

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	NatureLife Cambodia
Project Title:	NGO Capacity Building and Community Protected Area Development at Stung Sen Ramsar Site, Cambodia
Grant Number:	CEPF-110377
Hotspot:	Indo-Burma III
Strategic Direction:	4 Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas
Grant Amount:	\$80,000.00
Project Dates:	May 01, 2020 - December 31, 2022
Date of Report:	February 28, 2023

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

NatureLife Cambodia has built connections and leveraged resources with the following key partners:

- Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) has shown active cooperation in terms of regular participation in consultation meetings and discussions during the process of management plan development of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA and has shared fisheries data and a sample of the management plan of Phat Sanday CFI as reference and documentation. In a recent stakeholder forum at Phat Sanday Commune Hall, FACT played a role among the partners by presenting their effort and outcomes and addressing various challenges and action plans to cope with those rising issues in Stung Sen Ramsar site.
- Fishing Cat Cambodia Project has contributed financial support to build a guarding tower inside a conservation zone of TPL CPA and Stung Sen Ramsar site for site management purposes and future ecotourism projects. This tower has become the central point for CPA monthly patrol and bird-watching spots. In addition, the Fishing Cat project has cooperated with the CPA and rangers in conducting cat surveys and awareness raising.
- During the project evaluation, FishBio has conducted baseline and endline ecological surveys at TPL CPA with constructive feedback and comments on NatureLife's project proposal which will be key inputs and resources for future project design and development.
- IUCN-Cambodia has provided two financial supplements to TPL CPA; a \$ 5000 Mini-Trust Fund for long-term management and a shared budget to purchase a floating house for a new TPL-CPA headquarter.
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has provided technical support to train government rangers on Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools (SMART) and provide additional patrol equipment, including boat machines, smartphones, and GPS.

- Cambodian Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project have actively cooperated in processing the endorsement from MoE on TPL-CPA prakas, Management Plan, and CPA agreement.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
By 2025, populations of globally threatened species at Stung Sen Ramsar Site are stable or increased compared to a 2020 baseline	Throughout the project implementation, monthly biodiversity monitoring has been a regular project activity for both rangers and CPA committees to observe aquatic birds and mammal population trends at Stung Sen Ramsar site. In addition to monthly patrols, rangers and CPA committees have joined the Asian Waterbird Census every year to contribute data sources nationwide. Globally threatened species including Lesser adjutant, Greater Adjutant, Grey-headed fish eagle, Germain's Langur, Hairy-nosed Otter, and Burmese Python were identified as the target for monitoring. The specific numbers of species, the number of individuals for waterbirds and mammals, and especially globally endangered and targeted species have been recorded and indicated in the census and monthly patrol since 2020.
By 2025, the Ministry of Environment will develop management zoning plan of Stung Sen Ramsar site to protect core habitats and give more effective co-management opportunities to local communities and stakeholders	The first draft of the management plan and zoning development of Stung Sen Ramsar site has been produced for a provincial consultation meeting with key stakeholders in early 2023 while the Ministry of Environment will host a series of consultation meetings later this year at the national level to gather more inputs and comments from different stakeholders and partners. NatureLife has contributed the data and input on the first draft of Stung Sen Ramsar site zoning plan and will take a key role in giving feedback and contributing data sources. We hope the management plan and zoning development will be completed at the end of 2023 for effective site management.
By 2024, Ministry of Environment sign agreement to give full authority to this Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA committee to manage this CPA for 15 years	A significant achievement of the project has been that by the end of the project we have supported Tuol Neang Sav Plov Loung Community Protected Area in securing a 15-year management agreement with the Ministry of Environment. The CPA formalised this by signing the 15-year community management agreement with the General Department of Local Community, in an official ceremony presided over by H.E Say Sam AI, the current Minister of Environment, and by H.E Thong Khon, the Minister of Tourism, during the 3rd

