

## **CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report**

<b>Organization's Legal Name:</b>	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.
<b>Project Title:</b>	Organic Livelihoods Conserving Cambodia's Big Five.
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CEPF-112517
<b>Hotspot:</b>	Indo-Burma III
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	6 Demonstrate scalable approaches for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning in the priority corridors
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$90,230.60
<b>Project Dates:</b>	September 01, 2021 - December 31, 2022
<b>Date of Report:</b>	February 27, 2023

### **IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS**

1. IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd (IRCC)

IRCC provides rice seeds to farmers and market access for their rice production. In 2021, IRCC bought 397 tonnes of rice at 70% premium price above the market and in 2022 they bought 670 tonnes of rice at 86% premium price.

2. Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP)

SMP and Rising Phoenix have collaborated to implement the IBIS Rice program in Siem Pang since 2017. SMP conducted the IBIS Rice promotion in target villages, signed contract with farmers, provided agriculture technical skills to farmers, built capacity of the Village Marketing Networks (VMN), conducted the Internal Control inspection System (ICS), facilitate the organic Certification by ECOCERT, maintained a threshing record, facilitated rice purchasing for the IRCC, and field checked the organic compliance with agronomy skills

3. Stung Treng Department of Environment (DoE)

DoE have management authority over the Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS). DoE joined the regular quarterly stakeholder forums, the ground truth checking for exploring land encroachment committed by farmers and the non-compliance village meetings.

4. Stung Treng Department of Land Management (DoL)

DoL is the partner collaborating to map household rice fields. From 2020 to 2022, DoL supported to map 484 land parcels and registered at provincial level, covering 1392 hectares belonging to 442 households from the 11 villages in Siem Pang.

5. Siem Pang District Governor

In 2021 and 2022, SP District Governor conducted awareness meetings in 11 villages on PA law and Zoning regulations, nine stakeholder forum meetings, and one IBIS Rice promotion meeting in a new village in Siem Pang.

6. The seven target villages are our stakeholders

We have worked with 11 villages including Khes Svay, Khes Kraom, Pong Kriel, Kham Phouk, Phabang, Lakay, Nhang Sum, Lun, Srae Russei, Peam Khes, and Khanh Chanhkouk. These villages are the main beneficiaries of the IBIS Rice programme in Siem Pang.

## CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>By 2025, SPWS will be managed by Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd, a Cambodian social enterprise. Eco-tourism facilities will be established providing a revenue stream for protected area management whilst supporting local employment and livelihoods.</p>	<p>Rising Phoenix continues working beyond the lifetime of this project as part of its long-term commitment to protecting key ecosystems and biodiversity of Cambodia. Rising Phoenix established a local NGO called Siem Pang Conservation which signed an agreement with the Government of Cambodia on 24th December 2022 to take full management responsibility for the site under a private public partnership for 15 years, with possibility of extension for another 15 years. Through the agreement, a new company called Siem Pang Experience will be established which will develop an eco-tourism resort to provide the revenue stream for protected area management whilst supporting local employment and livelihoods.</p>
<p>By 2025, the populations of five CR bird species and one EN mammal within SPWS increase compared to project baseline.</p>	<p>Overall populations of target species have remained stable during the project. By the end of the project, we saw increases in the species monitored at SPWS compared to the baseline but this could be a function of human effort. For example, 2022 saw the greatest number of white-shouldered ibis nests found and young fledged, in addition to the largest number of giant ibis nests found in a year. The annual census of White-shouldered ibis roost counting in 2022 increased over the baseline and the vulture count at restaurant remained stable compared to the baseline. Over the project period we had the first population estimate for the Eld's deer at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, this survey methodology will be repeated in the future to monitor the Eld's deer population.</p>
<p>By 2025, the Ibis Rice scheme is self-sustaining at SPWS and levels of poverty continue to decrease at the seven target villages at SPWS.</p>	<p>In 2022, SMP in collaboration with IRCC purchased 670 tonnes of paddy from eleven villages at SPWS. There is no reason to doubt the commitment of SMP or IRCC and Siem Pang has become the largest producing area in Cambodia for IRCC. SMP got funding from the USAID Morodok Baitang project to</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	cover costs for five years (2022-2026) at SPWS and Rising Phoenix is in the process of signing the grant for covering the cost for two years (2023-2025) for expanding the scheme to 14 new villages in the whole Siem Pang District. Rising Phoenix will work in collaborating with SMP and IRCC for this expansion including integrating climate change adaptation measures, agricultural innovation, and making the shift towards sustainability. The scheme is moving towards becoming self-sustaining.
By 2025, the forest cover at SPWS remains stable compared with 2020 level.	The forest cover assessment produced in December 2022 demonstrated a 3% decline of forest cover from 2021 to 2022, compared to the 0.7% baseline. The picture is complicated by change in data analysis.
This new project contributes to BirdLife's vision that within 25 years, SPWS are transformed from a degraded forest with limited employment and tourism and few remaining larger mammals, to a productive and flourishing haven for Cambodia's wildlife, generating revenue and benefits for local communities.	This project has contributed to Rising Phoenix long term vision for SPWS. It has secured the IBIS rice programme at Siem Pang, provided livelihood benefit with the local community and politically goodwill from the district and provincial government. In December 2022, and devolved management agreement was signed with the Ministry of Environment, and Rising Phoenix is now moving forward to the next stage of its vision implementation at SPWS.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The Ibis Rice scheme are expanded from the four villages that are currently participating with 2,250 rural people to three new villages with additional 750 rural people at SPWS. Total seven village will be 3,000 beneficiaries.	This target was met and exceeded. There were only four villages with 309 household, representing 1545 rural people, involved in the IBIS Rice scheme prior to the start of the project. By the end of December 2022, in current four villages, we increased to 2,470 rural people (494 households), 925 additional rural people (185 households), and we expanded to seven new villages with the additional 1,015 rural people (203 households). Totally, we have expanded to 11 villages total 3485 beneficiaries (697 households), 1,940 additional rural people. Those villages are including Khes Svay, Khes Kraom, Pong Krield, Kham Phouk, Phabang, Lakay, Nhang Sum, Lun, Sre Russei, Peam Khes, and Khanch Chanhkouk.
750 rural people (50% women) at SPWS directly achieve increased food security from sales of Ibis Rice, and indirect impact to another 2,250 rural people by co-funding of Rising Phoenix, by end of the project	This target was met and exceeded. In the seven new expanded villages, there are 203 households representing 1,015 additional rural people (203 households) achieved the increased food security from sales of the IBIS Rice. In total, 2,550 (510 households) sold 670 tonnes of their organic rice paddy for a total income of US\$308,257 in December 2022. This result does not included the

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	rice that farmers kept for their consumption for the rest of the year. On average, each family received US\$ 604 from the sales of IBIS Rice.
1,300 rural people around the SPWS obtain provincially recognized land certificate for their rice fields.	The target was met and exceeded. During the project, there were 484 land parcels belonging to 442 households representing 2120 rural people were mapped and registered at provincial level, covering 1392 hectares of lands the 11 villages.
Across seven villages at SPWS, 2,250 rural people receive organic certification for their rice production.	The target was met and exceeded. Across all the 11 villages at SPWS, all the members (697 households, 3,485 rural people) achieved the organic Certification from ECOCERT/USDA and as the result, 510 households sold 670 tonnes of their organic IBIS rice at 86% premium for a total income of US\$308,257 in December 2022.
Levels of financial literacy skill is increased among 3,000 people at SPWS.	Financial literacy training implemented in October and November 2020 to 307 participants (156 females) representing 307 households (1,535 people) in six villages surrounding SPWS. The average financial literacy test score at the start of the training was 20%, and the average test score at the end of the training is 75%, demonstrating an average knowledge increase of 55%. The training conducted in November 2021 to 351 rural people (190 females) representing 351 households (1,755 people) in 10 villages surrounding SPWS. The average financial literacy test score at the start of the training is 23%, and the average test score at the end of the training is 63%, demonstrating an average increase of 40% of knowledge. The training implemented in November and December 2022, with a total of 418 household participants (representing 2,090 rural people). As the results, before the training, only 31% of farmers passed the pre-test, but after the training, there are 75% of farmers passed the post-test, demonstrating an average increase of 44% of knowledge. In total, the Financial Literacy trainings were implemented to 1,072 participants (569 women). However, the total number of participants was mixed within the IBIS rice members households of 697 representing the 3,485 rural people at SPWS.
Populations of five Critically Endangered bird species within SPWS remain stable compared to the project baseline.	Giant ibis populations in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. On average, 50.6 giant ibises were detected each month in our waterhole surveys and most birds (58) were detected in March. Our results indicate a minimum of 53 mature giant ibises (26 pairs) occur in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. This is similar to a comparable estimate made in 2014 and suggests giant ibis populations may be stable in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Thirty-One White-

