



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin Report” guidance: (<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2019

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT-035
Project title	Sustainability through ecotourism: improving livelihoods and disrupting wildlife trade, Cambodia
Country/ies	Cambodia
Lead organisation	Wildlife Alliance
Partner institution(s)	Areng Valley and Chi Phat Community Based Ecotourism Associations / Department of Terrestrial Protected Areas, Ministry of the Environment, Royal Government of Cambodia
IWT grant value	270,310 GBP
Start/end dates of project	1st April 2017 – 31 March 2020
Reporting period (e.g. April 2018-Mar 2019) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	April 2018 – March 2019. Annual Report 2
Project leader name	Sophany Touch
Project website/blog/social media	www.wildlifealliance.org / @WildlifeRescue
Report author(s) and date	Thomas Gray – 26 th April 2019

1. Project rationale

The Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, southwest Cambodia forms an integral part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot and is a major source for high-value wildlife products entering the illegal global trade. Since 2003 enforcement teams in the landscape have seized >5,250 live animals, removed >180,000 traps, and arrested >650 wildlife traffickers. The project addresses the dual issues of wildlife trade and rural poverty through an integrated approach of developing Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) combined with law enforcement. The project is supporting the establishment of inclusive CBET across 8 remote forest communities, with high poverty levels, in the Areng Valley, at the heart of the Cardamom Landscape.



*The location of the Areng Valley (left) and (right) one of the target species of the project (Siamese crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis*). This Critically Endangered reptile breeds in the Areng Valley and has been the target of wildlife poaching for skins and stocking wildlife farms.*

The protected areas surrounding the Areng Valley support significant populations of at least 19 IUCN Threatened mammals whose populations are impacted by the Illegal Wildlife Trade. Wildlife Alliance conducted a Livelihood Assessment across all communities in the Areng Valley in 2015 which indicated that illegal logging and wildlife poaching for commercial trade are substantial current sources of revenue for communities. This highlighted the need for developing sustainable alternative livelihood strategies. In 2016 the government of Cambodia committed to improving road access into the Areng Valley which, whilst facilitating economic development and improving access for ecotourism, would have led to concurrent increases in levels of illegal activity, including wildlife trade, without an appropriate response. Given these threats it was critical to develop a project which simultaneously provided sustainable livelihood opportunities for Areng Valley communities whilst also safeguarding the landscape's rich biodiversity from outsiders and other poachers through robust and effective law enforcement patrolling. This is the focus of our project 'Sustainability through ecotourism: improving livelihoods and disrupting wildlife trade, Cambodia' which has now completed two years of funding from the DEFRA Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.

2. Project partnerships

The project is highly collaborative and participatory and, as such, multiple partnerships have been developed and nurtured. Given the successful establishment of functioning Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) infrastructure (Output 1) during project Year One the majority of the new partnerships established during this reporting period focussed on promoting the ecotourism product (Output 2). This included collaboration with the Cambodian Association of Tour Agents in order to include Areng Valley in tour packages (Output 2.2) and also with the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism whose promotional department made two videos on the natural attractions of the Areng Valley and the tourism services provided. The Ministry of Tourism also provided support for training CBET service providers (Activity 1.9) and a new partnership was developed with the Cambodian Cooks Association for targeted training on cooking. Our project partner the Chi Phat Community Based Ecotourism Association maintains its important mentoring role to the twin organisation (the Areng Valley Community Based Ecotourism Association) which was founded by the project. During this reporting period Chi Pat CBET supported training of Areng Valley service providers on English language and hospitality skills and forest guiding including the critical (but tricky) motorbike taxi driving for tourists (Activity 1.9). All of these partnerships were developed to meet the needs of the Areng Community Based Ecotourism Association and as such were entirely host-country driven.

For protected area management and law enforcement (Output 4) the project maintained our strong partnership with the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) and the Provincial Department of Environment (PDOE) of the Cambodian Ministry of Environment. The PDOE second law enforcement rangers to join our patrol teams (Activity 4.1) whilst the GDANCP is responsible for overall management and policy across Cambodia's Protected Area network.

A key factor facilitating all of our partnerships are the high levels of support the project has achieved at both the village (i.e. amongst the inhabitants of the eight target villages in the Areng Valley) and central government (Ministries of Tourism and Environment) levels. However, issues remain with District and Provincial administrators who benefit(ed) financially from illegal activities and unsustainable natural resource use in the Areng Valley prior to the interventions by Wildlife Alliance. Ensuring such corrupt officials see the long-term benefits of the project, rule-of-law, and community development will be important to strengthen our partnerships with these regional stakeholders.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1

The majority of the activities under this output were completed during Year 1 of the Project (for more details see Annex 1). Activities implemented during this reporting period focused on advanced / refresher training for CBET service providers (Activity 1.9) and finalising the necessary infrastructure for effective community-based ecotourism across the Areng Valley (Activity 1.10). A total of four training events for CBET service providers were conducted during the reporting period. These focused-on cooking skills (May 2018), English language (December 2018), hospitality for home stay owners (October 2018), and forest guiding and motorbike taxi operation (September 2018). Training was led by a number of partners including the Chi Phat Community Based Ecotourism Association, the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism, and the Cambodian Cooks Association. During the cooking training in May 31 service providers (19 female) learnt how to cook and serve 20 dishes. By April 2018 a total of 22 home-stays, across all eight villages within the Areng Valley, have been equipped and are operational whilst, during the dry-season, an additional 155-km of forest trails were opened and improved (Activity 1.10).

