

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name	Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden
Project Title	Core Capacity Building at Pha Tad Ke and Database Development
CEPF GEM No.	65720
Date of Report	10-8-2016

CEPF Hotspot: Indo-Burma Region

Strategic Direction: 8.2 Provide core support for the organizational development of domestic civil society organizations

Grant Amount: 75.480\$

Project Dates: March 01, 2015 / August 5, 2016

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)

- **Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden in Chiang Mai (QSBG):** Facilitated horticulture training for PTK staff at their facilities in Chiang Mai and trainings for PTK botanists.

- **Thai Institute for Technology and Research (TISTR):** Dr. Pramote Triboun and Dr. Piya Chalermklin, Thailand's foremost botanists and researchers from TISTR facilitated training for PTK senior staff at their facilities in Bangkok at Technopolis, Lumtakong Station and Sakaerat Station. Part of the trainings in fieldwork were conducted in Natural Protected Areas. Special focus was given to Mekong River Area.

- **Singapore Botanic Garden (SBG):** Installation and training By Dr. Nura Abdul Karim on IRIS BG database and establishment of SOP for Herbarium operations and Field Botany.

- **Sydney Royal Botanic Garden (RBGDT):** Horticulture training and establishment of SOP for nursery operations. (After the first quarter RBGDT had to pull out because of budget issues and this part was taken over by QSBG and furthermore we added the installation of an ethno botanic garden with training for local students in collaboration with Institute for Traditional Medicine - ITM)

Conservation Impacts

2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile

PTK is the only Botanical Garden in Laos opening to the public November 2016. The improved capacity of our staff enables us to provide services to national and regional organizations working on biodiversity and conservation issues. It enables us to install a professional database system to manage our living and herbarium collections so in the future data for in and ex situ conservation will be more readily available. As a venue open

to the public we fulfill a primary role in educating the public, local as well as international visitors, on the issues and work done on biodiversity conservation in the region and provide an essential role with extended training programs.

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

With support from the CEPF grant and our project partners we were able to build up core capacity for our staff, install professional database software, establish SOP for Living and Herbarium Collections as well as a SOP for DataBase Management Policy and provide at the same time training for students from outside. We installed an ethno-botanic garden, which allowed us to reinforce bonds with the national “Institute for Traditional Medicine”, and published a Horticulture Manual in Laos entirely written by PTK staff.

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

List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

- 1 Have a highly trained staff of 40 with horticulturists, botanists and education officers able to work on those goals; present collections to a national and international public and provide trainings to local students, NGO and government staff;
- 2 Install and maintain a living collection of the Flora of Laos with a Herbarium;
- 3 Operate a professional Database with botanical, ethno-botanical and horticultural data;
- 4 Provide trainings to local and national students, NGO, government staff, tourists etc.

4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion

We can ascertain that Pha Tad Ke has put in place a professional local team that will be able to address the work ahead and become an important actor in biodiversity conservation in Laos. For the opening of the garden November 2016 we are now establishing educational programs with our local staff and support from one western trained staff and fully expect to be able to run all those trainings with our local staff. We managed to secure scholarships for our 2 Lao botanists who are now pursuing MSc degrees at XTBG with support from the Chinese Academy of Science. When they return to PTK in 2 years they will have top notch international level degrees and have specialized in botany with focus on biodiversity conservation. We have hired a full time Marketing and PR staff and with the opening of the garden this November we expect to be able to finance all our educational and research activities ourselves starting next year. Furthermore with IRIS BG Database we are now capable of communicating with the international scientific community and make our findings publicly available.

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

List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

- 1 Provide core training to PTK staff and local students
- 2 Install a professional Database system with botanical, ethno-botanical and horticultural data

5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion

We provided 62 trainings for PTK staff in horticulture, botany, collection management and ethno-botany;

We provided 175 student/trainings in field-botany, horticulture and ethno-botany;

We published a Horticulture Manual for Laos in 4,000 copies;

Installed 4 medicinal plant plots with the Institute for Traditional Medicine;

Established 2 SOP's for living collections and database management;

We installed IRIS Database, trained 5 staff in its use and entered 3,898 data records and compiled and entered 214 ethno-botanical information records.

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

- One challenge we faced was when RBGDT pulled out because of their internal funding problems, but we were able to organize the planned trainings with our other partner QSBG and even expand on our objectives by developing a new partnership with the Institute for Traditional Medicine from Vientiane.

- Our two Lao botanists left with short notice to pursue their Master Degrees (which in itself was positive because we were able to find full scholarships for them). To be able to advance quickly we decided to hire western staff with experience to go more quickly with the planned activities. We found them without problem on short notice and did all the planned activities. Also our PTK staff really stepped up and has become our full time database manager after the training.

7. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

NO

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable

Component 1

18 staff received 4-week long horticulture training at QSBG;

2 Botanist staff received training in Herbarium techniques and participated at International Ginger Symposium at QSBG;

SOP for Herbarium Management established.