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>shouldered Ibis nests were found in 2022, with 26 nests fledged 53 young and five nests failed compare number nest in 2019 was 29 nests, 24 fledged, 48 chicks, therefore number of nest has increased. The maximum count of White-shouldered Ibis was 373 in 2021 compared to 2019 was 344 individuals. The national census conducted on 30th September 2022 recorded a total of 106 Vultures (61 WRV, 30 SBV and 15 RHV) of which 96 were observed in SPWS (61 WRV, 30 SBV and 5 RHV). Another census on 22nd December 2022 recorded 109 vultures (66 WRV,32 SBV and 11 RHV) of which 87 in SPWS (56 WRV, 28 SBV and 3 RHV). After the decline observed during the period 2006-2015, Cambodian vulture population now appears to be stable. SPWS remains a stronghold for the three critically endangered vulture species.</p>
<p>Forest cover inside SPWS does not decline by more than 2% over the lifetime of the project.</p>	<p>The forest cover assessment produced in December 2022 demonstrated a 3% decline of forest cover from 2021 to 2022. This forest loss has been concentrated along the Sekong River and in areas controlled by the army. There are three main factors which cause forest loss including community encroachment, army base construction, and road construction by the army.</p>

**Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

Project implementation began during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to restrictions on staff movements and the ability to hold meetings with local communities and interact with government officers. Although this hindered the ability of the project to work with local communities including holding a limited number of awareness raising meetings in villages, the financial management literacy training was late, and the external audit of organic certification ECOCERT was late; however, as the IBIS Rice project mainly worked with farmers at their rice fields and with support from the village marketing networks (VMN) at village level, we were still able to continue the IBIS Rice with no major impact to the project.

**PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES**

**Overall results of the project:**

After the 32 months of the project implementation, we have achieved successful results in livelihoods improvement, the involvement of local communities, authorities and stakeholders, and the conservation status in the Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS).

There were only four villages with 309 household involved in the IBIS Rice scheme prior to the start of the project. Throughout the course of the project, we expanded to 11 villages, including Khes Svay, Khes Kraom, Pong Krield, Kham Phouk, Phabang, Lakay, Nhang Sum, Lun, Sre Russei, Peam Khes, and Khanch Chanhkouk, with 697 households representing 3485 rural people who are cultivating the organic IBIS Rice and have signed conservation agreement with the project and committing to halt logging, hunting wildlife, encroachment, or using chemical or poisons in the SPWS. Participating households sold their organic paddy

rice at 86% premium price to the project and got significant income to support their families. For instance, at the end of December 2022, 510 households out of 697 sold 670 tonnes of their rice for a total US\$ 308,257 cash income where an average income per family was \$604. Were these villagers not to be involved in the IBIS Rice scheme, the family income would be zero.

We have successfully increased IBIS Rice members from 1,545 rural people (309 households) in four villages to 3,485 rural people (697 households) in 11 villages, a total of 1,940 additional rural people. In the original four villages, we increased from 1,545 rural people (309 households) to 2,470 rural people (494 households), 925 additional rural people (185 households). In the seven new villages, we increased to 1,015 additional rural people (203 households).

Among the project beneficiaries, 49% were women, based on baseline data. The rice sale volume per year increased from 182 tonnes to 670 tonnes, and the number of households sold increased from 256 households to 510 households. All the members achieved the organic Certification from ECOCERT/USDA for their rice production and sold at the premium price between 66% to 86% above the local market price, and the total income has increased from \$77,341 to \$308,257.

Furthermore, the project has mapped 484 land parcels and 446 land parcels registered at provincial level, covering 1,392 hectares belonging to 442 households representing 2,120 rural people from the 11 villages. In each year, we have conducted a Farmer's Day event to celebrate the results of the scheme, sharing lessons learnt and best practices to a total of 615 participants (345 women) at the meetings, including conservationist NGOs. Cambodian television stations covered the events at provincial and national levels. At the end of 2022 rice growing season, the IBIS Rice scheme at Siem pang became the largest producer in Cambodia.