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	National Tourism Day at the Garden City Hotel, in Phnom Penh in November 2022.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>By the end of the project, five current staff in NatureLife and 12 rangers will have increased technical capacity related to skills and knowledge in site management and conservation, e.g. NatureLife’s staff (project coordinator) will be able to provide training on Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and rangers will be able to use SMART for effective patrolling and monitoring/data collection. The increase in competency will be demonstrated by a pre and post knowledge test and an evaluation interview with the relevant staff/rangers/managers by the end of the project.</p>	<p>With technical support and coaching from BirdLife and Wildlife Conservation Society, four NLC officers (i.e. project coordinator, community outreach officer, law enforcement support assistant, and intern) have improved their capacity in biodiversity monitoring, SMART and SMART Mobile. After training, the NLC project coordinator and law enforcement support assistant conducted a series of on-job training on SMART and SMART Mobile to rangers for monthly enforcement patrol plans, data collection, analysis, and report development. NLC has supported CPA to develop and implement the biodiversity monitoring protocol. NLC community outreach officer also conducted a series of on-job training on SMART and SMART Mobile to Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA and Phsort LCG. The 11 Stung Sen Ramsar site rangers increased their capacity in doing monthly law enforcement patrol plans and using SMART mobile to support data collection and reporting. The increase in competency is demonstrated by the regular develop monthly law enforcement and biodiversity monitoring report by using SMART mobile.</p>
<p>By the end of project, the capacity of the Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA committee will be increased (demonstrated by: participation and raising issue in the local government forums), especially regarding their ability to raise concerns and protect benefits of the communities they represent.</p>	<p>The CPA committees have shown active participation and demonstrated their leading role in CPA management and communication skills with stakeholders. Their CPA management roles included their regular monthly patrol and participation in training and meetings. Throughout the project, the CPA Committees have received training on SMART Mobile and applied SMART Mobile in biodiversity monitoring and patrol, which is an effective way of data collection with better quality compared to paper-based data collection. Besides, the CPA has built networks and sought support from various stakeholders. The CPA participated in a Stakeholder Forum at Stung Sen Ramsar site to share the achievements and progress of CPA management and to raise their concerns about the lack of effective intervention in illegal cases and suggest cooperation from both local authorities and rangers regardless of political bias and issues. Additionally, the CPA committees leveraged resources for CPA management, which include a fishing cat survey with the Fishing Cat project, a restoration project</p>

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	with RECOFTC, a Mini-trust fund with IUCN, and an ecotourism project with MoE. During the project period, this CPA received two awards from NGOs and MoE, recognizing their contribution to conserving the Stung Sen Ramsar site.
By the end of project, monitoring result will show a decrease in illegal land encroachment by 30% from project start within the the 1395 hectares of land in Toul Neang Sav CPA and the protection of biodiversity will be ensured	Lotus plantation and dry season farming are the leading causes of land encroachment in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA. In 2021, through the interview and inventory, 20 cases of dry farming were recorded and accounted for 45 hectares while the lotus plantation covered 8 hectares. To date, with the regular monthly patrol of TPL CPA committees as well as the recent intervention and actions from Cambodia's government towards restricting illegal activities around Tonle Sap Lake, recorded cases of land encroachment were reported dramatically decreasing, with only two cases of lotus plantation, accounting for 1.5 hectares, currently operating under an agreement for no further expansion.
By the end of project, the capacity of the new CPA committee in Stung Sen Ramsar Site will be increased (demonstrated by: participation and raising issue in the local government forums), especially regarding their ability to raise concerns and protect benefits of the communities they represent.	Throughout the project implementation, it was not able to establish a new CPA in Stung Sen Ramsar site, but this proposed area (Phsort) was formed as a Local Conservation Group (LCG) to support rangers in biodiversity monitoring and report illegal activities onsite. With technical support from NatureLife Cambodia, Phsort LCG was able to conduct their regular monthly patrols in biodiversity monitoring and law enforcement around their area and inside Stung Sen Ramsar site. During the reporting period, 3 LCG members have conducted 12 patrols (one patrol equals one day), covered approximately 147 km of distance, recorded 44 bird species, and reported 1 illegal fishing case. In addition, two representatives of Phsort LCG were invited to join the stakeholder forum with local authorities, NGOs, government officials, rangers, and local communities to exchange project progress, issues and challenges, and concerns as well as to join the forum to address possible cooperation and solutions.
By the end of project, monitoring result will show a decrease in illegal land encroachment by 30% from project start within the landscape of the new CPA and the protection of biodiversity will be ensured	This impact was not achieved due to the establishment of Pshort LCG, instead of as a new CPA . The reasons above for establishing it as an LCG rather than as a CPA are detailed above in this report.
By the end of project monitoring show the volume of key natural resources by 273 households from the Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA will remain stable compared to the start and hence directly benefit from	Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA has demonstrated strong commitment and effective management in introducing sustainable practices for natural resource management and reducing illegal activities in the CPA area. Land clearance for dry farming has been removed and prohibited in the CPA area, while

