



Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

March 2020

CEPF Grant 110337

Grantee

Community Protected Areas Establishment and Strengthening & LNGO Capacity Building

Cambodia

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization.
NatureLife Cambodia (NLC)
2. Grant title.
Community Protected Areas Establishment and Strengthening & LNGO Capacity Building
3. Grant number
110337
4. Grant amount (US dollars).
\$80,000
5. Proposed dates of grant.
May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2022
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.
Cambodia
7. Date of preparation of this document.
March 16, 2020

The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:

A. Project background

Stung Sen Wetland is located along the south-eastern edge of Tonle Sap, Kampong Svay District, Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia. The area is strongly influenced by the water exchange between the Mekong River, the Stung Sen River and Tonle Sap Lake. The annual flooding cycle causes significant fluctuation in water level, which results in high aquatic productivity and supports unique faunal and floral communities. This unique hydrological cycle also supports the important seasonally flooded vegetation, including the gallery forests along the Stung Sen River, shrubland and grassland. Stung Sen also has a high biodiversity with a record of at least 9 mammal species, 79 bird species, 4 turtle species, and 94 fish species. The wetland hosts globally endangered species including Silvered Langur, Hairy-nosed Otter, Lesser Adjutant, Yellow-head Temple Turtle, Mekong Giant Barb, Striped Catfish, and Isok Barb (Birdlife International Cambodia Programme, 2016). Furthermore, the wetland provides significant ecosystem services such as vital spawning grounds for fishes, migratory pathways to birds, and feeding and breeding grounds for animals. The importance of the Stung Sen wetland has been recognized as in November 2018, it was designated as Cambodia's fifth Ramsar site (9,293 hectares).

Despite the significant value of Stung Sen's ecosystem, its flora and fauna are increasingly threatened. The current threats include habitat degradation from the expansion and intensified agriculture, overfishing,

hunting and illegal poaching, and overharvesting of natural resources. Most of these destructive activities are perpetrated by local community members who live in poverty and have limited knowledge of sustainable use of natural resources. Moreover, because the current capacity of rangers and resources for law enforcement are limited, the effectiveness of day to day site management efforts by site managers and rangers is low. Also, the lack of biodiversity monitoring efforts in Stung Sen has not allowed the site status to be updated, which hinders informed decisions to be made. Immediate actions are therefore needed in order to address these issues with targeted measures, maximize impact of conservation efforts as well as halt and reverse the trend of degradation of the ecosystem health in Stung Sen.

Within Stung Sen Ramsar site, there are five villages and one sub-village. To date, Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung is the only community protected area (CPA) established by villagers of Toul Neang Sav village of Phat Sanday commune. However, despite the status of a CPA, mechanisms for enabling community participation in management and governance are not in place. As a result from the lack of effective management and strong governance, the ecosystem health of the CPA and overall Stung Sen wetland area are immensely threatened, particularly regarding encroachment and illegal fishing and hunting. These scale of these activities are increasing and taking away the livelihoods of villagers with reports from community fishermen that fish yield has significant lowered and some fish species have completely disappeared from the wetland. Other villages in the commune are also deeply affected. As most villagers depend almost exclusively on fishing, illegal fishing activities have posed immense threat to their livelihoods. It has been reported that local villagers have been committing illegal fishing in no-fishing zones due to the constant decrease in yield over the years. There are also migrant fishers entering the wetland seasonally to fish illegally where they catch juvenile fish as well as fish during the reproduction cycles. The loss of flooded forest in the past few years due to forest fires and human activities have also exacerbated the threats of losing livelihoods for the commune. This situation would continue to worsen given the lack of legitimate protection of the habitats and resources in other villages in Phat Sanday Commune, i.e. the creation of a CPA.

As one of the few NGOs in Stung Sen, NatureLife has established close ties with the local communities and local authorities. NatureLife has also worked with MoE to designate Stung Sen as a Ramsar Site in 2018 and conducted awareness raising events in the area. In response to the aforementioned issues impacting Stung Sen, NatureLife aims to (1) strengthen the existing CPA in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung, (2) establish one additional CPA in Phat Sanday Commune and strengthen it, and (3) build capacity and expertise in site management and conservation for NatureLife to strengthen its role of focal local NGO for providing technical support and safeguarding the rights of the people and their habitats in Stung Sen.

B. Participatory implementation

Participatory approach will be used throughout the project implementation process.

- (1) Strengthen the existing CPA in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung and
- (2) Establish and strengthen one additional CPA in Phat Sanday Commune

During the strengthening of the existing CPA in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung, NatureLife will facilitate the review of the CPA committee to ensure that the CPA has members from relevant stakeholders, including local communities, local authorities (village chiefs, commune council, and representatives of district government), NGOs (BirdLife, FACT), and government focal points (fishery administration). If it is found that certain stakeholders are not represented by the CPA, NatureLife will invite them to become a member

of the CPA in order to ensure collective decisions can be made by taking different perspectives into account. A particular focus will be put on ensuring there is a gender balance where women are well represented and actively participated.

