

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	Day Ku Aphiwat (DKA)
<b>Project Title</b>	Natural Resource Management for Safeguarding Livelihoods
<b>CEPF GEM No.</b>	CEPF-037-2015
<b>Date of Report</b>	July 2015 – June 2016

**CEPF Hotspot:** Indo-Burma. The project site is within KBA KMH7 "Central Oddar Meanchey"

**Strategic Direction:** SD8, strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels.

**Grant Amount:** \$19,987

**Project Dates:** June 01, 2015 to July 31, 2016

### 1. Implementation Partners for this Project

Cambodia Prevention Organization (CPO). DKA staff worked jointly together with CPO to prevent people from using illegal fishing methods.

Community Forestry Song Rokaven. DKA staff worked in collaboration with representatives of CF Song Rokaven - consulting them, exchanging information, working together to protect the forest.

Village Support Group (VSG): DKA staff worked in collaboration with VSG at the commune level, through consultation, exchanging information, and working together to prevent illegal actions in the fish and forest conservation areas.

DKA staff collaborated with local authorities at the village and commune level, by negotiating with them to disseminate information about natural protection and the importance of natural resources. We asked the authorities to jointly solve problems, in cases that could not be solved by the community committee.

### Conservation Impacts

### 2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile

The project has contributed to social work for community development through education of the community to understand the benefits of protecting community resources and to volunteer themselves to protect the community from illegal deforestation and fishing. Thus, the project has contributed to saving the environment and mitigating climate change for safe living in the community.

The villagers have begun to know their civil rights, and to execute their right to vote. This decision-making process has made them analyze who can be their representatives, and how confident they can be to vote for them. Through this process, one positive impact is the behavior change of the people in the community from dependence on others to developing their community by themselves. In particular, they have recognized the need for acting themselves to protect the natural resources in their community. In addition, gender equity has been integrated in all events.

As the project focused on Natural Resource Management (NRM), the CBO was the main relevant group for working on NRM practical work. Thus, from the work with the CBO DKA expects that:

- Community people are able to work together, in the sense of teamwork;
- People, in particular women, are able to participate in the implementation of projects;
- The capacity on NRM will be useful to all people in the community, in particular to youth;
- The Forest and Nature Pond will be reserved and protected by the community;
- The illegal cutting of trees and illegal fishing methods will be prevented, including the use of electric fishing gear.

In terms of positive impacts of building the capacity of the Civil Society Network (CSN), the network has gathered all civil society organizations to work together to have a strong voice and to solve challenges faced by the community. For this to be successful in the long term, however, more capacity building is needed. Also, the committee and the villagers still need regular consultations on their approaches to support collective interests.

### **3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project**

DKA has gained the trust of the community committees (CBO committee, forestry and fisheries committees, women's savings groups, and youth group), which has resulted in the community members sharing challenges related to forestry and fisheries with us. The community members were committed to join every meeting even when they were busy with farming. Some committee members who had quit the committee were encouraged to come back to work for their community. Meanwhile, some committees of communities who were not part of our target group requested DKA staff to go to their community to help strengthen community members in saving community resources.

Some tangible changes have been achieved within this period of our project. Community members have gained more awareness of the negative impacts of issues happening in the community; for example, some of them went to request compensation for the negative effects that the dam construction will have in community. In addition, we gained six more committee members to volunteer in the fisheries committee. Local authorities have recognized DKA's activities working closely with the forestry and fisheries committees and the savings group. Some DKA project documents were reviewed by the district and provincial governors, in line with their requirements to ensure smooth implementation. Despite these achievements, more efforts are needed to strengthen the CBO committee and the forestry and fishery committees, as the community members are still facing a number of challenges.

#### **Planned Goal (as stated in the approved proposal)**

The goal of the project was: "Citizens of Anlong Veng district (particularly women and youth) are empowered to participate in social, economic and political spheres and in the protection of natural resources."

#### **4. Actual progress toward Goal at completion**

The project goal has been achieved through the following means:

- Capacity building for community leaders and members has been provided through trainings, meetings, group and individual consultations, and also by providing materials and through encouragements.
- Community leaders (CBO committee, fishery committee, forestry committee and savings group leaders) were able to plan and implement their own activities independently. They participated in activities to develop their communities, and advocated with local authorities to participate in preventing illegal activities in conservation areas, such as in fish conservation and forestry conservation areas. They are planning to amend the fishery by-laws and vote to select the fishery committee, as the mandate of fishery committee has ended.
- The economic situation of the community members who joined with savings groups has improved; they were able to get a loan from the group with low interest for expanding their business or with no interest in case of urgent needs. Savings group leaders have played an important role in their village; for example, in case of domestic violence in the village, they collaborated with authorities to help the victim.