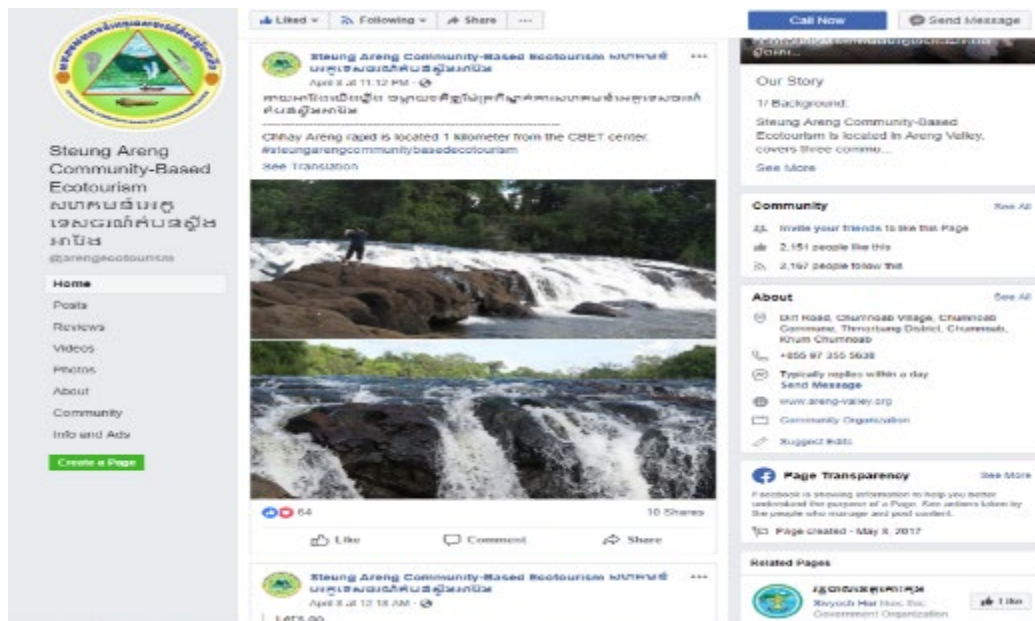


Training to Community Based Ecotourism service providers on hospitality (October 2018; including the critical skill of turning towels into swans) and cooking led by chefs from the Cambodian Cooks Association (May 2018).



Making a wooden forest bridge over a seasonal river in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape; part of 155-km of forest trails improved during this reporting period,

Output 2



The Facebook Page of the Areng Valley Community Based Ecotourism Association.

During this reporting period the project focussed extensively on the promotion of the Areng Valley Community Based Ecotourism product and we were active across multiple events and forum. Members of the CBET Association attended the Travel Fair of the Cambodian Association of Tour Agents in the capital Phnom Penh and distributed 500 leaflets promoting the Areng Valley and its unique tourist attractions (**Activity 2.1**). Following the event business contracts were signed with five tour operators. The project also collaborated with the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism to make two promotional videos on the natural attractions of the Areng Valley and the tourism services provided. As part of the ongoing mentoring of key community members, the chief of the CBET Association attended four national workshops on ecotourism development and marketing (**Activity 2.3**). The Facebook page of the Areng Valley CBET Association (<https://www.facebook.com/arengecotourism/>) is operational and highly responsive. As of April 2019, the page had 2,160 likes and 2,176 followers. The project’s website

(<http://areng-valley.org/Backup/>) is 95% completed and is in the final stage of testing and Khmer language translation. The website will be officially hosted online from May 2019.

Output 3

Activities under this output, which had been delayed due to recruitment issues, accelerated during this reporting period. Credit and Savings Groups were established in six villages in the Areng Valley (Activity 3.1) with a total of 75 villagers (28 female) joining the groups (Activity 3.2). The by-laws, regulations, and guidelines for each group were also developed and approved (Activity 3.3) and each group elected a chairperson, co-chairperson, and treasurer. In each group at least two of these management positions needed to be female. All of the groups were provided with basic equipment needed for operation and received monthly training and mentoring visits from Wildlife Alliance project staff (Activity 3.4).



The project discusses the Credit and Saving Group with a local woman in her home (left) and discussion and drafting of Saving Group by-laws (right).