Impact Description	Impact Summary
sustainable use of resources and conservation of its habitat.	only lotus plantation cases are still operating with restricted measures of no chemical inputs and expansion. According to the socioeconomic survey during the project start and endline period, traditional collection activities of non-timber forest products had been widely encouraged among the CPA members and local villagers, including the collection of snails, honeybees, and vegetables. These are key sources of additional income both for CPA members and surrounding villagers. As such, one committee of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA has started to generate more income from smoke fish production where they could get firewood from the CPA.
By the end of project, fishery resource within the new CPA will remain stable or increase as measure by catch per unit effort.	This impact was not achieved due to we established Pshort LCG instead of a new CPA establishing. See the reason above for could not establishing the new CPA.
By the end of project, fishery resource within Toul Neang Sav CPA will remain stable or increase as measure by catch per unit effort.	Through cooperation with FishBio, comprehensive evaluations were carried out at Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA to evaluate the ecological outcomes and biodiversity impacts of the projects. The findings from the baseline and endline surveys showed that the sample site within the area managed by Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung Community Protected Area (CPA) harbored higher biodiversity and a greater relative abundance of fish compared to the sample site outside of the CPA. In addition, the fish caught in the Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung sample site showed higher biodiversity during endline sampling. Between baseline and endline sampling, at least 26 distinct species, representing 11 different families were captured. This included 17 species from 11 families captured during baseline sampling and 19 species from 9 families captured during endline sampling. The calculations of Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE), diversity, and species richness all indicate that the sampled pool within the CPA management area harbors a more abundant and more diverse fish community than the sampled pool outside of the CPA management area. This trend holds true for both baseline and endline sampling and may be driven in part by improved management of fisheries resources because of NLC project activities.
By the end of the project, NatureLife will have increased strengthened relationships with site management teams/rangers as demonstrated by an increase in communication and collaboration through monthly meetings and monthly joint patrol	Throughout the project implementation, the relationship with key stakeholders has been significantly improved. The Site Manager and rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar Site have been active in the support and participation in monthly patrol, meetings, and events with NatureLife. Communication channels have been developed for official communication, including Telegram and

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	<p>phone calls. Stung Sen Ramsar site advisory committee meetings were regularly organized, virtually and physically, between Birdlife, NatureLife, Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment, and the Department of Freshwater Wetland Conservation of the Ministry of Environment to update the progress of the project, consult for recommendations and solutions to the challenges as well as to prepare further plans for the projects in the Ramsar site. Actions plan have been identified for regular cooperation between government rangers and the committees of the Community Protected Area to prevent and intercept illegal activities in the community and Stung Sen Ramsar site.</p>
<p>By the end of the project, NatureLife will replace BirdLife in the roles of supporting site managers and rangers in Stung Sen Ramsar Site, particularly in the area of site management and conservation.</p>	<p>Through technical support and coaching from BirdLife, the officers of NLC have built concrete skills and relationships in working directly with the rangers and local communities and have become independent with lesser support from BirdLife technical staff. Data collection and activities facilitation in the field have been productive with good collaboration with stakeholders as monthly and Progress reports have been developed and submitted on the regular basis with the new application of SMART Patrol. By the end of the project, NLC staff felt more confident to take the previous BirdLife staff role in supporting the rangers and CPA in managing the Stung Sen Ramsar site, they independently manage the data, coach and monitor the Rangers and CPA committee to conduct monthly patrol effectively, develop monthly law enforcement and biodiversity monitor report, and meeting with key stakeholder to address issue and challenges. The institutional capacity of NLC increased in competency demonstrated by the level of collaboration of Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment and other key stakeholders. This focal department has full confidence in, and recognizes the current key role of NatureLife.</p>
<p>By the end of the project, 72 patrolling operations and 72 biodiversity monitoring surveys and monthly reports will developed and shared with relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Government rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar site had started their monthly patrols at the start of the project by using GPS and SMART Book before they were trained to apply SMART and later on SMART Mobile in which data collection and data transfer have been improved to be more convenient and accurate for efficient reporting. In total, 120 law enforcement patrols and 192 biodiversity monitoring patrols were conducted by Stung Seng Ramsar site rangers within the project period. They recorded 63 bird species and 2 mammal species (8 globally</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	endangered species) and intercepted 52 illegal cases, including illegal fishing, land encroachment, and illegal lotus plantation. The monthly reports were produced and shared regularly and periodically with the Provincial Department of Environment, the Ministry of Environment, project partners, and local authorities on the ground. Throughout the project implementation, government rangers in Stung Sen Ramsar site have completed.
By the end of the project, the effectiveness of site management will be evaluated and demonstrate improvement through site management assessment (using Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool - RMETT)	Two separate R-METT workshops were carried out at Stung Sen Ramsar site during the project start and at the end of the project to assess and evaluate the project impacts on on-site management. Overall, the effectiveness of site management and capacity have been generally improved with a total score increase from 43/102 (baseline) to 65/102 (end-line evaluation). The point that have been improved include; better data resources and documents, clear target site management, ecotourism development, the capacity and skills of site rangers, the draft of Ramsar site management plan, and the opportunities for community participation.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The proposal for Phsort CPA establishment was rejected regardless of the endorsement from the Phat Sanday Commune chief and Stung Sen Ramsar Site Manager. The concerns of rejection laid upon the facts that i) Phsort is not registered as a village yet as there's no official recognition/papers, while the residents have been known as fishermen in this sub-village located in the core area of Stung Sen Ramsar Site; ii) More support to this community group can encourage the outside people to live there and create more pressure of the critical habitats; and iii) Kampong Svay District has the plan to relocate Phsort residents to Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung village, approximately 30 km from the proposed CPA site. With this distance, it is ineligible to establish based on the CPA Establishment Guideline.

