

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date

09th October 2018

CEPF Grant

CEPF-097

Grantee

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Project Title

**Strengthening the Capacity of Community-Based Institutions Instrumental to Conservation
of Seasonally-Inundated Grasslands in the Mekong Delta in Cambodia**

Project Location

Cambodia

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
2. Grant title: Strengthening the Capacity of Community-Based Institutions Instrumental to Conservation of Seasonally-Inundated Grasslands in the Mekong Delta in Cambodia
3. Grant number: *CEPF-097*
4. Grant amount (US dollars): \$20,000
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1st October 2018 – 30th September 2019
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Cambodia
7. Summary of the project: Anlung Pring (AP) and Boeung Prek Lapouv (BPL) are two of the few remaining seasonally inundated grasslands in the Cambodian Lower Mekong Delta. WWT, together with local partners, have previously supported community members to mobilize themselves into community-based natural resource management associations, with legally recognized Community Fishery (CFi) and Community-based Ecotourism (CBET) groups established at BPL and AP respectively. This CEPF project aims to build capacity within local groups to sustainably manage the CBET and CFi initiatives, helping them grow and diversify to build resilience for the future. Part of this project will involve WWT supporting the Community Fishery group to transition their association to be able to operate effectively within the newly established Ministry of Environment (MoE) Protected Landscape, which has recently taken over management of the site from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Transitioning formally approved and legally recognized CFi rules and regulations into the MoE community-use zone framework will be supported by this CEPF project. The project will ensure that members of the Community Fishery have a mechanism with which to represent the importance of regulated sustainable use of natural resources within the new MoE zonation scheme.
8. Date of preparation of this document: October 2018

A. Project background

A WWT ecosystem service assessment in 2013 showed that 51% of local people in and directly around BPL consider fishing to be an important element of their livelihoods. The same assessment estimated that the fishery within BPL and the direct surrounding area was worth over one million US dollars. Kampong Krassang and Koh Andet Community Fisheries were established to give local people a greater say over the rules and regulations for natural resource management in and around BPL, and both were legally endorsed by the management authority, the Fisheries Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The original CFi rules and regulations were created by the group through an open participatory process. Membership is available to all from the local community and membership fees were deemed by the CFi committee to be accessible to all.

On the 9th May 2016 the site was officially transferred to MoE and re-designated as Protected Landscape (Prime Ministerial Decree 90, RGC 2016). The stated objectives of the site are to: *ensure the conservation and protection of natural landscape, ecosystems, culture, and biodiversity; provide products and nature's services to sustainable use; and encourage local communities as well as the public to participate in the management, protection, and conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in the region.*

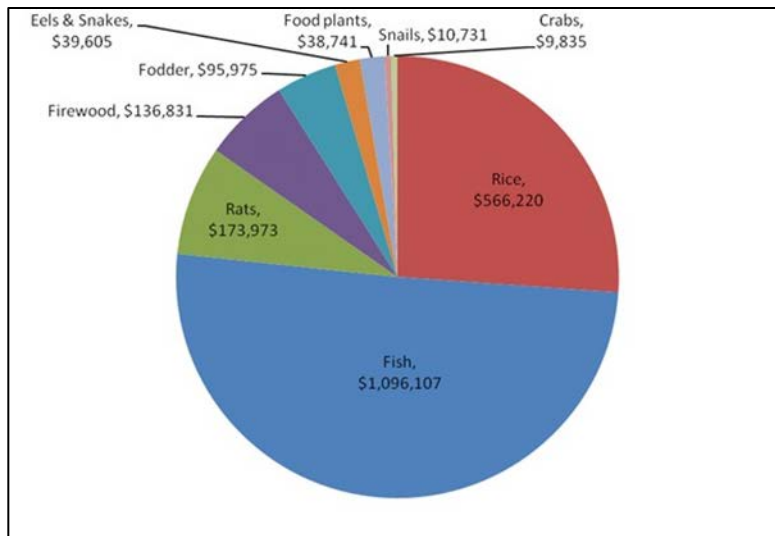


Figure 1. Total net annual value of different products harvested from BPL

Under the new MoE framework, CFIs are not formally recognized; any natural resource management must instead be regulated through MoE-endorsed community use zones. It is possible to directly transfer the majority of CFI rules and regulations into the community use zones, but the zonation process is complex, and is also an opportunity to review land tenure claims and to reappraise the core protection areas in which much sustainable use is prohibited. Therefore, the zonation process may in turn alter the nature of the Protected Landscape, resulting in a requirement to restructure elements of the fishery.

The zonation of the reserve is being managed through an extensive community consultation process between the management authority (Ministry of Environment), elected local community officials, existing resource user groups, and the NGO partners involved in the conservation and sustainable management of BPL. This zonation is currently underway and will be completed in 2019. The land tenure review is being conducted by a Land Tenure Review Committee presided over by His Excellency Chea Sam Ang, Chief of General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection of MoE.

Fishing regulations are unlikely to be changed, but the project has committed to support alternatives if any local people are using fishing equipment banned by new regulations, or depend on areas where rights to the use of the fishery is changed

B. Participatory implementation

In 2018 WWT conducted a stakeholder analysis of BPL Protected Landscape (Figure 2). This shows the engagement of the CFI groups, and confirms the transition into Community Protected Area groups through the zonation process. The Land Tenure Review Committee includes the heads of all villages in and directly around the Protected Landscape, to ensure community voices are heard.

