



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2018)**

Project reference	23-010
Project title	Piloting a model for protected area (buffer) zone management in Cambodia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cambodia: Siem Pang District, Stung Treng Province
Lead organisation	BirdLife International-Cambodia Programme
Partner(s)	1) General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDNCP), Ministry of Environment and Stung Treng Department of Environment 2) Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) 3) Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT)
Project leader	Coline Ganz
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	01/04/2018 – 30/09/2018, HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc.	N/A

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Project Management

Recruitment of staff: BirdLife has a new Livelihoods Officer, Ms. Nara Nou Alyny. She has a university and professional background in agronomy and is currently preparing her thesis paper on the Ibis rice scheme. She has been with BirdLife since May 2018. Please see in Annex 1 her CV.

Project meetings: The Project Leader has set up monthly meetings with the implementing team to review progress and solve potential issues. The Livelihoods Officer is now the one in charge of the coordination between BirdLife, SMP, and CRDT.

Project monitoring, review and reporting: All monitoring tools have been in place since April and are helping the project team to keep track of progress. The beneficiaries' database is 50% filled in and will help our outcome analysis. The following reports were produced during this reporting period and are included as annexes: Trapeang attitude survey report, Three-year vaccination report, also five project success stories were published.

Output 1 - Local consultation structures established at village and district level, equitably representing the views of constituents.

Seven Village Forum (VF) Committees are active and supporting the Project's interventions in Western Siem Pang. Each have by-laws (please see an example in Annex 5) and are meeting quarterly. In July, we conducted 2 commune level VF meetings in Prek Meas (16pp – F:5) and Tmor Keo (15pp – F:7) communes (minutes in Annex 6). Participants were requested to collect feedback from their fellow villagers to raise at the upcoming Stakeholders Forum meeting on September 28th.

The 1st quarterly meeting for the Stakeholders Forum took place on May 24th with 28

participants. The second quarterly meeting took place on September 28th. We also developed a protocol for the conduct of the Stakeholders Forum meetings; please find it in Annexes 7-8-9 along with the meetings minutes.

As part of the zoning process, consultations took place in 10 villages surrounding Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (WSPWS). The objective for these consultations was to provide a comprehensive knowledge to communities on the zoning process, as these villages will be directly impacted. It is crucial that they understand the necessity and purpose of the zoning so that they can support its implementation. Likewise, it was important for the zoning sub-working group to collect feedback from the communities to ensure the zonation would protect the Sanctuary and its resources while not negatively impacting the livelihoods of local people. The village consultation meetings started on 24th March 2018 and finished on 30th April 2018. In all ten villages, the zoning sub-working group interviewed a total of 548 (295F) participants.

Most feedback was from local people worried about their livelihoods. They were anxious to understand how their day to day life is going to be affected by the zoning, in particular whether their animals (buffalos and cows) will still be able to wander freely in the Sanctuary, if they can cut wood for their houses, and if they can still access the Sanctuary for their livelihood activities. The zoning sub-working group members took the time to answer each of their questions, and as a result they seemed more comfortable.

Output 2 - Community land-use plans (maps of land holdings and rice fields) and conservation agreements finalised within at least four villages neighbouring Western Siem Pang WS.

The process of rice field mapping is now completed for the four villages. In total, the Department of Land Management has mapped 719 rice field parcels for 488 households. We have exceeded our target of 450 households and completed this activity.

During the reporting period, we developed a conservation agreement template (please see Annex 10), organised meetings with key villages' stakeholders and are now closely collaborating with six villages which have all signed the conservation agreement via their Village Chief. Please find in Annex 11 the conservation agreement for Pong Kriel village. In the next quarter we will develop the conservation agreement for Kham Pouk village and seek their support.

Output 3 - Zoning plan of Western Siem Pang WS is developed in consultation with local communities.

The zoning process started on March 16th and is progressing according to plan. We supported the formation of a provincial zoning working group, which led village consultation meetings and district level consultation, and is preparing for a provincial level consultation meeting at the end of October. At national level, a zoning committee has been established and has been meeting regularly since July. A draft zoning map has been produced, which is included in Annex 12 as part of the Executive summary of the provincial working group zoning report. In the coming months, the zoning map will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment for endorsement before being proclaimed by the Prime Minister in a Sub-Decree, which is expected in early 2019.

Output 4 - Improved food security in four target villages (5,052 people) through improved local capacity in agriculture, increased income from wildlife-friendly rice sales, natural resource management and direct natural resource interventions.

CRDT and BirdLife have been providing training to beneficiaries in seven target villages. So far, farmers have been trained on the concepts of rice transplanting and sowing (283 participants – F:168), farm diary recording, and financial management (202 participants – F:81).

In May, we vaccinated 360 cows and 595 buffalos for 165 households, and provided husbandry training to 66 participants (19F). Please see the vaccination report in Annex 3 for more details.

Regarding the Ibis Rice scheme, SMP and BirdLife delivered 5,500kg of Romdul purity rice seed (organic) to 4 villages, which was planted in an area of 137,5ha by 202 households (our target was 200 households) (Khes Svay:69HHs, Pong Kriel:80HHs, Khes Kraom:31HHs, and Nhang Sum:22HHs). SMP and BirdLife have been monitoring the rice growing process and the farmers' work and everything is proceeding on course. At the end of September, the certification company ECOCERT visited Siem Pang to conduct inspections for the organic rice

certification. The visit proved successful and they provided us with the organic certification. Please find in Annex 13 their draft report.

The normal organic rice process usually takes three years, but as farmers in Siem Pang have barely been using pesticides on their fields, SMP decided to start the organic certification earlier and also to offer a 20% premium on rice sales instead of the 10% initially offered.

Output 5 - *Between 2018 and 2019 the area of forest converted to rice fields within the boundary of WSPWS has halved compared with the area converted between 2016 and 2017.*

In total, the Department of Land Management has mapped 719 rice field parcels for 488 households. The BirdLife Data Management Officer has set up the compliance system after being trained by SMP and our rice field database is now completed which allows tracking and reporting of potential rule breakers. In September, we flagged four families of rule breakers who received a warning.

The consultant for the Forest Cover Change report 2017-2018 started his survey on August 15th and will submit the final report at the end of October.

Output 6 - *Increased awareness of the links between biodiversity and human-wellbeing and support for mainstreaming participatory forest management into sustainable protected forest management policy.*

Implementation of this Output will take place in the next reporting period.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

We did not encounter notable issues over the last six months. The arrival of two new staff (the Project Leader and the Livelihoods Officer) has consolidated the project structure and implementation. Increased efforts have been put into reaching our targets and ensuring positive outcomes.

After receiving our review for the annual report year 2, we decided to change the impact statement and title, and submitted a request for change to Darwin on 27th September 2018.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS:	No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes (27 th September 2018)
Received confirmation of change acceptance	No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**