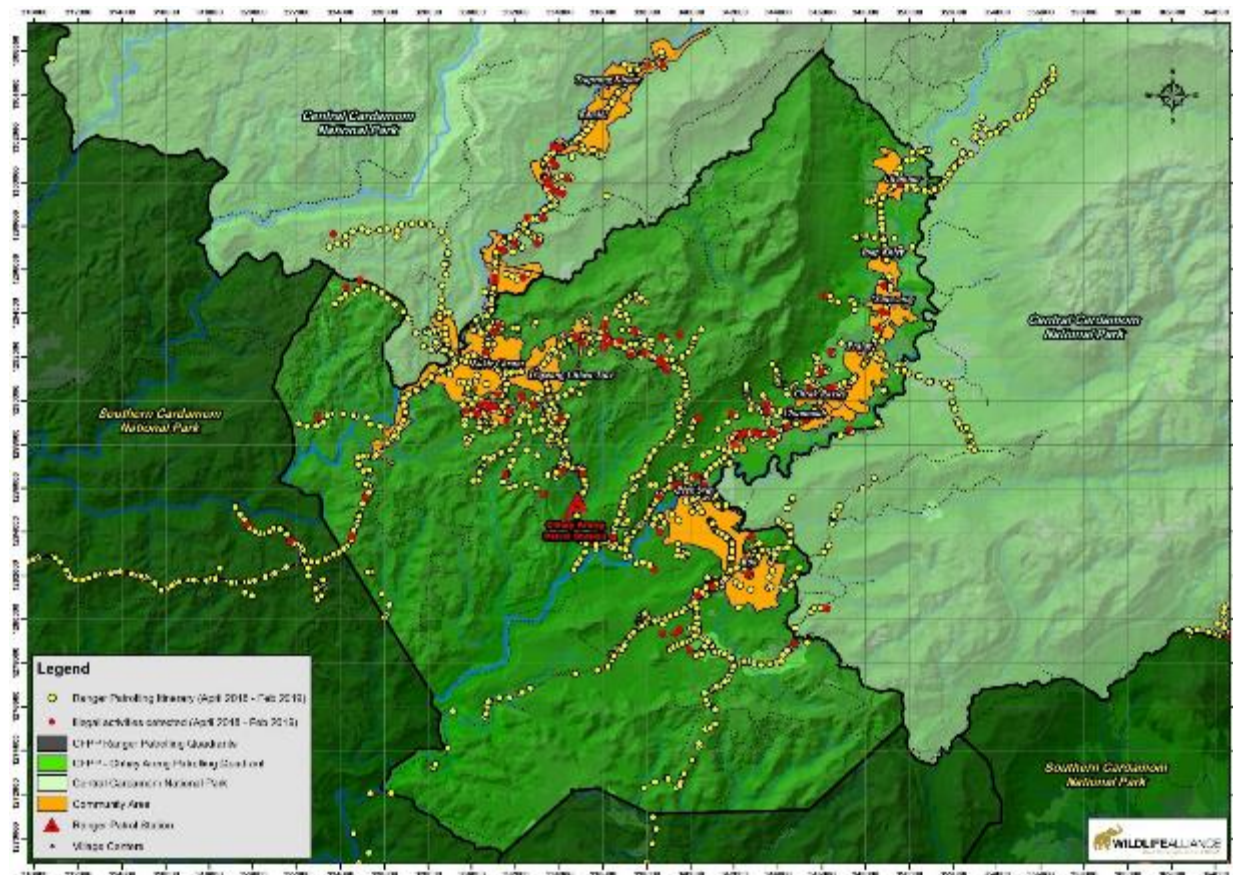
A joint bank account for all of the groups was opened in August 2018 at the Cambodia Public Bank branch in the provincial capital Koh Kong. By December 2018 the six groups had a total of Cambodian Riels (~\$) of deposited capital of which % had been contributed by members. The first loans from the Saving Groups were issued in February 2019 (three loans total \$) including for the production and marketing of rice wine using traditional methods and locally sourced forest herbs.



Credit and Saving Groups in action using equipment provided by the project

Output 4

Effective multi-agency law enforcement patrolling by the Chhay Areng Law Enforcement station continued through the project reporting period ([Activity 4.1](#)). A total of 433 law enforcement patrols covered 17,340-km resulting in the removal of 5,447 snares and 600-metres of nets set for capturing birds, porcupines, and pangolins. Twenty-six live animals were rescued from the illegal wildlife trade and safely released into the forest. Patrol teams also dismantled 23 illegal hunting camps and 58 charcoal kilns, and confiscated 60 chainsaws, 2 cars, 3 motorbikes, and two homemade guns from wildlife poachers and illegal loggers. A total of five court cases were submitted against offenders however no individuals were sent to court.



Map of patrol routes (yellow) and detected illegal activity (red) by the Chay Areng patrol team between April 2018 and March 2019.

Output 5

This output aims to leverage best practices from the Areng Valley Community Based Ecotourism project in Cambodia and regionally. During the reporting period this was mostly achieved through key members of the Areng Community Based Ecotourism Association attending national and regional tourism events and presenting on our bottom-up model for community ecotourism development. These included presentations at: the Model Tourism Resort and Community-Based Ecotourism contest in Phnom Penh (June 2018); the ASEAN CBT (Association of South East Asian Nations Community Based Tourism) Standard in Siem Reap (July 2018) which involved participants from 10 ASEAN countries; a training of Trainers on Nature Based Tourism organized by the Ministry of Environment in Virachey National Park, Rattanakiri (December 2018); and an Environmental Friendly Tourism event in Koh Kong Province (February 2019). In April 2018 ten students from Phnom Penh's prestigious Norton University visiting the Areng Valley to study, and report upon, a successful community-based ecotourism initiative ([Activity 5.3](#)).



