

# CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	Cambodian Organization for Women Support
<b>Project Title</b>	Strengthening Conservation and Management of Akpi Wat Praek Kampong Cham Community Fishery, Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia
<b>CEPF GEM No.</b>	CEPF-050-2015
<b>Date of Report</b>	November 30, 2016

**CEPF Hotspot:** Indo-Burma. Cambodia. KBA KMH33 (Stung Sen/Santuk/Baray)

**Strategic Direction:** SD4 "Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas".

**Grant Amount:** \$19,985

**Project Dates:** 1st November 2015 to 31st October 2016

## 1. Implementation Partners for this Project

All project partners worked directly with the project by providing technical support, facilitating community-based management, supporting technical working group meetings and planning with local authorities and communities to ensure that decision-making is participatory.

**Fisheries Administration Cantonment (FiAC):** This was the main partner working closely with the project team to provide technical assistance and raise awareness among local authorities and community leader/members. In particular, they assisted with the planning and implementation of the ecosystem and biodiversity conservation map, community fisheries management plan, community fisheries by-laws, and internal regulations to address illegal fishing. With CEPF financial support, COWS provided numerous benefits to eight target villages by using a participatory approach and working directly with all related stakeholders. These included stakeholders from the district to the national level, such as commune and district councillors, the District Office, and FiAC to support and to learn about the work of communities on ecosystem and biodiversity conservation management, climate change adaptation and fisheries disaster preparedness. They also include the Provincial Department of Environment that provides technical support together together with FiAC to protect flooded forests in community fisheries area through dialogue and meetings.

**Local Authorities:** They provided assistance to community actors and facilitate relationships between stakeholders to engage on management of fisheries resources between the project and communities. Commune council members in Baray commune will allocate commune funds to support community biodiversity conservation managements, and strengthen law enforcement and capacity development with the commune investment plan.

**Community Fisheries (CFi) Committee Representatives:** They were direct beneficiaries of the project in terms of participation in decision-making and fisheries resources management based on community planning, implementation and mobilization. This project was designed to be community-based in order to strengthen community fisheries resources management and build awareness among community members and local authorities.

### 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 engaged with CFi representatives, local authorities and the FiAC to protect fisheries resources and habitats as such as flooded forests, fish species, water birds, and aquatic animals in KBA KMH33. Community and commune council members committed to sustain the community management of these resources with commune funds after the end of the project. This has contributed directly to Strategic Direction 4 by empowering local communities to engage in conservation and management of

priority key biodiversity areas under-served by current conservation efforts. This small grant project will ultimately be the first phase of a much larger initiative for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation in the region.

The first step and primary objective of our project was completed with the CFI committee representatives and members who manage the roosting and habitat areas in the target communities. With the assistance of local CFI members, we completed the consultation process with the communities, commune council, district governor, Provincial Department of Environment and FiAC. The intended area for conservation action received unanimous consent and support for the project to move forward to its subsequent phase. Ongoing consultation will continue to be integral to our project to ensure we are aware of and responsive to any local ideas, suggestions, and concerns.

Overall, we are very encouraged by the positive response of all community members, who recognize the importance of protecting fisheries resources and their forests, and of living in greater harmony with the environment. In subsequent project phases, we plan to work in concert with the CFI to reduce the direct threats to fisheries resources from fishing and habitat degradation, while assisting with addressing the important issue of lack of protein in the local diet. Education and long-term environmental conservation programs will also help us to determine more specifically the drivers of the threats to biodiversity in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot. As community environmental awareness increases, we expect that there will be an increased demand for more conservation strategies, training, implementation, and assistance in securing funding to facilitate such work at all levels.

Ultimately, this will allow COWS and other organizations to make greater progress.

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

- i. The community members have increased understanding about ecosystems and biodiversity conservation through awareness raising, meetings, workshops and trainings.
- ii. Illegal fishing is reduced in the communities through participatory patrolling between local authorities and stakeholders. Community ownership and participation to manage fisheries resources sustainably has increased.
- iii. Increased fish production, protection of flooded forest, birds, and aquatic animals in the biodiversity conservation area.
- iv. The commune council will allocate commune funds to support the community action plan through the community investment plan.
- v. The Provincial Department of Environment and the FiAC provided strong technical assistance. The CFI committee members are able to manage their CFI through lessons learned from this project and can share their experience with other community fisheries for improved knowledge and best practice.