#### **Planned Objectives (as stated in the approved proposal)**

Objective 1. "A Community Based Organization (CBO) aimed at protecting collective community interests is established in Anlong Veng district, and run following democratic principles."

Objective 2. "The capacity of the civil society network of Anlong Veng district (forestry and fisheries committees, women's savings groups, youth groups, etc. from 8 villages in 3 communes) to protect their rights and collective interests is strengthened."

Objective 3. "The institutional capacity of DKA (including good governance, and relationships with stakeholders) has increased."

#### **5. Actual progress toward Objectives at completion**

##### Objective 1

Community Based Organization (CBO): Existing committees and community members were brought together to form a CBO. Consultations on CBO by-laws were conducted monthly with different levels of CBO members and committee members. Based on the different levels of knowledge of CBO members and committee members, they were made aware of existing committee members in their community which work on protecting their collective interests and natural resources. The newly-established CBO committee included savings groups and fisheries and forestry committees, which required persistent coaching both to get strong social conscience to work for the community, and to strengthen the capacity of the above committees

and members, in order for them to be able to implement their own activities independently and to effectively work with local authorities to advocate on natural resources management.

### Objective 2

**Savings Groups:** The eight savings groups, which are an important part of the CBO mission, cover 7 villages of 3 communes, and have a total of 72 members (63 women). As a result of the project, the savings have increased, which is an important contribution for the villagers to make a better living by saving their own money and by reducing the risk from bank loans. We have taught them how to manage the money and how to divide the interest once a year. Additionally, DKA and the committee members committed to finding possible solutions to deal with inactive members to return the loan regularly and finding new members.

As a result, we could see that about five out of eight saving groups have increased saved money more than others thanks to a well-functioning process. We determined that they all could survive even if there were no DKA in the near future. The sustainability of the savings groups will continue to inspire people to work together for a sustainable life and for serving the needs of individuals, families and the community as a whole. With this benefit, the savings group is indeed a sustainable project, which is a way toward a sustainable community with sustainable lives serving each family's needs and the whole community in the future. Details on exact number can be found in the table of savings groups.

**Fisheries Committee:** Since this committee was established and authorized by the Provincial Fisheries official in Oddar Meanchey under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, there was no follow-up or capacity building for the members of the committee for months. During this period, some committee members were inactive and some resigned from the committee. Within the one-year project, DKA started to review the committee members and found five new committee members to join the existing committee. The total number of committee members is therefore 16 people in three villages. Since they joined the one-year project, they have gained some spirit and willingness for community resources preservation but because of limited knowledge and living conditions, they still need constant capacity building and team-building for working together and other further technical support. Once the committee members are confident with the applicable capacity and well-organized in their functions, they will be able to stand independently without DKA.

**Forestry Committees:** DKA worked on capacity building by engaging two forestry committees; one for the Monks' Forest and another one called Kbal Osophy forest. In addition, another committee from outside DKA's target area called Samaki forestry joined the activities. One forest committee member in Roharl village of Kbal Osophy forest, which has been deforested illegally since DKA's project ended, is now in the process of soft-advocacy by sending the complaint on illegal deforestation to the authorities, while DKA is keeping close contact providing some technical support and ideas to the committees. As for the committee of the Monks' Forest, DKA has motivated them to continue their work since we started our project. We also continue to encourage other committee members to join this activity; however, often these are not ready to serve the needs of forest preservation, based on their limited living condition.

Additionally, a youth group was formed by DKA, but then it was taken by the government activities to be their youth group since the absence of DKA, and some move abroad. Youth now is separated and they focus only their livelihoods. DKA continues to try to engage a few youth to

get involved in fisheries committee, but time is needed to convince youth to believe in it and get back to work as group.

### Objective 3

DKA conducted board meetings with board members quarterly to present and report the progress of DKA on funds available to implement DKA's project, the work plan, reporting on the progress of implementation and usage of fund, and to ensure the working progress and accountabilities.

DKA arranged field visits for board members to visit, monitor and evaluate the project, and give advice and strategic directions on how to sustain the project.

DKA gave the opportunity to staff to join seminars or events with NGO partners and networks, in order to build good relationships with partners and build their capacity.

## **6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its goal and objectives**

Regarding the success of the project, for the general observation, there were many community members attended the training provided and sharing the problems they faced for finding solutions. The main important point is that the Community Fishery started to prevent and protect again on Tamok Lake. In addition, there is cooperation from the government district fishery agent for working together in order to protect the fisheries.

However, there are still challenges in the implementation. The CBO bylaws are not yet accepted by all community members. They still hesitate or are afraid of local authorities. This activity should be continued in the future in order to ensure their interest in the CBO.

As a general observation, many community members need to see the outsiders to motivate them to work together. It seems they do not have the ownership yet.

## **7. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

As explained above. In addition, DKA also planned to train them to negotiate with the local authorities in working together for forestry and fishery activities. But at the end of the project, the people still could not work with the local authorities on the forestry and fishery activities.

