

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Wildlife Alliance, Inc.
<b>Project Title:</b>	Improving Wildlife Law Enforcement in Cambodia to Protect CEPF Priority Species From Overexploitation and Illegal Wildlife Trade
<b>Date of Report:</b>	December 23, 2011
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**CEPF Region:** Indo-Burma

**Strategic Direction:** 1 Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats.

**Grant Amount:** \$99,291.00

**Project Dates:** 1 November, 2009-31 October, 2011

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

Wildlife Alliance will work closely with Cambodian government agencies to implement, support, and monitor the Cambodia-ASEAN-WEN Coordination Unit and the formal integration of the WRRT as the national wildlife crime task force for ASEAN-WEN in Cambodia, with a stronger capacity for intensive investigations and processing of court cases for serious wildlife crimes. A Coordination Unit housed in the Forestry Administration will work directly with the WRRT and representatives from Customs and Excise, the Border Police and the prosecutor's office to provide greater reach and greater legal support. Under the guidance of the ASEAN-WEN Support Program, these additional institutions will coordinate with the Forestry Administration and the existing WRRT to focus on decreasing the illegal wildlife trade in Southeastern Cambodia. The establishment of an ASEAN-WEN Coordination Unit with an executive director, a data analysis officer and a coordinator would enable greater inter-agency cooperation in combating the illegal wildlife trade both inside Cambodia and across the borders into Vietnam, Thailand and Laos. Partial support for a data collection analysis officer would strengthen the Coordination Unit's data gathering and analysis capacity, and provide data to support the regional ASEAN-WEN PCU in Bangkok on the species, trade routes, and suspects identified in Cambodia's illegal wildlife trade.

The ASEAN-WEN infrastructure and Program Coordination Unit are supported by a USAID-funded Support Program. PeunPa Foundation and TRAFFIC-Southeast Asia have been the implementers since the start date in 2008 and they will work closely with Wildlife Alliance to link the Cambodia ASEAN-WEN task force and the WRRT with the regional information and enforcement network.

Wildlife Alliance will help develop a Cambodian conservation NGO support network to guide the national implementation of the Cambodian wildlife crime task force to gather intelligence in regards to specific species, trade routes and in-depth knowledge of their respective geographical areas. Potential NGOs include World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, TRAFFIC, Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International, BirdLife International, and People Resources and Conservation Foundation. Most of these active NGOs are international, rather than local, NGOs. As CEPF has noted in its ecosystem profile of Indo-Burma, international NGOs in Cambodia are generally "better resourced, with higher capacity and larger programs" than local groups. Meetings and discussions are underway with many of these groups already.

## Conservation Impacts

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

Among the most pressing threats to wildlife in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot are overexploitation and illegal trade, especially of CEPF priority species. In Cambodia, wildlife poaching and the illegal national and international wildlife trade are widely associated with the declines in many of the CEPF list of 67 globally threatened populations of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Specifically, reptiles (chelonians, snakes, crocodiles), mammals (largely primates), and many bird species are known to be poached, smuggled, and sold both inside Cambodia and through its borders to regional neighbor Vietnam and further afield to China. CEPF's Investment Strategy for the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot (July 2008) specifically identifies the need to improve "control of overexploitation" for 56 of the 67 listed threatened animal species.

To address the overexploitation and the illegal trade at different levels, Wildlife Alliance undertook the "Improving Wildlife Law Enforcement in Cambodia to Protect CEPF Priority Species From Overexploitation and Illegal Wildlife Trade" project to: institutionalize at the governmental level the fight against the illegal wildlife trade and involve relevant government agencies by implementing ASEAN-WEN in Cambodia; and to improve the law enforcement on the ground by building the capacity of the existing Wildlife Alliance-funded Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team, focusing their efforts on the trade leaving Cambodia and entering Vietnam and earning the WRRT recognition as the national level task force of Cambodian-WEN.