Local forums will also be facilitated by NatureLife so that local communities will also be enabled and empowered to co-manage the CPA along with local authorities and other relevant CSOs. In order to maximize participation, NatureLife will work with the CPA committee to select a suitable venue and time to hold the forum. For example, during the rainy season where people cannot participate in other activities besides growing rice and crops, the forum will consult with local communities to understand when and where will be an appropriate time for meeting so that as many people as possible can be involved in the process. In parallel, NatureLife will encourage local communities' representatives to voice concerns and actively participate in addressing site management threats during stakeholders' forum. A particular focus will be put on providing assist to women community members whose engagement are traditionally less active and their voices are heard less than men.

Similar to strengthening the existing CPA in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung, NatureLife will assist the establishment of the CPA committee by following the principles of (1) the CPA committee is consisted of representatives from all stakeholders, (2) gender balance, (3) opinions are encouraged to be voiced out.

(3) Build capacity and expertise in site management and conservation for NatureLife

NatureLife's staff (5 staff; 2female) will receive relevant training from its NGO partner BirdLife, including conducting field surveys, data collection, effective patrolling using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART). Upon the delivery of training, NatureLife will receive regular coaching in the field from BirdLife to ensure the quality of the work. Exposure visits will also be organized for NatureLife's staff to other Ramsar sites where BirdLife is supporting to learn about site management support and biodiversity monitoring work. It is expected that NatureLife's staff will receive training and coaching in the first year of the project. In the second year, NatureLife's staff will be able to work independently (with remote supervision from BirdLife) in the field as well as begin conducting training and coaching to site managers and rangers to transfer skills and techniques. All relevant site manager and all rangers (total 11 individuals) will be invited to join the training to ensure a high level of participation.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

The people who are affected by the implementation of this project will be mainly those who are engaging in illegal activities such as illegal fishing, logging, and poaching. They will be affected because upon the establishment and strengthening of CPAs and law enforcement, these illegal activities that support the livelihoods of the people who conduct them will be more strictly prohibited. Among these people, some of them are from outside Phat Sanday Commune. In this case, these people are not eligible for assistance from this project because they are not from the commune and in theory are not entitled the rights to use harvest resources from the commune. Moreover, when these people harvest resources from the commune, the practice is often unsustainable and can create irreversible damage to the ecosystem health.

Some people within Phat Sanday Commune who practice harvesting resources sustainably nonetheless may be affected by this project as the CPA committee may implement management plans that demarcate some areas into conservation area, which no longer allow for resource harvesting. However, through this project, all stakeholders, including community members will be given ample opportunities to be engaged

in the decision making process of the CPA committee. In this way, meanwhile certain areas will be prohibited from harvesting or extracting resources, other areas (demarcation upon agreement) will be accessible for community members to use sustainably. Therefore, we anticipate that these people will be voluntarily participate in this project and abide to the agreements reached with the CPA.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

The following measures are targeted at people who are affected by the implementation of this project:

- Promote natural sustainable use concept and awareness raising and education on promising practices so that they will learn some promising practices, e.g. where and how to sustainably fish, log etc.
- In CPA management plan identify area where CPA members can conduct sustainable fishing and collect timber for local consumption (i.e. fire wood)
- promote alternative livelihood options such as vegetable gardening, sustainable fishing, and animal raising.
- Support and link CPA members to the community based ecotourism, establishing by FACT and Phat Sanday CFi

By doing so, individuals may be able to improve on livelihoods without doing illegal activities.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism

This project will set up a grievance mechanism in order to receive, review and address concerns and complaints raised by communities affected by this project. Any affected person or group has a right to raise a grievance and the project is obligated to take responsibility to respond within a reasonable time period.

Should there be a need for a formal complaints mechanism, the following will apply:

The project coordinator of NatureLife will be the first contact point for grievances. This person will be present at local meetings to enable face to face communications.

Email: admin@naturelifecambodia.org

Telephone: +855 23 993631

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.

CEPF Regional Implementation Team

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All the above information about the grievance mechanism will be made available to local communities and local authorities on signboards and public notes in Khmer (the local language of Cambodia)

F. Implementation Arrangements

This project will focus on using participatory approaches where it ensures voices from the local communities are heard and that people are provided with opportunities to raise concerns and express opinions. The following are the particular implementation arrangements:

In terms of strengthening the existing Toul Neang Sav CPA, there will be consultation meetings, facilitated by NatureLife, with villagers, local authorities, and relevant CSOs to ensure that the CPA committee is acknowledged by stakeholders and that issues around communities and the habits in Stung Sen are discussed openly. In terms of setting up the new CPA in Phat Sanday Commune, there will be consultation meetings, facilitated by NatureLife, with relevant stakeholders (e.g. local communities, local authorities, Stung Sen Wetland site management team, and relevant CSOs) to identify CPA area. In terms of developing management plans, there will also be consultation meetings with villagers, local authorities, and relevant CSOs to present findings from ground check and proposed targeted measures and reach consensus on the general managerial directions of the CPA. During all the meetings, NatureLife will facilitate and encourage local communities to raise their concerns and express opinions, especially for women. By having these meetings that take stakeholders' opinion into consideration before making decisions, the likelihood of conflict and complaints will be reduced. Face to face meetings will also allow for issues to be discussed and ideas can be shared and problems can be resolved in a timely manner. The need for formal grievance mechanism to be used can then also be reduced.

The contact details of the project coordinator of NatureLife will be made available on public communications related to this project, to enable the grievance mechanism to be activated.