

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Westfälischer Zoologischer Garten Münster GmbH
<b>Project Title:</b>	Distribution, population and habitat extent of Bengal Florican in Cambodia: a reassessment after 7 years
<b>Date of Report:</b>	30/01/13 (original), revised 14/06/13
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## CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

### Strategic Direction:

1 - *'Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats'* (especially 1.1 *'Identify and secure core populations of 67 globally threatened species from overexploitation and illegal trade'*).

**Grant Amount:** \$19,958

**Project Dates:** December 2011 – December 2012

### Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program (WCS): Logistical support, fieldwork participation, equipment loan

Forestry Administration of Cambodia (FA): Logistical support, fieldwork assistance

University of East Anglia, UK (UEA): Technical support, survey design & methodology, data analysis

## Conservation Impacts

***Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.***

Our project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile by helping to address strategic direction 1. *'Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats'* (especially 1.1 *'Identify and secure core populations of 67 globally threatened species from overexploitation and illegal trade'*).

Cambodia is believed to hold approximately two thirds of the global population of Bengal Floricans. However, despite the considerable importance of the Cambodian Florican population, and the rapid decline being experienced by this Critically Endangered species, no assessment of the population size had been made since the first survey, which was conducted in 2005. Since 2005, there has been considerable loss of key Florican grasslands, due to conversion to intensive dry season rice cultivation, and a re-assessment of the population status, 7 years on, was urgently needed. This project has successfully identified the current core populations of Floricans during the dry (breeding) season in the Tonle Sap floodplain and produced an up-to-date population estimate for Cambodia. We now have current and comprehensive information on the Florican's distribution and numbers at each site, which is crucial for enabling sites to be prioritised and effective conservation measures to be implemented.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.***

*Objective 1: Cambodia-wide census of Bengal florican in 2012*

- a) *Determine the current distribution of florican in Cambodia by assessing which grassland sites are still occupied*

All of the 19 grassland sites included in the original 2005 census, along with one additional site (Ang Trapeang Thmor) were surveyed to determine the current distribution of Floricans. A total of 290 1x1km squares were surveyed twice during the breeding season by the team. Displaying males were recorded (females are too inconspicuous during the breeding season and cannot be reliably surveyed). Site-specific population estimates were made by multiplying the mean density of displaying males for each site by the site area.

The survey revealed that 80% of Cambodia's Floricans are found in the south-eastern section of the floodplain (predominantly Kompong Thom province). Kouk Preah Beung Trea (estimated 54 displaying males), San Kor (53) and Stoung-Chikreng (43) are the sites which now hold by far the largest numbers of displaying males. Outside of the south-eastern region of the Tonle Sap, small numbers of displaying males remain at only 4 sites: Preah Net Preah (11) and Pouk Lvea (5) (to the north) and Sangkai Kompong Pring (12) and Bakan (14) to the west. Bakan was the only site at which Floricans were found in 2012 but not recorded in 2005. Floricans were found to no longer occur at 3 sites where they were found in 2005 (Mongkol Borei, Krous Kraom and Chong Dong).

- b) *Obtain an up-to-date estimate of the number of floricans remaining in Cambodia*

A total population estimate (doubling the number of males to account for females) for Cambodia for 2012 was calculated as 432 (312-550). A comparison with the grassland sites surveyed in 2005 (and excluding the additional site for 2012) revealed a total population decline of 44% in 7 years.

*Objective 2: Cambodia-wide assessment of remaining florican habitat in 2012*

- a) *Assess grassland loss since 2005*

Extensive ground truth data was collected from the Tonle Sap floodplain (and surrounding area) during the Florican survey. Habitat loss was extensive and widespread, with a number of sites identified in 2005 as blocks of >10km<sup>2</sup> grassland containing little or no grassland when visited in 2012.

- b) *Identify any remaining grassland sites outside of the protected areas in Kompong Thom that should be prioritised for conservation action*

Whilst 80% of the Florican population is found in the south-eastern section (predominantly Kompong Thom), the importance of the four small populations we identified to the north and west should not be overlooked, as their spatial separation means they represent 'insurance' populations and may also contain important genetic variation.

We now have population estimates for each grassland (or formerly grassland) site and have revealed a dramatic decline in Florican numbers and a rapid reduction in habitat extent. The results from this project were presented at a Bengal Florican Conservation Workshop in Phnom Penh in November 2012, where all stakeholders participated in the development of a Species Action Plan for Bengal Floricans in Cambodia. In addition, the results from this work have been drafted in a manuscript which has been submitted for publication in a scientific journal. As such,

this work has been crucial in revealing, quantifying and publicising the rapid, recent decline of this critically endangered species, and in initiating additional conservation measures to prevent the disappearance of this species from Cambodia.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:**

**Hectares Protected:** n/a  
**Species Conserved:** Bengal Florican  
**Corridors Created:** n/a

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

The project has successfully achieved its short-term impact objectives (current distribution of Bengal Floricans, population size and trends at individual grassland sites are now understood) and is progressing with the longer-term objectives (facilitating conservation measures through the Bengal Florican Species Action Plan).

**Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

### 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 projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.**

**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)**

**Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:**

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING

**Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
BirdLife International	A	\$1500	For equipment purchase

**\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

**A** Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF 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 project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

### **Sustainability/Replicability**

***Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.***

Sustainability will be ensured through the Bengal Flirican Species Action Plan. WCS plan to regularly repeat the survey for Kompong Thom province, where 80% of the population resides.

***Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.***

### **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

***Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project. n/a***

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

**CEPF Global Targets**

**(Enter Grant Term)**

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from December 2011 to December 2012. (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.		Yes – 173km <sup>2</sup>		To be implemented in 2014
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?				Long-term aim - incorporated into the Species Action Plan
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.		Yes – 173km <sup>2</sup>		Improved and additional conservation measures implemented
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.		Yes (area to be determined)		Long-term aim - incorporated into the Species Action Plan
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	n/a			

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.**



## **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

## **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](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

### **Please include your full contact details below:**

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