## Project Activities and Deliverables

### 8. Describe the activities implemented and deliverables met under Objective 1

#### **Objective 1.**

*A Community Based Organization (CBO) aimed at protecting collective community interests is established in Anlong Veng district, and run following democratic principles.*

#### Activity 1.1:

Hold 8 village meetings for community members, village leaders, and local authorities, in order to build local ownership of the CBO (explain the draft CBO by-laws, edit the laws based on participant feedback, and identify roles of community members and CBO leaders)

#### Deliverable:

Meetings held in 4 villages, with at least 20 participants each. (by 30th Sept 2015)

Meetings held in a further 4 villages (by 31st Jan 2016)

#### Actual implementation:

DKA staff held meetings in three villages for the reporting period of the first semester. We (DKA staff) were able to meet with only small numbers of committee members and individuals in each village, due to their time constraints. As a result of these meetings, we gained important information regarding the condition and responsibility of CBO members. Consequently, in the second semester, DKA staff conducted monthly meetings individually at same time with Activity 2.1 within the eight villages. Readings and explanations were provided to community members on what a CBO is, its purposes and by-laws. We (DKA staff) emphasized that; firstly, community members should become aware that a CBO had been established in their community within eight villages. Secondly, the CBO committee can be their second group beside the local authorities to help and assist. Thirdly, the CBO committee is a part of community development for any project. This understanding of CBO needs to be explained to each member to have self-determination and full participation in community development.

#### Activity 1.2:

Facilitate a district-level meeting for the CBO committee and leaders of community groups (including women and youth groups, community forestry and fisheries committees), in order to finalize the CBO by-laws.

#### Deliverable:

CBO committee meeting held, including at least 25 participants. Outputs recorded in meeting minutes, and included in technical reporting.

#### Actual implementation:

Meeting held on 22 June 2016, 24 participants (of which 10 women)

The meeting for CBO committee and community leaders was conducted on 22 June 2016 with 24 committee members (10 women). The meeting aimed to finalize the CBO by-laws. Since the by-laws of the CBO had been reviewed by villages individually, we then discussed with the committee members. From the explanations and discussions, we found that even some

committee members still did not really understand the by-laws and the purpose and benefits of the CBO. Gradually, the committee members better understood the CBO and they were able to raise some challenges and suggestions as below:

- How to work together with such a big scope of CBO within eight villages while they stay far from each other. They suggested it will be possible to effectively work among only three to four villages.
- DKA also stressed the challenges with the new Cambodian Law, which requires CBOs to officially register with the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The CBO committee needs to work together with DKA on the registration or other possible solutions.
- The CBO by-laws and its official name “Women Community for Future” seemed to focus only on the Savings Groups and Women; therefore we needed to look at possibilities to review and adjust the by-laws, the name and activities to complement each other as the fisheries, forestry is not much included in the by-laws.

Lastly, the mainstreaming of the CBO concept was needed for all CBO members and committees on the purposes and advantages of CBO establishment. Then we could bring the committee into practice on what they had learnt from DKA focusing on the CBO’s mission to have a better living standard of the community members.

#### Activity 1.3:

Facilitate a seminar in order to officially announce the formal establishment of the CBO to district representatives, commune and village authorities, community forestry and fisheries committees, women's savings group committees, NGOs, and religious leaders.

#### Deliverable:

Seminar held, including at least 50 participants. Outputs recorded in seminar minutes, and included in technical reporting (by 28th Feb 2016).

#### Actual implementation:

DKA planned to organize a seminar to officially announce the CBO in March 2016. Unfortunately, we could not organize the seminar in time because of the challenges with the permission requirement from the district governor below:

- 1) The Cambodian context had been changed as the Cambodian government adopted the new association and non-governmental organization (NGO) Law, which requires that associations and NGOs need to officially register with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) before their implementation in the field. Therefore, the CBO bylaws needed to be reviewed to fit the requirements of the Law.
- 2) There were some working processes that needed to be adjusted for the savings groups, a component of the CBO activities, as is had to affiliate with the commune project of our target area.

Therefore, we discussed with the committee of the CBO to update the situation for the requirements of CBO documents.

#### Activity 1.4:

Organize training for CBO committee members and community leaders on project management, planning, proposal development, and budgeting and financial management.

**Deliverable:**

Two training events held. Curriculum and summary included in technical reporting.  
Two more training events held.

**Actual implementation:**

The 1st training was held on 22-23 Aug 2015 with 25 participants (10 women), 2nd training on 28-29 Feb 2016 with 19 participants (8 women).

