



Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report

Important note: To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders:

it is expected that this report will be no more than 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2017

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	23-010
Project title	Implementing a model for sustainable forest management in Cambodia
Host country/ies	Cambodia: Siem Pang District, Stung Treng Province
Contract holder institution	BirdLife International-Cambodia Programme
Partner institution(s)	1) General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDNCP), Ministry of Environment and Stung Treng Department of Environment 2) Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) 3) Cambodia Rural Development Team (CRDT)
Darwin grant value	£ 285,323
Start/end dates of project	01/04/2016 – 31/03/2019 Funds were received from Darwin in June 2016 so the report covers activities conducted in the first nine months of the project.
Reporting period and number	01/04/2016 – 31/03/2017, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Jonathan C. Eames
Project website/blog/Twitter	N/A
Report author(s) and date	Jonathan C. Eames, Phann Sithan, Mike Crosby

1. Project rationale

Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and the contiguous Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary is one of largest remaining forest areas in northern Cambodia (Figures 1 and 2). Throughout this report these two protected areas, which are now managed as a single unit, are referred to simply as Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (WSPWS). Together these two protected areas contain globally significant populations of five Critically Endangered bird species, including Giant Ibis (Cambodia's national bird), White-shouldered Ibis and three vulture species. These birds depend on large tracts of undisturbed forest, on the wallowing behaviour of domestic buffalo and traditional animal husbandry techniques to maintain key habitat features.

BirdLife and the Forestry Administration of Cambodia (FA) have worked together at WSPWS since 2004, a collaboration which led to the establishment of a Protected Forest (WSP Protected Forest) at the site in 2014 and the successful lobbying of national government to cancel a large economic land concession in 2015 that would have destroyed the biodiversity value of a large part of the site. In May 2016 the Cambodian government established a second protected area (Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and renamed the Siem Pang Protected

Forest as Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary) (Figures 1 and 2). At the same time, the jurisdiction of WSP changed from FA to the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDNCP), Ministry of Environment and Stung Treng Department of Environment, which then became the new Darwin project partner.

This Darwin project is implementing an existing model to “contribute to sustainable economic development through participatory management and forest resource use by local communities”.

In Siem Pang District, it has been estimated that perhaps 38% of households face some form of food security issue. Up to 97% of households farm rice. Communities have a reliance on exploiting natural resources and recently, illegal logging to support their livelihoods. Like most rural communities in Cambodia, these communities do not hold formal land title, which presents further insecurity. Food insecurity and insecure tenure contribute to the present paradigm of short-term, unsustainable exploitation resulting in piecemeal expansion and forest loss.

This project is supporting seven target villages of 6,630 people to participate in an integrated programme of sustainable forest management and livelihoods development. It is providing opportunities for informal land title registration around the newly established WSPWS, which, it is hoped will reduce encroachment. It will also provide communities with greater economic security and the sense of permanence required, underpinning their facilitated participation in longer-term land management. Coupled with training and incentives for sustainable land management, rice farming and animal husbandry that promote habitat for key species, the project will contribute to species recovery and greater food security.

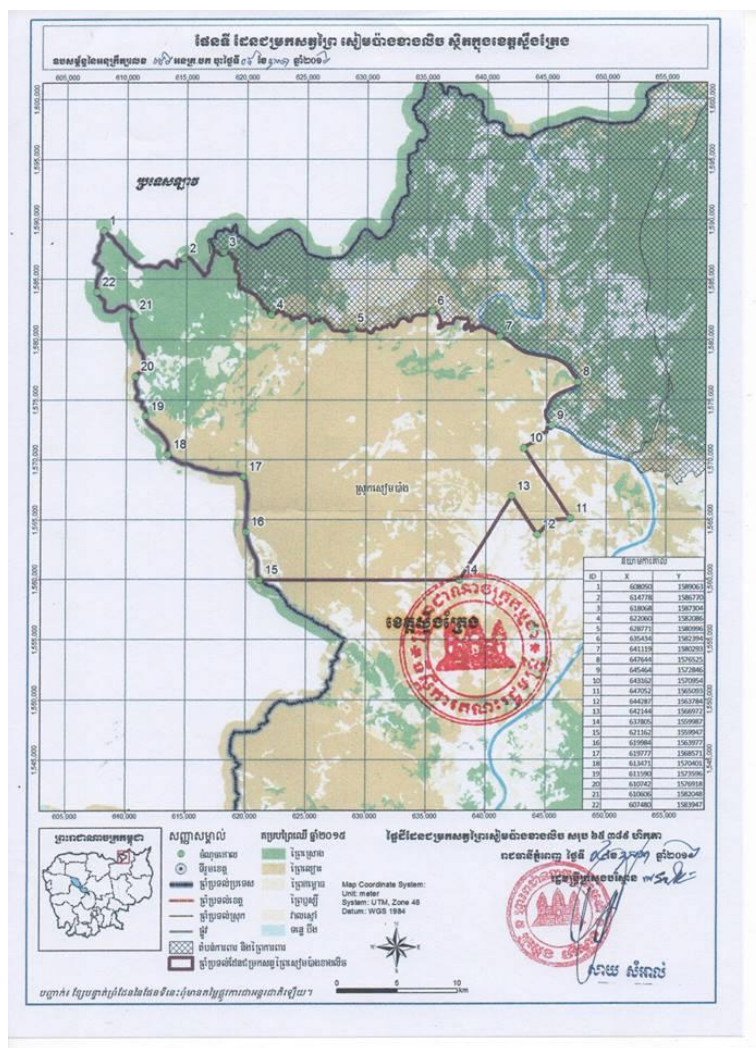


Figure 1: Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary

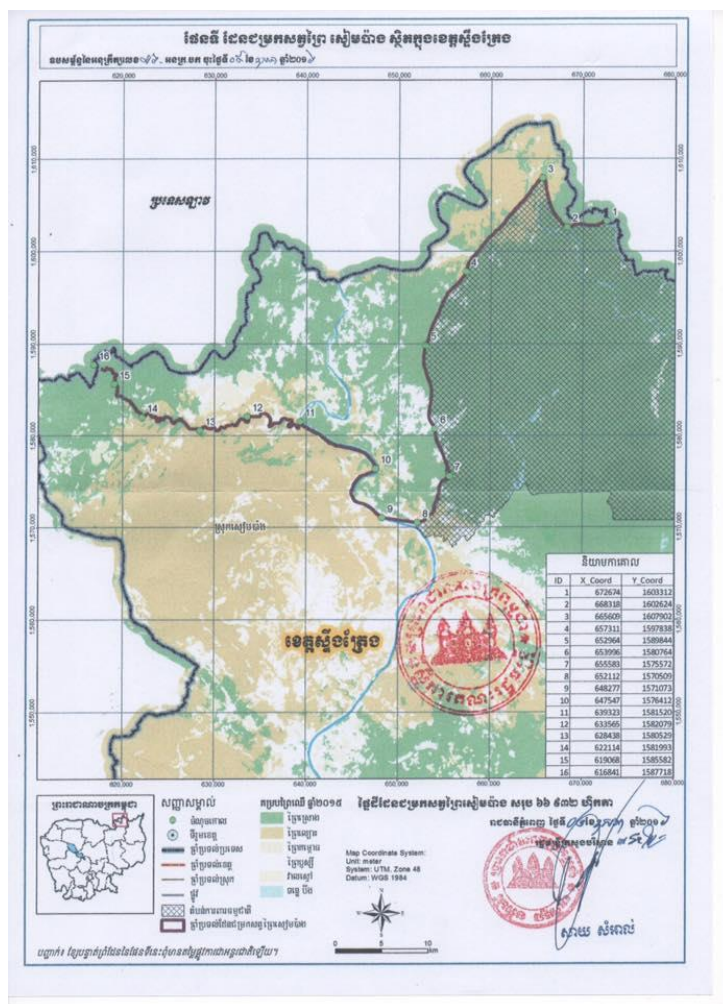


Figure 2: Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary

2. Project partnerships

The main Darwin project partners are BirdLife International, General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDNCP), Ministry of Environment and Stung Treng Department of Environment, Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) and Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT). The Forestry Administration of Cambodia (FA) was one of the original project partners, but it was replaced by GDNCP during year 1 because jurisdiction over WSPWS was transferred from FA to the Ministry of Environment in April 2016 (see section 11).

