will be developed in the first quarter to provide local communities and other interested stakeholders with means by which they may raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank. The poster (in Khmer) will inform affected local communities of the objectives of the grant and the existence of a grievance mechanism. It will include contact information of the grantee, the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director. The poster will be introduced to local people at the eight villages and explained at village meetings chaired by the CPA committee. It will then be disseminated for display in people's homes.

Grievances raised with the grantee will be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response. If the claimant is still not satisfied following the response, the grievance will be submitted directly to the CEPF Executive Director via the dedicated email account (cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Secretariat, the grievance will be submitted to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.

All subsequent CPA committee meetings (conducted at least quarterly) will include the raising of grievances as an agenda item. Conflict resolution will be conducted in cooperation with local mechanisms. For issues affecting numerous villagers, group discussions will be held to establish the details of the complaint pertaining to the community as a whole. This is then taken to the local authorities in question (starting with the CPA committee) who can decide upon a course of action, or refer the issue to commune and district authorities if necessary.

F. Implementation Arrangements

The roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders involved are described below:

- WCS (through sub-grant from SMP): developing and disseminating grievance mechanism, supporting CPA committee, joint community-government patrol team and NTSC

management, implementing mitigation measures, and monitoring potentially affected communities.

- SMP: monitoring grievances and implementation of process framework, reporting to CEPF on adherence to process framework.
- MoE: organizing and supporting joint patrols, providing a mechanism for complaints to be made in the CPA committee meetings.
- CPA committees: passing complaints to SMP and WCS staff, data collection for community surveys should they be necessary.
- Villagers of potentially affected communities: reporting grievances following the mechanism.
- Local authorities (village and commune level): overseeing CPA committee meetings, conflict resolution, in accordance with local dispute resolution practices, where necessary.
- District authorities: MoE and other district authorities will be involved in conflict resolution only where resolution is not possible at the local level.