One 2-day training event was held on 22-23 August 2015, for 25 people (of which 10 women). The participants were representatives of the CBO committee, the forestry and fishery committees, savings groups, and youth groups. The objective of the training was to improve understanding about how to develop activity plans, budgets, and write proposals, to enable them to develop projects for community development such as CBO activities, forestry and fishery community networks. This training was useful for them. Firstly, they were able to learn and to exercise their thinking on issues happening in their field work. Secondly, they learned together to determine the negative impacts from issues which obstruct the protection of their community resources. Importantly, they learnt to define what is the need of the community and common goal of their group. Subsequently, they all were able to write action plans, including activities and budget plans, to respond to the above issues. Therefore, the training was significant for community leaders, and committee members of the CBO through participatory approaches from all members to learn about project development with practicing discussion and experiences, and they were able to come up with action plans together.

This was a learning process about how to develop action plans to create better community development.

A training on Project and Budget Management was conducted for two days on 28-29 February 2016. It was building on the previous training and included 19 participants (8 women) from the fisheries, forestry and CBO committees, including the savings groups. The second training emphasized two main important purposes; to exchange and learn on personal experiences of committees on how to manage their personal assets, and then link to community properties to define what kinds of rules and agreements for accountability in management of community assets. We made them aware of two important steps, i.e. defining the kinds of things within their own houses, and their experiences in managing their belongings with reflection whether it was effective management. Most participants realized that they did not put much care in setting any rules. Group discussions were held on how to manage their houses, family members and even their body.

After they could define things around themselves, we made them discuss the community level assets and how to manage and use them in an effective and efficient way. First step, the properties of three villages including a lake were listed to define the community properties by participants in the villages. Second, the critical challenges and solutions to manage those properties in the community were discussed. The participants shared best understanding together on how to protect and manage some prioritized community resources such as water, various fishes, inundated forest, forest, and aquatic plant management. Additionally, from their gradually understanding of managing on those community properties, the Agreement of Equipment for fisheries and forestry committees, which would be requested and provided by

DKA, was developed by each forestry, fisheries, and the CBO committee. Lastly, they also reflected the roles and responsibilities of the committees to fit the Agreement that guarantees and ensures the sustainable management.

In conclusion, the committee members have gained experienced in developing project proposals consisting of an action plan, a budget plan for community development, and particularly a method on project management for the sustainability of its implementation. Regular follow-up, coaching, and close encouragements were made monthly.

## **9. Describe the activities implemented and deliverables met under Objective 2**

### **Objective 2:**

*The capacity of the civil society network of Anlong Veng district (forestry and fisheries committees, women's saving groups, youth groups, etc. from 8 villages in 3 communes) to protect their rights and collective interests is strengthened.*

#### **Activity 2.1:**

Work with community members of 8 villages to learn about issues affecting local people, build their trust, encourage them to discuss and speak out about important issues, help them work with one another to address these issues (including illegal fishing, community-based management of natural resources, and land-grabbing) and protect their common interests (especially including participation of young people, women, and the poor).

#### **Deliverable:**

DKA staffs meet with at least 50 members of target communities each month.

#### **Actual implementation:**

DKA started regular meetings from July 2015 to June 2016 with various people, including committee members of fisheries, forestry, CBO and villagers. A total of 461 people (of which 178 women) attended these meetings.

We regularly met with all committee members of fishery, forestry, savings groups and youth groups every month to talk about their individual and family problems which have a significant effect on their lives and community happiness. There are a few important issues that DKA staffs put efforts to deal with as follows:

1. Dam construction;
2. Domestic violence;
3. Livelihood, living condition;
4. Community development involvement.

Firstly, people living in two target villages and 4 other villages will be resettled in 2016 due to flooding caused by a dam constructed in cooperation between the provincial governor and a Chinese company. According to villagers who were informed by authorities, the dam will be constructed and the area might be flooded in 2018. Currently, the CBO committee in cooperation with other villagers who are affected is requesting compensation toward their houses, farming and other things related to their resettlement. DKA staff kept closely involved

and gave some possible guidelines, and linked them to the NGO network working on legal support.

Furthermore, we also noticed some other issues such as domestic violence, migration to Thailand, young people dropping out of school, sanitation of food and water, increasing drug trafficking and alcohol in the community, as well as people owing debts to the bank. CBO leaders/savings groups are a trust person/group, which is why families with domestic violence came to ask for facilitation and witnessing of an agreement. DKA sometimes also assisted CBO leaders to give some additional sustainable solutions to reduce anger and stop violence through Buddhist theories.

In addition, the provincial governor occupied some areas of land belonging to villagers, in order to feed his buffalo and cows. No payment for the land has been made to the villagers, and the animals are destroying the plants there. As a first soft solution, we encouraged them to report to the chief of village to deal with this issue.