Following this change in jurisdiction, the project has established a working relationship with GDNCP, and their staff are integrated into the wider project team, including regular monthly meetings with them at provincial level. BirdLife and GDNCP jointly organised the Darwin project inception workshop in October 2016, where the establishment of the two new wildlife sanctuaries at WSP was officially announced. GDNCP coordinated the establishment of the Stung Treng Provincial Ad Hoc Committee and jointly organised the WSP Stakeholder Forum (both part of Output 1), and they jointly organised the Social and Economic baseline surveys in the seven target villages in and around WSP Wildlife Sanctuary. GDNCP will take responsibility for the zonation of the wildlife sanctuary and they work closely with BirdLife on enforcement patrolling.

SMP is a Cambodian civil society organisation that works with farmers living in protected areas to reduce poverty in ways that are consistent with biodiversity conservation. It was originally

established by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to manage wildlife friendly social enterprises. SMP is overseeing the gaining of wildlife friendly, organic rice certification in Siem Pang District, which will be granted to rice growers who join the scheme by collectively signing conservation agreements. During year 1 of the Darwin project, SMP helped conduct a study on the potential for a wildlife-friendly 'Ibis Rice' scheme at WSPWS and hosted a study tour to Preah Vihear by BirdLife and Stung Treng Department of Environment (both part of Output 4). They also worked closely with BirdLife on the rice field mapping (part of Output 2).

CRDT is a Cambodian NGO which aims to lift communities out of poverty in support of conservation through participatory community based approaches. It undertakes community development, natural resource management, and social enterprise projects throughout northeast Cambodia. During year 1 of the Darwin project, CRDT (together with SMP) helped conduct the study on the potential for a wildlife-friendly 'Ibis Rice' scheme at WSPWS and ran 10 training events on wildlife friendly agricultural techniques at the project target villages (part of Output 4).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

In year 1 of the project, activities were conducted under five of the project Outputs according to the schedule set out in the project implementation timetable. The activities that have been completed or progressed are detailed below, reported under the appropriate output.

Project funds were received from Darwin in June 2016 instead of April 2016, leading to a delay of approximately three months in the project start date. This report therefore covers the period from mid-June to the end of March 2017.

Project start-up

Recruitment of staff and contractual arrangements: The project has recruited a team leader, Phann Sithan, and a project officer, Peak Saven, and established a new project office in Siem Pang town. Sithan has a M.Sc. in land management and land tenure from the University of Munich, Germany, and relevant experience including for the Community Managed Development Partnership, Cambodia as Land Management and Climate Change Technical Advisor and as Land and Livelihood Programme Manager at the NGO Forum on Cambodia. Robin Loveridge the project technical advisor unfortunately left the project soon after it started to begin a PhD at the University of York.

Verification of project baselines: A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was started in the final quarter of Year 1 but has not yet been completed and is therefore not included with this report. Baseline poverty reduction data, a repeat of the previous socio-economic data, has been collated and documented (Annex 1). Participatory Rural Appraisals and resource mapping have been completed in the seven target villages plus 101 Army Base, through village meetings (total of 218 participants including 71 women) and field surveys.

A *Project inception workshop* was held in October 2016, in collaboration with GDNCP to introduce the Darwin project activities and outputs. The event was presided over by the deputy provincial governor, and there were a total of 73 participants (five women) including representatives from the seven target villages, village chiefs, commune council members, and district and provincial officials (Annex 2).

Quarterly project meetings were held in July and October 2016 with the partners including WCS/SMP and CRDT at the BirdLife International office in Phnom Penh, to discuss the project work plan and budget. Another meeting with the partners was held in December 2016, to discuss the selection of Khet Svay village to initiate the wildlife-friendly rice scheme.

Project monitoring, review and reporting: Monthly progress reports have been compiled and are available upon request. The project monitoring and evaluation framework is being finalised and will be available in year 2. Other monitoring activities are summarised in section 8.

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

Activity 1.1 Meetings to establish village forums in 7 target villages

During year 1, the project organised eleven meetings in the seven target villages (Pong Kreal, Khet Svay, Khet Krom, Kham Phork, Pha Bang, La Kay and Nhang Sum) to discuss the process to establish a forum in each of the seven villages, and also the other project activities. In total there were 421 participants, including 159 women. Village chiefs or their deputies and commune council members represented local government authorities.

Activity 1.2 Elect Village Forum representatives with equal representation of women and men and endorsement of forum institutional regulations by communities

Village forums were established in all seven-target villages by the project livelihood team in collaboration with the local authorities (commune councils of Preak Meas and Thmor Keo). Each village forum comprises of five members including the village chief, deputy village chief, village secretary and two elected community members. Of the 35 forum members, over a third are women (see Annex 3 for details of elections).

Activity 1.3 Establishment of Western Siem Pang Stakeholder Forum including representatives from all target villages, local civil society, private interests and government

The regulations for the forums are at an early stage of development, and further discussions are needed with the forum members before they can be finalised and then endorsed by the commune councils. A meeting was held with the Deputy Provincial Governor and key provincial department directors on 8th February 2017 to discuss the establishment of a provincial committee to support the wildlife friendly rice scheme in and around WSPWS. The Stung Treng Provincial Governor signed Decision No: 005/17SSR to create the “Provincial Ad Hoc Committee to Facilitate the Wildlife Friendly Rice Scheme at Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary” (available on request) on 14th February 2017; the committee members are the Deputy Provincial Governor, Director of Land Management, Director of Environment, Director of Rural Development, Director of Agriculture, Director of Water Resources and Meteorology, other provincial administration officials and the BirdLife International Livelihood Technical Adviser.

On 30 March 2017, the project organised a district Stakeholder Forum in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Environment, to discuss the management of the new protected areas and to promote active participation of the local communities; the Stakeholder Forum was attended by 41 participants, including four women, from the target villages including village forum members, commune council members, district administration officers and provincial Department of Environment.

Output 2: *Land titles, community land-use plans and conservation agreements finalised within at least four villages neighbouring Western Siem Pang Forest.*

Activity 2.1 Land titling launch event: Consultation with provincial authority and local communities to share information and agree the process for gaining formal land title

During year 1, a series of consultation meetings were held with the provincial authorities and local communities. An initial meeting was held in September 2016 between BirdLife, CRDT, SMP and the Provincial Department of Environment to plan the introduction of the wildlife friendly rice scheme in Siem Pang District, around WSPWS. Meetings with the Provincial Ad Hoc Committee members and key provincial departments in February and early March 2017 discussed the wildlife friendly rice scheme and rice field mapping in Khet Svay village; the committee members fully supported the introduction of the scheme. In mid-March, the project held meetings in both Thmor Keo and Prek Meas communes, attended by the chiefs of all seven target villages and four commune council members, to report on the progress of the project to date and the rice field mapping process; in Prek Meas, the commune council chief agreed that two commune council members would join the rice field mapping to facilitate the process and resolve any misunderstandings. A village consultation meeting was organised in

Khet Svay later in March, to introduce the wildlife friendly rice scheme and the rice field mapping to the villagers; there were 191 participants, including 137 women, from Khet Svay village, the provincial and district administrations, commune council and local NGOs.

Activity 2.2 Mapping of land claims

In mid-March 2017 the project Livelihood Team held two meetings with the director of the Department of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (DoLMUPCC) to discuss in detail the rice field mapping and to sign a contract for the mapping in Khet Svay village. The mapping then began, conducted by three teams led by technical staff from DoLMUPCC, with members from the district administration, commune council, village chief and his deputy, Department of Environment, Director of WSPWS and the project Livelihood Team. By the end of March, the teams had measured and recorded 100 rice fields belonging to 68 households in Khet Svay village (Annex 4). The rice field mapping is an important part of establishing soft title for this land at commune and district level.

Output 3: *Management plan of Western Siem Pang Forest is developed in consultation with local communities.*

Activity 3.1 Consultation meetings

During March 2017, the project held meetings with the Director of the Department of Environment and the Director of the Department of Eastern Mekong Nature Conservation and Protection to discuss the preparation of the WSPWS Management Plan. All parties agreed that BirdLife and the Department of Environment will work together to prepare the plan including consultations with community members and the local authorities, and seeking approval from the Provincial Governor. When the draft zonation plan has been endorsed by Stung Treng Provincial Administration, the Director of the Department of Eastern Mekong Nature Conservation and Protection agreed that they will work with BirdLife to lobby at national level for endorsement of the plan by the relevant ministers and the Prime Minister.