The ASEAN Community Based Tourism awards in Siem Reap: and a bizarre obsession for public toilets.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1

As demonstrated in Annex 1, the table below, and described in earlier reports we are close to achieving all of the Outputs under this project component. There have been some difficulties meeting all of our ambitious goals for female representation (see further discussion in Section 8) however we will continue to strive for high levels of female inclusion in all project activities and decision making

	Output and SMART Target	Current Status (March 2019)
1.1	Jun 17: Gender and ethnically balanced CBET Management committee established	15 members (4 female; all ethnic Chong)
1.2	Dec 17: APPA methodology used to identify tourist attractions	65 attractions mapped
1.3	Jun 18: 400 community members trained (>60% women)	405 trained (40% female)
1.4	Jun 19: Ecotourism infrastructure completed - 25 homestays; 300 km of trails; 15 forest campsites; 30 mountain bikes; 50 sets of camping equipment	22 homestays; 292 km of trails; 2 forest 32; 30 mountain bikes; 54 sets of camping equipment

Output 2

We believe that the project is largely on-track for achieving our Output that community-based ecotourism in the Areng Valley is functioning effectively and is generating annual income increases for members. We have had major success in attracting large numbers of Cambodian visitors (1,152 during the reporting period) which addresses one of our original concerns regarding the ecotourism project's ability to attract local tourists. This is hugely positive for the future sustainability of Community Based Ecotourism in the Areng Valley whilst also allowing us to engage and influence Cambodian youth on environmental issues. As we discuss latter in this report (Section 13) this could be our most significant long-term legacy. However, we have received fewer western tourists than anticipated and it is possible we may not meet our 2020 target of 500 international tourist visitors per year. Whilst we are also below our annual revenue target (\$by Jan 2020) the project experienced a significant (>3-fold) increase in income when compared to the previous reporting period. This was largely due to visitors staying for longer in the valley and undertaking more activities. If this trend continues over the next 12-months we will be close to meeting our 2020 target.

	Output and SMART Target	Current Status (March 2019)
2.1	Jan 20: Annual CBET income >\$	\$ (% increase on previous year)
2.2	Jan 20: 10 tours operators with contracts with CBET	5
2.3	Jan 20: 400 community members trained (>60% women)	405 trained (40% female)
2.4	Jan 20: 500 international tourists per year	63



Cambodian tourists enjoying nature and the Areng Valley. Connecting the country's future decision-makers and influencers with the environment could be the project's most important long-term legacy.

Output 3

Due to staffing turnover this activity experienced some delays during the first year of operations however we are now back on track to achieve our objectives. Credit and Savings Groups were established in six villages in the Areng Valley. This is lower than the indicator of groups in eight villages as, due to small populations and social links, we combined two villages (Toapklei and Samroang) together to form a single group whilst an additional village, Koh the most accessible in the valley, had an existing micro-finance group established by the developmental organization CEDAC (the Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture). Fewer members initially joined the Credit and Saving Groups than we had predicted. This was likely due to a reluctance of some community members to invest into the scheme (minimum investment required as defined in the by-laws is Cambodian Riel) possibly due to limited disposable income. Whilst we are confident more members will join (particularly as the first loans were issued in early 2019) it seems unlikely we will achieve our ambitious target of 200 members.

	Output and SMART Target	Current Status (March 2019)
3.1	Jan 18: 8 village saving groups with 200 total members.	6 groups 75 members
3.2	Jan 18: Policies for saving groups established.	yes
3.3	Jan 18 At least 100 saving group members received financial training.	75

Output 4

Monthly law enforcement patrolling exceeds our project indicator of 15 multi-day patrols per month. An average of 39 patrols plus 7-night ambushes were conducted per month by two teams i.e. 23 days per team; [Indicator 4.1](#). This patrolling continues to reduce threats to commercially hunted mammal species in the project area ([Output 4](#)). During the reporting period 5,447 lethal hunting snares were removed by

the patrol teams together with 600-metres of nets. It is notable that the catch-per-unit (CPUE) effort of snares was significantly higher that during Year 1 of the project.

Project Year	Km Patrolled	Snares removed	CPUE (snares per 10-km patrol)
1: April 2017-March 2018	18,230	1,819	1.0
2: April 2018-March 2019	17,340	5,447	3.1

We believe that this is due to 1) better training of our field teams and improved knowledge of the landscape (the Areng Valley Ranger Station was only established in January 2017) meaning that the detectability of snares is higher and 2) increased demand for wildlife products in Cambodia. This increased demand is driven by the massive recent Chinese investment in Cambodia which is part of China’s national [Belt and Road Initiative](#). This investment has been associated with land-grabbing and speculation, currently the most significant drivers of deforestation in Cambodia, as well as increased demand for illegal wildlife products. The newly developed coastal Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone, approximately 70-km from the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, has over 100 Chinese enterprises and companies with a total investment of more than 3 billion US dollars. This Chinese investment both increases the value of land, thus promoting land speculation and illegal deforestation, whilst also stimulating demand for illegal wildlife products for exotic dishes and extraction of body parts for traditional Chinese medicine. Chinese designated Economic Zones in other countries such as Laos have been strongly associated with the illegal wildlife trade.



*Wildlife Alliance rangers removing nets set to catch birds from a natural grassland in the Areng Valley (left) and a Bengal monitor *Varanus bengalensis* rescued from a snare trap (right). These reptiles are captured for the wildlife meat trade and served in restaurants to middle class tourists.*

Output 5

This output, which focusses on promoting the model of bottom-up Community Based Ecotourism in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape in order to influence best practices regionally, will be the focus of activities during Project Year 3. As such none of the Outputs have thus far been achieved although one study tour has visited the Areng Valley ([Output 5.3](#)) and the structure of a peer-reviewed paper, detailing the approach used to implement Community Based Ecotourism in the landscape, has been drafted ([Output 5.1](#)).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The overall Project Outcome is that “*Community Based Ecotourism and Women’s Credit and Savings Groups increase income and reduce poverty levels across eight communities in the Areng Valley, Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, which combined with effective law enforcement, provides cultural pressure for a reduction in the illegal poaching and commercial trade of threatened mammals*”.