Also, many people have lost their trust to work together and to get personally involved in community work. For example, some members of savings groups failed to pay back money in time. DKA staff had to meet regularly with inactive members to be responsive as well as to keep active members to make the group survive. Similarly, members of forestry and fishery committees were also losing trust among committee members, accusing each other of committing illegal fishery activities and deforestation themselves. Responding to this, DKA staff have personally met to talk frankly with each member to have a long-term vision of their personal involvement. The team spirit needed to be regularly built among committee members.

In conclusion, this monthly and personal meetings with all committee members and villagers was quite important to speak truthfully on the real issues happening in the community. We provided them with possible approaches to deal with these issues directly, and also gave them guidelines on where to find other support such as legal support on the negative impacts of the dam construction.

#### Activity 2.2:

General meetings on civil society and community forestry (CF)/community fishery (CFi): Facilitate village meetings in 8 villages in order to discuss issues relating to community forestry and fisheries, biodiversity, and the role of civil society (the importance of acting as a network) in natural resources management.

#### Deliverable:

Meetings held. Outputs captured in meeting minutes, and included in technical reporting.

#### Actual implementation:

Meeting held on 16 Dec 2016, with 19 participants (3 women).

The meeting on biodiversity understanding and importance of networking approaches in natural resources management was organized on 16 December 2016 with 19 committee members (of which 3 women). The main purpose of the meeting was to understand nature, the importance of biodiversity and working approaches to protect natural resources. Firstly, we used a simple approach by Questions and Answers to understand what are the resources existing in lake and

forest, what are the negative impacts of losing those resources, and how it linked to the lives of people in community, what will be the effects of deforestation on wildlife and people. From this awareness, committee members started to understand the negative impacts of losing the biodiversity in community. Therefore, the community members understood the importance of their efforts to protect their community resources. Once they had a common understanding or spirit to protect their community resources, we brought them to analyze whether their roles are functioning for effectively working as networks. They then worked on a desirable action plan and budget estimation for the fisheries and forestry committees.

#### Activity 2.3:

Specific meetings on CF/CFi function: Facilitate village meetings in 8 villages in order to present and discuss community fishery and forestry regulations, the roles and responsibilities of community forestry and fishery committee members, and their rights and responsibilities regarding sustainable natural resources management.

#### Deliverable:

Meetings held. Outputs captured in meeting minutes, and included in technical reporting.

#### Actual implementation:

Meeting held on 28 April 2016, with 17 participant 2 (6 women).

The meeting on function of forestry and fisheries committees was organized on 28 April 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the regulations, roles and responsibilities of the committee members, especially their rights regarding the sustainable natural resources management. Since the first meetings, they were not performing their roles well and lacked regulations among their members, facing some specific challenges such as;

- Lack of financial management of fines from offenses of fishing regulations: previously they just shared all money from fines among members, which did not give a good image of sustainable committees.
- Some members were unclear about their authorities as committee members: They still depended much on leaders and sometimes they did not trust that what they did was under their authority.
- Some committee members ignored or were careless about their roles.

The discussions to set specific roles and responsibilities, particularly for the fishery committees were made by getting inputs from all members. Meanwhile, DKA also shared sample draft roles and responsibilities from one project area of DKA based in Siem Reap. Finally, we defined the roles of the following:

1. Leader of Committee
2. Deputy of Committee Leader
3. Secretariat
4. Finance
5. Advertiser
6. Patroller

Additionally, DKA inspired six additional people to join the fishery committees, totaling 16 people, including existing committee members which were recommended by villagers and committees themselves. Furthermore, the election of new committee members should be made in 2016 according to the by-laws of the fisheries committees.

**Activity 2.4:**

Facilitate multi-village community network meetings every quarter for community representatives and leaders, and local authorities, in order to improve cooperation between villages, analyze shared problems, and develop a strategic plan to address these issues

**Deliverable:**

First meeting held with at least 25 participants and summary report prepared. Strategic plan developed, and included in technical reporting. Second meeting held. Third meeting held. Fourth meeting held.

**Actual implementation:**

First meeting on 30th October 2015 with 11 participants (3 women). Second Meeting on 20th Nov 2015 with 16 participants (9 women). Third meeting on 26 May 2016, with 14 participants (3 women).

A multi-village network meeting was organized three times, i.e. on 30 October 2015, 20 November 2015 and 26 May 2016 with a total of 41 participants (15 women), who were representatives of forestry and fishery committees as well as savings groups. The meeting aimed to improve cooperation between villages, analyze, share problems and develop a strategic plan to address those issues. Mainly, we brought all committees to three essentials learning steps to refresh and recharge energy among their team members.

- Personal sharing of their individual problems, their feelings and thoughts to be committee members and personal life.
- Capacity building on problem analysis to find root causes of problems and solutions to apply in their daily lives and community works.
- Practice on community problem analysis and defining possible long-term solutions with action plans. Gradually practicing, they could define those root causes of problems. For example, committee members shared that this tool was very important to make them understand the root causes of one issue that they had experienced in dealing with conflict without analyzing its root causes, which is why the problems kept happening again and again.
- Lastly, team building activities were done to reflect how to effectively work as a team, defining the reasons of failure in team work and key to success. The activities made them refresh and enjoy with each other and inspired them to building good relationships and cooperation.