Thanks to CEPF's support for this project, these components have been carried out, the short term impacts realized and solid ground work laid for greater impact in the future. The work that has been carried out in this grant period contributes to CEPF's ecosystem profile by:

- **Making the illegal wildlife trade more difficult for offenders.** Increasing pressure on the sellers, distributors and hunters of wildlife makes the trade in wildlife more difficult at the level of procurement and consumption. Even busts resulting in minor fines and non reoffense contracts are problematic for the offender and function as a deterrent. This added difficulty coupled with increasing scarcity is reflected in increased prices for wildlife on the black market.
- **Building capacity to investigate, document and prosecute a wildlife trading ring.** On the job training for the members of Forestry Administration-Royal Gendarmerie of Cambodia-Wildlife Alliance's Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (WRRT) to conduct investigations was carried out by a Freeland Foundation Technical Advisor with the short term goal of capacity building and the long term aim of documenting and prosecuting a higher level middleman. An investigation and prosecution of a larger case would be a major coup for the team, and a victory against the wildlife trade for all ASEAN countries, making the region's threatened wildlife safer. This remains a long term goal.
- **Involving NGOs increases awareness of the issue and expands the opportunity for increased information exchange in different parts of the country.** Information and intelligence quickly shared with the crime fighting unit on the ground allows law enforcement operations to be carried out immediately, putting a stop to wildlife crime. Intelligence also serves to increase the WRRT's case file of information, strengthening long term investigations into criminal networks.

- **Building political will at the national level about the exploitation and illegal wildlife trade.** Working with government partners to develop a dedicated focal point (the Cambodian WEN Coordination Unit – CWCU) for the illegal wildlife trade raises the profile of the issue and puts a name and face on those who are working to counter it. High level support from the Director General of the Forestry Administration demonstrates the importance of this issue while encouraging the inclusion of other law enforcement agencies both expands the reach of law enforcement activities and the potential for information exchange. This institutionalization sets the stage for policy change and increased commitment, which can have effective long term results, with continued support and guidance, long after the project is completed.

This project addressed both the institutional support needed to focus government agencies on the wildlife trade to affect change in the long term, while also directing efforts and operations at the task force on the ground who is doing the work on the streets and borders of Cambodia combating the illegal wildlife trade in the short, medium and long term.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.***

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

1. Reduction in the illegal and unsustainable overexploitation of protected wildlife species in Cambodia, in the form of poaching and illegal wildlife trade to "safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats."
2. Reduced consumption of wildlife species known to be globally threatened in Cambodia and Vietnam (and throughout Southeast Asia) due to overexploitation and illegal wildlife trade
3. Eventual stabilization and increases in key wildlife species following reduced pressure on core populations of globally threatened species due to overexploitation and illegal wildlife trade

The specific investment priorities addressed are Investment Priority 1.1. "identify[ing] and secur[ing] core populations of 67 globally threatened species from overexploitation and illegal trade," and Investment Priority 1.2, "Implement[ing] public awareness campaigns that reinforce existing wildlife trade policies and contribute to the reduction of consumer demand for 67 globally threatened species and their products."

**Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

**Reduction in overexploitation of protected species:** Through the operation of the WRRT, the support of Wildlife Alliance staff and other programs, and greater recognition and activities at the national level and among different agencies, steps were made toward reducing the overexploitation of wildlife species in Cambodia by strengthening links at the governmental policy level (the formation of the CWCU) and the operational level (the WRRT recognized as the national level task force for Cambodian-WEN) and continued operations to address the illegal trade, inspect restaurants and markets and continue to build a network of informants.

**Reduced consumption of threatened wildlife species:** The focus on reducing consumption needs to be addressed on both the supply and demand sides. The WRRT continues to inspect markets and restaurants and conduct operations to address the supply side of the wildlife trade. Prices for wildlife

continue to rise, and this is an indicator for success regarding law enforcement efforts, however this is brought about also by scarcity of wildlife in the market (and in the forests) and ironically provides further impetus for those involved in the trade, as it is more profitable. On the demand side, further activities are planned in the new USAID project won by Freeland Foundation with Wildlife Alliance as a partner organization and carried out with the support of the Forestry Administration/CWCU and other USFWS grants through a PSA targeted toward youth that will be shown on tv and billboards/signs in Phnom Penh and on the border areas that carry the theme 'Wildlife Trafficking Stops here'.

**Eventual stabilization and increases in key wildlife species:** Again, as in countering the reduction of the illegal wildlife trade, through the operation of the WRRT, the support of Wildlife Alliance staff and other programs, and greater recognition at the national level and among different agencies, progress was made toward stabilization of threatened species.