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

"The natural resources of Baray Commune, Kampong Thom Province are managed more sustainably, as a result of increased awareness about biodiversity conservation legislation among the local community, and improved management and functioning of Akpi Wat Praek Kampong Cham Community Fishery".

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

As explained above, awareness has been increased and management of fishery resources in the CFI has improved. Therefore, the goal of this project has been achieved.

### **Planned Objectives**

1. Awareness about biodiversity conservation legislation (the fisheries law, environment law, the sub-decree on community fisheries (CFI), and the biodiversity conservation law) is increased at "Akpi Wat Praek Kampong Cham".
2. The management and structure of Akpi Wat Praek Kampong Cham CFI are strengthened.
3. Management of Akpi Wat Praek Kampong Cham CFI is improved, following the implementation of a co-management mechanism, developed using participatory approaches and in partnership with the provincial office of fisheries.

## 5. Actual progress toward Objectives at completion

Objective 1 was achieved by strengthening community structure management, setting up a conservation area, supporting patrolling, reducing illegal fishing in the community, and community participation in managing fisheries resources.

Objective 2 was also achieved; in particular, the commune council has committed to allocate commune funds to support the community action plan.

As for Objective 3, a community fisheries management plan was developed for 3 years and integrated into the commune investment plan for allocation of commune funds, in collaboration with local authorities and stakeholders.

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

The main success of the project has been the participation of CFI committee members and local authorities in planning, as well as increased understanding about the biodiversity conservation law and the fisheries law. In particular, the community members manage their fisheries resources sustainably based on the community-based fisheries resource management promoted by the Government for improved livelihoods and income. 90% of illegal fishing has been reduced in the community and resources increased such as fish production, birds, protection of flooded forest and aquatic animals (according to the baseline report, 27% of community members were illegal fishers). During the reflection workshop, the District Governor expressed interest in promoting the CFI committees and in a project to support them.

Community ownership is the main element of success to address the challenge of illegal fishing. Through the network, CFI members raised issues with local authorities, FiAC and other stakeholders for assistance.

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

We are not aware of any unexpected impacts as a result of this project.

### Project Activities and Deliverables

No	Activities	Status
<b>Objective 1:</b> Awareness about biodiversity conservation legislation (the fisheries law, environment law, the sub-decree on community fisheries (CFi), and the biodiversity conservation law) is increased at "Akpi Wat Praek Kampong Cham".		
1.1	Organize a 1-day district-level training workshop to introduce the project and the concept of ecosystem and biodiversity management to stakeholders	Completed
1.2	Design and implement a 2-day training course for members of commune-level community committees and local authorities on the fisheries law, environment law, the sub-decree on CFI, and the biodiversity conservation law.	Completed
1.3	Organize eight 1-day village-level dissemination meetings on the benefits of ecosystem and biodiversity management for conservation.	Completed
1.4	Organize eight 1-day village-level dissemination meetings on the fisheries law, environment law and sub-decree on CFI, and the biodiversity conservation area.	Completed
1.5	Design and implement a 2-day commune-level training event on the use of rights-based approaches in problem solving, for representatives of community committees and local authorities.	Completed
1.6	Organize a day district level 'reflection workshop' on the effectiveness of community-based ecosystem and biodiversity management, and best practices for the future	Completed
<b>Objective 2:</b> The management and structure of Akpi Wat Praek Kampong Cham CFI are strengthened.		
2.1	Organize a 1-day meeting and 3-day go to the field for CFI committee members and representatives of local authorities and institutions, in order to designate a new	Completed