We conducted financial management literacy trainings reaching 1,072 participants (569 women). Through the training, participants learnt about sources and management of income and expense, risk to family finance, how to reduce risk and making a savings plan, and how to manage their income from the sales of their rice effectively and in a sustainable way. The average score of tests at the start of the training was 23%, and the average test score at the end of the training was 63% - 75% demonstrating an average increase of 40% of knowledge resulting from the training.

With support from the project, nine quarterly Village Forum meetings were conducted in the four communes of Preak Meas, Thmar Keo, Sre Sambo and Sekong. At each meeting, there were from 30 to 45 participants from commune chiefs, village chiefs, village deputy, village members, VMN, and director of SPWS attended and raised the villagers' concerns, problems for discussion and to find solutions and raise awareness amongst the communities of the importance of SPWS.

Along with the village forums, 9 Stakeholder Forum meetings were conducted at Siem Pang District Hall and at each meeting there were from 30 to 42 participants representing provincial governor, PDoE director, District governor, commune chiefs, village chiefs, district police, armies, and related district officials attended the meetings to exchange information, raise the issues, ask for feedback and support, find solution, and making planning together to manage and conserve SPWS.

During the project implementation, we produced the annual forest cover change assessment report, and the results in 2022 showed that there was a loss between 2010-2022 of 2.73% or 3,655 hectares.

The M&E Framework and monitoring tracking tools were produced and regularly updated to consider the achievements of each month and year and to ensure the accuracy of the project implementation towards the outputs and outcome.

Thirty-six White-shouldered Ibis nests were found in 2022 with 28 nests fledged 61 young and eight nests failed compared to number of nests in 2019-2020 was 24 nests, 21 nests fledged, 53 young; so, number of nests has increased over the project implementation. The maximum roost count of White-shouldered Ibis was 377 in 2022 compared to 344 individuals in 2019.

Sixteen Giant Ibis nests were found in 2022 with 11 nests fledged 18 chicks and five nests failed compared to number of nests in 2019 was 11 nests, seven nests fledged, 11 chicks; so, the number of nests found has increased. Our results indicate a minimum of 53 mature giant ibises (26 pairs) occur in SPWS. This is similar to a comparable estimate made in 2014 and suggests giant ibis population remains stable in SPWS.

Fifteen vulture nests were found in 2022 with 13 nests fledged 13 chicks compared to number of nests in 2018-2019 was 12 nests, eight nests fledged, 8 chicks; so, number of nests has slightly increased.

The maximum vulture count at a single restaurant was 109 individuals and the minimum count was 12 vultures, compared to the maximum 97 in 2019. The national vulture census for 2022 conducted in December 2022 recorded 109 vultures (66 WRV, 32 SBV and 11 RHV) compared to 72 recorded in 2019. After the decline observed during the period 2006-2015, Cambodian vulture population now appears to be stable. The national trend and the annual vulture attendance by site confirms SPWS as the single most important site for the three critically endangered vulture species in Cambodia.

The Eld's Deer rapid survey undertaken annually in April recorded a maximum count 46 individuals, and a minimum count 14 individuals compare to the maximum count in 2019 was 10 individuals. The 46 individuals were the highest maximum count recorded during the annual survey conducted at SPWS. A PhD student Rachel Ladd completed her thesis on the Eld's deer in SPWS in 2021. She utilised camera traps and spatial capture-recapture methodology to estimate population size and density for Eld's deer at SPWS, which she estimated to be 272 individuals.

In August 2021 BBC News and BBC World broadcast a three-minute feature on vultures at SPWS; see the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmNrn-2wVCA>. A paper detailing the Giant Ibis population at SPWS was published in December 2021 in the Cambodian Journal of Natural History (CJNH).

