

Social Assessment

Date: 21 March 2020

CEPF Grant-110319

Grantee

Project Title: Strengthening Indigenous Youth Participation in Forest Protection

Project Location

Preahvihear Province

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA)
2. Grant title: ***Strengthening Indigenous Youth Participation in Forest Protection***
3. Grant number: CEPF-110319
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 60 000\$
5. Proposed dates of grant: 01 July 2020
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Slengtoul, Srei and Bongkorn villages of Reab Roi commune, Rovieng District, Preah Vihear province.
7. Date of preparation of this document: 21 March 2020
8. **Indigenous People affected:** This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

The project will implement at the 3 villages in Slengtoul, Srei and Bongkorn villages of Reab Roi commune, Rovieng District, Preah Vihear province. The people here are Kui indigenous people group. The total number of the people here are 2296 people with 1134 are women.

The project will most directly work with the 3 villages of Reab Roi commune, Rovieng District, Preah Vihear province. Those villages are Slengtoul, Srei and Bongkorn. The population data for those 3 villages is below:

Population in the 3 villages of Reap Roi Commune								
Village name	No. Houses	No. Families	0-15 ys	15-35 yrs	36-60yrs	Over 61yrs	Total all ages	Total females
Slengtoul	81	91	117	139	106	21	383	189
Srei	149	161	262	256	188	25	731	352
Bongkorn	243	298	345	418	375	44	1182	593
Total 3 villages	473	550	724	813	669	90	2296	1134

Slengtoul village has suffered from the imposition of an economic land concession to CRCK company. This ELC has reduced the land base for the village. This, combined with climate change has made it difficult to survive on the current land area of the village. As a result of this, a number of people in the village have had to work on the CRCK Rubber plantations at \$6/day. A significant number of people in the community have fallen into debt after borrowing money to cover daily living expenses and crises within their families.

People working in the plantations report labor rights abuse and they would much prefer to be working on their own lands. Youth are a major part of this group having to work with company but not wanting to. They report they would like to work on sustainable non-timber forest

products but say they feel intimidated by the declaration of Protected Area. For this reason, the Community Protected Area (CPA) status could be an important opportunity to clearly establish community sustainable management rights. The shared CPA area for Slengtoul and Srei is, however, only 700 hectares, which was cut from the CRCK concession. so it will be a challenge. Youth engagement will be crucial.

The situation with regard to Kui culture and language is also important. A few older people can speak Kui but the language has not been passed on to young people. Many young people say "their grandparents were Kui", so a loss of some identity and social cohesion is evident. Despite this youth express a strong interest in Kui culture.

With regard to education, the commune has a lower secondary school (up to year 9). Because of the remote location, very few young people have an opportunity to study past that level (it would require living in the District Center).

The community highlight that shocking fishing has become too common, and they want to end it, in order to see a return to sustainable fisheries. With regard to land, the community have seen land clearing in the area that has been designated as CPA. This is particularly by families that have in-migrated to work with the concession company. Slengtoul there fore want to work with Ministry of Environment to keep the CPA for conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Srei Village is larger than Slengtoul and has managed to retain more of its land. For this reason, people in Srei generally have a higher income those people in Slengtoul. They are concerned about the clearing that has been happening in the CPA and want to work with Slengtoul on putting a stop to that. Youth in the village are interested in forest protection but find it hard to understand the new CPA and their role. They also say they are interested in reviving their cultural roots.

Bongkorn village is a much bigger village than either Slengtoul and Srei. They have managed to protect a larger area of their land and forest from encroachment. They have recently had recognised a 3,129 hectare CPA that is part of the Prey Lang Protected Area. This area is an area that has supported their livelihoods in the past and the community is strong in wanting to continue with this. There is a lot less out-migration in this village. With their land base they fram rice, cashew nuts and cassava. The large streams in the area have always been an important souce of protein for the people. Most identify as Kui people and they say this is important in maintaining social cohesion and protecting natural resources.

The Commune Council in Reab Roi has expressed strong interest in helping the communities protect resources. With the declaration of the CPAs they are also compelled to support their protection. They have said they will be judged on how well the CPAs are protected and say they welcome support in that. They observed that in the past people could rely on fish from the streams but now most people, if they want fish, have to buy them from outside. They recognise the importance of the protected areas and community patrolling.

To work in this context, CIYA will work in close cooperation with OPKC, who have local contacts and are well-known to local government. Already CIYA visits to Reab Roi have been done with OPKC and this has meant solid relationships with local authorities (who can be a barrier if not approached in the correct manner). CIYA will also recognise the issues created by micro-finance loans. An important part of avoiding the issues that have occurred will be financial literacy development for youth and also support for using savings from within the community rather than outside funds. Another key element will be supporting and strengthening the Kui identity that has been supporting community solidarity and ability to manage natural resources. CIYA and OKPC being indigenous staffed will place high value on indigenous identity. CIYA will also use links with other Kui communities to help youth link with cultural and community development programs in other communes and districts.

Because the CPAs in the target area, CIYA will develop communication and collaboration with Ministry of Environment and the Greening Prey Lang program. This will be important in making sure youth have access to the CPA processes.