It was very significant for them to regularly do team building and team spirit to improve their cooperation through understanding each other, to work hard in common areas to prevent illegal fishery activities and deforestation in the community forest. They shared challenges and concerns related to their community work with each other. Teambuilding activities helped them to practice their thinking in critical ways through reflection approaches.

#### Activity 2.5:

Facilitate a multi-district community network meeting every quarter for forestry and fisheries communities in order to build relationships, improve cooperation, share experiences and information, discuss shared problems, and develop a plan for addressing these issues.

#### Deliverable:

First meeting held, with at least 25 participants. Outputs captured in meeting minutes, and included in technical reporting. Second meeting held. Third meeting held. Fourth meeting held.

#### Actual implementation:

First meeting: 30 Nov 15, with 12 participants (6 women); second meeting: 25 Jan 15, with 20 participants (5 women).

On 30 September 2015 and 25 January 2016, the district community network meeting was conducted for networks of forestry (Kbal Osophy, Monk's Forest, Samaki Forest), fisheries committees of three villages, and the Cambodia Prevention Organization (CPO) who is actively working to protect natural resources. The meetings aimed to build good relationships, improve cooperation among networks as well as sharing of experiences and information and develop a plan to address issues together.

The meetings were very important and useful for networks to come together to share their experiences of working in some areas as well as to refresh and recharge their energy through some team building activities. We have provided them with a tool, the Problem Tree, to define the root causes of problems in their community. Then, they had to raise what they really considered as challenges both inside their team and outside the team. The following issues were identified:

- Some committee members lacked responsibilities due to their available time while others were still not clear on their role.
- Many challenges and risks while patrolling to prevent illegal activities at night time
- Threats from assailants in attempt of illegal activities
- Communication is limited for such networks staying far from each other
- Some network group members who shared the authorities did not cooperate much.
- Less participation from poorer villagers who are concerned with their survival.
- Stealing of tools that serve in patrolling by committees

In addition, committee members and DKA staff also shared and suggested some possible solutions based on personal experiences of each group, such as:

- Creating rules to control the money getting from fines, in order to have some money to serve their needs.
- Developing these areas to be tourist areas, so that committees as well as community members could benefit to increase their living standard.
- For a functioning committee, regular meetings should take place at least one per month for 1 or 2 hours to share and update on their personal life and challenges.

Importantly, to build up more spirituality and team building, we led them to exercise some reflection and team building activities which helped them to refresh and recharge their energy

to work as a team. They mentioned that they had enjoyed these team building activities, which made them realize how to work as a team, thoughtful, relaxed, and building good relationships. All in all, this network meeting was essential to inspire each other to work together; not only as a small group of people.

**Activity 2.6:**

Provide community fisheries and forestry committees with equipment and materials for use in patrolling (cameras, life-jackets, etc.).

**Deliverable:**

1 community fishery and 1 community forestry committee are provided with equipment for patrolling.

**Actual implementation:**

Public provision of equipment on 5 April 2016, with 62 participants (17 women)

Since we all fishery and forestry committees of the CBO had been trained on project proposal writing consisting of actions/activities and budget planning, we decided to take committee members and others to practice on developing an action plan and budget for activities within a one year period, linked with a request for equipment. The equipment needed were a boat motor, radios for telecommunications, and committee uniforms; therefore, we developed an agreement among committees on using this equipment as assets of the community for collective interests, but not for individual purposes. The three main materials provided were:

1. Three boat motors: It will be more comfortable and easier on their mission during patrolling to prevent illegal activities. These three motors will serve on their individual boats, until the three boats of community which the committee promised to build are available. DKA staff also provided some guidance for some possible ways to get these collective properties but will need to follow up on this.
2. Six uniforms for committee members: It will be an identity which provides them an authority as committee members on patrolling.
3. Six radios for telecommunication: It will serve for better and faster communication among committee members in case of illegal activities.

The equipment was officially provided to representatives of the fisheries committees in a public community forum on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016, with 62 participants (17 women) and the participation of local authorities such as commune council, village chiefs, fisheries official of Oddar Meanchey Province, the Executive Director of DKA, and donor representatives. The official delivery of equipment was made with an agreement between DKA and the fisheries committee leader with three witnesses; provincial fisheries in Oddar Meanchey, and two commune councils. Furthermore, the donor representatives also shared some encouragements to the committees to think on sustainability and use the equipment to serve community interests for sustainable development.