While we are pleased with our progress, we recognize that these are just the first steps and that our efforts to protect wildlife from overexploitation and illegal trade must gain increased investment, publicity and partnership in order to succeed in the long term.

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

Short term impacts identified for this project are:

1. The implementation of the Association of South East Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) in Cambodia, involving relevant government agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders.
2. Improved capacity to enforce wildlife protection laws in Cambodia, both domestic legislation and policies, and international treaty obligations under CITES and detect, deter, and interdict wildlife trafficking networks in Cambodia and along its borders.
3. Decrease in illegal wildlife trafficking operating along National Road 1 between Cambodia and Vietnam.
4. Increased awareness and sharing of information on illegal wildlife hunting, trafficking, and consumption between NGOs and government agencies operating within Cambodia, and international agencies.

#### **Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

As of the end of this project, the Cambodian Wen Coordination Unit (CWCU) has been implemented in Cambodia via a *seika dei samrach* (resolution) on May 11, 2010 by the Director General of the Forestry Administration. Terms of Reference were written, four staff were assigned to the roles of Executive Director, Legal Director, Data Collection and Analysis Officer, and Coordinator and office materials and equipment were purchased. A work plan and a strategic plan were developed (attached) and financial support for operating costs was supplied through October 31, 2011. A launch workshop, entitled the Cambodian-WEN Interagency Workshop was held on August 13, 2010.

The WRRT received additional on the job training in investigation techniques, with the support of Freeland Foundation, for a total of 10.5 weeks. Additional information was collected regarding new border routes crossing between Cambodia and Vietnam, allowing the WRRT to gather intelligence and execute operations on new routes used by traders. Information regarding border crossings was also passed on to ENV.

A work plan was written for the WRRT to focus on trading hotspots throughout Cambodia, to increase the man hours and coverage and put pressure on poachers, traders and consumers. One of these hotspots is NR 1 and adjacent border crossings to Vietnam; at least one quarterly operation was planned to focus on these areas. Through the grant period, additional illicit routes running from Cambodia to Vietnam were recognized and patrolled, such as Koh Thom (running on road 21 from Phnom Penh to Vietnam), border crossings near Kampot and other border crossing adjacent to Kampong Cham, near Memot and Snoul.

With more focus brought to this geographic area, additional information aided ongoing inspections, raids and wildlife rescues. Our opinion is that trade along NR 1 did indeed decrease and was moved to other border areas, as indicated above, which the team then added to their roster of hotspots. However, due to the covert and underground nature of the illegal wildlife trade, it is impossible to make an exact determination on the extent of decrease. Additionally, Wildlife Alliance, with the input of the WRRT, submitted an update of the unofficial 'price list' of wildlife to the CWCU. This price list reflects the cost of wildlife on the black market and is used to determine fines for offenders during arrests. Last submitted in 2005, the list submitted in 2010 shows price increases of over 500% for some species. For example, the price of a Malayan Sun Bear in Siem Reap skyrocketed by 575% between 2005 and 2010. Likewise, the Sunda pangolin rose by nearly 300% between 2005 and 2010. Acceptance of this unofficial price list by the CWCU showed two things: the understanding of the price increase in wildlife by law enforcement officers and government officials and the trust placed in the WRRT by the CWCU, with the Executive Director of the CWCU acknowledging the WRRT as the experts on the ground who know the wildlife trade.

Under the guidance of Manny Medina, Freeland Foundation Law Enforcement Advisor, the team improved their skills in securing sites, interviewing witnesses, planning operations and debriefing after operations. Mr. Medina also aided Wildlife Alliance in forming a dedicated Management Team for the WRRT (Nick Marx and Lesley Perlman) and setting up performance evaluations and standards for each member of the WRRT. Most importantly, Mr. Medina, a retired USFWS special agent worked with the team and conducted operations with the team, showing them exactly what a professional does and how they do it in the pursuit of the illegal wildlife trade. Bringing these lessons to Cambodia gave WRRT members confidence and pride in their work as part of this unit. Mr. Medina also laid the groundwork for long term investigations by supporting long term informants and introducing the project manager to those concepts.