	biodiversity conservation area and identify key challenges and opportunities relating to the CFI	
2.2	Create a map of the newly-designated biodiversity conservation	Completed
2.3	Support the formal recognition of the biodiversity conservation area by submitting the map to relevant local authorities, and seeking their feedback.	Completed
2.4	Organize eight 1-day village level dissemination meetings for CFI committee members and other stakeholders on the management and regulations of the new biodiversity conservation area, and the responsibilities of the community and local authorities.	Completed
2.5	Support patrolling by the CFI committee by providing them with necessary equipment (boat, boots, flashlight, hammocks, raincoat, digital camera, mobile phone, and gasoline), and helping them to organize and implement regular patrolling.	Completed
2.6	Organize a 2-day meeting for representatives of CFI committees, CFI members, Commune Council (CC), and the village chief in order to improve the CFI by-laws and regulations.	Completed
2.7	Organize a 1-day training on monthly and quarterly planning and reporting relating to biodiversity conservation and flooded forest protection around the CFI	Completed
<b>Objective 3:</b> Management of Akpi Wat Praek Kampong Cham CFI is improved, following the implementation of a co-management mechanism, developed using participatory approaches and in partnership with the provincial office of fisheries.		
3.1	Assist the CFI and Fisheries Administration in developing short (1 year) and long-term (3 year) management plans which engage the CFI in biodiversity conservation	Completed
3.2	Assist the CFI committee in integrating the CFI action plan into the commune investment program, and submit it to commune authorities to seek funding for CFI operations.	Completed
3.3	Improve information-sharing among CFIs and between CFIs and local authorities by facilitating the establishment of a commune-level CFI network and five patrolling groups.	Completed
3.4	Support a representative of the CFI committee to participate in a monthly meeting with the commune council in order to improve collaboration between the CFI and the commune council	Completed
3.5	Conduct a baseline survey (including focus-group discussions) of 8 target villages in order to assess livelihoods strategies, factors influencing their livelihoods, and local biodiversity.	Completed

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

**Activity 1: Organize a 1-day district-level training workshop to introduce the project and the concept of ecosystem and biodiversity management to stakeholders.** On January 11, 2016 in Baray District Hall, Kampong Thom Province, COWS and FiA organized a workshop to introduce the project and the concept of ecosystem and biodiversity management to 24 participants (3 women). The participants included the commune chief, village chiefs, Commune Council members, CFI committee members, police, and local authorities. The objective of the meeting was to present the purpose of the project to all stakeholders at the district level and to promote collaboration between COWS, local authorities and stakeholders. The project activities were presented to the participants. Mr. Nhek Sokhom, vice-chief of the committee, mentioned about the workshop: "I'm very happy that COWS has a project in our fishing community Prek Kampong Cham. I would like to invite the government officers, such as from FiA and the DoE, as well as all local authorities to participate in this project to ensure that fisheries will survive for the next generation."

The CFI committee representatives and members engaged with local authorities and stakeholders for improved community knowledge, ownership and participation. As a result of the workshop, local authorities and other stakeholders strongly supported the project for sustainable ecosystem and biodiversity management in the community for the long term.

**Activity 2: Design and implement a 2-day training course for members of commune-level community committees and local authorities on the fisheries law, environment law, the sub-decree on CFI, and the biodiversity conservation law.** On March 15, 2016, COWS, FiAC and DoE conducted a one-day training course about the fisheries law, environment law, the sub-decree on CFI and

the biodiversity conservation law in Baray District Hall, Kampong Thom Province. 25 participants (3 women) attended the training. The participants included commune council members, 8 village chiefs, police and CFI committee members.

The training was aimed at increasing understanding and strengthening participation to manage fisheries resources in the community to address food security and health issues. The facilitator trained the participants on the fisheries law, environment law, the sub-decree on CFI, and the biodiversity conservation law. The biodiversity conservation law encompasses 11 chapters and 66 articles on the environment in Cambodia, sustainability of natural resources and geography of the Tonle Sap, conservation of the lake and its plants and animal species, bird conservation, fishing regulations, and favorable factors and threats to conservation. Based on the observation by staff members, 80% of the participants understood the training topics and 60% were able to share with others villagers what they had learnt about community fisheries management, roles and responsibilities for members, communication with stakeholders and community development.

**Activity 3: Organize eight 1-day village-level dissemination meetings on the benefits of ecosystem and biodiversity management for conservation.** COWS collaborated with FiAC and DoE to organize a dissemination meeting on the benefits of ecosystem and biodiversity management for conservation at eight villages in Baray Commune, Baray District, Kampong Thom Province. 347 villagers (202 women) who are CFI members attended the meeting. The meeting focused on the importance of community fisheries management, the benefits of flooded forest, conservation of fisheries resources and management of ecosystems and biodiversity.