A Vulnerability Assessment of BPL conducted in 2017 and published in 2018 has given project partners the opportunity to review ecosystem services in BPL and assess how they may be impacted by changes resulting from climatic shift and future regional development. This assessment included consultations and workshops at ten villages, where zonation was also discussed.

A Transboundary Fishing Committee was established in 2016 to tackle large-scale illegal incursions from Vietnam. These are now largely controlled. It is outside of the scope of this project to interfere with international border agreements between Cambodia and Vietnam. However, the transboundary Fishing Committee does have representation from Vietnamese counterparts.

Actor/interest	Organization and (potential) role
Government (implementation of government policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoFWC (of GDANCP, MoE): Has the lead. Oversees daily management together with PDoE in sorting out illegal issues that require resolution and law enforcement. • Rangers (led by PDoE): They are authorized to patrol against illegal activities within BPL to ensure sustainable management of the reserve. Currently, rangers, district policemen, district fishery administration, and community fisheries, are involved in collaborative law enforcement teams. • Takeo administrative authorities (provincial, district, commune, village): Critical for implementation and need to be regularly involved in meetings, including the unified boards at provincial and district level.
Local community (depends on the wetland for their livelihood)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Protected Area (CPA): Does not exist yet but based on the protected area law it is likely that a CPA will be established. Communities play an important role in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources and are encouraged to engage in law enforcement for conservation and livelihood improvement. • Community fisheries (CFi): Until a CPA is established, community fisheries are invited for BPL management meetings and to be involved in the crackdown of illegal activities.
NGOs (biodiversity and wildlife conservation, natural resource management))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT): UK based conservation organisation specialised in wetland management and species recovery programmes. WWT works since 2010 in BPL and provides expertise/capacity building on biodiversity/hydrology, and wetland management. • BirdLife International (BL): UK based conservation organisation specialised in birds. Started work in BPL in 2003. BL has a regional office in Hanoi and a Cambodia programme office in Phnom Penh and works on bird species conservation and provides advice/support on the overall management of BPL. • Chamroen Chiet Khmer (CCK): Cambodian NGO based in Koh Andet district. Focus is on rural development, including natural resource management. CCK works in BPL since 2009 and used to collaborate with BL and later WWT. • NatureLife Cambodia: Cambodian NGO partnered with BL before and will start working in BPL on environmental awareness raising.
Other relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g., an agricultural NGO, universities; Fishery Administration (FIA) of Borei chulsar district and Koh Andeth district, Sustainable Rice Groups (groups of farmers formed by WWT to stop land encroachment and minimize use of chemicals)

Figure 2. Overview of stakeholders involved in the conservation and management of BPL Protected Landscape.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

Anyone with livelihoods or well-being affected by this project will meet the criteria for eligibility of affected persons. This includes those currently illegally accessing natural resources, and/or using equipment prohibited within the CFi rules and regulations, in the Protected Landscape.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

Significant measures have been taken to involve all potentially affected persons within the initial fully-open CFi consultations, when rules and regulations were voted upon and agreed. Building upon this participatory process, the project will endeavor to transfer the majority of CFi legislation into the new Community Protected Area (CPA) framework. Prior to finalization of BPL zonation, the results will be presented to all stakeholders at the annual Liaison Panel meeting and all will have the opportunity to comment.

Funding has already been secured for a net amnesty, where fishers can surrender illegal fine-meshed nets for nets that meet the legal mesh sizes. A Business Plan was published by WWT in 2017. The overall goals of this report were to: *1) Review the current efforts within Cambodia to create sustainable funding mechanisms for Community Fisheries; 2) Review the current and planned attempts to create a sustainable funding mechanism at Boeung Prek Lapouv; 3) Calculate the operating costs to achieve sustainable natural resource management at BPL; 4) Work out potential sustainable funding mechanisms that could be implemented at the site to raise the funds to meet these operating costs; 5) Recommend steps on how WWT should move forward in developing a sustainable funding mechanism to support the effective sustainable natural resource management at BPL, how these could be implemented and managed.* From this a sustainable funding mechanism was developed to help members of the community fishery (shortly to become the CPA) have clear incentives to joining the natural resource management association, accruing enhance short and long-term benefits. Once the zonation is complete, WWT will continue to implement this Business Plan, creating an environment where it is economically beneficial for community members to choose to join the CPA and abide by agreed common rules and regulations.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

The projects Grievance Mechanism will be shared with all potentially affected parties at the Annual Liaison Panel meeting before any building work has begun. The information will also be kept on Community Information Points around BPL. These points were previously created by the project in all project villages.

This grievance mechanism will include the following elements in the local Khmer language:

- Email and telephone contact information for WWT in Cambodia
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- the following text translated into Khmer... “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

F. Implementation Arrangements

This Safeguarding Process will be overseen by Project Partners. It will be a specific agenda item at the partnership’s quarterly Project Steering Group meetings, and a multi-stakeholder review will be completed as an agenda item at the 2019 Annual Liaison Panel meeting.

Overall responsibility for managing this Safeguard will fall upon the WWT Country Coordinator for Cambodia. Safeguarding will be reported to CEPF during all technical reporting.