As a footnote it is worth recording that management plans have so far been produced for very few of Cambodia's protected areas. Notably BirdLife and its GDNCP partners have produced a zonation plan, a key part of the management planning process, for Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary in Mondulkiri/Ratanakiri provinces. The Prime Minister approved this zonation plan in 2017. Staff from this Darwin project attended the meetings on zoning of Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, gaining valuable experience for when the process is repeated for WSPWS.

Output 4: *Improved food security in seven target villages (6,630 people) through improved local capacity in agriculture, increased income from wildlife-friendly rice sales, natural resource management and direct natural resource interventions.*

Activity 4.1 Cattle vaccinations and animal husbandry training provided to at least 300 households

Meetings were held at Khet Krom and Pong Kreal villages in October and November 2016, to inform key community members about the project's cattle and buffalo vaccination programme; a total of 37 participants attended the two meetings including eight women. The Department of Agriculture provided 10 bottles of vaccination serum against Haemorrhagic Septicaemia and one staff member to support the project's Livelihood Team. This enabled BirdLife and the Department of Agriculture to vaccinate 135 buffalo and 191 cattle belonging to 61 households during the final quarter of year 1. In partnership with the provincial Department of Agriculture, the project Livelihood Team organized two training events on "animal husbandry" during March 2017 at Preak Meas and Thmor Keo communes with a total of 65 participants including 39 women (Annex 5).

Activity 4.2 Sustainable land management training and digging of 10 trapeangs (4 in year 1)

The project Livelihood Team organised meetings at Khet Krom and Pong Kreal villages in February 2017, to raise awareness of sustainable land management and explain the purpose of

the *trapeang* digging programme. A total of 85 participants attended the two meetings including 30 women, and they decided that four teams of villagers would voluntarily participate in the *trapeang* digging. This began in late February 2017, and by early March the digging had been completed at the following four *trapeangs* (Annex 6):

Trapeang	Community	Area	Edge depth	Middle depth
<i>Trapeang Lumtea</i>	20 villagers from Pong Kreal	15m x 20m	2.5cm	60cm
<i>Trapeang Kon Tuat</i>	20 villagers from Khet Svay	25m x 25m	2.5cm	50cm
<i>Trapeang Ang Krong</i>	21 villagers from Khet Krom	20m x 30m	2.5cm	55cm
<i>Trapeang Tmat Koun</i>	20 villagers from Pong Kreal, Khet Krom and Khet Svay villages	15m x 20m	2.5cm	60cm

In February 2017, a survey of attitudes towards the *trapeang* digging was conducted in the seven target villages; the data compilation has been completed but the data interpretation is still underway and will be reported in year 2.

Activity 4.3 Target villages informed about the requirements for wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification

The project organised meetings with the target villages to inform them about the requirements for wildlife friendly, organic rice certification, and conditional agreements were signed with the villagers. In June 2016, the project team visited Tmorkoe commune and met with La Kay village chief, and in July meetings were held with villagers at Pha Bang, Pong Kreal, Khet Svay and Khet Krom.

During August 2016, an independent Cambodian consultant associated with SMP was contracted to provide an assessment of the current rice growing regimes in Siem Pang district, to provide recommendations for improving rice yields, and to undertake a market chain assessment (Annex 7).

In partnership with SMP and CRDT, an assessment of the potential to produce wildlife-friendly, organic 'Ibis Rice' was conducted in October 2016 in the project's target villages. Three village meetings were organized at Pong Kreal (23 participants, including six women), Khet Svay (22 participants, 10 women) and Nhang Sum (46 participants, 20 women). A separate report was prepared by the assessment team (Annex 8). Further information relevant to the wildlife friendly rice scheme is given under Output 2.

Activity 4.4 Training sessions for at least 1000 people in wildlife friendly agricultural techniques

The project Livelihoods Team and CRDT organised 10 village training events on "soil preparation and composting" in the seven target villages during February and March 2017, with a total of 290 participants, including 179 women. There was very positive feedback from the participants, who reported they had gained much new knowledge on how to improve soil fertility and the quality of their rice. Workplans were prepared at each training event to guide and monitor the composting activities after the training had been completed. The contract for this is at Annex 9).

Activity 4.5 Study tour exchange visit for villagers from Siem Pang to learn about wildlife friendly rice production in Preah Vihear Province.

A study tour to the Ibis Rice project site in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, Preah Vihear Province was made by three Livelihood Team members and three staff from the provincial Department of Environment in September 2016. This helped prepare for the study tour exchange visits for villagers from Siem Pang district to learn about wildlife friendly rice production in Preah Vihear, which will take place during year 2.

Output 5: *Between 2018 and 2019 the area of forest converted to rice fields within the boundary of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II has halved compared with the area converted between 2016 and 2017.*

Activity 5.1 Ground truth mapping of all existing rice fields in four target villages.

In year 1, the project team measured and recorded 100 rice fields belonging to 68 households in Khet Svay village (see Activity 2.2 for details). Further mapping of rice fields will be conducted during years 2 and 3 in the other target villages.

Activity 5.2 Map production and remote sensing study to assess forest encroachment

A report entitled “Forest cover changes at WSP-WS between 2010 and 2017” has been prepared by a consultant to assess the forest encroachment within the Wildlife Sanctuary. This found that forest clearance increased during the past two years, with the non-forest areas in the Wildlife Sanctuary growing from 7,632.6 ha in 2016 to 7,829.3 ha in 2017. The report recommended that satellite imagery should be used to monitor land clearance there in the future (Annex 10).

Output 6: *Project findings, policy brief and journal article shared with target audiences achieving increased awareness of the links between biodiversity and human-wellbeing and support for mainstreaming participatory forest management into sustainable protected forest management policy.*

6.1 Community participatory learning workshops

Activity postponed to year 2.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

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

Good progress has been made towards achieving this output in year 1. A series of meetings have been held with the project’s seven target villages, and the commune, district and provincial authorities, to explain the project goal and how these local stakeholders can actively participate in the project implementation. The seven village forums and the district stakeholder forum have been established as planned.

Indicator 1.a

Seven village forums established with equal representation of women and men (50% women, 50% men).

Village forums were established in all seven of the project’s target villages. Each forum has five members, the village chief, deputy village chief, village secretary and two community members; over a third of the forum members are women. (Annex 3).

Indicator 1.b

Western Siem Pang Forest Stakeholder Forum established and working effectively.

The WSP Stakeholder Forum was established in the final quarter of year 1, and had its first meeting in March 2017 (minutes available on request). This meeting was attended by 41 participants from the target villages including village forum members, commune council members, district administration officers and provincial Department of Environment, and it discussed the management of the new protected areas and the natural resources and promoted the active participation of the local communities.

Output 2: *Land titles, community land-use plans and conservation agreements finalised within at least four villages neighbouring Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.*

Early in year 1, BirdLife, WCS/SMP and the other project partners held a series of discussions about how to apply the wildlife friendly rice scheme at WSPWS. Agreement was reached by November 2016, following which consultations took place with the provincial authorities and local communities, and the rice field mapping began in March 2017.

Indicator 2.a

By the end of year two village land use maps complete.

Significant progress was made in year 1 with rice field mapping at Khet Svay village. The project partners agreed on the methodology to apply the wildlife friendly rice scheme at WSPWS by November 2016, then held a series of meetings to discuss the plans with the provincial authorities and local communities, and the rice field mapping began in March 2017. During year 2 a village land-use map will be completed for Khet Svay, and a similar approach will be taken in at least one other village to implement the rice field mapping and prepare a village land-use map.

Indicator 2.b

By the end of year three the remaining two village land-use maps are complete (total of four complete) resulting in 800 households in four target villages with land title certificates registered at provincial level.

During year 1, the groundwork was laid to prepare village land-use maps for four of the target villages and register the land title certificates at the provincial level. In September 2016, the project partners met with the provincial Department of Environment to discuss the plans for the wildlife friendly rice scheme and in March 2017, two meetings were held with the Director of DoLMUPCC to discuss in detail the plans for rice field mapping and to sign the contract to proceed with rice field mapping at Khet Svay village.

Indicator 2.c

Four villages endorse conservation agreements.

Planned for years 2 and 3 of the project.

