

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	World Wide Fund for Nature
Project Title:	Mainstreaming Biodiversity Values into Land-Use Decision Making in Cambodia's Mekong Flooded Forest
Grant Number:	65941
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:	\$119,750.00
Project Dates:	March 01, 2016 - June 30, 2018
Date of Report:	September 15, 2018

Implementation Partners

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

The project was implemented closely with government and NGO partners to deliver its commitments. Those implementation partners including; 1) Forestry Administration (FA) is the government institution responsible for providing technical support, and take the lead role in legalization and registration of the community forestry, 2) Fisheries Administration (FiA) is the government institution responsible for community fisheries development to ensure long term conservation of the fisheries resources undertaken by local communities; 3) Forest and Livelihood Organization (FLO) is a local NGO implementing community forestry and livelihood development in the MFF landscape, it also played a key role to strengthen the capacity of community people to exercise their rights in natural resources management; and provided a lot of contributions in CF development; 4) Kratie NGO Network is a group of all NGOs working in the different sectors joint common mission to promote sustainable development and natural resources management in the Province; and local authorities including District Governor, Commune Councils and Village Chiefs are the key actors to provided strong support in CF and CFI registration processes, and encouraged local communities to participate in conservation activities.

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 was successfully implemented as per expected results. Totalling 2,696 ha of fisheries areas and 12,979 ha of forest areas are officially recognized by government from grass-root to national levels, which the local communities have secured tenures for long-term management of the fisheries and forestry resources. In addition, there are two critical protected areas with a total of 70,285 ha are being designated by the Ministry of Environment. These two areas are worth for connectivities of the landscape from terrestrial areas to the freshwater areas, and they also maintain critical ecosystem services in the MFF landscape which crucial important for local communities. Furthermore, resulted from community engagement and law enforcement efforts, the Mekong River Dolphin population increased from 80 individuals in 2015 to 92 individuals in 2017. This is the first ever increase since WWF-Cambodia started working to protect this species since 2005.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>The overarching goal to which this project will contribute is that effective conservation and sustainable land-use planning and management is ensured across the 27,000 km² wide Mekong Flooded Forest Landscape, enhancing the biodiversity and resilience of forest and freshwaters ecosystems, supporting local livelihoods and a sustainable national economy</p>	<p>This project has contributed to the long term management of the Mekong Flooded Forest landscape. Under financial assistance from other sources, WWF is working with the Government Departments to implement provincial spatial planning in order to develop clear provincial land use plan in the landscape. Key conservation habitats including the Mekong Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation and Management Area, Community Forestry and Fisheries Areas, Bird Nest Conservation Area, Hog Deer Conservation Area, Dolphin Conservation and Managerial Zones are cooperated into the lands use plan. In addition, these conservation and protected areas provide critical values to people living along the Mekong River and home for the species.</p>

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Conservation management of the Mekong Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation and Management Area improved through implementation of government approved management plan</p>	<p>The Management Plan of the Mekong Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation and Management Area is being reviewed by FiA. However, much efforts under the management plan have been made to protect the fisheries resources in the conservation area of the 56 km stretch of the Mekong River between Katie and Stung Treng. WWF Cambodia has been playing a key role to build synergies among NGO partners in the landscape to put joint efforts to protect the biodiversity in the Mekong Flooded Forest landscape. WWF is a lead organization to implement consortium program, called</p>

	<p>Partnership for Forestry and Fisheries funded by Swiss Agencies for Development and Cooperation (SDC), BMZ and WWF-Sweden funded projects supporting CFi, CF, community empowerment, community enterprises and policy enabling are being implemented in the landscape. These activities are under the management plan of the Mekong Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation and Management Area.</p>
<p>Key biodiversity resources in Mekong Flooded Forest secured through establishment of community managed protected areas (Bird Nest Protection Zone, Community Fisheries and Community Forestry)</p>	<p>The designations of the two Protected Areas (PAs) are being undertaken by Ministry of Environment. The proposed PAs are; a) Hog Deer conservation area, named “Prek Prasab Wildlife Sanctuary” with a total of 18,018 ha, and b) Bird Nest Conservation area, named “Sambour Wildlife Sanctuary” with a total of 52,267 ha, which consists of 4 CFs under whole area. The Provincial Governor of Kratie Province has approved the proposed PAs, and the MoE has been working to propose the sub-degree to the Government of Cambodia for legally registering the two PAs. Furthermore, the biodiversity resources of the PAs are stated in the report of Biodiversity Express Survey in Annex 1. 180 km stretch of the Mekong from Kratie Town to Stung Treng and Cambodian-Lao border, patrolling teams of the CFis in their respective areas and River Guards conducted rigorous patrolling to remove gill nets and other illegal fishing activities from the conservation areas. Resulted these executions, and according to the report on “Population Monitoring of the Critically Endangered Mekong River Dolphin based on Mark-Re-sight Models” the first ever increase of the Mekong River Dolphin population during the last two years from 80 individuals in 2015 to 92 individuals in 2017.</p>
<p>Key stakeholders from communities, the private sector, and government collaborate in making wise land-use change investment decisions in the landscape based on natural capital and ecosystem services valuation.</p>	<p>WWF-Cambodia has been playing an important role to build collective action among stakeholders including communities, local authorities, NGOs and multi-sectorial government departments were gathered at sub-national level to wisely discuss about ecosystem services, critical habitats, conservation and development activities in MFF landscape. Several trainings were undertaken to build the capacity of these actors in order to gain their better engagement in sustainable conservation and development. The Causal Loop Diagram (CLD) was also used to analyze causes and benefits of any development and conservation activities, and resulted from these activities, and these stakeholders engaged in the conferring. Resulted from the CLD implementation, the report card of the MFF landscape has been initiated which expected to be done</p>