Robust pre-project baselines were obtained for all four of our Outcome Indicators and we believe that these will adequately measure the impact the project is having on alleviating poverty and combatting the illegal wildlife trade in the Areng Valley. However, given the wider trajectories of economic development across the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape directly attributing improvement in the indicators related to income and poverty reduction (Outcome Indicators 0.1 and 0.2) to our specific project activities will be difficult. For example, since the project begun an all-weather road and mobile telephone signal have arrived in the Areng Valley for the first time. And whilst these developments were genuinely partly due to our efforts (particularly high-level political support for the Community Based Ecotourism project – see Section 12) they will have also significantly contributed to poverty alleviation above and beyond those caused by our project activities.

Full community and social surveys to monitor the final Outcome Indicators are planned in early 2020 (February / March). In hindsight developing a mid-project social survey (e.g. Nov / Dec 2018) would have been useful in order to review our progress towards the final Outcomes. However, this would have been an additional expense.

	Indicator	2020 Target	Pre-project Baseline	Current Value
0.1	% of households with annual income >\$2,000	75	37	Unknown
0.2	Commune wide poverty rate	6	12	Unknown
0.3	# of microenterprise loans awarded	200	0	3
0.4	Rank of a) ecotourism and b) illegal wildlife trade as income generating activities	Ecotourism 4 Wildlife Trade 9	Ecotourism 8 Wildlife Trade 4	Unknown

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

The log-frame for this project was developed more than three years ago and the rapidly changing socio-economic conditions in Cambodia (particularly at the rural forest frontier) means that it is important to regularly re-assess our assumptions, and to consider the impact of changing circumstances on our conservation and poverty alleviation goals. Below we discuss and comment on our changed perceptions regarding some of the project’s Outcome and Output assumptions:

Outcome: Law enforcement patrols provide sufficient deterrent to prevent outsiders accessing forest and poaching threatened species for illegal wildlife trade.

Output: Law enforcement patrolling, combined with societal peer-pressure in communities involved in CBET, sufficient to reduce levels of commercial poaching of threatened mammal species

The increase in the number of snares detected by Wildlife Alliance law enforcement rangers demonstrates that threats to the landscape’s wildlife are not abating and that our current law enforcement response may not be sufficient in the face of increasing threats. These threats are largely driven by the massive Chinese investment in Cambodia (see Section 3.2) and which may mean that aspects of our Theory of Change may no longer be valid at current levels of law enforcement. Whilst our project activities are clearly benefiting the communities of the Areng Valley and decreasing *their* illegal use of

natural resources and levels of wildlife poaching, the outside forces impacting the landscape are much larger. And in project design we failed to predict the extent of future Chinese investment into Cambodia and the corresponding impact on the project and threats to biodiversity in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape. It is worth noting the DEFRA support for law enforcement (Output 4), approximately GBP 28,000 during the past year, represents approximately 2% of the total budget required by Wildlife Alliance for law enforcement across the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape; and even this is probably not sufficient for effective protected area management given the lack of concurrent resources from the Cambodian government. More funds for law enforcement, combined with strengthening Cambodian legislation to effectively punish snaring and reducing the demand for wildlife products amongst Chinese expatriates and visitors, is critical.



Macau? No. This is Sihanoukville on the edge of the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape. Now with more casinos per head of population than Las Vegas. © Bloomberg / Getty Images

Output: Sufficient households within the Areng Valley able and willing to join CBET and receive capacity training.

Whilst we have been able to engage the majority of households across the eight villages of the Areng Valley in CBET activities and capacity building the wider economic changes in Cambodia may be impacting our ability to keep these households engaged. We have observed an increase in community members becoming construction workers at Chinese development sites at the coast thus reducing the attractiveness of work as ecotourism service providers. The Community Based Ecotourism operation, which remains in its infancy, is also only generating relatively small profits for community service providers (though we anticipate this will change in 2020 and beyond). As such two members of the CBET Association resigned due to the limited profits.

Output: Marketing and attractions able to attract Cambodian and Asian tourists in addition to ‘Westerners’.

Output: Logistics and conditions within Areng Valley are suitable for the construction of CBET infrastructure.

During the past year we have experienced ample evidence that these assumptions were correct and are no longer impediments to the success of the project. Indeed, one of the most pleasing aspects of our work thus far (which is expanded on elsewhere in this report) has been the high levels of visitation, and

interest, from local Cambodian tourists (particularly university students and recent graduates). Introducing a new generation of Cambodian influencers and decision-makers to Nature may become the projects most significant and lasting legacy (and was not really predicted when the project was being designed). During the course of the project accessibility to, and communication with, the Areng Valley have also improved exponentially. An (almost) all weather vehicle road has been completed linking the valley with the district capital of Tmor Bang (and hence to the rest of the world) whilst mobile phone signal has now also reached the valley. Both of these factors have increased the suitability of the valley for ecotourism without (thus far) significantly reducing the attractiveness of the landscape.

4. Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation

Our project is making, and will continue to make, significant contributions to both tackling the Illegal Wildlife Trade and supporting poverty alleviation in Cambodia. This is indicated through our Impact Statement that:

Globally significant populations of 19 Threatened mammals recover, and Global Goals for Sustainable Development are met by all communities, across 5,000-km² of tropical rainforest of the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, Cambodia

Within the remote forest communities of the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape there are limited sustainable livelihood options and relatively high levels of poverty. This, combined with substantial populations of IUCN Threatened species which have high values in the illegal wildlife trade (e.g. Sunda pangolin *Manis javonica*, sun bear *Helarctos malayanus*, Mainland clouded leopard *Neofelis nebulosa*), creates perfect conditions for community members to engage in the illegal wildlife trade through hunting and selling wildlife to middle-men. Our project Outcome directly addresses this through our activities which will increase income for community members (Indicators 0.1, 0.2, 0.3) thus reducing dependence on the illegal wildlife trade (Indicator 0.4). The project's focus on training and capacity building (Output Indicator 1.4) is creating additional skills and opportunities for community members thus also allowing them to look for employment and opportunities elsewhere in Cambodia. In addition, our focus on effective law enforcement and patrolling (Output 4) is acting as a deterrent against illegal poaching for the wildlife trade whilst also helping build the institutional capacity for law enforcement against the Illegal Wildlife Trade within the Cambodian Ministry of Environment.

Direct impacts during 2019 across the wider landscape by Wildlife Alliance's [Rainforest Protection](#) and [Wildlife Trade](#) programs included the removal of 19,986 snares and 15-km of hunting nets, the destruction of 779 illegal camps, and the apprehension of 101 wildlife traders. We believe this work is making a significant impact in securing the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape against wildlife trade and maintaining the landscapes position as regional stronghold for multiple highly traded species included Asian elephant *Elephas maximus* and Sunda pangolin. However, as described elsewhere in this report, the increasing and insidious impact of Chinese investment in Cambodia appears to be reversing some of the gains against the Illegal Wildlife Trade which had been made in recent years by Wildlife Alliance and others across Cambodia.

5. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declarations and Kasane Statement

The activities and outputs of the project directly support priority themes One (Sustainable Livelihoods) and Two (Strengthened Law Enforcement) of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund and, as such, the commitments of the London Declaration on the Illegal Wildlife Trade. The project has made major progress towards ensuring sustainable livelihoods benefiting people impacted by the Illegal Wildlife Trade. This has been achieved through the establishment of suitable structures and capacities for

implementing world-class Community Based Ecotourism (Output 1) and developing a micro-credit system (Output 3) in the remote Areng Valley. As such we are addressing **Commitment XVIII** of the London Declaration through increasing the capacity of local communities in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities, and eradicate poverty.

Our project activities under Output 4 are also significantly contributing to strengthening law enforcement and biodiversity protection in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape. Without IWT funding support ranger enforcement patrols (Activity 4.1) would not have been as comprehensive during the reporting period and major threats to critical biodiversity, most notably snaring, would have been worse. As such we are contributing to **Commitment XIII** of the London Declaration through investing in capacity building to strengthen law enforcement to protect key populations of species threatened by poaching and increasing the number and capacity of law enforcement officers at key sites.

In addition, the phenomenal success of the Areng Valley ecotourism project in attracting Cambodian tourists, particularly youth, is likely to be playing an important, and under-appreciated, role in reducing demand for illegal wildlife products in Cambodian urban and middle-class society. This is through helping engage young Cambodians with nature and the environment. As such we are contributing to **Commitment I** of the London Declaration through raising awareness and changing behavior which may reduce demand for illegal wildlife products.

6. Impact on species in focus

The Cardamom Rainforest Landscape supports multiple species threatened by the Illegal Wildlife Trade with the majority of poachers using indiscriminate snare traps to capture mammals. These are then sold to middle-men and enter the illegal wildlife trade (see [Gray et al. 2017](#)). Project law enforcement activities (Output 4) removed 5,447 snares and 600-metres of nets during this reporting period. As noted elsewhere in this report (Sections 3.2; 3.4) the number of snares removed was significantly higher than during the first year of the project. This indicates the significance of snaring and other indiscriminate hunting techniques on Asian biodiversity as well as the critical need for strong and robust law enforcement.



Recent (Jan-Feb 2019) camera-trap photographs of sun bear and mainland clouded leopard from Southern Cardamom National Park.

The removal of so many lethal threats to biodiversity from the project area will certainly have benefited multiple threatened species including the landscape's globally or regionally significant populations of Sunda pangolin *Manis javonica*, sun bear *Helarctos malayanus*, Mainland clouded leopard *Neofelis nebulosi*, and Asian elephant *Elephas maximus* -all species which are known to be impacted by snaring. Patrol teams also rescued 26 live animals from hunters and wildlife traders in, and around, the Areng Valley. These included Bengal slow loris *Nycticebus bengalensis* (IUCN Vulnerable), Southeast Asian

box turtles *Cuora amboinensis* (up-listed during the reporting period to IUCN Endangered due to the impacts of the illegal wildlife trade), and grey-headed parakeet *Psittacula finschii* (IUCN Near Threatened).