Output 3: *Management plan of Western Siem Pang Forest is developed in consultation with local communities.*

During year 1 the groundwork was laid for the preparation of the Management Plan. Meetings were held with the Director of the Department of Environment and the Director of the Department of Eastern Mekong Nature Conservation and Protection in March 2017, where preliminary discussions were held regarding the land use planning and zonation inside WSPWS. It was agreed that the Darwin project partners were responsible for preparing the documentation to be submitted for the approval of the Provincial Governor, and that BirdLife and the Department of Environment would consult community members and local authorities regarding the Management Plan. The consultations with local stakeholders will be conducted during year 2, and the plan will be submitted to them for endorsement during year 3. When the draft zonation plan has been endorsed by Stung Treng provincial administration, the Director of the Department of Eastern Mekong Nature Conservation and Protection will work with BirdLife to lobby the national government to endorse the plan.

Indicator 3.a

Management plan is endorsed by seven village forums and the stakeholder forum by end of Yr.3.

Planned for year 3 of the project.

Output 4: *Improved food security in seven target villages (6,630 people) through improved local capacity in agriculture, increased income from wildlife-friendly rice sales, natural resource management and direct natural resource interventions.*

During year 1, the Darwin project has made progress towards improving food security in Siem Pang district, as detailed below. In December 2016, the district administration organized a commune investment plan workshop, where communes presented their work plans for 2017. Four Darwin project activities were integrated into the investment plans for Preak Meas and Thmor Keo communes, including *trapeang* digging, wildlife friendly rice production, biodiversity research and cattle vaccination and animal husbandry training.

Indicator 4.a

1000 beneficiaries (50% women) attend training in sustainable agriculture (300 in year 1, 400 in year 2, 300 in year 3).

During year 1, a total of 290 participants including 179 women were provided with training in “soil preparation and composting” by the Livelihood Team and CRDT. There was positive feedback from the participants about the training, and work plans were prepared to guide and monitor the application of the training in the future.

Indicator 4.b

Local communities demonstrate greater knowledge and commitment to sustainable trapeang management.

In February 2017, a survey of attitudes towards sustainable land management and the *trapeang* digging was conducted in the project’s seven target villages, which included a total of 150 individual interviews. The Livelihood Team is currently analysing the data, which will provide a baseline to assess changes in knowledge and commitment to sustainable *trapeang* management during years 2 and 3.

Indicator 4.c

300 households and 50% of buffalo benefit from vaccination and animal husbandry training scheme.

Following meetings at Khet Krom and Pornng Kreal villages in October and November 2016 to inform community members about the vaccination scheme, a total of 61 households brought 135 buffalo and 191 cattle to be vaccinated. Two training events on “animal husbandry” at Preak Meas and Thmor Keo communes in March 2017 were attended by a total of 65 participants including 39 women.

Indicator 4.d

200 direct beneficiaries (40% female) from seven target villages are actively engaged in sustainable land management through the digging of 10 waterholes (trapeangs). Four trapeangs to be deepened in the first year.

In February 2017, the project organised meetings at Khet Krom and Pornng Kreal villages which engaged 85 participants (including 30 women) in discussions about sustainable land management at WSP Wildlife Sanctuary. During these meetings, it was decided that a total of 81 volunteers would participate in the digging of four *trapeangs*, which took place from 19 February to 3 March 2017.

Indicator 4.e

10 trapeangs retain water for an additional two months during the dry season, providing 6,630 indirect beneficiaries with increased access to larger, more reliable fish and frog stocks.

Four *trapeangs* were dug in the final quarter of year 1, during the early part of the dry season, and the assessment of the impact of the digging on the water level in these *trapeangs* will be conducted during years 2 and 3. It should be noted that the persistence of La Niña in 2017 has resulted in a dry season that has been characterised by constant rainfall. *Trapeangs* normally dry by April are full of water. If unusual weather patterns persist in 2018 and 2019 it may be hard to use this indicator as a measure of success.

Indicator 4.f

At least two villages certified as organic, wildlife-friendly rice producers.

This activity is scheduled to be completed in year 3.

Indicator 4.g

200 households (1000 people) involved in wildlife friendly rice production programme gain a minimum 10% income premium on rice sales.

This activity is scheduled to be completed in year 3.

Output 5: Between 2018 and 2019 the area of forest converted to rice fields within the boundary of Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary has halved compared with the area converted between 2016 and 2017.

During year 1, monitoring of the extent of conversion of forest to rice fields and other uses has been initiated in WSPWS.

Indicator 5.a

Ground truthed maps of rice fields.

Rice field mapping has been carried out in Khet Svay village in collaboration with MoLMUPCC, which led to the mapping and registration of 100 rice fields belonging to 68 households (*Annex 4: List of households and registered rice fields*). This process will be continued during years 2 and 3 for all of the target villages, and will provide the baseline to monitor and control further forest conversion to rice fields and to provide data for the zonation of WSPWS. In addition, a two-day ground truth survey was conducted by an independent consultant in WSPWS from March 22nd-23rd 2017 (see indicator 5.b).

Indicator 5.b

Landsat images show that the area of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II converted to rice fields between 2018 and 2019 is half the area converted between 2016 and 2017.

Aerial images of WSPWS show that approximately 141.03 ha of forest were cleared in 2016 and 110.91 ha in 2017, according to the report produced by independent consultant in March 2017 (*Annex 10*). In years 2 and 3, the project will seek to reduce the rate of forest conversion by 50% and provide evidence for this reduction using satellite imagery.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: *Demonstration land management structures in place enabling local people to benefit from the sustainable management of Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, enhancing biodiversity and supporting local livelihoods in an agreed framework.*

During year 1, the project has focussed on putting in place the structures required for sustainable land management, including village forums in the seven target villages and the WSPWS Stakeholder Forum. Consultations have been conducted with the provincial authorities and local communities regarding the mapping of land claims, and mapping of rice fields is underway. There have also been consultation meetings with the local authorities about preparing the WSP Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan and agreement on how this should be taken forward. Systems are in place to monitor the project outcome and outputs, as described under Indicators 0.1 and 0.2 below and in section 8.

Several sustainable management activities are underway, including the cattle vaccination programme and training of local community members in animal husbandry. Four *trapeangs* have been dug by local villagers from participating villages, which is expected to benefit local livelihoods and threatened biodiversity. The local communities have been informed about the wildlife friendly rice initiative, and assessments conducted of the potential to produce organic 'Ibis Rice' at WSPWS. Training has been provided in other wildlife friendly agricultural techniques.

Indicator 0.1

Increased food security in seven target villages (6,630 people), with a reduction in the percentage of households with sufficient food for less than five months of the year from 38% of households to 25% by end of Yr.3.

Considerable progress has been made in year 1 laying the groundwork to increase food security at WSPWS. Baseline socio-economic surveys have been conducted during year 1 of the seven target villages including data from the Participatory Rural Appraisals from 2014 and 2016. Surveys will continue during years 2 and 3 and will enable an assessment against this indicator at the end of year 3.

Indicator 0.2

Stable populations of five Critically Endangered species within Western Siem Pang Forest by end of Yr.3.

The project Field Monitoring Team are responsible for the monitoring of the five Critically Endangered bird species occurring at the site; White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*, Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*, Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea* and White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*. Monitoring of the five species continued throughout year 1. This takes the form of monitoring the three vulture species at the two 'vulture restaurants' provided each month, and through roost and nest monitoring for Giant and White-shouldered Ibis. This will be continued during years 2 and 3, which will enable an assessment against this indicator at the end of year 3. An example of an internal monthly biodiversity report is included (Annex 11).

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome level assumptions:

Government support and socioeconomic conditions nationally remain favourable to implementation.

Comments: The Royal Government of Cambodia, through the Ministry of Environment and other agencies, has been highly supportive of project implementation during year 1.

Critically Endangered species populations depend on large tracts of un-degraded habitat. Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation.

Comments: This is a key assumption that will be monitored during years 2 and 3 of the project.

Output level assumptions:

Local communities and local authorities continue to be interested in engaging and contributing to these forums.

Comments: The local communities and authorities (Provincial Administration, District Administration and Commune Council) are actively involved in project implementation.

Local government especially department of land management continues to be cooperative and supportive.

Comments: The DoLMUPCC is highly supportive of the project, leading the rice field mapping during year 1 and in the future.

Local communities continue to be interested and engaged.

Comments: The local communities participated actively in the rice field mapping during year 1.

Local communities and local authorities continue to be interested and engaged in supporting the WSP Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan.