NatureLife Cambodia sought further consultation with the Provincial Department of Environment (PDoE) in Kampong Thom to collect additional recommendations for further decisions. Likewise, Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment emphasized even more concern on the illegality of the Phsort community living in the natural and remote area of Stung Sen Ramsar site, which is illegal because it will be restricted to be the most important area in the biodiversity conservation area that prohibit any human activities without permission. The Director of PDoE finally confirmed that this establishment process is not legally and technically possible and suggested NatureLife Cambodia consider Balot CPA located in Boeung Tonle Chhmar Ramsar Site as it is currently in a weak situation and receives less support. As such, NatureLife Cambodia made a request accordingly to CEPF for a swift change. However, the CEPF understood the case but suggested resource leverage to setting up a Local Conservation Group for local engagement in natural resource management at the Phsort area and allocating the remaining budget to Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA for the improvement of infrastructure, capacity building, and CPA management activities with cost extension until December 2022.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

- Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA has been fully set up with official documents from the Ministry of Environment (MoE) for long-term operation. These documents include a 15-year CPA management agreement with the Ministry of Environment, a 5-year Management Plan and zoning, a Recognition Degree (Prakas), an amended bylaw, and reactivated the organizational structure, which has been recognized and endorsed by relevant stakeholders, authorities, and MoE.
- Baseline and endline project evaluations have been conducted and developed by FishBio to better understand ecological outcomes and biodiversity impacts by NatureLife's project activities. The findings in the fisheries survey during the baseline survey were used as the data source in the management plan development of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA while the end-line evaluation findings identified project impacts in relation to fish catch, fish species, and habitat change.
- New CPA committees of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA have been elected to work, manage, and lead CPA while more members have been registered on the member list.
- NatureLife has supported Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA to build connections and leveraged resources for CPA management and development, including financial support for the guarding tower, a mini-trust fund, and a shared budget for the headquarter.
- Infrastructure of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA has been improved, which included purchasing and repairing a new floating headquarter, restoring two 35-m fishing dikes at the conservation zone, and installing one signboard and three boundary poles.
- A series of training has been provided to the committees of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA and Phsort Local Conservation Group to raise awareness of gender issues, reflect and identify the value of wetland and improvement action plan, enhance knowledge and skill in biodiversity monitoring and data collection, and build capacity in report writing so that CPA committees will have developed a better understanding and take action for sustainable CPA management and wetland conservation.
- The knowledge and skills on Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools (SMART) for patrol have been widely provided to NatureLife's project staff, government rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar site, and committees of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA to which they have collectively worked together with effective data collection on the field and improved report development. Rangers and CPA committees have been able to apply SMART in their monthly patrols regularly in accordance with the developed protocol and project timeframes, while NatureLife's staff (project coordinator and project officer) were trained to be able to arrange extension training to assist rangers and CPA committees to tackle rising challenges and issues during patrol every month. The training, however, was provided in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) as additional equipment and tools were provided to support rangers and CPA committees for better practices and effective data collection.
- With technical support from BirdLife and Wildlife Conservation Society, NatureLife has provided a series of training on SMART Desktop and SMART Mobile to project staff, rangers, and CPA committees for data collection and analysis, and report development. Government rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar site and Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA have learned and applied SMART Mobile in their monthly patrol while the project coordinator, law enforcement support officer, and CPA officer were trained with sufficient knowledge and skills to produce reports and provide further on-job training to rangers and CPA committees when they encounter any challenges or issues. To date, the project coordinator has gained experience and confidence to independently manage data and the performance of project staff, rangers, and CPA while the law enforcement officer and CPA officer have built a better understanding of producing quality reports and assisting rangers and CPA on the ground more effectively when needed.