7. Project support to poverty alleviation

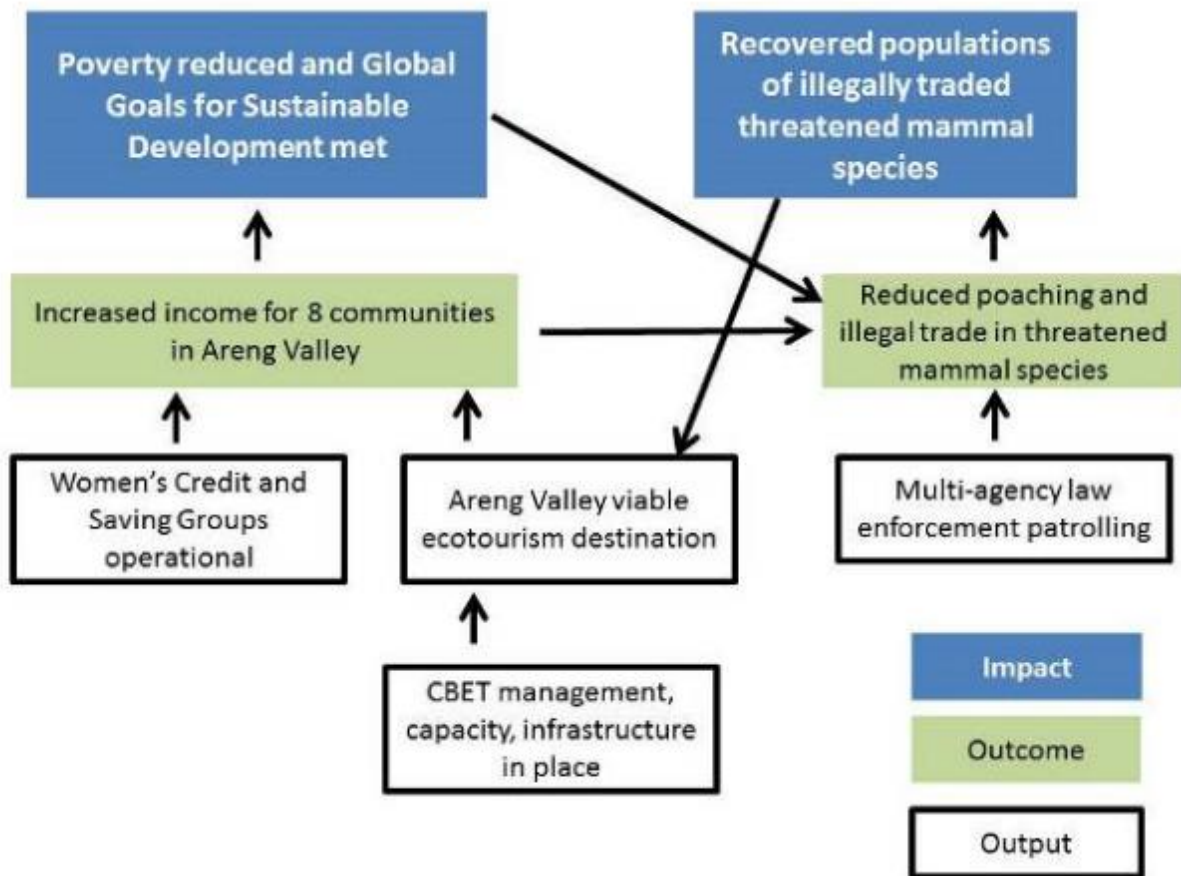
The major project beneficiaries to whom the project is directly contributing to poverty alleviation are the 461 households in the remote Areng Valley in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape – the majority of which are ethnic Chong. Areng Valley communities receive direct financial benefits from the project through revenue from Community Based Ecotourism ([Outcome 2](#)) and micro-finance support for both small businesses and enterprises and to cover unexpected expenses such as medical treatment ([Outcome 3](#)). During the reporting period the first microfinance loans were disbursed (~\$US 150 including for developing a community enterprise selling locally produced rice wine) whilst the income from ecotourism increased >300% in comparison to the previous year (reaching \$US 13,577). Wildlife Alliance’s Rainforest Protection program conserves more than 5,000-km² of tropical rainforest (see Project Impact) which has considerable ecosystem services values across the wider region: the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape is an important watershed, with 22 major waterways, and provides ecosystem services as the region’s largest climate regulator and carbon sink. Maintaining these ecosystem services is a critical way to support livelihoods and combat poverty caused by environmental degradation.

8. Consideration of gender equality issues

Amplifying the gender equality impact of the project has been a focus of the reporting period with variable success. Training events for ecotourism service providers were explicitly targeted towards female trainees with 43 women trained. The project has also revived a traditional musical instrument in the Areng Valley (see Section 12) and explicitly targeted women for this activity. We are also ensuring that the new management positions within the Community Based Ecotourism Association and 2 (out of 3) leadership positions in each community Savings and Credit Group are reserved for women. Despite these efforts we are not meeting all of the gender goals of the project (see Annex 1) and this was also an issue raised during the first annual review. Technical support from DEFRA, including sharing of lessons learnt for ensuring gender equality without alienating local communities, would be valuable. Guidance on how to develop, and meet, suitably ambitious gender goals within project log-frames would also be appreciated.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation of our project is led by Wildlife Alliance’s Director of Science (Dr Thomas Gray) who is in regular contact with the project manager (Sophany Touch) who coordinates data and input from the CBET Association in the Areng Valley. Law enforcement data is managed by Wildlife Alliance’s GIS Department with daily, weekly, and monthly reports filed by ranger stations. As a result of the project’s strong Theory of Change, and through robustly monitoring and testing project assumptions (see [section 3.4](#)), we are confident that all our activities and outputs are contributing to the project’s Outcome and ultimately our programmatic Impact.