This project raised awareness on the illegal wildlife trade primarily through workshops and meetings. NGOs and members of the international community attended the launch workshop on August 13, 2010 hosted by the Forestry Administration and continued to remain in contact about progress, next steps and sharing of information. Participants from NGOs and donors at the Cambodian-WEN launch workshop included: USAID, BirdLife, Danida, IUCN, Freeland Foundation, WCS, WWF, FFI, and CI, among others. Wildlife Alliance, Freeland Foundation, WCS, WWF and FFI have been the most active in keeping in contact and sharing information about the wildlife trade. The increased partnership between NGOs resulting from this work is a strong sign that law enforcement and other efforts to halt the illegal wildlife trade will continue to improve both nationally within Cambodia and throughout the participating ASEAN countries.

Awareness was raised among government agencies at the launch workshop and two other meetings held in May 2011 and August 2011, detailed below.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:****Hectares Protected:** N/A**Species Conserved:**

Of the 67 priority species listed in CEPF's 2007 Ecosystem Profile, 11 species (144 individual animals) were rescued by WRRT during the project period from November 1, 2009 to October 31, 2011.

**The following priority species animals were rescued over the grant period:**

Asiatic Black Bear	6
Fishing Cat	2
Douc Langur (red or black shanked)	1
Asian Giant Tortoise	11
Asian Giant Softshell Turtle	19
Yellow headed Temple Turtle	79
Greater Adjutant	2
Lesser Adjutant	6
Green Peafowl	5
Sarus Crane	3
White winged duck	9

Additionally, 58 Asian Box Turtles from the genus *Cuora* were rescued, but the team was unable to identify the specific species (3 of 18 species are on the CEPF's priority species list) so this number is not included in the above table.

These 144 animals are just a tiny fraction (1.49%) of the 9,659 animals rescued during the grant period.

**Corridors Created:** N/A***Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.***

Regarding its short term impact objectives, the project met with success. The Director General of the FA approved the implementation of the CWCU, the CWCU was created, staff were assigned, work plans were generated, increased operations took place on a systematic basis targeting the border region, information was shared among Cambodian agencies and NGOs and a link was established between the CWCU and ASEAN-WEN in Bangkok.

Challenges were minor and readily addressed: delays in approval, terms of reference, changes in work plan due to new information received, etc. Partner NGOs commented that much more attention was needed to address the wildlife trade, and were interested in meeting and discussing the issue, but only a few had the capability and resources to contribute substantively to the endeavor, such as WCS with their offer to help set up the database for the CWCU and WWF with whom the WRRT conducted a joint operation in Sen Monorom to bust restaurants. Other NGOs were willing to share information related to their project areas (i.e. FFI passed on information throughout the project period regarding wildlife kept illegally).

Steps have been made towards all the longer term objectives. However, it should be noted that Wildlife Alliance's existing set of programs undertaken in partnership with the Forestry Administration, including wildlife rescue, care and release and forest protection, is an essential starting point from which to ramp up activities to continue to address the long term objectives. Without Wildlife Alliance's comprehensive set of conservation programs, the short term objectives could not have been met nor could the first steps toward the long term objectives have been taken.

### **Long Term Objectives**

1. Reduction in the illegal and unsustainable overexploitation of protected wildlife species in Cambodia, in the form of poaching and illegal wildlife trade to "safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats."
2. Reduced consumption of wildlife species known to be globally threatened in Cambodia and Vietnam (and throughout Southeast Asia) due to overexploitation and illegal wildlife trade
3. Eventual stabilization and increases in key wildlife species following reduced pressure on core populations of globally threatened species due to overexploitation and illegal wildlife trade

To realize our longer term impact objectives, additional investments of funding and staff time targeted at specific activities over a longer period are necessary, including CWCU operations and WRRT operations, informants and investigations. As the WRRT has become better trained and better known throughout the country, the criminal trader networks have become more aware and more sophisticated. We still receive reports of offenders running out of one side of a market while our team enters through another. The pressure put on offenders by the WRRT drives up the price of wildlife and makes wildlife meat less available: an important testament to our success cracking down on the illegal wildlife trade and raising awareness about the illegality of selling wildlife meat. But as we acknowledge the fruits of our hard work, we must also acknowledge that there is still a long way to go to break down the more sophisticated networks of criminals involved in the illegal wildlife trade.