**Results for each deliverable:**

<b>Component</b>		<b>Deliverable</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Results for Deliverable</b>
1.0	Expand the Ibis Rice scheme to an additional 3,000 rural people in seven target villages (three new villages)	1.1	Report on M&E framework and baseline survey at first year	The M&E framework was established and baseline survey data for rice production, rice sales, financial literacy, land certification, compliance of all new participants, numbers of village forums, forest cover within SPWS, and biodiversity records at start of project was developed. The monitoring tracking tool incorporated with the M&E Framework regularly updated to consider the achievements of each month and year and to ensure the accuracy of the project implementation towards the outputs and outcome. The data extracted from the tracking tool has been used to analyze and describe in this this report.
1.0	Expand the Ibis Rice scheme to an additional 3,000 rural people in seven target villages (three new villages)	1.2	Ibis Rice sales receipts and reports in participating villages in Y1&Y2	The IBIS Rice sales receipts in participating villages were properly kept at SMP and the sale reports including list of participants, harvest production, sale income, rice sold, land planted area, land mapped area, and sale income were prepared and managed by Rising Phoenix. All the progress each month and year were also regularly updated in the M&E Framework.
1.0	Expand the Ibis Rice scheme to an additional 3,000 rural people in seven target villages (three new villages)	1.3	Provincial recognized land certificates, and shape files	The land mapped database of 482 land parcels belonging to 442 households registered at provincial level and shapefiles in 11 villages.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Expand the Ibis Rice scheme to an additional 3,000 rural people in seven target villages (three new villages)	1.4	Awareness documents, attendance lists and minutes of a farmers' day event and national workshops	A farmer's field day was held in 2021, and a national workshop was held in December 2022. In addition, Protected Area Law and Zoning regulation awareness raising meetings were held in 11 participating villages of IBIS Rice. Minutes and attendance lists were taken from all these events.
1.0	Expand the Ibis Rice scheme to an additional 3,000 rural people in seven target villages (three new villages)	1.5	Monitoring and evaluation reports at Y2 of the project	We have created the M&E Framework for this project and we have updated this framework to take account of the components, deliverables, and activities. Through the framework, we monitored the biodiversity, conservation agreement compliance, and poverty. We have produced the IBIS Rice annual reports, and bi-annual non-compliance reports. We also have the monthly biodiversity monitoring reports.
1.0	Expand the Ibis Rice scheme to an additional 3,000 rural people in seven target villages (three new villages)	1.6	Financial literacy assessment report for participants at start and end of project	The reports of the financial literacy trainings in each year (2020-2022) with result score tests demonstrating an increase of knowledge through the trainings to the to a total 1,072 participants were produced.
1.0	Expand the Ibis Rice scheme to an additional 3,000 rural people in seven target villages (three new villages)	1.7	Compliance with CEPF Social and Environmental Safeguards monitored and reported to CEPF	There were no environmental or social safeguard issues over the implementation of the project, in addition no grievance against the project were reported. We conducted regular quarterly Village Forums, Stakeholder Forum, and the minutes of the forums were produced.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
2.0	Conduct Village Forums and Stakeholder Forums with local authority support Ibis Rice and commit to SPWS protection	2.1	Report on M&E framework and baseline survey at first year	The M&E framework and tracking tool in combination of Y1 & Y2 was produced.
2.0	Conduct Village Forums and Stakeholder Forums with local authority support Ibis Rice and commit to SPWS protection	2.2	List of participants, minutes of quarterly Villages Forum meetings	Nine quarterly Village Forum meetings were held from May 2020 to January 2023, minutes and attendance lists were produced for each meeting
2.0	Conduct Village Forums and Stakeholder Forums with local authority support Ibis Rice and commit to SPWS protection	2.3	List of participants and minutes of quarterly Stakeholder Forum meetings	Nine quarterly Stakeholder Forum meetings were held from May 2020 to January 2023, minutes and attendance list were produced for each meeting.
2.0	Conduct Village Forums and Stakeholder Forums with local authority support Ibis Rice and commit to SPWS protection	2.4	Annual forest cover change report using remotely sensed data and incorporating Ibis Rice compliance	The Forest Cover Change Assessment Report 2021-2022 at SPWS produced in December 2022 and the bi-annual non-compliant reports in 2020-2022 were also produced.
3.0	Stabilize populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Eld's deer) within SPWS is achieved	3.1	Monthly biodiversity reports produced by Rising Phoenix field monitoring teams	Monthly biodiversity reports were produced each month over the life of the project.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
3.0	Stabilize populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Eld's deer) within SPWS is achieved	3.2	Annual surveys of Eld's deer population at SPWS	Three Eld's Deer rapid survey were implemented over the life of the project, and the results were reported in the relevant biodiversity monthly report.
3.0	Stabilize populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and one mammal species (Eld's deer) within SPWS is achieved	3.3	One journal paper submitted reporting on biodiversity population trends and human well-being	A model has been developed to analyze the relationship between biodiversity population trends and human well-being, although data from 2022 has not yet been analyzed by the model. Romain Legrand has joined Rising Phoenix as Biodiversity Technical Advisor and will work with Tukla Mang the Head of Surveillance, Intelligence and reporting to complete the data analyses and paper drafting.

