

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Action for Development
Project Title:	Integrating Bengal Florican Conservation in Community Forest Management
Date of Report:	27 November 2013
Report Author and Contact Information	Mr. Rith Bun Roeun

CEPF Region: Indochina

Strategic Direction: # 3 Engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives with a particular emphasis on the Northern Limestone Highlands and Mekong River and its major tributaries.

Grant Amount: \$19,995

Project Dates: 1st March – 31 October 2013

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

Wildlife Conservation Society: WCS contributed to the project with technical support. AFD and WCS worked together to facilitate meetings, completing documentation, preparation of design of materials for communication, assistance to train the community forestry management committee (CFMC) patrol and data collection.

Kampong Thom Forestry Administration Cantonment and Kampong Thom Environment Department: The Sangkat FA provided technical support at the 5 community forestry (CF) sites involved in this project, attending meetings as one of the key stakeholders

Commune Council: The respective commune councils and village chiefs supported the activities of the project, including: preparation for the project, awareness raising to villagers and inviting villagers to attend the meetings.

Community forestry management committees: Integral to the project's success and participated in the training and skills development activities, represented their CF at CC meetings, and sought to resolve issues of illegal activities and contribute to planning and management decisions of the CF.

Local citizens: Participated through meetings and workshops on biodiversity conservation.

Conservation Impacts

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

- The project has engaged with communities within areas surrounding the Tonle Sap (lower Mekong tributaries) and has delivered on actions to inform the community and agencies of the importance of the Bengal Florican and conservation of its non-breeding habitat, through provision of information, education and training and focused skills development for the Community Forestry Management Committee members.
- The project has facilitated improved engagement with decision making agencies and community based organisations to integrate protection of the Bengal Florican and biodiversity conservation objectives into the Community Forestry Management Plans.

- The communities within the target villages are better informed on the laws relating to hunting of wildlife, particularly the Bengal Florican and concepts of biodiversity conservation.
- The community forestry members have improved skills to operate the committee, including facilitating meetings, minute taking and resolving issues regarding illegal activities.

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

- 5 community forestry committees within the area have improved skills for record keeping, preparation of documentation to record illegal activities, facilitation of meetings and the laws regarding the wildlife and land protections.
- Patrols during the project period discovered illegal activities, and actions were able to be followed in consultation with the respective commune council
- Bengal Florican areas were marked as protected areas within the CF's to reinforce the importance of the particular habitat where the Florican has been sighted by the community.
- The CFMC's engaged with their respective commune councils during the course of the project, which enabled them to present issues relating to illegal activities and importance of conservation for the villages
- CFMC's are now operational (previously were not) of Samaki and Au Plovelock, as elections were required to be conducted. Within the new CFMC's four females were elected representatives.
- Education material and introduction of the Florican and importance of the conservation has been provided to six primary schools in the area (2,000 books distributed).
- Information has been provided to villagers in the communities on the value of biodiversity conservation and the importance of the Bengal Florican

Detail activities and results for steps of the project, according to the contract requirements are shown in the following table.

Objective	Description	Results
Objective 1. Integrate conservation objectives into the Samaki, Au Chreangsor, Au Plovelock, Tropeang Lpeak and Thlock Popel Community Forestry Management Plan and strengthen community forestry management.		
1.1	Review the Samaki Community Forestry Committee groups	Deika (laws) of the 5 CF documents reviewed and operations of the committees. Actions identified for 2 CF for new elections for the management committee
1.2	Conduct meetings with local citizens and local authorities to disseminate the concepts of community forests and wildlife conservation	6 meetings conducted during 11-16 th June. 254 participants, including Forestry Administration, CC and Police. Samaki 47 (12 female); Au Chreangsor 45 (18); Au Plovelock 42 (15); Tropeang Lpeak 40 (15); Thlock Popel 41 (20)
1.3	Election of Community Forestry Management Committee	Two elections held in CF's of Samaki and Au Plovelock. 14 members elected (4 female); 41 (16 female) community members participated in Samaki and 67 (33 female) community members participated in Au Plovelock
1.4	Meeting to identify the boundary demarcation and planning	1 meeting held in each CF during 20-26 th August.