We are grateful for CEPF's generous investment in our work to improve law enforcement that protects priority species and we will continue to seek the funding and partnerships needed to go the distance, making our long term objectives a reality. Ongoing technical support and funding will enable us to make substantive progress in addressing the illegal wildlife trade in this region over the long term, at both the operational level (NGOs and government) and the policy level (government partners). Deep attention must be paid going forward on making this a higher priority for our government partners—this is not an easy task in a developing country such as Cambodia, where many critical issues vie for priority with the illegal wildlife trade.

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

Positive and unexpected impacts came out of this project due to the closer working relationship between Wildlife Alliance and the Forestry Administration's Department of Legislation and Law Enforcement. Thanks to this relationship, we were able to facilitate closure on a number of outstanding cases involving the WRRT that had previously seemed hopelessly stalled. In one case in particular, the WRRT was trying to get a restaurant in Svay Rieng to surrender animals being kept in small cages on the premises. The WRRT wasn't able to go in and physically confiscate the animals because the restaurant was owned by a high ranking and powerful individual, nor would any other strategies work in this particular case.

Through diplomatic channels facilitated by the CWCU, the Forestry Administration was able to obtain the release of these animals.

## Project Components

**Project Components:** *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

### **Component 1 Planned:**

Establishment of an ASEAN-WEN Coordination Unit (CU) office housed within the Forestry Administration, with appropriate political support, infrastructure, and financial support for operations in Years 1-2.

### **Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

As of the end of this project, the Cambodian WEN Coordination Unit (CWCU) has been recognized in a *seika dei samrach* (resolution) by the Director General of the Forestry Administration, Terms of Reference have been written and four staff were assigned in the roles of Executive Director, Legal Director, Data Collection and Analysis Officer, and Coordinator.

The office has been set up with computers and office equipment and is housed in the Department of Legislation and Law Enforcement in the Cambodian Forestry Administration. The construction of the wildlife and offender database isn't completed but is in process. Wildlife Alliance is also redoing its own wildlife and offender database and will make the export of data compatible with the CWCU database so there will be no need for double data entry on the part of the CWCU and information and reports can easily be shared.

The Cambodian-WEN Interagency workshop was held on August 13, 2010 to launch ASEAN-WEN in Cambodia with close to 90 attendees presided over by HE Uk Sokhon, Secretary of State of MAFF. Representatives from Cambodian law enforcement agencies included the Forestry Administration, Royal Gendarmerie, Anti-economic crime police, Court of Appeals Prosecutor, Customs and Immigration, Ministry of Environment, Fisheries Administration, National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), Border Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economics and Finance, Ministry of Justice and ASEAN. A government official from both Lao PDR and Vietnam both attended this event, highlighting the regional cooperation which is the hallmark of ASEAN-WEN. Donors and NGOs also attended, including Wildlife Alliance, Freeland Foundation, Conservation International, WWF, WCS, FFI, Danida, USAID, CEPF-Birdlife, UNODC and IUCN.

Two additional interagency meetings were held on May 11, 2011 (14 attendees) and August 29, 2011 (24 attendees); one was held at the Forestry Administration and a second more informal meeting was hosted by Wildlife Alliance at a local restaurant. These meetings brought Cambodian government agencies together and aimed at raising awareness about the illegal wildlife trade and building links between the different agencies. Representatives from the Forestry Administration, Royal Gendarmerie, Customs and Immigration, NACD, Anti-economic crime police, border police and Court of Appeals joined Wildlife Alliance, Freeland Foundation and the WRRT to talk about the illegal wildlife trade, what is being done in Cambodia now and ways each agency could contribute to countering it, as well as updating all involved about the USAID-funded ARREST program.

**Component 2 Planned:**

Improved investigative capacity to detect, deter and interdict wildlife trafficking rings operating on the Cambodia-Vietnam border using National Road 1 (Cambodia).

**Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

Increased capacity for enforcing wildlife protection laws occurred at two levels during the project period: at the national level and at the level of the national level task force, the Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (WRRT). At the national level, CWCU staff had opportunities to attend international meetings regarding the illegal wildlife trade and ASEAN-WEN. Mr. Hak Sarom from the CWCU attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual ASEAN-WEN meeting in Manila Philippines with Mr. Koh Nich from Customs and Immigration from May 25-27, 2011. Mr. Sar Rao, FA Chief of the WRRT was nominated by the FA to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ASEAN Experts Group in Brunei from February 7-11, 2011. Mr. Khem Vuthyavong, with funding from CEPF, was able to attend the ARREST Program launch in Bangkok on July 22, 2011, enabling him to make contacts with other NGOs involved in the wildlife trade throughout Asia.

At the level of the task force, the WRRT received on the job training from Freeland Foundation with Mr. Manny Medina, former USFWS special agent, in investigations and operations, including interviewing techniques, securing a crime scene, protocols and procedures, equipment maintenance, and undercover observation, among others. Mr. Medina travelled to Cambodia 3 times from October 2009 through July 2010, spending about one month at a time with the unit, for a total of 10.5 weeks. This allowed the team to benefit from individual mentoring over an extended period, while laying the ground work for a long term investigation. A long term investigation has not yet been successful, but Wildlife Alliance and the WRRT are continuing to actively collect information and intelligence and conduct investigation to extend the reach of the WRRT.

**Component 3 Planned:**

The establishment of an NGO support network in Cambodia to improve the effectiveness and long-term impact of the ASEAN-WEN program to reduce illegal and unsustainable trade in protected wildlife species.

**Component 3 Actual at Completion.:**

An NGO support network was formed with various conservation NGOs who are active in Cambodia. NGOs were invited to participate at the launch of Cambodian-WEN in August 2010, after initial introductory meetings to gain their support. Two NGOs (WA and WCS) were active in providing in kind contributions, while WWF's unit conducted a joint operation in Mondulhiri with the WRRT. Throughout the grant period, FFI provided information regarding wildlife held captive, resulting in the confiscation of the wildlife by the WRRT. Recently, they provided some more information regarding the trade in a border town. After implementing an informant for a week in this town, the team was able to bust 2 offenders (wildlife meat) at a market.

As part of the USAID-funded ARREST program, Freeland Foundation and Wildlife Alliance are continuing to place a priority on information sharing among NGOs working in the field and to this end, Wildlife Alliance hosted a lunchtime meeting to discuss the wildlife trade among NGOs in October 2011.

**Component 4 Planned:**

Ongoing active law enforcement activities on the ground, prioritizing the wildlife trade route along National Road 1 from Cambodia to Vietnam

**Component 4 Actual at Completion:**

In order to systematically address the wildlife trade throughout Cambodia and on its borders, a work plan was instituted for the WRRT to initiate week long operations each month in one of four trading hotspots. One of these hotspots includes National Road 1, running from Phnom Penh through the provinces of Prey Veng and Svay Rieng and the surrounding areas, which include many small roads and waterways.

Border areas also included other spots as more information became known, including: Kampot/Kep, Koh Thom, Memot/Snoul. All of these hotspots received prioritized law enforcement attention on an ongoing basis. Based on informant information, wildlife are taken from Phnom Penh directly south to Vietnam through Koh Thom in Kandal Province. Following National Road 21, this is an area of many waterways, bridges and dirt roads, which allows offenders to disappear in boats and on motorbikes. This area has become a greater focus to stem the cross border flow in wildlife.