Local authorities continue to respect Protected Forest policy permitting the right of local communities to participate in Protected Forest management.

Comments: These two assumptions will be assessed later in the project.

Buffalo owners can make the buffalo readily available for vaccination.

Comments: In year 1, 61 households made their buffalo available for vaccination, and it is anticipated that further households will participate during years 2 and 3.

Trapeang water availability and water bird visits are indicative of the availability of fish and frogs.

Comments: This assumption will be assessed later in the project. Although deepened *trapeangs* should hold water (and thereby fish and frogs) for longer through the dry season, the unusual weather pattern caused by the persistence of La Niña conditions, resulted in high rainfall and all *trapeangs* being full of water. Water birds therefore had no need to visit *trapeangs* for food and were dispersed throughout the forest, which resulted in lower levels of visits to modified *trapeangs*.

Communities remain engaged in organic, wildlife-friendly rice certification scheme for the duration of the project.

Comments: During year 1, the local communities actively engaged in rice field mapping, training in sustainable agriculture and other project activities.

Maps are produced with sufficient precision.

Landsat continues to produce multiple images taken over different days in case cloud cover on a particular day impairs the image quality and ability to carry out the analysis.

Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation.

Government remains committed to co-hosting research outputs of project.

Data is a sufficient quality for publication.

Comments: These five assumptions will be assessed later in the project.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

It is too early for the project to demonstrate attributable impacts on biodiversity or poverty.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

This project aims to support the livelihoods of 6,630 people through sustainable forest management, in a region of Cambodia where 38% of households currently have sufficient food for only five months of the year. It is relevant to the following seven SDGs: Goal 1: No Poverty; Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; and Goal 15: Life on Land.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project aims to support CBD Aichi biodiversity targets 12, 14 and 19. A major contribution is being made to target 12 as WSP has globally significant populations of five Critically Endangered species at high risk of extinction. During year 1, the feeding habitat of two of these species, Giant and White-shouldered Ibis, was enhanced through the digging of four *trapeangs*. In the longer term, all five species stand to benefit from the reduced rate of conversion of their forest habitat to rice fields.

The project aims to contribute to target 14 by safeguarding the access of poor and vulnerable rural communities to essential ecosystem services; in year 1, it has worked towards this by putting in place the structures and practices required for sustainable land management. In years 2 and 3, the project will contribute to target 19 by communicating the project's findings to national decision makers, international conservation professionals and the wider scientific community.

The project also aims to contribute to the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity goal 1.4, promoting sustainable use of forest biological diversity, through the preparation of a policy brief which will present WSP Forest as a case study demonstrating how forest management structures have been applied to ensure equitable access to ecosystem services for local stakeholders.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

During year 1, village forums were established in the project's seven target villages, with the aim of securing the traditional land-use rights and customary practices of 6,630 rural people. In years 2 and 3, these forums will be empowered to act as farming collectives, increasing the market power of rice sellers within villages to resist exploitation by travelling rice traders. SMP, one of the project partners, will guarantee rice producers in target villages have safe and equitable access to markets, obtaining a fair price for their produce and increased income.

The project organised meetings in year 1 with the target villages to inform them about the requirements for wildlife friendly, organic rice certification. It is aimed that by the end of the project at least two target villages will be certified as organic, wildlife-friendly rice producers, with a guaranteed minimum 10% income premium benefitting 200 households (1000 people). The project has also initiated a pilot land-titling programme that aims to enable households to gain soft land tenure certificates, which we hope will stabilise the protected area boundary.

The sustainable livelihoods support programme is underway with the aim of improving the food security of the most vulnerable rural poor at WSP. In year 1, 290 people were trained in sustainable agriculture practices, 61 households benefited from buffalo vaccination and 65 people from animal husbandry training, and four *trapeangs* were dug with the aim of increasing water retention for an extra two months and providing access to increased fish and frog stocks.

7. Project support to gender equality issues

The project will meet all relevant legal obligations, follow ethical principles of respect for persons, beneficence and justice, and apply social safeguards principles in accordance with BirdLife's social assessment framework.

The project design follows a participatory approach, promoting gender equality. These principles will be applied through the strengthening of local institutions with a specific focus on incorporating the traditional knowledge, perspectives and needs of community institutions in the Protected Forest management plan. Established village forums will have equal representation of women and men (50% women, 50% men). Facilitating community institutions to develop their own conservation agreements that are agreed at village meetings ensures that principles of Free Prior Informed Consent are followed from the outset of the project.

Baseline socio-economic surveys of target communities have established that 97% of households are rice farmers, with both women and men responsible for its production and harvest. Since rice farming is an almost ubiquitous livelihood activity among target communities, this Darwin project aims to provide a premium on rice sales. Targeting of this common livelihood activity enables wide, equitable access to project benefits.

Partner organisation staff to be involved in this project have undertaken training such as "Rights Based Approach to Development" and these principles will be applied throughout the project.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation framework

The project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework is currently under development. The document will be submitted with the next report to Darwin. Monthly progress reports have been compiled by the project team and are available upon request.

Biodiversity monitoring

The project Field Monitoring Team are responsible for the monitoring of the five Critically Endangered bird species occurring at the site; White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*, Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*, Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea* and White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*. Monitoring of these species was conducted throughout year 1 and will be continued during years 2 and 3, with the three vulture species counted at the two 'vulture restaurants' provided each month, and Giant and White-shouldered Ibis monitored at their roosting and nesting sites.

Monitoring conservation agreement compliance

During year 1, the project measured and registered rice fields in Khet Svay village and further mapping of rice fields will be conducted during year 2 and 3 in the other target villages. A report on "Forest cover changes at WSP-W between 2010 and 2017" was compiled by a consultant and will provide a baseline for monitoring of future changes in forest cover.

Poverty reduction monitoring

Baseline socio-economic surveys of the seven target villages in and around WSPWS were conducted jointly with GDNCP during year 1, incorporating data from Participatory Rural Appraisals from 2014 and 2016. Surveys will continue during years 2 and 3 and will enable an assessment against this indicator at the end of year 3. A survey was also conducted of attitudes towards the *trapeang* digging in the seven target villages.

9. Lessons learnt

The first year of the project has been a testing time for a number of reasons. These can be broken down as factors beyond the control of BirdLife and project design issues. The project was delayed by a quarter because project funds weren't received from Darwin until June 2016. Also during the first quarter of year 1, the Government of Cambodia put all protection forests (protected areas and protected forests) under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment. As we had developed the project with colleagues from the Forestry Administration from the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, who had been mandated to manage the project site, this meant the project had to be introduced to new government counterparts and new relationships developed to enable project implementation. This took time.

Recruitment of suitably qualified project staff in Cambodia is always a challenge because of the small labour pool and generally a low level of educational achievement. Soon after the project start the expatriate project technical advisor left BirdLife to begin a PhD study at the University of York in the UK. As he was the leader of the project design and development process this had an impact on initiating project activities and project capacity. It also took much longer to reach agreements with our project partners, CRDT and SMP than we expected, so it meant that their activities suffered from delayed implementation.

The late project start and delayed staff recruitment meant that some activities had to be re-scheduled because rice planting starts in June and many families move seasonally from their villages to field houses in the forest. In Cambodia rice fields are not always located adjacent to the village but may be many kilometres away in the forest. The later start meant we missed the seasonal window of April and May when we had planned to hold the project inception workshop, and initiate the establishment of village forums. These and other activities had to be rescheduled for later in the year once the rice harvest was completed (after November). So some activities that we had hoped to undertake at the start of the project year, were rescheduled for the second half of the year. This meant that almost the entire year 1 project workload had to be undertaken in six months.

We have also learnt since project design that the process of land titling is more sensitive and complex than we initially thought. Government will not permit an international non-government organisation to be directly involved in formal granting of land titles. We have seen other project attempt to do this and be denied. So what the project aims for now is to prepare land-use maps showing rice fields claimed by households in the target villages, which will be recognised at district level as representing soft title.

The lessons learnt in year 1 are that we designed an overly complex and ambitious project. We underestimated how external factors, particularly our collaborating organisations could impact the project.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

N/A

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Intra-government working practices

It is increasingly clear that friction exists between GDNCP, within the Ministry of Environment, and the provincial Department of Environment, which reports to the provincial governor. The lines of reporting seem unclear to all involved and this places BirdLife in a difficult situation, as the project needs good relations with both. It has also provided a challenge when appointing counterpart staff.