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

A film entitled "Livelihoods and Biodiversity. A Conservation Contract" was produced. This film will be used to promote the work of Rising Phoenix in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary linked to IBIS Rice. Two versions of the film exist in English and Khmer, and the film was produced by locally based documentary filmmaker Nick Wood.

One paper was published during the project, Eang S., Vann V. and Eames, J.C. (2021) A second population assessment of the Critically Endangered giant ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea* in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia. *Cambodian Journal of Natural History*, 2021, 12–20.

Rising Phoenix created a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and tracking tool for this project and we have regularly updated this framework to take account of the components, deliverables, and activities of each month and year to ensure the accuracy of the project implementation towards the outputs and outcome. The M & E framework combined the baseline survey data for rice production, rice sales, financial literacy status, land certification, compliance data, numbers of village forums, forest cover within SPWS, and biodiversity records at start of project. The data extracted from the tracking tool has been used to analyze the results and describe in this report. The M&E framework and tracking tool is attached with this report.

During the project implementation, we produced the annual forest cover change assessment report each year from 2020-2022, and the results in 2022 demonstrated that there was a forest loss between 2021-2022 of 2.73% or 3,655 hectares. This forest loss was concentrated along the Sekong River and in the areas controlled by the army. There are four main factors which caused the forest loss including community encroachment, army base construction, and road construction by the army.

We have produced the IBIS Rice annual reports each year. This report summarised the result in each activity in IBIS Rice scheme including land mapping, IBIS Rice promotion meetings, farmer registration, agriculture trainings, ICS inspection, VMN training, ECOCERT inspection, financial literacy training, compliance monitoring, threshing record and rice purchasing record.

## PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1	Number of civil society organizations, including domestic organizations, that actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.	1	One civil society organization (BirdLife International) actively participates in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile	3	Rising Phoenix, Sansom Mlup Prey and IBIS Rice Conservation Inc have all actively participated in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile through the life of the project, linked with the implementation of the IBIS rice scheme.
3	Number of key biodiversity areas targeted by CEPF grants that have new or strengthened protection and management.	1	At least 1 KBA (Western Siem Pang) has new or strengthened protection and management	1	Western Siem Pang KBA has strengthened protection and management through IBIS rice members complying to their conservation agreements and not implementing illegal activities in the KBA.
3.3	Number of priority sites with co-management mechanisms that	1	Co-management mechanisms that enable community participation in	1	Western Siem Pang KBA has increased community participation in the governance of SPWS,

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	enable community participation in zoning, management and governance of formal protected areas		zoning, management and governance of formal protected areas developed for at least 1 priority site (Western Siem Pang KBA)		through the implementation of village forums and stakeholder forums.
4.4	Number of commodities with pilot models for biodiversity-friendly production.	1	At least one commodity with a model for biodiversity-friendly production piloted	1	IBIS Rice programme has been expanded from a pilot at SPWS over the life of the project.

## GLOBAL INDICATORS

### Protected Areas

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

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

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

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

## Key Biodiversity Area Management

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

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Western Siem Pang	KHM40		800

## Production Landscapes

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

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

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
Siem Pang District, Stung Treng province.	14.123126	106.333186	2,660	IBIS rice members in the production landscape had their rice paddies mapped, and learnt how to grow rice organically. They also signed conservation agreements, which if they complied to were able to sell their rice at a premium.

## Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
1523	1599	Financial literacy training, VMN inspector training, compost making, land preparation and levelling, soil fertility improvement, farmer diary keeping, pest and nutrient management, post-harvest and cleaning, cover crop use and maintaining a threshing record and clean storage.

- **Cash Benefits:**

<b>Number of Men – Cash Benefits</b>	<b>Number of Women – Cash Benefits</b>	<b>Description of Benefits</b>
1275	1275	Premium price on their IBIS rice sales to IBIS rice conservation Co. Ltd.