As a result of the dissemination meeting, villagers and local authorities became interested in and understood the project, and were able to share what they had learnt with other villagers in their community.

A lot of community members participated in fisheries resources management activities, such as patrolling, reporting illegal fishing activity to the CFI committee and local authorities. 80% of community members have increased understanding of the benefits of ecosystem and biodiversity management, CFI resources, and community participation compared to before the project. Based on staff observations, a FiAC report and a community report, fisheries resources increased in 2016 such as fish, birds, snakes, habitats and flooded forest.

**Activity 4: Organize eight 1-day village-level dissemination meetings on the fisheries law, environment law and sub-decree on CFI, and the biodiversity conservation area.** COWS collaborated with FiAC and DoE to organize a dissemination meeting on the the fisheries law, environment law and sub-decree on CFI, and the biodiversity conservation area at 8 villages in Baray Commune, Baray District, Kampong Thom Province. 315 villagers (179 women) attended the training.

Main topics raised were CFI management, fisheries law, environment law and sub-decree on CFI, the biodiversity conservation area and the importance of the management of ecosystems and biodiversity.

**Activity 5: Design and implement a 2-day commune-level training event on the use of rights-based approaches in problem solving, for representatives of community committees and local authorities.** COWS collaborated with FiAC and DoE to organize a training on rights-based approaches in problem solving for community representatives, committee members and local authorities. The training was attended by 25 participants (5 women) at the commune level.

Training topics included the rights of CFI members, human rights and community management of ecosystems and biodiversity, roles and responsibilities of CFI structure, linking with other stakeholders, as well as knowledge about fishery law and environment law. Based on observations by staff members, 85% of participants understood the training topics and 60% were able to share what they had learnt with others villager.

The committee members were introduced to people's needs and human rights in relation to fisheries resources, as well as problem solving mechanisms with local authorities and FiA officials.

**Activity 6: Organize a one-day district level 'reflection workshop' on the effectiveness of community-based ecosystem and biodiversity management, and best practices for the future.** On October 26, 2016, COWS collaborated with FiAC to organize a reflection workshop on the effectiveness of community-based ecosystem and biodiversity management and best practices for the future at Baray

District Hall with 43 participants (8 women) including the District Governor, FiAC, local authorities, CFI committee and CFI member. The workshop was aimed at presenting the effectiveness of community-based ecosystem and biodiversity management and best practices. The community committed to manage the community and fisheries resources for the long term even after the project finishes. The District Governor committed to support the CFI based on community needs such as patrolling action and collaboration and mentioned that any community problem could be reported to him for intervention.

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

**Activity 1: Organize a 1-day meeting and 3-day visit to go to the field for CFI committee members and representatives of local authorities and institutions, in order to designate a new biodiversity conservation area and identify key challenges and opportunities relating to the CFI.** From 21-24 March, 2016, COWS collaborated with FiA and DoE to conduct a 1-day meeting at Sangkat Baray Fisheries Administration office and a field visit in order to designate a biodiversity conservation area. 20 participants (no women) attended the meeting to discuss potential areas and conducted hand mapping with other stakeholder as such as community and commune council representatives. On the following days, the participant went to the field to collect GPS coordinates for mapping with local authorities, FiA, DoE, stakeholders, and villagers. As a result, a biodiversity conservation area map was produced and recognized by local authorities and FiA.

**Activity 2: Create a map of the newly-designated biodiversity conservation area.** The biodiversity conservation area map was produced by community fisheries, local authorities and stakeholders for 40 ha of the community fisheries area (total size 6,507 ha).

**Activity 3: Support the formal recognition of the biodiversity conservation area by submitting the map to relevant local authorities, and seeking their feedback.** As a result of activities 1-2, the biodiversity conservation area map was produced and recognized by local authorities and FiA.

**Activity 4: Organize eight 1-day village level dissemination meetings for CFI committee members and other stakeholders on the management and regulations of the new biodiversity conservation area, and the responsibilities of the community and local authorities.** COWS collaborated with FiAC to organize a dissemination meeting on the management and regulations of the new biodiversity conservation area, and the responsibilities of the community and local authorities in eight villages in Baray Commune, Baray District, Kampong Thom Province. 347 villagers (126 women) attended the dissemination meeting. The topics discussed at the meeting were community fisheries by-law, internal regulations, biodiversity conservation area and responsibilities of the community and local authorities.