9. Summary of the proposed project: This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.

1. Facilitate the development of indigenous youth groups in all the villages (CIYA). This will involve talking to elders to find out what they want for the young people of the villages. A community-level vision for youth in the villages will be developed through a series of community meetings. As part of that, there will be women's meetings to make sure there is a vision specifically for female youth. Of course youth voice will also be part of this vision setting. There will be strong CIYA-OPKC collaboration for this stage.
2. Consultation with youth about their issues and their priorities. CIYA will talk individually, in small groups and in larger groups to listen to youth about what they think, what they want for the future and what they most want to do about having a life with strong community and protected natural resources. CIYA staff will live in the villages for this work. There will also be key youth engaged in consulting with other youth in their village.
3. Support youth groups to develop and implement projects and programs based on their issues and priorities, probably including cultural maintenance projects and forest protection activities. This will, of course, come from the consultations - the project of highest priority and highest achievability will be done first. In other areas, this process has led to youth cultural activities, learning Kui language, small economic activities, savings groups, forest patrols etc.. Such projects will be developed and presented to the wider community for comment and support.
4. Participatory monitoring and evaluation of youth group activities and projects. As small projects are developed and implemented, it will be important to evaluate them. Throughout the other work, youth groups will be formed. Working with the youth in those groups, CIYA will help them on simple identification of goals and expected results.

CIYA will also help them monitor how the projects are going. This will be done in a participatory way with youth but also then have wider discussion of results with the community.

5. Start-of-project institutional strength assessment (baseline). CIYA will select a tool for assessing CIYA strength in Governance, Management and Finance. This may be the Governance and Professional Practices tool that CCC use for NGO certification (which is under review and revision). It may be the organizational assessment tool developed by SADP (a funder). The goal will be to get a relatively-objective assessment of CIYA strength at the start of the project.
6. Institutional development activities (training, coaching etc.) related to governance, organizational management and financial management. Most of the work will involve coaching and mentoring rather than training. CIYA will contract one or more experienced OD specialists to support CIYA in strengthening the areas for strengthening highlighted in the assessments.
7. End of project institutional assessment. The same organizational assessment tool used at the start of the project will be used at the end of the project in order to get an assessment of the changes in CIYA governance, management and finance.
8. Inform communities and other stakeholders of Grievance Mechanism. This will be done as described in part 14 of this social assessment.
9. Monitoring and reporting related to CEPF safeguard policies.

10. Potential impacts: This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.

This project is going to provide indigenous people at the target area the positive impact. The project is to build the ownership of the community people to protect their community protected forest and strengthening their traditional way of living and the traditional good practice. The project is also building the participation from youth to the forest protection and cultural conservation. The project is also promoting youth to come up with their own needs and the current requirement on the protection forest.

Another positive impact expected is that Kui culture language in the communities will be strengthened. This has been found to strengthen identity – something that can help community cohesion. Cohesion then helps communities to protect natural resources.

There is always potential for negative impact. CIYA will have to make sure there are not personal conflicts within the communities that make trouble for the whole community. CIYA will also have to make sure that CIYA staff stay independent and objective so that they do not contribute to any frictions between people.

There is potential for promoting conflict between recently in-migrated people and the longer-term residents. CIYA will have to monitor that closely.

11. **Participatory preparation:** This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.

There has been a 3-day research trip and inform to the community people about the project. This was done by the CIYA Program Manager, Mr. Rithy Vireak, and OPKC's Program Manager Mr. Hing Bunnath. The consultation was conducted from 20 to 21 February 2020 in the 3 villages; Srei village, Slengtoul village was and Bongkorn village with the total participants of 34 people with 15 women.

The consultation was done in Khmer language, which is understood by all in the village. Not only community but also the local authorities have been consulted with consensus. We found the community are welcoming of the project. They are waiting for the project to start. They expressed consent and support verbally. This was considered an appropriate manner because of low levels of literacy in the villages.

12. **Mitigation strategies:** This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

No negative impacts are expected. Some are possible, as mentioned in section 10 – CIYA will remain vigilant to guard against these negative impacts. Also, with regard to Covid-19, CIYA will be very careful to not play a role in introducing it to the communities, implementing all the government and WHO recommendations.

13. **Monitoring and evaluation:** This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.

CIYA team will do the monitoring report to CEPF as planned. If there are any grievances about the project, they will be reported to CEPF.

14. **Grievance mechanism:** All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

CIYA will make simple posters in Khmer that include the following information.

- Email and telephone contact information for CIYA.
 - Mr Nun Sokunthea Ph 017 979 579 Sokunthea@ciyanet.org
 - Mr. Rithy Vireak, 088 6209 0555, vireakrithyciya@gmail.com
 - info@ciyanet.org

- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team: Lou Vanny, IUCN Cambodia Program, Room 592, 5th Floor, Phnom Penh Center, St. Sothearos, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Phnom Penh, Tel. +855 12 703 033, Email: Vanny.lou@iucn.org
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- “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.”

The posters will be displayed in public positions in the villages. They will also be given to key project participants.

15. Budget: This section will summarize dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples. These costs should be incorporated into the budget of the CEPF grant and/or covered by co-financing.

The budget required will be minimal and will come from the project “supplies” budget line.