At this occasion, there were also discussions between committee members, fisheries officer and villagers. Some villagers suggested to move the protection area of fish based on reasons such as their remoteness from the eyes of the public, the difficulty for patrolling while most illegal fishing happened at night time, and saving expenses as committee members are volunteers.

Responding to the public suggestion, the fisheries officer replied that the protection area of fish could not be moved without definite research and study on where fish can survive.

## 10. Describe the activities implemented and deliverables met under Objective 3

### Objective 3:

*The institutional capacity of DKA (including good governance, and relationships with stakeholders) has increased.*

#### Activity 3.1:

Hold meetings of the DKA Board of Directors at least twice each year in order to ensure accountability of DKA to the Board.

#### Deliverable:

Meeting held and minutes produced (by 30th June 2015), Meeting held and minutes produced (by 31st Dec 2015).

#### Actual implementation:

First Meeting held on 16 June 2015, second Meeting held on 23th December 2015.

- DKA held the first board meeting on 16 June 2015, with 5 participants (including 4 women). We discussed DKA's work plan for the following one-year period with CEPF's funding support to ensure a good working process and accountability. Moreover, we came up with an idea to create a small and medium enterprise (SME) by looking at the potential DKA's target areas.
- The DKA board meeting was organized again on 23 December 2015 with the purpose to ensure accountability of DKA to all board members, as well as to reflect on previous challenges of project implementation and possible solutions to be implemented in the second semester.

DKA discussed with board members on how to make the project sustainable, and how the committee members can earn some income from their volunteer work of protecting local resources. This could help them to continue this important and risky task of preventing illegal activities that harm the natural resources.

Through the discussions, DKA tried to consider existing resources in the community and the potential to transform them to be an attractive place. Eco-tourism was given as an idea, where there is a gap; there is one old temple and a mountain scenery in the community.

#### Activity 3.2:

Build the technical capacity of 4 DKA staff members by enrolling them in short-term training courses in topics such as active non-violence, project management, and proposal writing.

#### Deliverable:

Training Needs Assessment held for 4 DKA staff members (by 31st Oct 2015), 4 DKA staff members attend training courses (by 30th April 2016).

Actual implementation:

For this activity, DKA planned to build the capacity of its staff. However, out of the four staff members, one was in the field permanently and was facing problems of health; therefore, he had no time to attend the training. Also, the assistant of the field staff and finance and administration staff had many opportunities to attend the different workshops, so there was no need for more training.

We planned to use these funds for the community, but no one intended to attend the training, as they were busy for the income generating activities, which were more interesting than receiving the training.

Activity 3.3:

Organize an internal workshop for DKA's Board of Directors and staff in order to reflect on project implementation and management, DKA's work in general, and possibilities for improvement.

Deliverable:

Internal reflection meeting held for DKA staff and summary report produced (by 31st March 2016).

Actual implementation

The Reflection on the project implementation was organized on 25 June 2016 among DKA staff, board members and community members. The meeting aimed to reflect on what DKA had done in terms of positive and negative lessons learnt, successes and failures of implementation as well as looking for recommendations for improvement. We reviewed all particular groups with which we worked closely on the CBO committee including savings groups, and fisheries and forestry committees.

**11. If you did not complete any activity or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?**

Four activities were not fully completed as planned, due to some challenges from outside and inside the organization.

Activity 1.3: The official seminar for CBO was not done as explained above.

Activities 2.4 and 2.5 were not completely done due to time constraints and shortfall of DKA staff. However, even though these activities were not fully completed as planned by meeting face to face, we used other methods to share information and communication through phone calls.

**12. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results**

For many activities, we planned to have group meetings but in reality, we could not follow the plan as the community leaders and members were busy doing farming and finding income for

their families. Therefore, DKA staff changed the method of meeting as a group, to meeting with individuals or small groups, sometime meeting in the fields or at their homes, at night or day time to find available times to meet with them.

For the project awareness among the target group; at least 60 community people, of which 70% women received, the information that DKA project activities were implemented in Anlong Veng district. This awareness was done by the individual and group meeting of the field staff who is working regularly in the areas. As well, before starting the training, questions related to this project activities were raised to participants for their review. In general, people were happy to join and support the projects because they believed this project would help them keep livelihoods in this area.

Since DKA received the funds from CEPF, DKA staff has exchanged with some partners such as YRDP, CVS, SILAKA, CHRAC, and NGO Forum. The DKA Executive Director sent DKA information to register with NGO Forum as a member.

DKA staff and board members went to exchanges with a community network call Chreav Community in Siem Reap to share experiences on community organizing and eco-tourism.

As a new grantee for CEPF, DKA staff was in close contact with the CEPF team to ask questions and ask for advice on issues related to funds and project activities. We are open to receiving advice and comments from the CEPF team at all times, and look forward to being a grantee for CEPF team in future.