**Activity 5: Support patrolling by the CFI committee by providing them with necessary equipment (boat, boots, flashlight, hammocks, raincoat, digital camera, mobile phone, and gasoline), and helping them to organize and implement regular patrolling.** The project supported patrolling equipment to CFI with 1 Honda motor, 1 flashlight, 11 hammocks and 5 raincoats and 1 boat. The patrolling group conducted regular patrols in the CFI and biodiversity management area around 3-4 times a month. As a result, CFI members increased participation in patrolling for illegal fishing reduction and increase in fisheries resources. A good relationship was established with CFI members, local authorities and stakeholders (FiA and PDoE). CFI committee representatives and members will strengthen collaboration with the commune council, police post and FiA for strong action to stop illegal fishing.

**Activity 6: Organize a 2-day meeting for representatives of CFI committees, CFI members, Commune Council (CC), and the village chief in order to improve the CFI by-laws and regulations.** On 21-22 January, 2016, COWS staff collaborated with FiA to organize a 2-day meeting at Sangkat Baray Fisheries Administration office to improve the CFI by-laws and regulations. The 25 participants included Commune Council members, village chiefs, police, and all CFI committee members.

As a result, the CFI by-laws and regulations have improved focus on management of community expenditure and revenue, terms of the decision process, and conditions for membership and its termination.

**Activity 7: Organize a 1-day training on monthly and quarterly planning and reporting relating to biodiversity conservation and flooded forest protection around the CFI.** On April 26, 2016, COWS staff collaborated with FiA to organize a 1-day training on monthly and quarterly planning and reporting relating to biodiversity conservation and flooded forest protection around the CFI. 31 participants attended

the training. The training included the following topics: How to taking minutes, how to write reports and how to prepare a work plan.

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

**Activity 1: Assist the CFI and Fisheries Administration in developing short (1 year) and long-term (3 year) management plans which engage the CFI in biodiversity conservation.** COWS collaborated with FiAC to organize a meeting with CFI committee members to develop a CFI management plan with 22 participants (5 women).

A CFI management plan (1 year and 3 years) was developed by CFI committee representatives and members focused on priorities, challenges and needs in both the short term and the long term. This CFI management plan was recognized by the commune level and FiA in 2016. As a result, the project supported activities of the agricultural group (Animal raising group 7 members and Vegetable planting group 5 members).

The project also set up six biodiversity conservation boundary poles, installed 40 cement rings for fish refuge in the conservation area, increasing fish and biodiversity productivity, and supported patrol materials.

**Activity 2: Assist the CFI committee in integrating the CFI action plan into the commune investment program, and submit it to commune authorities to seek funding for CFI operations.** Based on the outcomes of the meeting, the CFI action plan was integrated into the commune investment program (CIP) and submitted to the commune authorities to seek funding for a sustainable CFI. As a result, commune authorities incorporated the CFI action plan into table 2.2 of the CIP process and, consequently, two activities were supported by the commune fund (dissemination on fishery law and awareness raising on the benefits of flooded forest). However, the CFI committee is yet to submit their action plan to FiA and PDoE.

**Activity 3: Improve information-sharing among CFIs and between CFIs and local authorities by facilitating the establishment of a commune-level CFI network and five patrolling groups.** COWS facilitated with FiAC, commune council members and CFI committee members to develop the CFI network at the commune level to improve information-sharing with local authorities by creating 5 patrolling groups.

The CFI committee representatives and members increased communication, patrol planning, raising challenges with the CFI committee to discuss solutions and effective interventions from FiA and local authorities. This group was strongly supported by the commune council and FiA to engage them in the ownership of fisheries resources management and participation.

**Activity 4: Support a representative of the CFI committee to participate in a monthly meeting with the commune council in order to improve collaboration between the CFI and the commune council.** The representative of the CFI committee regularly participated in monthly meetings with the commune level to improve collaboration and share the reports of the CFI at Akpi Wat Prek Kampong Cham. Key issues raised at the meeting include CFI reporting, community challenges and sharing of experience. This increased communication and networking with others CFI committees, local authorities and stakeholders.