Road building through the wildlife sanctuary

During year 1 an attempt was made by the provincial authority to extend the road from Khet Svay village to Kampourk village. As soon as this activity was reported BirdLife wrote to the Secretary of State for the Environment and the same day the Minister wrote to the Stung Treng Governor advising him that the area was now a wildlife sanctuary and to identify an alternative route. BirdLife was pleased to see such a rapid intervention and that road building ceased. However we fear that this issue has not gone away and that the district or provincial authority will try to proceed again in the future. This is one issue why a good working relationship is essential between central and provincial departments. We also fear that because of heightened border tensions between Cambodia and Laos in Siem Pang District that the army may seek to settle army families along the newly built border roads, which would seriously undermine the integrity of the protected area.

12. Sustainability and legacy

The Darwin project is part of a much larger and wider intervention at WSPWS. In addition to the Darwin Initiative a number of other donors including MacArthur Foundation, Segre Foundation and at least two high net-worth individuals are funding the work. It is recognised however that donor support can only ever be short term. Therefore Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd. has been formed by the project leader, Jonathan C. Eames and colleagues to devise and secure funding for a long-term funding mechanism for WSPWS. The company has been registered under Cambodian law and had an introductory meeting with His Excellency Say Samal, Minister of Environment. The company is committed to raising sufficient capital and a funding mechanism that can deliver US\$ 500,000 annually for the next 20 years.

It was felt necessary to do this, because despite positive developments in 2016 to expand the number of protected areas, assign habitat corridors and develop an Environment Code, the government has not allocated a budget sufficient to manage its protected areas system. Meeting with both the minister and other high ranking officials have exposed their failure to grasp the scale of funding that would be required to effectively staff and manage a protected areas system that now covers more than six million hectares or 34% of Cambodia's land surface.

13. Darwin identity

Darwin Initiative support has been acknowledged (using the Darwin logo) at workshops and meetings held by the project, which has been profiled as a distinct project. This support will also

be recognised using the Darwin logo in official project reports and other outputs. This has raised the profile of the Darwin Initiative within government departments in Cambodia, as well as the project partner organisations and other stakeholders.

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2016/17 Grant (£)	2016/17 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)			95	
Consultancy costs			128	Consultant Sansom Mlub Prey hired to provide training courses in yrs 1 & 2. 50% of costs had to be paid upfront which went over yr 1 budget allocation
Overhead Costs			105	
Travel and subsistence			101	
Operating Costs			109	
Capital items (see below)			111	Motorbike was budgeted in pounds but purchased in dollars. Value of pound against dollar fell leading to overspend
Monitoring and Evaluation			46	Due to delayed project start, monitoring framework now in final stages and will be fully implemented from year 2
Others (see below)			100	
TOTAL			100	

The changes to the budget have not been discussed with Darwin but are very small sums of a few hundred pounds and have been justified in the comments column.

The underspend in the Monitoring and Evaluation is a reflection of the delayed project start and it is expected that the full budget over the three years will be realised.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2016-2017

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>The 130,000 ha of Western Siem Pang Forest are managed sustainably, supporting biodiversity and the livelihoods of 6,630 people, acting as a model for sustainable forest management in Cambodia</p>		<p>During year 1, the project focussed on putting in place the structures required for sustainable land management, but it is too early to demonstrate attributable impacts on livelihoods or biodiversity</p>	
<p>Outcome Demonstration land management structures in place enabling local people to benefit from the sustainable management of Western Siem Pang Forest, enhancing biodiversity and supporting local livelihoods in an agreed framework.</p>	<p>0.1 Increased food security in seven target villages (6,630 people), with a reduction in the percentage of households with sufficient food for less than five months of the year from 38% of households to 25% By end of Yr.3.</p> <p>0.2 Stable populations of five Critically Endangered species within Western Siem Pang Forest by end of Yr.3</p>	<p>0.1 Participatory rural appraisal undertaken in the seven target villages at the start of the project, will be repeated in 2018 to assess progress against this indicator in year 3</p> <p>0.2 Monitoring of the five Critically Endangered species underway and to be continued throughout the project</p>	<p>Key actions planned for year 2 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - management regulations (development of management plan including zonation plan) - Cattle vaccinations, <i>trapeang</i> digging, training in wildlife friendly agricultural techniques - Completion of Monitoring and Evaluation plan.
<p>Output 1. Local consultation structures established at village and district level, equitably representing the views of constituents</p>	<p>1.a Seven village forums established with equal representation of women and men (50% women, 50% men)</p> <p>1.b Western Siem Pang Forest Stakeholder Forum established and working effectively</p>	<p>1.a Village forums established in the project's seven target villages in and around WSP Wildlife Sanctuary. 35 members; 23 men (66%), 12 women (34%).</p> <p>1.b Stakeholder forum established at district level in March 2017 and working in collaboration with the new Provincial Ad Hoc Committee.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 Meetings to establish village forums in 7 target villages</p>		<p>Eleven village meetings organized in the project's seven target villages in and around WSP Wildlife Sanctuary during year 1, to discuss the process to establish a forum in each village.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.2 Elect Village Forum representatives with equal representation of women and men and endorsement of forum institutional regulations by communities</p>		<p>Village forums established in all seven target villages, each with five members including the village chief, deputy village chief, village secretary and two elected community members. The development of the regulations for the forums are at an early stage, and further discussions will be conducted in year 2 before they can be finalised and then endorsed by the commune councils. 35 members; 23 men (66%), 12 women (34%).</p>	

<p>Activity 1.3 Establishment of Western Siem Pang Stakeholder Forum including representatives from all target villages, local civil society, private interests and government</p>	<p>WSP Stakeholder Forum established in March 2017, with 41 participants, including four women, from the target villages including village forum members, commune council members, district administration officers and provincial Department of Environment. The Stakeholder Forum will work in collaboration with a new “Provincial Ad Hoc Committee to Facilitate the Wildlife Friendly Rice Scheme at Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary” which was established in February 2017.</p>
<p>Output 2. Land titles, community land-use plans and conservation agreements finalised within at least four villages neighbouring Western Siem Pang Forest</p>	<p>2.a By the end of year two village land use maps complete</p> <p>2.b By the end of year three the remaining two village land-use maps are complete (total of four complete) resulting in 800 households in four target villages with land title certificates registered at provincial level</p> <p>2.c Four villages endorse conservation agreements</p>
<p>Activity 2.1. Land titling launch event: Consultation with provincial authority and local communities to share information and agree the process for gaining formal land title</p>	<p>Series of consultation meetings held with the provincial authorities and local communities to discuss the process to gain formal land title, including meetings with the provincial Department of Environment and the Director of DoLMUPCC to discuss in detail the plans for rice field mapping and to sign the contract to proceed with rice field mapping at Khet Svay village.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2. Mapping of land claims</p>	<p>Methodology for rice field mapping agreed by project partners, during March 2017 the project measured and registered 100 rice fields belonging to 68 households in Khet Svay village.</p>
<p>Activity 2.3. Meetings to develop land-use plans, incorporating land claims and conservation agreements</p>	<p>Meetings will be held in year 2</p>
<p>Activity 2.4. Meetings held between villagers and commune chief to endorse land-use plans</p>	<p>Meetings will be held in years 2 and 3</p>
<p>Activity 2.5. Meetings held between village forums representatives and provincial department of land management to register land claims</p>	<p>Meetings will be held in year 3</p>
<p>Output 3. Management plan of Western Siem Pang Forest is developed in consultation with local communities</p>	<p>3.a Management plan is endorsed by seven village forums and the stakeholder forum by end of Yr.3</p> <p>3.a Meetings with Department of Environment and Department of Eastern Mekong Nature Conservation and Protection agreed on the process to prepare the Management Plan, including consulting local communities and authorities, and lobbying national government to endorse the plan</p>

