

## **Project Update: June 2015**

### Exploratory Report on Consultation with Local Community Members and Stakeholders

#### **1. Geography of the Study Area**

The project site is in Ourei Community Protected Area, Sereimongkol and Trapeangchres Communes, Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary. It is located in Rattanakiri province, one of the Cambodian's most remote and poorest provinces, approximately 600 km northeast of Phnom Penh. Rattanakiri covers 110,522 km<sup>2</sup> with a population 94,243 ([www. Tourismcambodia/Rattanakiri](http://www.tourismcambodia.com/rattanakiri)). It borders the province of Mondulakiri to the south and Stung Treng province to the west and the country of Laos and Vietnam to the north and east. The province covers with hills, rivers and forests which play a very important role for providing many services for wildlife such as natural food, natural habitat and natural nesting. However, those natural resources are increasingly under pressure by logging, mining and forest clearing for multiple goals of local people which have more affected on wildlife natural habitat.

The Rufford-funded project site is wholly situated in the protected area site, where Ourei community protected area members have participated in forestry resources and birds species for the ecosystem stability in the area. In recent years, logging, mining, posing and forest clearing are increasing threats to above resources. With the financial support from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation, the project will make a partial contribution to raising local awareness of the importance of the rare bird species and developing the training materials for community members for conserving birds. The project will also contribute to disseminating stakeholders about findings an effective conservation on birds through workshops.

#### **2. Objective**

The specific objective of the first local consultation meeting was to inform community members and stakeholders of the new Rufford-funded project for contributing to protect and conserve two critically endangered species of giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis within the Ourei Community Protected Area (OCPA) areas Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### **3. General information about Giant ibis and White-Shouldered ibis and other birds**

According to Birdlife report (2011), Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary (LWS) the Mondulakiri province is the best natural habitat of birds especially the giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis transferred from Kulenpromtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) of the Preah Vihear province for breeding and feeding. Furthermore, we observed that the giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis have presented in the Ourei Community Protected Area (OCPA) area which is the Rufford funded area support in the LWS. OCPA report (2014) stated that the OCPA forest areas have much kind of wildlife such as wild pig, monkey, gibbon, wild chicken, heron, duck, teal and especially the giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis. For instance, during patrolling with OCPA committee members on 3rd May 2015 we saw giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis and other birds in the OCPA area forest. Generally, we observed that in the OCPA forest area have been a pasture field and cropping field with natural ponds which are a natural habitat for birds breeding and feeding.

#### **4. Roles of Community and Local authorities Participation in Bird Conservation**

OCPA committee members were Sereymokgle and Trapeangchres communes declared on 10th October 2013 and the OCPA was approved and registered from the Ministry of Environment on 7th March 2014.

The objectives of OCPA are:

- To implement the government decentralisation policy.
- To participate in natural resources and biodiversity in the OCPA areas.
- To increase local livelihood through harvesting timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in the community forest areas sustainably.

The community members and other stakeholders have been patrolling to protect illegal activities such as wildlife hunting and forest clearing in the community forest. Besides, the community committee members have protected natural habitat, natural nest and natural pond (Trapeang) inside in the community forest. The community has schedule to patrol community forest one month 12 days and one day 5 persons. The community divides patrol group into four groups. They are community members. The community committee members have disseminated information to community members and outsiders the advantage and necessary of natural resources and wildlife in the community forest. Furthermore, the community has internal monthly and yearly regulation meeting in order to report positive and negative happening in the community especially forest management and wildlife conservation. Moreover, local authorities have extended the potential of the community such as natural resources and wildlife, especially the commune council appeal to partner for financial support the OCPA activities. Furthermore, every 5 years the commune council integrates the OCPA priority plan into commune plan for developing on structure (road, well) and natural resources management.

#### 5. Roles and activities of project team in bird conservation

Working group divided into two groups are local group and national group. Local group consists of 15 community committee members and the four village chiefs which are advisors of community. National group comprises of two volunteer students and one project team leader. They have difference roles and responsibilities. The local group has roles and responsibilities to develop plan for patrolling, disseminate necessary information or the project, collect relevant information to giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis report to project team leader. The national group has roles and responsibilities to collect information with other stakeholders, to conduct local meeting to disseminate project goal, to participate in the community forest patrolling and the giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis monitoring in the community forest area. Furthermore, the national team has more roles to write report and analysis information about positive and negative about the giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis and submit report to the Rufford. On the other hand, the core project team will work closely with other local stakeholders such as NGOs, local authorities, local institutions and state agency during the whole one year project period.

#### 6. Results and Findings of Community Consultation and Participation

The consultation was held on 2nd May 2015 in the Sereymongle Commune station, Konmon district Mundulkiri province with the active participation of the following:

- Representative of the Mundulkiri Provincial Environment Department.
- Chief of Sereymongle commune.
- Representative of Trapengchres commune.
- Chief of Sereymongle police.
- Representative of Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Village chiefs (four villages).
- Chief, vice chief of community and all committee members.

First of all, Mr. Heng Hong, project team leader introduced to the meeting about the Rufford Small Grant Foundation (UK) focus on giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis protection and conservation in the OCPA areas. The project is over one year period which starting from February 2015 to February 2016. The special objective of the project is to make a partial contribution to the improvement of protecting and conserving the two critically endangered species of giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis within the Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary. Hong added that he have constructed two logos of the project with written giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis Conservation Project which fund supported by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation. The logo has designed with giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis picture in order to attract the community members to more participate in the project and more participate in giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis conservation and protection.

Mr Min Srun Chief of Sereymongle Commune, on behalf of the meeting said that it was a golden opportunity for the OCPA to improve forest management and wildlife conservation in the community areas. He expressed his impression that the Rufford Small Grant Foundation it would be good more participation from the community members and stakeholders in managing and protecting the forest resources management and all kind of birds especially the giant ibis and white-shouldered ibis in the community areas. On behalf of the leader in the community, he wants to see all community members' participation in forest resources management and wildlife conservation. He requested to all community committee members, to all community advisors and other stakeholders must full participation in the project activities in order to get successful for our community. He added that the logo should hang up one in community station/hall and the other one hang up the appropriately place where people can see and attract the project especially Giant ibis and White shouldered picture.

## 7. Conclusion

The first consultation was fruitful results because all active key persons participated and understood in the project concepts and project activities. The meeting has formulated community work plan which addresses the key activities on conservation and data records. The Rufford-funded project was necessary for encouraging the community committee members and community advisors and other stakeholders more participation in forest resources management and wildlife conservation.