- With support from NatureLife's staff, government rangers of two stations at Stung Sen Ramsar site have conducted regular monthly patrols and applied SMART patrol for law enforcement and biodiversity monitoring. Since the project started, 11 rangers have completed 312 patrols (192 biodiversity monitoring and 120 law enforcement patrols), covered approximately 9596 km of distance, recorded 63 bird species and 2 mammal species (8 globally endangered species), and intercepted 52 illegal cases, including illegal fishing, land encroachment, and illegal lotus plantation.
- The committees of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA have participated in regular monthly patrols and applied SMART mobile to collect data in law enforcement and biodiversity monitoring in their CPA area and Stung Sen Ramsar site. Throughout the project implementation, 9 committees have completed 86 patrols (one patrol equals one day), recorded 30 bird species and 2 mammal species, and reported 66 illegal cases to rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar site.
- Though the new CPA establishment at Stung Sen Ramsar site was not succeeded as planned during the project implementation, significant outcomes have paid off. NatureLife Cambodia has developed key supporting documents for the new CPA establishment and granted endorsement from key stakeholders to move on regardless of the political issues involved and uncertain plans of the government for the proposed area. Additionally, the proposed area for CPA establishment (Phsort) was alternatively formed as a Local Conservation Group (LCG) to participate with rangers and other CPA committees in conserving Stung Sen Ramsar site by monitoring biodiversity and reporting any illegal cases around their area regularly on monthly basis. Following the permission, Phsort LCG has been able to join the patrols and recorded 43 bird species, two of which are endangered, and reported one illegal fishing around their area.
- Two separate R-METT workshops were carried out at Stung Sen Ramsar site during the project start and at the end of the project to assess and evaluate the project impacts on on-site management. Overall, the management resources and capacity have been generally improved with one point increase in the end-line evaluation, including better data resources and documents, capacity and skills of site rangers, and existing projects at the sites.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
2.0	Establish and strengthen a new CPA in Phat Sanday Commune	2.1	Official letter from village chief or minute meeting demonstrates the endorsement of at least village in Phat Sanday commune on additional CPA establishment	The Commune chief confirmed his position to process the proposal for a new CPA establishment at Phsort. On 27 May 2021, NatrueLife Cambodia organized a consultation meeting at Phat Sanday commune with the participation of representatives of Phsort villagers, Phat Sanday commune chief, representatives of Toul Neang Sav Phlov Loung CPA, and technical officers of Kampong Thom provincial department of environment to discuss the possibility of establishing a new CPA at Phsort village territory. With a strong request from representatives of Phsort villagers, the meeting agreed to process and establish this new CPA.
2.0	Establish and strengthen a new CPA in Phat Sanday Commune	2.2	Endorsement document of Local authorities on additional CPA establishment	The proposal for the new CPA (Phsort) establishment had been endorsed by the Commune Chief and Site Manager of Stung Sen Ramsar site with the attached draft map and thump prints of 51 households (equivalent to 86% of total households) before it was submitted to Kampong Svay district office and Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment (PDoE) in September 2021. Following the receipt of the proposal, there had been a series of discussions and meetings between the District Governor, local residents of Phsort, and PDoE with a ground check of the area, and the final decision to deny the

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				proposal was made due to no proper permit of villagers and resettlement plan from the government to other parts of the Ramsar site.
2.0	Establish and strengthen a new CPA in Phat Sanday Commune	2.3	CANCELLED - Endorsement document of MoE- focal point on additional CPA establishment	
2.0	Establish and strengthen a new CPA in Phat Sanday Commune	2.4	CANCELLED - Draft CPA management plan	
2.0	Establish and strengthen a new CPA in Phat Sanday Commune	2.5	CANCELLED - Guideline/regulations to support implementing key priority activities in the CPA draft management plan and monthly progress reports of CPA committee	
3.0	Build capacity and expertise in site management and conservation for NatureLife and Stung Sen Wetland site managers and rangers	3.1	Report on training needs of NatureLife and site managers and rangers and training curriculum	A Training Need Assessment was conducted at the start of the project to address different pieces of training that rangers and NatureLife staff needed in order to improve their capacity for project implementation and site management. Based on the responses from rangers, nine priority training courses were listed, including collecting data according to new software of SMART mobile, bird and wildlife identification and monitoring, and court case procedures, while NatureLife staff noted down five priority training courses in relation to SMART Mobile monitoring program, GIS, bird and wildlife identification, and