## Benefits to Communities

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

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Siem Pang IBIS Rice producing members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cambodia	1743	1743					

### Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

## Policies, Laws and Regulations

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

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

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

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

### Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

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

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

### Networks and Partnerships

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

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

## Sustainable Financing

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

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
IBIS rice programme	Conservation contract, provide leverage on conservation on gaining a premium for rice sales	2009	Incentive scheme	Cambodia	Supported an existing mechanism	Yes it has delivered a total of US\$479,233 over 2021 to 2022.

## Globally Threatened Species

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

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Thaumatibis	gigantea	Giant Ibis	CR	Conservation contracts with leverage from IBIS rice sales	Stable
Pseudibis	davisoni	Black Ibis	CR	Conservation contracts with leverage from IBIS rice sale	Stable
Gyps	tenuirostris	Slender-billed Vulture	CR	Supplementary feeding and Conservation contracts with leverage from IBIS rice sales.	Stable
Gyps	bengalensis	Asian White-backed Vulture	CR	Supplementary feeding and Conservation contracts with leverage from IBIS rice sales.	Stable
Sarcogyps	calvus	Indian Black Vulture	CR	Supplementary feeding and Conservation contracts with leverage from IBIS rice sales.	Stable

<b>Genus</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common Name (English)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Population Trend at Site</b>
Rucervus	eldii	Brow-antlered Deer	EN	Species monitoring and conservation contracts with leverage from IBIS rice sales	Unknown

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

In 2022, the IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd had a good solution strategy to encourage farmers to sell more of their rice by adding 50 Riels per kg for those who sell upper than 1,000 kg, and 100 Riels per kg for those who sell upper than 2,000 kg. This bonus had increased the average sale per family from 767 kg/hh in 2021 to 1,313 kg/hh 2022 or the total rice sales from 397 tonnes in 2021 to 670 tonnes in 2022. And there were more than 290 households among 510 sold their rice more than 1,000 kg. This is a good lesson learnt and we commit to do the same or similar way for encouraging farmer increase the sale volume as well as their sale income in 2023.

## **SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION**

Rising Phoenix has just been awarded a grant from Morodok Baitong -USAID project to support the expansion of IBIS rice to a total of 24 villages in Siem Pang District. This is part of the drive to increase the volume of IBIS rice produced, so the programme can reach a point of sustainability, where it generates enough income to cover its own operation. There is also a focus on expanding the capacity of the village marketing network, to allow them to lead on the routine maintenance activities of the programme.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS**

Rising Phoenix believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Rising Phoenix does not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff or associated personnel, or by our partners or other organisations with whom we work. Rising Phoenix commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response.

A project launch workshop was held at Siem Pang District Hall on the 18th June 2020, this event was combined with a stakeholder forum. A grievance mechanism was produced for the project in English, Khmer and Laotian. This grievance mechanism was presented at the project launch workshop. In addition, the grievance mechanism was posted in 7 target villages of the project (Khes Sway, Khes Krom, Pong Kriel, Nhang Sum, Lakay, Phabang and Kham Pouk Village). A letter box was installed in the three commune halls which cover the seven target villages, with the grievance mechanism posted above. The letter boxes were regularly checked for any written grievances over the life of the project.

Over the project period, Rising Phoenix conducted nine village forums and nine stakeholder forums meetings and we provided opportunities for the communities and project stakeholders to discuss any grievances from their communities. There were no environmental or social safeguard issues over the implementation of the project, in addition no grievance against the project were reported. All planned activities were completed.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

The conservationgrants.force.com portal is restrictive for offline collaboration in the development of proposals or grant reports. If a word template could be provided for the

progress report or Letter of Inquiry, this would make offline collaboration a lot easier and save time. As currently I make my own word document from the online portal, and use this for collaborative proposal or report writing.

Once a report is completed or a proposal is submitted, a pdf of the application can be downloaded for internal records. This pdf format is a little limited, and difficulties arise when try to copy text from the pdf back to a word document. If the format of the pdf copy of the online submission could be a better layout this would be appreciated.

## **ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

<b>Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)</b>	\$257,600.00
<b>Breakdown of Additional Funding</b>	120,152 from the Darwin Initiative and \$137,448 from Rising Phoenix core funding.

## **INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY**

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

Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd. [info@risingphoenix.ltd](mailto:info@risingphoenix.ltd)