Activity 3.1. Consultation meetings	Consultation meetings held with Department of Environment and Department of Eastern Mekong Nature Conservation and Protection agreed on the process to prepare the Management Plan
Activity 3.2. Meetings to agree sustainable use regulations	Meetings will be held in years 2 and 3
Activity 3.3. Management plan endorsement by all stakeholders	Plan to be submitted for endorsement in year 3
<p>Output 4. Improved food security in seven target villages (6,630 people) through improved local capacity in agriculture, increased income from wildlife-friendly rice sales, natural resource management and direct natural resource interventions.</p>	<p>4.a 1000 beneficiaries (50% women) attend training in sustainable agriculture (300 in year 1, 400 in year 2, 300 in year 3).</p> <p>4.b Local communities demonstrate greater knowledge and commitment to sustainable <i>trapeang</i> management</p> <p>4.c 300 households and 50% of buffalo benefit from vaccination and animal husbandry training scheme.</p> <p>4.d 200 direct beneficiaries (40% female) from seven target villages are actively engaged in sustainable land management through the digging of 10 waterholes (<i>trapeangs</i>).</p> <p>4.e 10 <i>trapeangs</i> retain water for an additional two months during the dry season, providing 6,630 indirect beneficiaries with increased access to larger, more reliable fish and frog stocks</p> <p>4.f At least two villages certified as organic, wildlife-friendly rice producers</p> <p>4.g 200 households (1000 people) involved in wildlife friendly rice production programme gain a minimum 10% income premium on rice sales</p>
Activity 4.1. Cattle vaccinations and animal husbandry training provided to at least 300 households	Two meetings held to inform community members about the project's cattle and buffalo vaccination programme engaged a total of 37 participants. BirdLife and

		the Department of Agriculture vaccinated 135 buffalo and 191 cattle belonging to 61 households. Project Livelihood Team organized two training events on “animal husbandry” with a total of 65 participants.
Activity 4.2. Sustainable land management training and digging of 10 trapeangs		Two meetings held to raise awareness of sustainable land management and explain the purpose of the <i>trapeang</i> digging programme attracted a total of 85 participants. Total of 81 volunteers participated in digging of four <i>trapeangs</i> . Survey of attitudes towards sustainable land management and <i>trapeang</i> digging conducted in the seven target villages, but data not yet analysed.
Activity 4.3. Target villages informed about the requirements for wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification		Meetings held with the target villages to inform them about the requirements for wildlife friendly, organic rice certification. Assessments completed of the current rice growing regimes and markets at Siem Pang, with recommendations provided to improving rice yields, and of the potential to produce wildlife-friendly, organic ‘Ibis Rice’ in the project’s target villages.
Activity 4.4. Training sessions for at least 1500 people in wildlife friendly agricultural techniques		Training events on “soil preparation and composting” held in the seven target villages, with a total of 290 participants, with workplans prepared to guide and monitor composting activities after the training had been completed.
Activity 4.5. Study tour exchange visit for villagers from Siem Pang to learn about wildlife friendly rice production in Preah Vihear		Study tour to Preah Vihear made by the project team to help prepare for the study tour exchange visits for villagers from Siem Pang which will take place during year 2.
Activity 4.6. Processing of wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification in at least two villages		Activity not planned for year 1
Activity 4.7. At least two 200 households selling wildlife-friendly rice to SMP at a 10% premium price		Activity not planned for year 1
Output 5. Between 2018 and 2019 the area of forest converted to rice fields within the boundary of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II has halved compared with the area converted between 2016 and 2017	5.a Ground truthed maps of rice fields shows 5.b Landsat images show that the area of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II converted to rice fields between 2018 and 2019 is half the area converted between 2016 and 2017.	5.a Mapping and registration of 100 rice fields belonging to 68 households completed in Khet Svay village. Ground truth survey conducted by an independent consultant in WSPWS. 5.b Aerial photos used to validate the rice field mapping results and to assess the extent of forest encroachment in WSPWS for 2010-2017.
Activity 5.1. Ground truth mapping of all existing rice fields in four target villages		The project team measured and registered 100 rice fields belonging to 68 households in Khet Svay village. The results were validated using aerial photos by an independent consultant.
Activity 5.2. Map production and remote sensing study to assess forest encroachment		Report produced by an independent consultant used aerial photos to assess the extent and rate of forest encroachment within WSP Wildlife Sanctuary between

		2010 and 2017.
Output 6. Project findings, policy brief and journal article shared with target audiences achieving increased awareness of the links between biodiversity and human-wellbeing and support for mainstreaming participatory forest management into sustainable protected forest management policy	<p>6.a Comparison of workshop participatory learning results in Yr 1 and Yr 3 show target communities have greater awareness and commitment to sustainable forest management</p> <p>6.b National workshop minutes show questions and discussion following presentation on policy brief with 1000 copies disseminated</p> <p>6.c Meeting minutes of BirdLife Asia meeting shows debate and evidences learning through questioning from regional partners</p> <p>6.d Project case study shared on BirdLife International website 2000 views</p> <p>6.e Project case study shared on capacity for conservation website and accessed more than 100 times by conservation professionals</p> <p>6.f Scientific paper submission receipt email</p>	Activities planned under this Output postponed to year 2.
Activity 6.1. Community participatory learning workshops		Activity postponed to year 2.
Activity 6.2. Drafting of policy brief		Activity not planned for year 1
Activity 6.3. Review by government counterparts		Activity not planned for year 1
Activity 6.4. National workshop and policy brief dissemination		Activity not planned for year 1
Activity 6.5. Drafting and submission of journal article		Activity not planned for year 1
Activity 6.6. Posting of project case study on BirdLife and capacity for conservation website		Activity not planned for year 1
Activity 6.7. Presentation to BirdLife Asia Partnership		Activity not planned for year 1

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: The 130,000 ha of Western Siem Pang Forest are managed sustainably, supporting biodiversity and the livelihoods of 6,630 people, acting as a model for sustainable forest management in Cambodia.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Demonstration land management structures in place enabling local people to benefit from the sustainable management of Western Siem Pang Forest, enhancing biodiversity and supporting local livelihoods in an agreed framework.</p>	<p>0.1 increased food security in seven target villages (6,630 people), with a reduction in the percentage of households with sufficient food for less than five months of the year from 38% of households to 25% By end of Yr.3.</p> <p>0.2 Stable populations of five Critically Endangered species within Western Siem Pang Forest by end of Yr.3</p>	<p>0.1 Participatory Rural Appraisal undertaken 2018 compared with 2014 (pre) and 2016 (start of project) baselines.</p> <p>0.2 BirdLife biodiversity team led species census results compared with 2016 baseline.</p>	<p>Government support and socioeconomic conditions nationally remain favourable to implementation.</p> <p>Critically Endangered species populations depend on large tracts of un-degraded habitat. Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation.</p>
<p>Output 1 Local consultation structures established at village and district level, equitably representing the views of constituents</p>	<p>1.a Seven village forums established with equal representation of women and men (50% women, 50% men)</p> <p>1.b Western Siem Pang Forest Stakeholder Forum established and working effectively</p>	<p>1.a.1 Meetings are held regularly and attendance list shows equitable participation of women and men, evidenced by equal sex ratio of women men attending meetings</p> <p>1.a.2 Dialogue in village meetings show enhanced understanding of management planning process over the three year project implementation period, evidenced by meeting minutes and participatory learning assessment survey at end of Yr.3</p> <p>1.b.1 List of attendees at stakeholder meetings includes representatives from all relevant interest groups including representatives from village forums.</p> <p>1.b.2 Requests from village forum representatives on traditional-use are included in the Western Siem Pang Management Plan regulations, evidenced by forum minutes and management plan document.</p>	<p>Local communities and local authorities continue to be interested in engaging and contributing to these forums</p>