**(Please see WRRT Nationwide Results table on the following page)**

**WRRT's Nationwide Results November 2009 – October 2011**

	Live wildlife rescued (individual)	Dead/cooked wildlife seized (individual)	Wildlife meat seized (kg)	Fines collected (USD)	Offenders apprehended	Court warrants issued
Nov 2009	67	1	65.2	5,771.50	7	0
Dec 2009	1488	594	55.4	1,750.00	29	1
Jan 2010	77	644	47	737.50	14	0
Feb 2010	398	540	79.4	4,674.68	23	1
Mar 2010	130	177	166.5	15,186.45	9	2
Apr 2010	246	56	24.2	3,042.50	9	1
May 2010	674	32	76.9	8,604.75	6	0
Jun 2010	635	443	45.3	1,868.93	24	0
Jul 2010	183	52	61	791.63	10	1
Aug 2010	231	5	3.8	3,090.75	5	0
Sep 2010	701	228	41.5	1,500.00	16	0
Oct 2010	96	28	350.1	1,455.00	38	0
Nov 2010	84	324	24.9	1,972.88	29	9
Dec 2010	447	48	54	2,056.00	12	0
Jan 2011	363	633	n/a	315.37	27	3
Feb 2011	220	188	37.20	3,140.00	20	3
Mar 2011	1076	138	59.1	2,800.75	20	2
Apr 2011	65	332	46.4	1,175.63	22	2
May 2011	196	672	3	263.25	12	3
Jun 2011	209	124	81.5	2,651.75	16	4
Jul 2011	116	186	166.4	412.50	9	3
Aug 2011	369	155	107.8	2,862.25	21	7
Sep 2011	234	48	32	512.25	20	5
Oct 2011	280	80	141.5	255.00	18	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,585</b>	<b>5,728</b>	<b>1,770.1</b>	<b>\$66,891.32</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>50</b>

***Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?***

**N/A**

***Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.***

**Attachments:**

Sekadei samrach  
 CWCU workplan  
 CWCU strategic plan  
 WRRT workplan 2010 and 2011.

## 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)***

The project was implemented very close to its original design. Due to Wildlife Alliance's experience in country and our partnership with Freeland Foundation and their experience with ASEAN-WEN, the project design went through a collaborative development process. Some things did need refining, however. For instance, one component of the project design included an interagency committee formed to work collaboratively on issues pertaining to the wildlife trade. Initial meetings with the Director General (DG) of the FA revealed that the government perceived that so many committees have already been formed to deal with a huge range of issues that he requested that 'no new committees' be formed. This had two effects: one being that the CWCU was set up and staffed solely by FA staff members, which made implementation smoother and the other being that communication and meetings involving different agencies was slowed down due to the formality required in an interagency context. (For instance, formal letters signed by the Director General were required when inviting different agencies to a meeting at FA, but once interested focal points were established in each agency, Wildlife Alliance was able to invite contacts more easily to an 'informal' luncheon over the phone.)

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

Wildlife Alliance's pre-existing activities and relationships contributed meaningfully to this project's success, providing shortcuts that got the project up and running faster. The WRRT, a law enforcement unit dedicated to fighting the illegal wildlife trade, staffed by Forestry Administration officials and military police, had been operating for over 8 years at the time the project started. With training, guidance, support and experience in hand, ramping up and focusing activities along border areas was not the challenge it might have been.

Also, Wildlife Alliance's existing relationships and reputation with the Forestry Administration helped us gain the support of the Forestry Administration's Director General and our track record of partnership and results eased the implementation of the CWCU. Setting up a governmental unit with these pre-existing relationships and demonstrated success in the field made things smoother and more efficient.

We also came to understand that it is sometimes more important for an NGO to listen to what the government wants than to adhere to a preconceived implementation plan; for instance, it would have been beneficial to save some implementation funding for activities devised by the CWCU and put in their short term implementation plan, whether or not it was part of the original plan.

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

Fighting the illegal wildlife trade is increasingly difficult. Trade is becoming more covert and more sophisticated. When the WRRT was first established, wildlife meat was sold openly throughout Cambodia and the team was able to fight these crimes just as openly. As prices have risen for wildlife, a new kind of criminal is drawn to the trade; activities are deeper underground and more subtle, as well as more insidious. The training that the WRRT has received in the past is still valid but they need continuous support and training to meet the new challenge to develop skills in long term investigation and intelligence gathering. More funding and time needs to be dedicated to the informant network and supporting the team members as they piece together tough cases, as long term cases involving the illegal wildlife trade are still quite new to Cambodia. Experts who have done this work in other countries are invaluable additions to the work of the team. While the value of international wildlife crime fighting expertise is keenly felt from the training sessions engaged so far, long term (at least one year), continuous on-the-job training and joint operations is needed to take this to the next level.