The project activities were published on DKA's Facebook page and on the web blogspot.com

## Benefits to Communities

### 13. Please describe the communities that have benefited from CEPF support

Please report on the size and characteristics of communities and the benefits that they have received, as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited **from project start to project completion**.

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Size of Community				Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									
Fishery Community "Fishery Lake Conservation Community"		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓									✓	✓		
Saving Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓			✓	✓		
Forestry Community (Networks): Kbal Osophy and Monk Forest Community.		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					✓				✓	✓	✓	
Samaki Forestry community (Network outside target area)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					✓				✓		✓	

\*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

There is one interesting point that DKA should focus on as well. It is related to food security: people can use water from the lake to irrigate the vegetable plantings around their houses and the lake. However, the people need an agriculture training for this. Thus, it is proposed that DKA share this with CEPF in order to consider to this area.

## Lessons Learned

### **14. Describe any lessons learned related to organizational development and capacity building.**

In the period of the project related on organizational development and capacity building, DKA's staff have learned many things from CEPF, related to reporting (both financial and progress reporting) and other forms from CEPF, which DKA staff had never done before. It is a good experience and can help improve DKA's staff capacity as well.

### **15. Describe any lessons learned related to project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

The community leaders and members put their efforts to join with project activities from the start to the end. For some activities, they can carry them on by themselves, for example the patrolling activity at fish and forest conservation areas, saving money and other development activities in the community. They contributed their time and assets for these activities even when they were busy with income generation for their families. They participated in the project activities because they understood, and before the project was designed, we had consulted with them to find the root causes of the challenges and basic need in their communities.

### **16. Describe any lesson learned related to project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

Since we tried to engage some local authorities and village chiefs in DKA's activities, it partly contributed to having other committees interact with authorities and make suggestions.

### **17. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community**

Monthly follow-up with all committees individually and group meetings with inclusiveness of all party is important to keep their hope alive. Some committee members feel hopeless to continue their role as committee members, but after our explanation, they feel inspired to be member of committee.

Villagers/committee members have very different levels of knowledge. We learned that we have to take more time with those members to be able to gain a common understanding.

One woman named Soun Pisei, aged 44 years old, she is one member of the saving group and Fishery group that in the past she always criticize that DKA is NGOs poor, and did not provide any things to the people. Recently, she attended the training on Proposal writing and Work plan, and also join meeting with the field staff two times, she started to change her though, and volunteer to join as one CBO member, and active to talk to the other on what she get the knowledge on the project activities from DKA. This is one good model for DKA to work with women and will use this story for encourage the other women to join with this project and for showing the rights of women too.

**Sustainability / Replication**

**18. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated**

As a community worker since year 1993, I find it difficult to ensure that the project implemented by DKA will be sustained, because it is related to the political issues and the social environment of the people who are living in the area. In this area, most people are not the people originally or were born in that area, they are people who migrated from the other provinces such as Kampong Thom, Banteay Meanchey, who faced difficulties to live in their native area, they lacked of land to grow vegetables etc. In addition, some of them are former Khmer Rouge soldiers. They are poor, and their general knowledge is limited. From what DKA has provided within a year, it was just a fresh capacity development and awareness on community development but they still need monthly follow up to ensure implementation. Furthermore, they also need to learn more on self-determination, self-awareness and information sharing should be broader.

**19. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability**

Recently, this area was affected by the dam construction, which will inundate the people’s farms, and some houses were moved to other places, with which they were unhappy. Based on this, increased sustainability is difficult to find. Thus, as DKA, it is good to train them on how to manage their lands and negotiate with foreign companies. Additionally, DKA also observed that people are interested in natural farming without chemicals as well as developing eco-tourism around Tamok Lake. Thus, DKA should provide them with some training/activities on farming and eco-tourism establishment to fulfill their interests and increase economic conditions to support livelihoods.

**Safeguards**

**20. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social and environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered**

DKA activities are fully compliant with CEPF Safeguards. DKA was tried to integrate the social information and the nature environment as update to them regularly during the training.

**Additional Funding**

**21. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

*\* Categorize the type of funding as:*

A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*

- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

#### **22. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF**

Eco-tourism activities could include:

- Building an open pavilion for refreshment around the lake like Ang Kamping Pouy in Battambang.
- Preparing boats to bring tourists to visit the fish conservative area
- Planting more natural trees to provide shade and raise awareness to the visitors
- Koyun tour to visit around community like temple, forest conservation area
- Preparing homestay by family to host foreign visitors
- Planting vegetables for selling to visitors like Kean Svay Resort
- Making handicrafts to sell to visitors
- Providing services such as food and products to sell such as fish feeding food ...

Eco-tourism is considered a good way to sustain project activities, reduce people migration and increase income, and to protect the natural resources in the community. Thus, we hope that CEPF will consider and support our ideas.

### **Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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