



Community Health and Safety Plan

6 January 2022

CEPF Grant 113618

Grantee: WWF-Laos & WWF-Thailand

Project Title:

From Mountain to Mekong - Empowering local communities along the Phou Xiang Thong-Pa Tam Mekong in participatory freshwater fisheries and aquatic species conservation and management

Project Location

LAOS

Province: Salavan

Districts: Lakonpheng, Kongxedone

THAILAND

Province: Ubon Ratchathani

Districts: Pho Sai and Khong Jiam

Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization:** World Wide Fund for Nature
Project title: From Mountain to Mekong - Empowering local communities along the Phou Xiang Thong-Pa Tam Mekong in participatory freshwater fisheries and aquatic species conservation and management
2. **Grant number:** 113618
3. **Grant amount** (US dollars): USD 150,000
4. **Proposed dates of grant:** 1 April 2023
5. **Countries where activities will be undertaken:** Lao PDR, Thailand
6. **Summary of the project:**
As an integral part of a larger project, the CEPF project will aim at improving the sustainable management of freshwater resources in the Phou Xieng Thong/Pha Taem Lower Mekong Section bordering Lao PDR and Thailand for the benefit of climate-vulnerable and fishing-reliant rural communities. It will do so by regulating fishing activities through a participatory and co-management approach. It will particularly work in 7 villages to set up Fish Conservation Zones as a model nature-based solution to maintain sustainable freshwater fish stocks in support of local livelihood, while also indirectly contributing to the protection or repopulation of rare or endangered species.
7. **Date of preparation of this document:** 6 January 2023
8. **Risks to community health and safety:**

ACTIVITY	RISK	LIKELIHOOD
FCZ Patrolling	Potential risk that community members will be victims or perceive themselves to be victims of unjustified, disproportionate, disrespectful and/or harmful law enforcement intervention by FCZ Patrol Teams and FCZ Management Committees, which may lead to a lack of trust by communities towards patrol teams and indirectly WWF.	Low
FCZ Patrolling	Potential risk that members of the FCZ Patrol Teams and FCZ Management Committees may face, either on or off-duty, retaliation by other community members or external individuals involved in illegal fishing/overfishing, as an outcome of increased law enforcement efforts. This may lead to injury / death of patrollers/committee members which may in turn lead to Patrols' demotivation to continue with FCZ patrolling.	Low
FCZ Patrolling	Potential risk of drowning and/or capsizing due to bad weather conditions and/or strong river currents. Yet this is expected to be a minimal risk as riparian communities, especially fishers, usually have a good sense and judgment of river conditions, enabling them to take decisions that will not put them at risk of dangerous situations.	Low

9. **Risk mitigation measures:**

RISK	MITIGATION MEASURES	ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES IN CASE OF RESIDUAL RISKS
<p>Community members victims of unjustified, disproportionate, disrespectful and/or harmful law enforcement intervention by FCZ Patrol Teams and FCZ Management Committees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select candidate patrollers who demonstrate sufficient level of integrity and soundness of moral character. • Develop FCZ Enforcement SOPs that will include a section on the application of a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to law enforcement in line with URSA Code of Conduct as well as WWF Guidelines on "Community Patrolling". • Train Patrol Teams and Committees on FCZ Enforcement SOPs • Ensure that all patrollers sign a declaration informing them of their obligations/ rule of conduct, including on the non-use of force or any other disproportionate/disrespectful action that may harm other community members. • Monitor and assess performance of Patrol Teams and Management Committees on a monthly basis. • Inform communities of the available Grievance Redressal Mechanisms in place. Monitor cases being reported to WWF and take action based on the GRM Guiding Tool (i.e. registration, assessment, investigation, resolution). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the level of harm caused, get FZC Management Committees and/or DAFO/DFO take corrective action such as applying disciplinary sanction and recruiting new patrollers / committee members. • Continue monitoring and assessing performance of Patrol Teams and Management Committees on a monthly basis.
<p>Retaliation against FCZ Patrollers and/or FCZ Management Committee Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that FCZ rules are well communicated to and accepted by communities • Inform FCZ Patrol and FCZ Committee members of the risks involved with the tasks assigned to them, and have them sign a declaration of acceptance clearly informing them of the risks. • Equip Patrol Teams with sufficient life-saving, self-defence and first aid equipment (whistles, torches, first aid kits, pepper spray, speakers). • Develop FCZ Enforcement SOPs that will include a section on safety and security standards - i.e. first aid gestures, no less 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Patrol Reports > identify gaps in complying with Health & Safety Guidelines and conflict de-escalation, and provide refresher coaching • Consider equipping rangers with other non-lethal self-defence equipment if requested by patrol members. • Re-discuss with communities on FCZ acceptance