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				monitoring. Following this assessment, the project team held a discussion to develop a work plan to address further training needs throughout the project period.
3.0	Build capacity and expertise in site management and conservation for NatureLife and Stung Sen Wetland site managers and rangers	3.2	Reports on priority training and coaching (cascade training)	Throughout the project implementation, BirdLife staff has provided a series of training to NatureLife staff and rangers to have the skill set and knowledge to deliver project activities on the ground. NatureLife staff has been trained on GIS for map development and SMART Patrol for report development while other training on values of wetland, monthly report writing, and GPS and SMART were provided to both NatureLife staff and rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar site. Later in 2021, in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society, NatureLife staff and rangers were trained on the updated tools of SMART patrol for law enforcement and biodiversity monitoring at Stung Sen Ramsar site. Apart from providing training, a study visit was hosted to bring rangers of Stung Sen Ramsar site to Boeung Prek Lapouv protected landscape to exchange experience in law enforcement, biodiversity monitoring, and stakeholder collaboration for site management with peer rangers and site managers. As a result, NatureLife staff have been able to deliver project activities independently with cooperation with rangers onsite as monthly

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				reports and deliverables were produced on a regular timeframe and noticeable results.
1.0	Strengthen the existing Community Protected Area (CPA) in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung	1.1	CPA membership list and organogram	The member list of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA has been developed with the membership of 163 households (60% of 271 households), which follows the CPA guideline and organogram. This membership list was conducted through the recruitment process by introducing the CPA by-law and filling in CPA Member Application Form with thumbprints and approval from the CPA committee and Village Chief.
1.0	Strengthen the existing Community Protected Area (CPA) in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung	1.2	Draft CPA management plan	Three versions of the draft management plan of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA have been produced through a series of consultation meetings with diverse comments and inputs from key stakeholders before submitting the final management plan to the Ministry of Environment for final endorsement.
1.0	Strengthen the existing Community Protected Area (CPA) in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung	1.3	MoE-endorsed CPA management plan	The management plan of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA has been fully developed and got the official endorsement from the Ministry of Environment in June 2022 with approval by local authorities, including the Commune Chief, Head of Local Community Development Office, and Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Environment. The copies of the management plan have been printed out and distributed to local authorities and key stakeholders on site for reference and documentation.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Strengthen the existing Community Protected Area (CPA) in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung	1.4	Monthly report of CPA committee on their management plan's key priority activities implementation	Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA Committees have conducted regular monthly patrols and started to apply SMART Mobile in biodiversity monitoring and Law Enforcement. During the reporting period, 9 CPA committees have conducted 20 patrols (one patrol equals one day), recorded 28 bird species, and intercepted 5 cases of illegal fishing in the CPA area. In addition to patrolling, Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA committees were able to repair the fishing pool inside their conservation area, purchase and repair a floating house as a new headquarter, install 3 boundary poles and 1 signboard, and sign the CPA management agreement with the Ministry of Environment.
1.0	Strengthen the existing Community Protected Area (CPA) in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung	1.5	Reports on priority training and coaching to Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA committee	Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA Committees have conducted regular monthly patrols since November 2020 and started to apply SMART Mobile in biodiversity monitoring and Law Enforcement in April 2022. During the project implementation, 9 committees have completed 86 patrols (one patrol equals one day), recorded 30 bird species and 2 mammal species, and reported 66 illegal cases to rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar site.
1.0	Strengthen the existing Community Protected Area (CPA) in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung	1.6	Improved infrastructure of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA	Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA has leveraged resources to purchase a second-hand floating house and repaired it as a new headquarter instead of repairing the old station as proposed while the budget for boundary pole

Component		Deliverable		
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				installation was also allocated to have one extra signboard in addition to the three boundary poles.
1.0	Strengthen the existing Community Protected Area (CPA) in Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung	1.7	Photographs of one restored fish pool inside the Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA core area	The fishing pools in the conservation area of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA were successfully restored regardless of the unexpected delay due to weather changes that caused the rise of the water level in the pools.
2.0	Establish and strengthen a new CPA in Phat Sanday Commune	2.6	Report on interim measures implemented by Local Conservation Group to improve conservation and natural resources management at Pshort sub-village	To engage local residents of the Phsort sub-village in biodiversity conservation and natural resources management, NatureLife Cambodia has established a Local Conservation Group (LCG) of 4 representatives at Phsort to involve in biodiversity monitoring for a period of 9 months, starting from April to December 2022. Phsort LCG was required to conduct patrols at least twice a month to collect data on rare birds, endangered species, habitat, and water conditions, to record illegal activities, and then report to the rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar site for further action. With technical support from NatureLife Cambodia, Phsort LCG conducted their regular monthly patrols in biodiversity monitoring and law enforcement around their area and inside Stung Sen Ramsar site. Phsort LCG members has conducted 12 patrols (one patrol equals one day), covered approximately 147 km of distance, recorded 44 bird species, and reported 1 illegal fishing case.