	by mid 2019 under funding from other sources. The report card will demonstrate how the landscape looks like, and recommendations to improve landscape management will be also addressed for decision maker and practitioners.
Local communities are empowered and granted full legal access to the sustainable use of their natural resources	CF Management Committees of the target CFs and CFis have shown strong commitment to protect forest and fisheries resources in their communities. They have conducted rigorous patrolling in their CF and CFi areas even with limited support of fuel from WWF, and mostly they have used their collected fees of their membership to purchase fuel for patrolling. After CFs and CFis are officially registered, they realized that under the Fisheries and Forest Laws, they have full rights to sustain the management and use their forest and fisheries biodiversity resources. The CFi and CFi Management Committees have exercised their rights to advocate for conserving the their local biodiversity resources, which they have reported directly to senior government officials of illegal logging, fishing and land encroachment to seek for interventions, and brought their communities' issues to the relevant government agencies and NGOs working int the landscape. Moreover, the women have also actively participated in conservation activities such as they become the members and chiefs of the CF and CFi Management Committees, and they also joint patrolling activities to stop illegal fishing and logging activities from their CF and CFi areas.

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

There is a significant concern, especially local communities, development partners and practitioners regarding the proposed Sambor and Stung Treng Hydropower Dams which either or both would result in irreversible social, economic and environmental consequences. Such dams, with certainty, would put the Mekong River and millions of people at the highest risk while also lead to the loss of the Mekong River Dolphin population. WWF-Cambodia, with strong support from WWF Networks including WWF Regional and WWF International has recently taken a significant step forward to ensure free flow Mekong River in Cambodia.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Development of the Hog Deer Conservation Area, called Prek Prasab Wildlife Sanctuary with a total of 18,018 ha is not communitted under this project, but resulted from the CFPF funded project implementation, while developing Bird Nest Conservation, then the project team and MoE have come



up with this initiative to develop Hog Deer Conservation Area. A population of Hog Deer *Axis porcinus annamiticus* was re-discovered by WWF on the west bank of the Mekong River about 8km north of Kratie town in 2006. Preliminary surveys estimated that 50-80 individuals inhabited in this potential area.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Government, civil society, and the private sector are supportive in the implementation of responsible ecosystem service-based land-use planning and management	1.1	Ecosystem services mapped across the landscape. Final output will be INVEST maps of ecosystem services of the landscape under different scenarios (business-as-usual, Green Economy, Conservation Best Practice)	The Linked Indicator for Vital Ecosystem Services (LIVES) is the new initiative introduced in the Mekong Flooded Forest (MFF) Landscape. It is a mixed-methods approach to identify linked and actionable indicators for the water-food-energy nexus that could support decision makers on planning for sustainable development in the river basins of the MFF landscape. Multi-stakeholders including Government Bodies of national and sub-national level, Community Based-Organization (CBO), Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and private sectors were engaged in the process. LIVES accomplished such outcomes; 1) Successful capacity development of the multi-stakeholders on vital ecosystem services, concept of green economy through dynamic discussed regarding conservation and development, Causal Loop Diagram (CLD) a tool for analysis of causes and benefits of development issues. 2) LIVES brought multi-stakeholders to a platform where they could share their voices and interactively discussed about development issues in the MFF landscape, 3) The completion of the MFF synthesis report and draft report MFF Report Card, 4) Demonstrated usefulness of the model in analysing the implications of the Royal Government of Cambodia, namely the "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
1	Government, civil society, and the private sector are supportive in the implementation of responsible ecosystem service-based land-use planning and management	1.2	Private sector companies operating agroindustrial plantations and ELCs in the landscape mapped. Recommendations for biodiversity conservation and offset activities	Hot Spot Map indicating the critical habitats, conservation areas and Economic Land Concession was developed. In addition, resulted from the recent government reforming in natural resources management, the government of Cambodia endorsed the proclamation to convert the 18 Economic Land Concessions (ELC) in Kratie to reforestation areas under the control of FA.