	<p>than three patrollers for each patrol, etc.). SOPs will also include a section on how to assess the level of risks and deploying adequate response measures such as conflict de-escalation or refraining from intervention if the level of risk is considered too high. The SOPs will also make reference to WWF-Laos and WWF-Thailand Grievance Redressal Mechanism informing patrollers and committee members of their rights to raise complaints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train Patrol Teams and Committees on FCZ Enforcement SOPs • Keep reliable means of communications with active team for quick updates and actions. 	
<p>Drowning and or capsizing due to bad weather conditions and/or strong river currents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only select patrol members who have a good understanding of fluvial conditions, are used to navigate boats and ideally have some basic swimming skills. • Inform Patrol Team members of the risks involved with the tasks assigned to them. • Equip Patrol Teams with sufficient life-saving and first aid equipment (whistles, torches, first aid kits, pepper spray, speakers). • Develop FCZ Enforcement SOPs that will include a section on safety and security standards - i.e. first aid gestures, timing of patrol rounds. • Monitor and assess performance of Patrol Teams on a monthly basis. • Keep reliable means of communications with active team for quick updates and actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue monitoring and assessing performance of Patrol Teams and on a monthly basis. • Identify gaps in complying with Health & Safety Guidelines, and provide refresher coaching

10. **Measures to avoid risk of communicable disease:** This section will describe the measures that will be taken to avoid the risk of transmission of communicable diseases (e.g., COVID-19) to communities at the project site(s).

In the current context, Covid-19 remains a high risk of communicable disease, and WWF has learned to adjust to this new context by deploying a set of standard practices to not only keep a safe work environment for WWF staff but to also minimize the risk of contamination to and

among project beneficiaries as an outcome of its activities in the field. While WWF-Laos has a Covid-19 Operational Plan in place (see attached), WWF-Thailand follows the instructions and recommendations issued by the Ministry of Health with regard to Covid-19 measures. Both will ensure to comply with the standards/measures prescribed under the present project. Particularly, the project teams will ensure to apply the following standards when working with the target communities:

<p>Travel safely to the field</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Travel only when this is deemed essential, and always in respect of rules imposed by the National and Provincial Task Forces for COVID-19; ● Never travel if sick; ● Limit the number of people in one same vehicle; ● Wear masks throughout the journey, wash hands with soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
<p>Conduct safely community activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verify any national/local restriction in place before planning activities in the field and consider rescheduling activities if travel ban is reimposed; ● Arrange meetings/consultations/trainings/gatherings in the open space or well ventilated rooms with sufficient space to allow sufficient distance among attendees ● Prepare sufficient supplies of masks and hand sanitizer for community members attending events; ● Start events by reminding audience to comply with basic hygiene rules and make sure audience comply with these measures - i.e. wearing mask, use hand sanitizer, maintaining physical distance, avoid shaking hands, covering mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing.

11. **Emergency preparedness plan:** This section will present an outline of your emergency preparedness and response plan for emergency situations affecting community health, safety and security that could be caused by project activities, if relevant.