		A total of 139 (46 female) participants to discuss the demarcation within the forests for conservation areas
1.5	Patrolling the community forest	Support has been provided to the patrolling groups in each CF. For the 5 CF's there are 42 patrolling groups with a total of 419 participants (28 female). Each CF has patrolled 4 times a month (116 patrols in total during the project period) The patrol teams found 4 occurrences of illegal activities where they found the people, these were in Samaki (2) and Tropeang Lpeak (2). Illegal activities included logging by people from outside the village and trapping.
1.6	Monthly meetings between the CFMC and Commune Council	Each CFMC was represented by 2 members at each CC meeting during the project period. The meetings in Samaki, Nipich and Domrei Slap communes were held 8 times during the project. The CFMC consulted with the CC regarding the illegal activities and actions to take. One female member represented her CFMC at 4 of the CC meetings.
1.7	Monthly monitor on Implementation Process	AFD prepares a monthly internal report on progress and monitors the project progress in consultation with WCS.
<p>Objective 2. Strengthening and capacity building to CFMC for facilitating skills, minute taking and reporting skills. Giving training on forest conservation practices, wildlife conservation laws, investigation of illegal activities and procedure to follow in case of those activities in the community forest areas.</p>		
2.1	Conduct training on facilitation skills to CFMC members and patrollers	23 participants (4 female) received training on facilitating meetings to gain confidence and to be skilled in communicating issues with stakeholders. Held at Nipich commune, 24-25 th April
2.2	Conduct training on report writing skills and minute taking to CFMC members and patrollers	23 participants (4 female) received training on how to write reports and record minutes, a necessary skill to operate the CFMC's. Held at Nipich commune, 26-28 th April
2.3	Organise billboards of Bengal Florican Conservation	15 billboards were installed in consultation with the communities at prominent locations. 3 billboards were installed in each forestry area, located on roadside, in village and close to the forest. Wording on the signs varied, including (translation from khmer): <i>"Please participate to protect the Bengal Florican this is a rare species in the world"</i> and; <i>"Bengal Florican is the source of important income for local CF through tourism"</i>
2.4	Organise training courses about forestry and wildlife laws to CFMC members	19 participants (2 female) received training on forestry and wildlife laws conducted by AFD, FA and WCS. Held at Nipich commune, 18-19 th July
2.5	Training on investigation steps and resulting procedure to stop illegal	22 participants (3 female) received training on illegal activities, how to verify, evidence, types

	activities	of illegal activities, what to do in the case of previous illegal activities, how to prepare documentation and who to report to.
2.6	Bi-monthly meeting to discuss planning activities and reviews	4 meetings were held during the project with key stakeholders including all 5 CF's, Kampong Svay and Salavisie triages of FA, AFD and WCS. Items discussed include co-ordination of actions and activities for the project.
2.7	Produce exercise books related to the Bengal Florican conservation for school children	2,000 exercise books were produced with information on the Bengal Florican. The books were distributed to 7 primary schools in the area during September. Information was also presented to the children at the schools by AFD, WCS
2.8	Monitor all 5 community forestry sites	AFD and WCS monitored the project regularly during the implementation; including follow up with CF's to observe operation and patrolling actions.
2.9	Project Evaluation	External evaluation of the project was conducted at completion.
2.10	Conduct workshop at the closure of the project	The closure workshop was held on 30 th October in Nipich commune. Attending were 67 participants (20 female) and included all 5 CF's, village chiefs, commune council representatives, forestry administration, WCS and AFD.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved: Bengal Florican

Corridors Created:

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

Short term objectives:

Through the meetings and workshops, the communities were responsive and expressed their desire to protect the Bengal Florican and conservation of the forest for biodiversity. The communities also understand that as they are reliant on the forest for much of their livelihood, the health of the forest and wildlife is important.

The community forestry management committee and patrol team members benefitted from participating in the training to improve their skills and knowledge, and the members joined the commune council meetings to present the issues facing their forests and join discussion relating to resolution of issues.

Improved materials for communication at the meetings would have assisted in describing the Florican, such as larger drawings/banners. The sign boards prepared are located in prominent locations on the road ways and in villages, but during presentations this type of material would also have assisted in describing the bird.

Patrols were only able to be conducted once per week during the project period, and this often was not sufficient to be able to identify the illegal activities. Materials provided were only small in number compared to the requirement to equip all patrol members participating in the activities.

Long term objectives:

The impact of land certificates are an unknown future impact on the integrity of the community forests, also the ongoing actions of illegal logging and trapping continue to be risks to the forest and biodiversity. The identification of these activities by the community is vital, as is effective follow up actions of the commune councils and agencies.

The basic skills of many community members are limited, so investment in training is time consuming as many of the members lack confidence, so some remedial support is still required to support the communities to retain a functional and co-operative community forestry committee.

The increased awareness of the community on the conservation provides a strong basis for continuing to improve behaviors, actions and results within the forests.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

During the project period, the Bengal Florican was sighted at the following community forests between July and October:

- Samaki (5 sightings)
- Au Chreangsor (1 sighting)
- Au Plovelock (1 sighting)
- Tropeang Lpeak (2 sightings)

Illegal activities, including evidence of trapping (of primates), cutting of the forest trees and creating tracks was identified by the patrollers during the project period.

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.