<p>Output 2 Land titles, community land-use plans and conservation agreements finalised within at least four villages neighbouring Western Siem Pang Forest</p>	<p>2.a By the end of year two village landuse maps complete.</p> <p>2.b By the end of year three the remaining two village land-use maps are complete (total of four complete) resulting in 800 households in four target villages with land title certificates registered at provincial level.</p> <p>2.c Four villages endorse conservation agreements.</p>	<p>2.a Commune chiefs endorse maps of land tenure.</p> <p>2.b Land tenure certificates.</p> <p>2.c Village meeting minutes.</p>	<p>Local government especially department of land management continues to be cooperative and supportive</p> <p>Local communities continue to be interested and engaged</p>
<p>Output 3 Management plan of Western Siem Pang Forest is developed in consultation with local communities</p>	<p>3.a Management plan is endorsed by seven village forums and the stakeholder forum by end of Yr.3</p>	<p>3.a Meeting minutes. List of signatories endorsing management plan.</p>	<p>Local communities and local authorities continue to be interested and engaged in supporting the WSP Forest Management Plan</p> <p>Local authorities continue to respect Protected Forest policy permitting the right of local communities to participate in Protected Forest management.</p>
<p>Output 4 Improved food security in seven target villages (6,630 people) through improved local capacity in agriculture, increased income from wildlife-friendly rice sales, natural resource management and direct natural resource interventions.</p>	<p>4.a 1000 beneficiaries (50% women) attend training in sustainable agriculture (300 in year 1, 400 in year 2, 300 in year 3).</p> <p>4.b Local communities demonstrate greater knowledge and commitment to sustainable <i>trapeang</i> management</p> <p>4.c 300 households and 50% of buffalo benefit from vaccination and animal husbandry training scheme.</p> <p>4.d 200 direct beneficiaries (40% female) from seven target villages are actively engaged in sustainable land management through the digging of 10 waterholes (<i>trapeangs</i>).</p> <p>4.e 10 <i>trapeangs</i> retain water for an additional two months during the dry season, providing 6,630 indirect</p>	<p>4.a Registration taken at training events.</p> <p>4.b Compare knowledge and attitudes of training beneficiaries through a participatory learning assessment undertaken at start and end of project.</p> <p>4.c Vaccination report updates in Darwin reports Yr 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p>4.d employment agreements and receipts for work carried out digging <i>trapeangs</i>.</p> <p>4.e <i>Trapeang</i> habitat monitoring data shows that <i>trapeangs</i> retain standing water for an additional two months during the dry season and the number of bird visits increased comparing Yr 1 and Yr 3 <i>trapeang</i> monitoring data.</p> <p>4.f organic and wildlife-friendly rice</p>	<p>Buffalo owners can make the buffalo readily available for vaccination</p> <p><i>Trapeang</i> water availability and water bird visits are indicative of the availability of fish and frogs.</p> <p>Communities remain engaged in organic, wildlife-friendly rice certification scheme for the duration of the project.</p>

	<p>beneficiaries with increased access to larger, more reliable fish and frog stocks</p> <p>4.f At least two villages certified as organic, wildlife-friendly rice producers</p> <p>4.g 200 households (1000 people) involved in wildlife friendly rice production programme gain a minimum 10% income premium on rice sales.</p>	<p>certificates.</p> <p>4.g Sale of rice receipts.</p>	
<p>Output 5 Between 2018 and 2019 the area of forest converted to rice fields within the boundary of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II has halved compared with the area converted between 2016 and 2017.</p>	<p>5.a Ground truthed maps of rice fields shows</p> <p>5.b Landsat images show that the area of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II converted to rice fields between 2018 and 2019 is half the area converted between 2016 and 2017.</p>	<p>5.a Community land-use plans, ground truthed maps of rice fields.</p> <p>5.b Landsat image analysis, final project report.</p>	<p>Maps are produced with sufficient precision.</p> <p>Landsat continues to produce multiple images taken over different days in case cloud cover on a particular day impairs the image quality and ability to carry out the analysis.</p> <p>Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation.</p>
<p>Output 6 Project findings, policy brief and journal article shared with target audiences achieving increased awareness of the links between biodiversity and human-wellbeing and support for mainstreaming participatory forest management into sustainable protected forest management policy.</p>	<p>6.a Comparison of workshop participatory learning results in Yr 1 and Yr 3 show target communities have greater awareness and commitment to sustainable forest management.</p> <p>6.b National workshop minutes show questions and discussion following presentation on policy brief with 1000 copies disseminated.</p> <p>6.c Meeting minutes of BirdLife Asia meeting shows debate and evidences learning through questioning from regional partners.</p> <p>6.d Project case study shared on BirdLife International website 2000 views</p> <p>6.e Project case study shared on</p>	<p>6.a Workshop minutes, project reports.</p> <p>6.b.1 Workshop minutes, event photographs.</p> <p>6.b.2 Policy brief document supplied to Darwin and Workshop minutes.</p> <p>6.c. Meeting minutes.</p> <p>6.d Google analytics.</p> <p>6.e Capacity for conservation webpage access information available on website.</p> <p>6.f email from journal editor acknowledging paper submission.</p>	<p>Government remains committed to co-hosting research outputs of project</p> <p>Data is a sufficient quality for publication</p>

	<p>capacity for conservation website and accessed more than 100 times by conservation professionals</p> <p>6.f Scientific paper submission receipt email</p>		
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Output 1 Local consultation structures established at village and district level, equitably representing the views of constituents</p> <p>1.1 Meetings to establish village forums in 7 target villages</p> <p>1.2 Elect Village Forum representatives with equal representation of women and men and endorsement of forum institutional regulations by communities</p> <p>1.3 Establishment of Western Siem Pang Stakeholder Forum including representatives from all target villages, local civil society, private interests and government</p> <p>Output 2 Land titles, community land-use plans and conservation agreements finalised within at least four villages neighbouring Western Siem Pang Forest</p> <p>2.1 Land titling launch event: Consultation with provincial authority and local communities to share information and agree the process for gaining formal land title</p> <p>2.2 Mapping of land claims</p> <p>2.3 Meetings to develop land-use plans, incorporating land claims and conservation agreements</p> <p>2.4 Meetings held between villagers and commune chief to endorse land-use plans.</p> <p>2.5 Meetings held between village forums representatives and provincial department of land management to register land claims.</p> <p>Output 3 Management plan of Western Siem Pang Forest is developed in consultation with local communities</p> <p>3.1 Consultation meetings</p> <p>3.2 Meetings to agree sustainable use regulations</p> <p>3.3 Management plan endorsement by all stakeholders</p> <p>Output 4 Improved food security in seven target villages through improved local capacity in agriculture, natural resource management and direct natural resource interventions</p> <p>4.1 Cattle vaccinations and animal husbandry training provided to at least 300 households</p> <p>4.2 Sustainable land management training and digging of 10 <i>trapeangs</i></p> <p>4.3 Target villages informed about the requirements for wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification,</p> <p>4.4 Training sessions for at least 1500 people in wildlife friendly agricultural techniques</p> <p>4.5 Study tour exchange visit for villagers from Siem Pang to learn about wildlife friendly rice production in Preah Vihear.</p> <p>4.5 Processing of wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification in at least two villages.</p> <p>4.6 At least two 200 households selling wildlife-friendly rice to SMP at a 10% premium price</p> <p>Output 5 Between 2018 and 2019 area of land conversion within the boundary of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II has halved compared with area of conversion between 2016 and 2017.</p> <p>5.1 Ground truth mapping of all existing rice fields in four target villages.</p> <p>5.2 Map production and remote sensing study to assess forest encroachment</p>			

Output 6 Project findings, policy brief and journal article shared with target audiences achieving increased awareness of the links between biodiversity and human-wellbeing and support for mainstreaming participatory forest management into sustainable protected forest management policy.

6.1 Community participatory learning workshops

6.2 Drafting of policy brief

6.3 Review by government counterparts

6.4 National workshop and policy brief dissemination

6.5 Drafting and submission of journal article

6.6 Posting of project case study on BirdLife and capacity for conservation website

6.7 Presentation to BirdLife Asia Partnership

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
6A	Training in sustainable agricultural practices	50% women		290 (179 women)				1,000
7	Policy brief "linking biodiversity and food security in sustainable forest management"							1
9	Western Siem Pang Forest Management Plan							1
11A	Scientific paper on links between rural livelihoods and biodiversity							1
14B	Presentation on policy brief at national workshop coordinated with World Biodiversity Day							1
14B	Presentation at regional BirdLife Asia Partnership meeting to share lessons on linking biodiversity and human-wellbeing							1
23	Match funding (co-finance)							£259,319

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
N/A						

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

List of Annexes submitted with the report and referenced in the text:

- Annex 1 Socio-Economic Baseline_report
- Annex 2 Summary Inception Report
- Annex 3 Summary report of Village Forum Establishment in seven target villages
- Annex 4 List of villagers registered rice field land
- Annex 5 Vaccination and cattle training course report
- Annex 6 Summary Report of trapeang digging
- Annex 7 Rice production Assessment report Sieng Pang
- Annex 8 SMP Report_October 2016
- Annex 9 CRDT Performance Report to BirdLife_First Step_Feb-Mar 2017
- Annex 10 Forest Cover Change 2010-2017
- Annex 11 Western Siem Pang Biodiversity Monthly Report March 2017 (Specimen monthly report)
- Annex 12 Consultancy Agreement with CRDT

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	yes
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	N/A
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	