<b>Additional Funding</b>
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***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 the CEPF investment in this project.***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
David Bohnett Foundation	A	\$75,000	Operational support
Wallace Research Foundation	A	\$170,000	Operational support
Mohammed Bin Zayad Foundation	A	\$7,021	Operational support
John Roberson Trust	A	\$15,000	Operational support
USAID ARREST Program	C	\$80,230	Reducing demand, capacity building and outreach

***\*Additional funding should be reported using 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.)*

## Sustainability/Replicability

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

Thanks to CEPF's investment, this project laid the groundwork and essential first steps needed to institutionalize Wildlife Alliance's work and the work of the Royal Government of Cambodia to end the illegal wildlife trade. With deepened institutionalization, investment, partnership and commitment, this important work will be able to be sustained.

The CWCU, as a functioning office housed in the Forestry Administration's Department of Legislation and Law Enforcement is a testament to the institutionalization of this project and a strong signal that this important work can achieve sustainability going forward. Following the end of the operations (and co-funded salary support), the staff of the CWCU were asked for their help to support activities targeting the illegal wildlife trade in the USAID funded ARREST program. CWCU staff were supportive of these activities and provided assistance, which shows commitment to this issue. Included in each staff member's Terms of Reference was the responsibility to search for additional funding for CWCU's operations; leads were followed up by the Wildlife Alliance project coordinator to no avail due to lack of direct funding for government staff and/or mission mismatch (interest in law enforcement and/or forestry but not the illegal wildlife trade).

Regarding the sustainability of the project's specific components, Wildlife Alliance remains committed to supporting the operations of the WRRT as we have for the past 11 years. The new USAID funded ARREST program is a meaningful step toward supporting the fight against the illegal wildlife trade throughout South Asia, Southeast Asia and China, and as a partner organization in this program Wildlife Alliance is participating in capacity building and demand reduction activities. We are pleased to be able to support replication of our successes via the ARREST program, and we are seeking additional support and funding to scale up the operations, focus on investigations targeting mid- and high- level traders and gain unwavering commitment from our government partners.

We know that our success in formalizing an office housed within the appropriate department and ministry affiliated with ASEAN-WEN and serving as a focal point for issues on the wildlife trade is a replicable one. Likewise, our successful unit devoted to combating the illegal wildlife trade on the ground, the WRRT itself, is a replicable effort that we are eager to help international NGOs and governments take on.

Effective replication of these endeavors must be built with stable funding and through carefully cultivated relationships with the right partners and individuals. Continued and consistent follow up must characterize these relationships in order to maintain momentum. For example, Cambodia's Forestry Administration and Royal Gendarmerie assign officers to the WRRT unit: they are of varying skill levels, but all need our training. Likewise, a Wildlife Alliance staff member dedicated to consistent follow up with WRRT officers is absolutely necessary to ensure that activities move successfully forward.

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

Through the implementation of ASEAN-WEN in Cambodia with this CEPF grant, Wildlife Alliance undertook a new strategy to involve different relevant agencies, such as the Ministry of Environment,

Fisheries Administration, Anti-Economic Crime Police, border police, Customs and Immigration, the National Authority to Combat Drugs (NACD) and the courts. At first, different contact names for each agency (from ASEAN-WEN, FA, self nomination, attendees from previous workshops and conferences) were submitted for different workshops and meetings. However, by the time of the last meeting in August 2011, many of the same people from the different agencies were showing up, such as the Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Gendarmerie, the Court of Appeals Prosecutor, the Director of the Law Enforcement Department of the NACD, the Deputy Chief of Administration of the Border Police and a customs official.

A consistent group of contacts who are aware of the issue, who have been introduced to the key players and who can be contacted by the law enforcement officers on the ground is a step forward, and building the relationships to enable low cost communication adds to the sustainability of the effort.

### **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

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

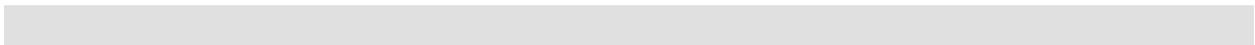
### **Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

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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Organization name: Wildlife Alliance  
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**\*\*\*If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\***



<b>Performance Tracking Report Addendum</b>				
<b>CEPF Global Targets</b>				
<b>(Enter Grant Term)</b>				
<b>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>				
<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 November, 2009 to October 31, 2011 (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.	no			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
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.	no			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes			This project strengthened biodiversity management outside of protected areas by utilizing existing government structures by setting up a government office to serve as a focal point and targeting the work of the WRRT devoted to combating the illegal wildlife trade throughout Cambodia.
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	no			

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