Component 2

5 staff trainings in Collection Management at TISTR;

3 staff participated ATBC biodiversity meeting and 2 attended their 1-week training workshop;

22 staff and students participated in Botanical Drawing workshop;

2 staff participated in The Flora of Cambodia, Laos & Vietnam Symposium;
40 Uni students and 8 staff participated in Medicinal Plant Workshop from ITM staff;
3 fieldtrips/trainings conducted with TISTR, 4 staff trained (from 2 planned) and 12 students.

Component 3

IRIS BG Database system installed and 5 staff trained;
SOP for database management established;
3.989 records entered (instead of 1.200 planned) and 214 Ethno-Botanic information records entered (instead of 150 planned);
GPS equipment and computers purchased;
Books for PTK research library purchased and delivered.

Component 4

Horticulture training for 15 PTK staff and 19 students;
Installation medicinal plant plots with 100 species and ethno-botanic information;
Training for 8 staff and 96 students in medicinal plant plots;
Horticulture manual, entirely written, illustrated and designed by PTK staff, published in 4.000 copies.

Component 5

CSTT done at beginning of project and to be completed at end of ongoing small CEPF grant.

9. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

NA

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

- Horticulture Manual for Laos (62 pages - 4.000 copies plus free PDF version available online)
- PTK Herbarium and Living Collections SOP January 2016
- PTK Plant Record SOP January 2016

Benefits to Communities

11. Please describe the communities that have benefited from CEPF support

*Please report on the size and characteristics of communities and the benefits that they have received, as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited **from project start to project completion**.*

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Size of Community				Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									

*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

NA

Lessons Learned

12. Describe any lessons learned related to organizational development and capacity building.

- That big botanical gardens have money problems too;
- We discussed planning with training partners and adjusted the needs for content of trainings. Actually international trainers learned a lot about working with us and how to give trainings appropriately to staff with lower level education.
- Our regular communication with other botanical gardens facilitated finding MSc scholarships for our staff and assistance in finding new botanist staff rapidly.
- That sometimes staff leaving and changes can actually be beneficial to rethink your program and work.

13. Describe any lessons learned related to project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

- The very specific strategies and sub strategies of CEPF being put forward every year for grant proposals can be very restrictive in the field.

14. Describe any lesson learned related to project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

- Partnerships can change quite quickly because of their funding issues but we were fortunate to be able to do this work with other partners and even develop/add a new partnership during the project.
- Occasions to participated in congresses and workshops often arise very late and are difficult to foresee in advance, thankfully IC management allowed us to benefit from these occasions by adjusting the program. It would however be great if a portion of budget design in the future can be reserved for this to be used at our discretion.

15. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

- More contact between agencies on national and regional level can be very beneficial. We were invited to participate in IUCN country long-term vision meeting but invitation arrived very late and there was no budget to pay our expenses, which at this moment we simply couldn't pay ourselves. I think it could be constructive to integrate this structurally in the process, or at least make (small) budget available when these meetings are held (we are not all based in the capital).

Sustainability / Replication

16. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

All components but one have been achieved and we finished the grant program 3 months early. The only sub component we couldn't finish was the establishment of a SOP for the Seed Bank because collaboration with RBGDT fell through. Anyhow since we are not building a Seed Bank now it was premature to put it in the grant proposal and we prefer to wait till this work would start and TISTR will

be able to assist with this. On the other hand we have trained more students than in the original proposal 175 trainings against the planned 36.

The target for information entry in the database was also exceeded by more than 3 times 3.989 instead of proposal 1.200 and our own staff Veo Dalavong really stepped up and is doing this all on her own now. And 214 ethno-botanical records instead of proposal 150.

The publication of the Horticulture Manual will allow us to provide regular trainings easily from now on. At all stages did we consult with our 3 main partners QSBG, SBG and TISTR on implementing the program and how to build on it. Already now continuous activities are planned such as fieldwork with TIST in August. More workshops for PTK staff at QBSG on horticulture and limestone habitat conservation in at QSBG as well as participation in a conference on Ethno-botany at QSBG end of August. Workshop on in situ biodiversity conservation protocols for SE Asia in collaboration with BGCI at which our Botanist will participate. Training at SBG in collaboration with Kew Garden in November on Tropical Plant Identification for which PTK database manager Veo Dalavong is invited to participate. etc. etc.

17. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability

NA

Safeguards

18. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social and environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered

NA

Additional Funding

19. 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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
PTK	A	21.026\$	Salaries for staff for training times, contribution Horticulture manual for design and printing, contribution Biba Vilayleck ethno-botanist
QSBG	A	28.600\$	QSBG staff time dedicated for trainings, lodgings offered and cost of training materials
TISTR	A	23.840\$	TISTR staff time dedicated for trainings, lodgings offered and cost of fieldtrip materials
SBG	A	7.600\$	SBG staff time dedicated for training
RBGDT	A	8.400\$	RBGDT staff time dedicated for training
ITM (new partner)	A	2.000\$	ITM staff time dedicated for training and research

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- 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)*

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

I would like to repeat point 15 to stress the importance:

More contact between agencies on national and regional level can be very beneficial. We were invited to participate in IUCN country long-term vision meeting but invitation arrived very late and there was no budget to pay our expenses, which at this moment we simply couldn't pay ourselves. I think it could be constructive to integrate this structurally in the process, or at least make (small) budget available when these meetings are held (we are not all based in the capital).

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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