In case of emergency, WWF will deploy the following measures:

- Train FCZ Patrol and Committee Management members on first aid. This will be covered by the FCZ Enforcement SOPs.
- For cases requiring medical intervention, instruct all FCZ Patrol and Committee Management Members to refer cases to the nearest community medical centre; or inform the field-based WWF Project Officer who will, in coordination with the Project Manager, take action to refer cases for medical intervention. This will be covered by the FCZ Enforcement SOPs.
- Inform communities members to report any case of injury to the WWF field-based Project Officer who will, in coordination with the Project Manager, take action to refer cases for medical intervention.

12. **Measures to mitigate risks relating to security personnel:** See Section 9

13. **Timeline and resources:**

#	MITIGATION MEASURES	TIMELINE	RESOURCES*
1	Inform communities of the available Grievance Redressal Mechanisms in place. Monitor cases being reported to WWF and take action based on the GRM Guiding Tool (i.e. registration, assessment, investigation, resolution).	May-June 2023	USD 2,842 (covered by WWF's internal source)
2	Ensure that FCZ rules are well communicated to and accepted by communities	July-August 2024	USD 14,000
3	Only select candidate patrollers who demonstrate sufficient level of integrity and soundness of moral character; good understanding of fluvial conditions; and have navigate and basic swimming skills.	Sept-Dec 2023	0
4	Develop FCZ Enforcement SOPs that will include sections on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the application of a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to law enforcement Safety and security standards - i.e. first aid gestures, minimum number of patrollers, etc.). Risk assessment, de-escalation and conflict resolution Grievance Redressal Mechanism informing patrollers and committee members of their rights to raise complaints 	Feb-April 2024	USD 26,854 (co-funded by CEPF & other project)
5	Train Patrol Teams and Committees on FCZ Enforcement SOPs	May-June 2024	USD 14,530
6	Ensure that all FCZ Patrollers sign a declaration informing them of risks involved with the tasks assigned to them, and their obligations / rule of conduct to comply with, including on the non-use of force or any other disproportionate/disrespectful action that may harm other community members.	May-June 2024	0
7	Equip Patrol Teams with sufficient life-saving, self-defence and first aid equipment	May-June 2024	USD 1,800
8	Keep reliable means of communications with the active team for quick updates and actions.	July 2024-June 2025	0
9	Monitor and assess performance of Patrol Teams and Management Committees on a monthly basis.	July 2024-June 2025	USD 1,404

* Indicated amounts exclude staff and office costs.

** Costs for protective supplies against Covid-19 (i.e. masks, hand sanitizer) are included in meeting/consultation/training costs

14. **Monitoring and evaluation:**

Effectiveness of Mitigation measures will be monitored a number of ways, including:

- Monthly visit to villages to monitor FCZ Patrol performance and exchange of community members on FCZ patrol performance
- Review SMART reports
- Review complaints reported through the GRM
- Identify gaps and identify opportunities for improvement either in terms of FCZ capacity and compliance; equipment or community reach-out.

15. **Disclosure:**

Health and safety measures will be communicated to community members through a number of channels and using different information tools:

- Covid-19 measures will be communicated verbally to the audience at the start of each event.
- Print and digital information materials (flyers and posters) on WWF-Laos' and WWF-Thailand's Grievance Redressal Mechanisms (see section on GRM for more details) will be prepared and disseminated during in-person information sessions conducted at the start of the project (covered by WWF's internal source) and through social media platforms (WA, Instagram, FB) with the support of Community Liaison Focal Point. Information materials will also be placed in strategic locations such as community centres and schools. Content of materials will be sufficiently accessible for audiences with different literacy backgrounds. Community members will be informed of their right to raise complaints, how to do it and the process in place to address each complaint.
- Community members will be regularly reminded of their right to raise a complaint during subsequent project events -e.g. information session on newly set-up FCZs - and site visits by project team members to monitor FCZ Patrolling.
- Reference to the WWF GRM will also be included in the Declaration signed by each FCZ Patrollers as well as in the FCZ Enforcement SOPs.