

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Wildlife Conservation Society
Project Title:	Developing Biodiversity Guidelines for Rice Cultivation in the Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone Priority Corridor, Cambodia
Grant Number:	65893
CEPF Region:	Indo-Burma II
Strategic Direction:	6 Engage key actors in mainstreaming biodiversity, communities and livelihoods into development planning in the priority corridors
Grant Amount:	\$189,772.00
Project Dates:	April 01, 2016 - September 30, 2018
Date of Report:	November 29, 2018

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) – provided training to farmers, coordinated rice purchase and transport.
Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT) – provided training to farmers
Battambang Rice Company (BRICo) Ltd – purchased, milled and exported the SRP rice
Mars Foods – provided training on data collection, purchased the SRP rice from BRICo
Sustainable Rice Platform Secretariat – coordinated development of version 2 of the SRP Standards and Indicators
Ministry of Environment – provided biodiversity and Bengal Florican specific input to the project
Village Marketing Networks - village based insititions that implemented SRP
Aaranyak – hosted the visit to Koklabari Seed Farm (India), shared lessons learned (both ways) in farming in a way that is beneficial to biodiversity.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The project developed a success SRP pilot that focused on better understanding how the SRP can benefit biodiversity. This had impacts a multiple levels. In Cambodia, it is the biggest SRP pilot (number of farmers, area under cultivation). It has begun to pilot measures that reduce input

costs for farmers and benefit biodiversity (e.g. pest management through land levelling and better water management rather than use of chemicals), and it has enabled experiments to be started with legumes as cover crops to create habitat for Bengal Floricans. It has enabled WCS to gain legitimacy as the leading conservation NGO within the SRP family, which has meant that we can push a biodiversity agenda within the SRP, and we have been able to use our expertise and lessons learned from the pilot and field trip to India to improve the SRP Standards and Indicators. As a direct result of the project, WCS will be organizing the SRP Plenary in 2019, which will be in Cambodia, participants will take field visits to the WCS field site and see Bengal Floricans as part of the three day meeting.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Large-scale rice cultivation throughout the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone, and elsewhere in the Indo-Burma Hotspot adopts the SRP's Sustainability Standards and Indicators, which incorporate biodiversity values and consequently lead to increases in populations of threatened species.	Based on the results of the pilot, discussions are ongoing with MAFF and ADB to incorporate SRP Standards into a. Cambodian rice policy, and b. all ADB-funded rice irrigation projects in the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
SRP's globally adopted Sustainability Standards and Indicators incorporate biodiversity values.	Version 2 of the SRP Sustainability Standards fully incorporate biodiversity values. These Standards will be released in January 2019. Version 2 of the SRP Indicators are under development with assistance from WCS.
Within the project area, at least 400 farmers produce rice over at least 1000 ha following SRP's Sustainability Standards and Indicators which incorporate	By the end of the project the total number of farmers growing and selling SRP rice was only 200, however these included some farmers with a lot of land, so the total amount of SRP rice produced was 1,500 tons, grown on more than 1,000 ha of land.

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

The project has needed to work with a diverse range of partners, including local communities, private sector and government in order to have success. This required a lot of coordination, which was a major challenge. Because of this, WCS worked with local NGO SMP who have much experience in Cambodia's rice sector through the Ibis Rice product. This was crucial to the success of the project. We have continued to build linkages, and this is gradually leading to wider interest in mainstreaming SRP in Cambodia.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

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The project has led to a number of potential future partnerships with rice companies in Cambodia. These would enable to WCS to expand the biodiversity-focused SRP work to a larger area of the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone. In addition, WCS will host the 2019 SRP Plenary in Siem Reap.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Evaluate global best practice and develop draft Biodiversity Standards and Indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation	1.1	Document evaluating conservation of threatened species in farmland landscapes	Two documents have been produced evaluating different aspects of conservation of threatened species in farmland landscapes. One focuses on opportunities for Bengal Florican conservation in Cambodia, whilst the other focuses on the situation in Koklabari Seed Farm in India. A final document that draws these two together is under production.
1	Evaluate global best practice and develop draft Biodiversity Standards and Indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation	1.2	Guidelines for farming rice in a way that is beneficial to Bengal Florican	Guidelines have been produced for experimenting with different legumes as cover crops to benefit Bengal Florican.
1	Evaluate global best practice and develop draft Biodiversity Standards and Indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation	1.3	Biodiversity Standards and Indicators (draft format) for irrigated dry-season rice-farming system	SRP Standards and Indicators for biodiversity have been improved as a result of the project.
2	Conduct field trials and refine draft Biodiversity Standards and Indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation	2.1	At least three village level institutions established	Twelve village level institutions were created to promote and coordinate SRP interventions at the village level.
2	Conduct field trials and refine draft Biodiversity Standards and	2.2	At least 200 participating farmers (first year) and 400	The number of farmers totaled only 200 by the end of the project, but these included farmers with large areas of land. So the total area of land under SRP production was more than 1,000 ha. (Exact data are not available at the

	Indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation		participating farmers (second year) trained in cultivating rice according to draft SRP Biodiversity Standards and Indicators	time of reporting because rice purchase is in process).
2	Conduct field trials and refine draft Biodiversity Standards and Indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation	2.3	A fully-functioning compliance monitoring and impact assessment team is established and trained	The compliance monitoring and impact assessment team has been trained and established. They use tablets to collect and aggregate data so that it can easily be shared with the rice buyer in Holland.
2	Conduct field trials and refine draft Biodiversity Standards and Indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation	2.4	Compliance with the SRP Biodiversity Standards and Indicators and impacts on biodiversity, yield and livelihood (including availability of fish) are monitored annually, and results documented in internal reports and at least one peer-reviewed paper	Compliance data are collected and shared within WCS, with local partner SMP, with the rice buyer Mars Foods, and with the SRP Secretariat. A peer-reviewed paper is in preparation.
3	Ensure biodiversity values are an integral part of sustainability	3.1	A final set of SRP Biodiversity Standards and Indicators for	Using the results of the Cambodia pilot, WCS helped the SRP Secretariat to improve the biodiversity sections of the SRP Standards and Indicators.

	standards and indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation		irrigated dry-season rice-farming, informed by international best practice and field trials	
3	Ensure biodiversity values are an integral part of sustainability standards and indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation	3.2	Private sector, government partners and SRP secretariat provide input into SRP Biodiversity Standards and Indicators	Biodiversity sections of the SRP Standards and Indicators, developed by WCS, were commented on by private sector, government and the SRP Secretariat.
3	Ensure biodiversity values are an integral part of sustainability standards and indicators for irrigated dry-season rice cultivation	3.3	SRP adopt the Biodiversity Standards and Indicators developed under the project	Version 2 of the SRP Standards will be released in January 2019, and version 2 of the SRP Indicators will be released later in 2019.
4	Project is compliant with the CEPF Social Safeguard Policies	4.1	Semi-annual safeguard monitoring reports submitted to CEPF, including summary of any grievances raised and remedial actions taken (if required)	Safeguard reports were submitted to CEPF as scheduled. No grievances were raised.

Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.



The project developed a set of recommendations for improving rice cultivation for Bengal Florican at Koklabari Seed Farm (India), opportunities for improving cultivation of rice for Bengal Floricans in Cambodia, and based on these we produced an evaluation of cover crops to achieve some of those aims. Some of these cover crops are being trialed in 2018-19. The improved biodiversity aspects of the SRP Standards version 2 will create a more conducive operating environment for working with farmers to promote SRP more widely in the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone.

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:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

The project was designed rapidly and started quickly. In hindsight, some of the measures of success (e.g. numbers of farmers) were over-estimated. Nonetheless, this rapid start-up enabled us to fit three harvests in to the project period, and was essential for establishing WCS as the leading SRP implementers in Cambodia.

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

Through the project we have built a team of five SRP staff who are well equipped to continue expanding the reach of SRP within the Tonle Sap Inundation Zone now that the project has ended. We have built linkages with a number of key actors in the rice sector in Cambodia, including major companies and the ADB (who fund expansion of irrigation infrastructure) who are interesting in partnering with us to increase SRP rice production in Cambodia.

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

In correspondence with CEPF it was decided that the above project might possibly trigger the CEPF safeguard policy and consequently it was recommended that a grievance mechanism be developed, put in place and monitored.

CEPF funded project activities include promoting biodiversity-friendly agricultural techniques, which local people are free to disregard at any stage, and providing technical support to farmers in the application of those techniques. Taking part in the project is entirely voluntary. Those farmers who choose not to take part in the project, or those who choose to leave the project (which they are free to do at any time) and use their normal agricultural techniques are not penalised. Rather, the farmers who do not take part in the project simply continue as normal, growing their rice in their normal way and selling their rice to the normal middleman.

The project team developed a grievance mechanism, a poster in Khmer language, and distributed it to all of the participating villages. Khmer is the first (and only) language of all the people in the project area, but some of them are unable to read, so the document was read out at village meetings in all target villages. Question and answer sessions allowed community members the opportunity to fully understand the mechanism and how it can be used. The document was distributed to all families involved in the project, and farmers were encouraged to display in their homes.

No grievances were received, so no further action was taken.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

We are grateful to CEPF for the timely granting of support for this project, without which it would not have succeeded. We aim to continue keeping CEPF updated on the progress of SRP expansion in Cambodia. It would be useful if there was some way (perhaps through the grantee portal) of providing ad-hoc reports on status of CEPF projects after the CEPF funding has ended.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$4,150,000.00

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this 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 funded project)*

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- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

Fundacion Ensemble: (A) \$120,000

Margaret A Cargill Philanthropies: (A) \$30,000

Agence française de développement (AFD): (regional grant - C) \$4,000,000

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, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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