- Sufficient support for ranger patrols is important to enable the patrollers to be dedicated to the care of the forest and to be able to identify illegal activities in a timely way. The communities consider that the patrolling of the forest is vital to its protection; however, it is difficult to have patrolling on a more regular basis (than once per week) as the members need to maintain an income and care for their families. This need to patrol would sometimes be a source of family conflict, so consideration of the number of patrols and support to families participating in patrols (either leveraging other livelihood support or supplementary funding) should be considered in any new project design.
- The involvement of the specialist from WCS was very important to be able to provide the technical information in co-ordination with AFD facilitators.
- Consider introducing concepts for long term alternative income for the community, such as exploration of eco-tourism opportunities (guided walks, Bengal Florican sightings etc) to create long term self-sufficient opportunities to supplement the community income. Consultation with the tourism department in Kampong Thom might assist in developing opportunities if designing future project extension and involvement.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- The implementation of the project engaged the community and particularly the community forestry management committees in the much needed areas of skills development and knowledge of the various laws and rights. The focus of the training and activities also provided the broader community with knowledge on biodiversity conservation and the importance of the Bengal Florican.
- Some members of the committee at the end of the project were not fully skilled in the area of facilitating meetings and documentation. This relates to confidence in being able to fulfill these duties and the education levels of the committee members, which is often of a relatively low level. This is a difficult issue to address, to be inclusive of a range of committee members, but also to be able to achieve satisfactory participation and documentation for the functioning of the committees.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- The project was designed to have flexibility and cater for the training requirements of the members and patrollers. This enabled targeted training where required to improve the member knowledge.
- The ability of the patrollers to conduct more patrols was a limiting factor, as some illegal activities were discovered too late, the damage having been done and the perpetrators already left the site. The amount of resources for the patrollers was also inadequate for the number of members participating in the activities, the lack of shoes, hammocks, lights and raincoats reduced the ability of some members to participate.
- Additional materials for presentations and meetings have also been identified as a potential area for improvement when providing information to the community members.
- The marking of the boundary for the Bengal Florican was conducted during the wet season, which caused difficulties in accessing areas due to the amount of water in the forest. The marking was still achieved; it did however make the task more difficult for the members of the committee.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- The participating CF's identified surrounding CF's that may also benefit from participating in the program, in the knowledge and skills development and support for patrolling of the forests.

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
Oxfam GB	Indirect		Oxfam GB has supported with the CF establishing process through the guideline of forestry law.
RECOFTC	Indirect		RECOFTC has supported with community forestry management plan.

****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.

- AFD team and WCS specialist have worked closely with the members of the committee and patrolling groups to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to better manage their forest. This has provided the members with important skills, especially in the area of the actions to take with illegal activities.
- The communities have gained important knowledge on the importance of the non-breeding habitat areas that their forest areas provide to the sustainability of the Bengal Florican population.
- The project to deliver training, skills development and support to the community forestry committee members has been provided in 5 forestry communities. These communities are close to each other, and can provide each other with support, and also support to surrounding forestry areas that did not participate in this project, but may also benefit from the skills developed by the members. The challenges are to provide a sustainable solution, and with low skills, this development of confidence to operate effectively is a challenge in remote/ rural communities.

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.

Hunting of wildlife and illegal logging is not allowed under Cambodian laws or the bylaws of the community forests. This project sets to reinforce existing laws and actions to protect biodiversity within the forests.

The community forestry management committees identified the areas of demarcation for the Bengal Florican within the forest area. The community was invited to participate through meetings and workshops to discuss the requirements to protect the Bengal Florican and the importance of this and other birdlife living in the forest.

Key stakeholders, including the communities living within the forest were identified as participants, as well as targeting surrounding schools to share the information. Engagement with agencies, and different levels of governance were involved to provide a wide understanding of the issues facing the communities in the forests.

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

1st March – 31st October 2013

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.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from March 1 to October 31st, 2013. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	yes	6,416 ha	12,833 ha	Samaki 3,518 ha Au Chreansor 1,702 ha Tropeang Lpeak 383.4 ha Au Plovelock 527.8 ha Thlock Popel 285 ha
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no			The areas marked for Bengal Florican protection are located within the existing community forestry areas.
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	6,416 ha	12,833 ha	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	no			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	yes			

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

Table 1: Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Small Landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous / ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:			Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure source of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decisionmaking due to strengthened civil society and governance	Other: Effective use of bylaws to regulate the use of the forest resources
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities									
Samaki	x	x								x									x	x
Au Chreangsor	x	x								x									x	
Au Plovelock	x	x								x									x	
Tropeang Lpeak	x	x								x									x	x
Thlock Popel	x	x								x									x	
Total	5	5								5									5	2

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

Skills of the patrolling groups and members of the committee are empowered to issue letters for warnings, prepare documentation and take actions against those that carry out illegal activities within the forests. This improves the operation of the groups with skills to better protect their forest from illegal activities.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

There are 8 steps to the CFMP and through the project with Oxfam, AFD has made the following progress with the target forestry communities: Samaki is at step 5; Au Plovelock step 5; Thlok Popel step 3; Trapeang Lpeak step 7; and Au Chrangsor step 3.

A longer term project enables support for the community to participate in decision making, attend commune meetings and resolve issues within their forest, and should be considered to enable the skills to be further developed and protection of the forests prioritized complimenting the progress of the step actions in the management plan.

Integration of a livelihood program to support to poor people or families that rely on illegal hunting to ensure they no longer have to partake in these activities would benefit the effectiveness of the program.

Investigation of sustainable forms of income, such as development of a tourism opportunity around the wetland birds could also be considered for the community.

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.

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