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

- Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools (SMART) has been an important tool throughout the project implementation to support rangers, CPA, and Phsort Local Conservation Group in data collection and analysis and report development. The monthly reports generated through SMART have been recognized as accurate and sufficient sources for site management and data sharing with partners, the Provincial Department of Environment, and the MoE. This knowledge and skill set in SMART provided to grassroots stakeholders will undoubtedly contribute to better management and sustainability in the future.
- Three different patrol protocols have been designed for Stung Sen Ramsar site rangers, Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA, and Phsort LCG to strengthen and enhance the performance of rangers in their monthly patrols in law enforcement and biodiversity monitoring. These protocols have been used as a guidebook for stakeholders on the ground and NatureLife Cambodia to have mutual understanding and have a well-coordinated joint effort to effectively implement the project in Stung Sen Ramsar site with specific roles and responsibilities and timing of each party. Project activities and work plans have been consistently delivered on time.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
5.2	Number of domestic civil society organizations that demonstrate improvements in organizational capacity.	1	At least 1 domestic CSO (NatureLife Cambodia) demonstrates improvements in organizational capacity.	1	Based on the result of baseline and endline assessment by using the Civil Society Tracking Tool, the Capacity of NatureLife Cambodia has significantly improved.
1	Number of civil society organizations, including domestic organizations, that actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.	1	One civil society organization (NatureLife Cambodia) actively participates in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile	1	The conservation capacity of NatureLife Cambodia has been increasingly recognized. NatureLife continues to coordinate the Cambodia Vulture Working Group made up of international and national NGOs, and plays a central role in engaging various conservation projects and

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					civil society organizations at a national-level to conserve Cambodia's most endangered bird species including the Giant Ibis, White-shouldered Ibis, and Sarus Crane.
3	Number of key biodiversity areas targeted by CEPF grants that have new or strengthened protection and management.	1	At least 1 KBA (Lower Stung Sen) has new or strengthened protection and management	1	Lower Stung Sen has developed a proper management structure as a Ramsar site, and the zoning plan was drafted. One CPA was established and strengthened to enhance the participation of communities in co-management and protect the key biodiversity in this KBA.

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
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Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
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Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
23	1	Throughout the project implementation, government rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar site, Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA, and Phsort Local Conservation Group have received various pieces of training as in the following: -Training on GPS; -Training on Avenza Map; -Training on Bird Identification and SMART Book; -Training on Biodiversity Monitoring; -Training on SMART Mobile; -Training on Report Writing; -Workshop on Wetland Importance and Value; -Workshop on Protected Area Law and Procedures to file illegal cases; -Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Natural Resources Management; and, -Workshop on SMART Desktop and SMART Mobile to NatureLife staff.

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
23	1	<p>Diverse income or cash benefits have been made available for government rangers at Stung Sen Ramsar site, Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA, and Phsort Local Conservation Group through the CEPF grant implemented by NatureLife Cambodia. These group had increased their income or cash benefits from payment for conducting monthly patrols, transportation costs, and homestay services from NatureLife and partners during the project implementation in the field. Moreover, some rangers and one CPA committee received monthly payments by involving in the cat survey through the connection built with Naturelife's partner in Stung Sen Ramsar site.</p>

Benefits to Communities

View the characteristics column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the benefits column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung Community Protected Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cambodia	360	311													

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the topics column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted

Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
Mini-Trust Fund for Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA	to ensure the long term cost of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA management	2021	IUCN release 5000 US\$ for this CPA to set up fix deposit account at private bank. Interest rate from this fix deposit, Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA committee can use to support their CPA management (i.e. monthly patrol cost).	Cambodia	Supported an existing mechanism	Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA got interest income from this fix deposit to cover some cost of monthly monitoring patrol

Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Leptoptilos	javanicus	Lesser Adjutant	VU	species monitoring, and patrol to halt illegal hunting	Unknown
Trachypitecus	germaini	Germain's Langur	EN	species monitoring and patrolling to halt wildlife hunting	Unknown
Lutra	sumatrana	Hairy-nosed Otter	EN	species monitoring and patrolling to halt illegal hunting	Unknown

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Catlocarpio	siamensis	Giant Barb	CR	species habitat protection, and patrolling to halt illegal fishing	Unknown
Leptoptilos	dubius	Greater Adjutant	EN	Species monitoring and patrol to halt illegal hunting	Unknown
Python	bivittatus	Burmese Python	VU	Patrol to halt illegal hunting	Unknown