			produced for three companies and actively promoted through presentations at key companies	
1	Government, civil society, and the private sector are supportive in the implementation of responsible ecosystem service-based land-use planning and management	1.3	Management plan for Mekong Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation and Management Area in the “Central Section” produced and endorsed by government	A final draft of the management plan for the Mekong Fisheries Biodiversity Conservation and Management is being reviewed by FiA of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) for approval by General Director of FiA.
2	Support government zonation of landscape integrating biodiversity values through establishment of Bird Nest Protection Area, CF and CFi	2.1	Legal recognition, through Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) proclamation (Prakas), of community managed Bird Nest Protection Area	The government of Cambodia approved the corridors extended areas for connecting of Mekong Flooded Forest Landscape (MFF) and Eastern Plain Landscape (EPL) and Prey Lang which also covering of hog-deer and bird nest conservation areas in MFF Landscape. The corridors extent to the high value biodiversity and connect both priority landscapes of WWF-Cambodia. This is an extreme outcome leads to future success of hog-deer and bird nest conservation in MFF landscape. Moreover, the designations of the two Protected Areas are being undertaken by Ministry of Environment. Data collection, community assessment, area verification, drafted map and consultation meetings were accomplished while the new proposed areas agreed to by provincial stakeholders are; a) Hog Deer conservation area, named “Prek Prasab Wildlife Sanctuary” with a total of 18,018 ha, and b) Bird Nest Conservation area, named “Sambour Wildlife Sanctuary” with a total of 52,267 ha. The revised maps with new proposed areas have been submitted to the Provincial Governor of Kratie Province. The PAs are expected to get the sub-degrees from the government to officially designate the 2 PAs before end of 2018.

2	Support government zonation of landscape integrating biodiversity values through establishment of Bird Nest Protection Area, CF and CFi	2.2	Legal establishment of 6 Community Fishery and 4 Community Forestry with community management committees	6 Community Fisheries and 2 Community Forestry had been reached their expected results which already registered with their management plans, while 2 CFs are under way of their management plan development. The plans are expected to finalize and approve within the extension period, but it was not possible because it was immediate to the national election on 29 July 2018, which the government officials were busy with election campaign. However, the WWF-KH will use fund from other sources to accomplish the remaining activities after the CEPF funded project ended.
2	Support government zonation of landscape integrating biodiversity values through establishment of Bird Nest Protection Area, CF and CFi	2.3	Social compliance assessment with CEPF Social Safeguard Policies monitored and reported, and submitted to CEPF every six-months	<p>While everyone, especially local communities, development practitioners and partners having serious concerns of the proposed Sambor and Stung Treng dams which either or both dams will result in irreversible social, economic and environmental consequences, and will put the Mekong River and millions of people at the highest risk, WWF-Cambodia with strong supports from WWF Networks including WWF Regional and International has recently extended its further step by putting more efforts on hydropower dams advocacy to ensure free flow Mekong River in Cambodia. A proposal on stopping proposed hydro-power dams in the main stream of the Mekong River in Cambodia was developed, and being communicated for fund raising.</p> <p>Ministry of Rural Development have recognized and approved the Indigenous People (IP) identities (Kouy ethnic) of 3 the IP Communities in the project target areas. This activity is being implemented under the financial support from other sources. See Annex 3 of updated social safe guard report.</p>

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

N/A

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

1) To influence relevant provincial government departments and authorities to improve and strengthen fishery law enforcement is quite challenges because of political pressures especially before and immediate to commune and national election in Cambodia, and some key government officials at sub-national level do not have strong commitment. To cope these challenges, the project worked mostly with media including social media to share publicly on conservation efforts and challenges, and radio talk show which communities can call in and share their issues and inputs on fishery management and law enforcement. The radio talk show provides opportunities to local communities and relevant provincial government officials particularly FiA Cantonment to talk to each other in the program about fisheries and law enforcement. This initiative showed more progresses in improving fishery law enforcement.

2) Engagement of senior governmental officials, especially those who are the most influential and approachable to conservation efforts at the landscape level is the most important strategy to drive conservation efforts to produce conservation impacts. The involvement of the Provincial Governors has produced strong commitments from relevant provincial departments and as well as local authorities. MFF landscape of WWF-Cambodia has achieved significant outcomes in the last few years because there has been a strong support from the Provincial Governors to participate in conservation activities of MFF program.

3) Since the project has put more efforts on law enforcement, the recent outcomes were produced including the decrease of dolphin mortalities, increase the dolphin calves, and the increase of the population from 80 in 2015 to 92 individuals in 2017. Therefore, to continue restoring the remaining population of the critically endanger species, the law enforcement is the crucial intervention that will require continued funding support.

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.

This section already mentioned in "Summary Questions"

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

The safeguard report is submitted separately.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

This project was mainly focusing on habitate conservation. Due to poor governance in natural resource management undertaken by the government officials, and as per current context of Cambodia, CEPF should focus both habitate and species conservation, otherwise the population of the priority species such as birds and the Mekong dolphins can not be restored. In this regard, the conservation practitioners have to put more efforts to protect both habitate and species which law enforcement, biological research and community engagement activities need to be implemented.

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\$)

\$115,000.00

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

The amount shows above is the funding secured to keep continuing the support of the CFs and CFis. WWF-Cambodia has recieved financial support from DGD program, the Government of Belgium to support communtiy engagement, community forestry, hog deer and priority birds conservation untill 2021, while 4 CFs under CEPF funded project will be continued to support by this project. WWF-Cambodia also has funding secured from Swiss Agencies for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to continue support the 6 CFis under CEPF funded project. These CFis need additional support to strengthen the communities for long-term management of the fishery resources in their communities.



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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