**Activity 5: Conduct a baseline survey (including focus-group discussions) of 8 target villages in order to assess livelihoods strategies, factors influencing their livelihoods, and local biodiversity.** On 22-25 December, 2015, COWS staffs conducted a baseline survey of eight target villages to assess livelihood strategies, factors influencing their livelihoods, and local biodiversity with 48 interviewees. Among 44 families, the main source of income for approximately 68% is from fishing and for approximately 32% from various types of work such as farming, animal husbandry, trading, farming and workers.

The fishing zone in Baray commune is composed of canals, rivers, lakes, lake of community fishery, Tonle Sap River, flooded rice fields, flooded forests and other areas. Approximately 27% of the population goes fishing in the zone of CFI, about 41% goes fishing in areas such as canals, rivers, lakes, Tonle Sap River, flooded rice field, flooded forests and approximately 32% goes fishing in other areas.

Prek Kampong Cham CFI has many fish species and flooded forest. Species living in the CFI include fish phtak, catfish, fish boxes, fish Sdor, fish Changvar. Total number of fish species is approximately 50 to 100. Birds species include the white egret, mandarin duck, wild duck, heron, ornamental tree, wild bamboo, black cormorant, woodcock, and bustard. Aquatic animals include approximately 20 to 50 species, including shrimp, snakes, crabs, snails, turtles and Kan Theay, etc. Moreover, flooded forest covers about 70% to 80% of the Prek Kampong Cham fishery land (according to interviews of citizens and officials).

Almost 80% of CFI members had not participated and got knowledge about the fishery law, but at least about 20% of them had participated in the dissemination of the fishery law which was supported by the Fisheries Administration in Baray district.

**Activity 6: Conduct an evaluation survey at the end of the project, in order to assess changes brought about through project implementation.** On Oct 17, 2016, COWS assisted the IUCN officer to conduct an evaluation survey at the end of the project, in order to assess changes brought about through the project implementation with CFI committee members who were involved in the project. The results of the survey will be analyzed by the IUCN officer.

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

N/A

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

None

**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 forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									
Community Fisheries Akpi Wat Praek Kampong Cham	x														x				x	x

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

## Lessons Learned

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

During project implementation, COWS increased our capacity through working with project partners (particularly Community Fisheries committee members) and communicating with stakeholders (regarding project design and implementation). Community-participation was particularly important for this.

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

Communication with the communities and the local and provincial authorities was important. This was addressed by making use of the Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation management project logistics team making contacts with them.

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

The crucial lessons learned by COWS during the project implementation came as result of successful facilitation by COWS with FiAC, PDoE, local authorities and community actors for good project implementation. Project and community partners clearly participated in the planning. One shortcoming is that they did not participate in the project evaluation, as this was done by IUCN.

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

Local communities understood and participated in the project for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation management to increase and promote community livelihoods. They committed to protect fisheries resources to ensure sustainability by linking it to the commune fund and finding development partners locally and internationally.

## Sustainability / Replication

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

The project was implemented by community members, local authorities and stakeholders to promote understanding about ecosystem, biodiversity conservation concept with the project intervention. Change is sustained by reducing illegal fishing in the community, through community participation, and by linking with local authorities and stakeholders to manage fisheries resources sustainably and protect important habitat. The commune council committed to allocate commune fund to support the community action plan through the community investment plan.

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

COWS collaborated closely with the commune council and FiAC for consistent activities planning through the commune development plan and annual commune investment plan.

## **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**

This project triggered CEPF's Safeguard on Involuntary Resettlement (in the context of reduced access to natural resources), as it planned to strengthen Community Fisheries. In response we prepared a Process Framework that explained how we would identify potentially vulnerable groups, mitigate any negative impacts of the project on them, monitor the situation, and establish a grievance mechanism. During project implementation we monitored safeguards issues as described in the Process Framework (including establishing a grievance mechanism). No significant negative impacts were identified during the project, and no grievances were submitted by local stakeholders.

## **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**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
None			

*\* 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**

COWS is hoping that external funding will be available to support community fisheries and to strengthening fisheries resources management through a next project.

## **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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