LESSONS LEARNED

- In the process of establishing a new CPA (Phsort) at Stung Sen Ramsar, we managed to develop a proposal with villagers' participation and the commune chief's endorsement following the guideline for the Ministry of Environment, but, due to an inappropriate schedule at the communal election, it was rejected later on by the District Governor and the Provincial Department of Environment. The political pressures were to gain people's votes by not restricting any access to natural resources, and setting up a new CPA will create more restrictions. If we had discussed this proposal with all stakeholders during the project design, we would arrange better time and preparation for the establishment and avoided the long delay and the shift to create the Field Monitoring Team.
- Supporting CBOs to apply Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools (SMART) in the monthly patrol was productive in terms of generating accurate data and having effective CPA management, but we did not do it soon enough. We should have trained CPA committees with the knowledge of SMART and Bird Identification skills at the project's start, instead of doing it during the last semester, which was meant the process was very intensive for local community member to adopt the new technology. If we had started earlier, there could be a series of follow-up training and monitoring processes to build concrete skills and practices of SMART with the CPA committees.
- Empowering women as a CPA chair has been very impactful both for the CPA management and project implementation, but having only one woman in the leadership role still limits the amount of strong influence women are able to exert. This has restricted her from fully participating in monthly patrols, and other events conducted by the male committees due to concerns of safety and traditional norms. We did not have resources for introducing and raising awareness about gender to CPA committees until the budget allocation in the last semester of the project. We should have provided training on gender and related topics, and encouraged setting higher numbers of women for gender balance and youth engagement roles in the committees at the project design stage, and through discussions with the Commune Livelihood Development Office and local authorities. More participation from women and younger people in conservation is mostly likely to produce long-term outcomes and sustainability.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

- Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA has been fully set up with official recognition from the Ministry of Environment, connections with partners and NGOs for future projects, and capacity and skill sets for independent operation and wetland management. Supporting this CPA to obtain a 15-year agreement is an exceptional outcome for NatureLife Cambodia with regards to the long procedures of developing supporting documents and negotiation efforts with relevant stakeholders on the ground and at the national level. With these experiences and success in community engagement and CPA establishment, NatureLife Cambodia would have no hesitation to replicate similar project ideas in the future. Moreover, throughout this project, the knowledge and skills in bird monitoring and bird identification along with the application of SMART for conservation were widely introduced in which rangers and CPA committees have developed a concrete understanding of methods and protocols by which data are effectively collected and analyzed for report development. These will be important resources for wetland or CPA management, especially research and study related to water birds and communication engagement.

- The Stakeholder Forum at Stung Sen Ramsar site was initiated to allow transparent discussion and cooperation among NGOs working at the Ramsar site and local people. This forum brought together multiple stakeholders, government rangers, NGOs, local authorities, community leaders, local young students, and teachers on a round table to share experiences and resources, and to improve local connections and networks, which contributes efforts towards addressing key challenges and building relationships. Mutual agreement and actions were addressed and this kind of meeting should be promoted or replicated for greater participation and sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

With the proposed safeguard measures for livelihood improvement, NatureLife Cambodia supported Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA to connect with the Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project (CSLEP) for the Ecotourism project. Through this project, Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA committees have received a series of trainings on the concepts and skills of tour guides, homestay preparation, and design and cooking courses. The committees were invited to join a few study trips to different provinces to learn about ecotourism concepts and experiences from other communities. Apart from this, NatureLife Cambodia encouraged the CPA to raise awareness among local authorities and villagers on the CPA boundary and regulations with each zone by distributing copies of the Management Plan with a clear zoning map to key stakeholders on the ground. The CPA's map was shared with the commune chief to assist them in raising awareness and informing local villagers about restricted zones where and how to sustainably fish, log, or hunt.

Regarding the grievance mechanism, NatureLife has always monitored and checked the complaint boxes installed at Stung Sen Ramsar site headquarters and Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung CPA station on a regular monthly basis in order to collect any letters or concerns from project stakeholders. Since the project started, there have been no significant complaints or grievances until late 2022 NatureLife received and addressed a verbal complaint from the Phat Sanday Commune Chief of not obtaining enough updates on project activities, especially the recent update of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung (TPL) CPA. The chief complained that the committees of TPL CPA had never shared the CPA map with MoE's endorsement to his office, and suggested having frequent discussions and regular reporting from the CPA and rangers so that the chief could inform further local villagers.

Because the committees of TPL CPA were there at the meeting, NatureLife encouraged an explanation from them, and they said the MoE's endorsed map was attached to the management plan when it had been submitted to the commune chief two months ago. It could be the fact that the chief had not checked the management plan as well, as he has recently taken office and might not be able to keep up with the project's progress. Therefore, in response to the chief's suggestion, both rangers and CPA agreed to share monthly reports every month and will attend future meetings regularly if requested by the chief. It was reminded that if there is anything to communicate or complain about project activities, NatureLife's contact can be reached at any time, or a written letter can be left in the complaint boxes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$42,835.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	42835.27 US\$ from European Union-Our Tonle Sap project, all is the counterpart funding.

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

NatureLife Cambodia Organization; Email: admin@naturelifecambodia.org