Project Theory of Change and relationships between Impacts, Outcomes, and Outputs

As discussed elsewhere in the report we feel that it would have been beneficial to have had a system in place for monitoring the Outcome Indicators at least once during the course of the 3-year project (as opposed to simply at the beginning and end). This may have facilitated adaptive management if it was demonstrated that some Outcomes were not being met. As highlighted in Section 3.3 we are also aware that attributing direct cause and effect of our activities on the Outcome Indicators related to poverty alleviation (Outcome Indicators 0.1 and 0.2) is unlikely to be possible. The direct and attributable impacts of the project (our indicators of achievement) will most likely be reflected at the level of Output Indicators. These are discussed in depth in Section 3.2 of the report.

10. Lessons learnt

As this report, hopefully, reflects we are generally satisfied with the status of the project and our progress towards achieving our conservation and poverty alleviation goals. Reflecting, two years out, on our log-frame we may have been ambitious with regards to certain elements particularly outcomes related to new aspects of our work (e.g. the Credit and Savings Groups: Output 3) c.f. areas we have worked on for many years (e.g. Law Enforcement; Output 4) where we were able to accurately extrapolate our future impact much more easily. As mentioned a number of times elsewhere in this report, we also feel that a Mid Project assessment of the Outcome Indicators (which would need to have been budgeted for) would have been useful.

Income to CBET service providers remains relatively low (<\$per year) largely due to few international visitors. Whilst we are confident that this will increase (due to activities under Output 2 of the project) this has created some issues within the community with two members of the CBET Association resigning due to the limited profits thus far. A lesson learnt is that it is critical to manage expectations – this is particularly the case given the proximity of Areng Valley to Wildlife Alliance’s successful and

pioneering CBET project in Chi Phat which generates >\$ per year for community members - however this took 10 years to achieve and Areng Valley CBET has been open for less than 12-months. We would also like to re-emphasise one of the lessons learnt described in our first annual report: getting a project such as this to work is heavily dependent on community trust. And this in turn is fostered by living with, and in, the target communities. Had we taken the approach, as many conservation and development organisation do, of having our project staff based in the national or provincial capital with ‘regular’ trips to the ‘field’ we would have failed. In order to succeed the office needs to be the field.

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

The 2017/2018 Annual Project Review provided a number of useful pieces of feedback which we have tried, with varying levels of success, to respond to during this reporting period. As described earlier (Section 2) the Chi Phat Community Based Ecotourism Association has provided important capacity building and mentoring support throughout the project. During the reporting period this included supporting training on hospitality, English language, and forest guiding skills. All project activities are also aimed at maximising gender equality and we have taken a number of proactive steps to ensure that women are strongly encouraged to engage in all project activities (Section 8). Note we believe that IWT Project grantees may benefit from targeted training on how to design projects which amplify impacts on gender inequality. Similarly (Section 14) we believe grantees may benefit from guidance as to what ‘appropriate recognition’ of UK Government funding support looks like (this was also highlighted as a potential issue during our first annual review). We have endeavoured, throughout the year, to highlight the UK Government support to the project on social media postings (Section 14) and even taught the ‘Ploy’ orchestra (Section 13) a rudimentary version of ‘God Save the Queen’.

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Despite some of the challenges highlighted elsewhere in this report the project is genuinely making a major contribution to reducing the negative effects of the Illegal Wildlife Trade on both people and wildlife across the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape. A large part of this success has been due to the high-levels of political buy-in and support to the project which we have been able to achieve. And in Cambodia you can’t get much higher levels of political buy-in and support than from the Prime Minister.





Meeting the big man.

In February the Areng Valley Community Based Ecotourism Association was recognised and given an award at the gloriously named “National Clean City Day 2019 under the Theme Clean City: City Feels the Warmth. Best Countdown City of the Year and the 1st Awarding Ceremony of Cambodia Public Toilets”.

Something was probably lost in translation.

The event was presided over by none other than Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (Prime Minister, Supreme Military Commander Hun Sen) himself; one of the world’s longest serving heads of state and serial election winner. The Big Man personally handed an award (presumably not related to clean cities and toilets) to the head of the Community Based Ecotourism Association. This level of visible support to a project from the highest levels of political power (particularly in a country where such political power is so entrenched) makes it considerably easier to deal with local authorities and gives a project significant legitimacy.



Learning how to blow: a Ploy

An interesting activity which the project has been undertaking during this reporting period, and which did not feature in the original log-frame, has been collaborating with local cultural groups to restore a unique indigenous musical instrument (“Ploy”) to the Areng Valley. Using a single ‘old-master’ who knew the instrument we have supported training three teenage CBET service providers to construct (from local forest materials) and play the Ploy. This traditional music has become a cultural tourism product for the Areng Valley CBET and is particularly appreciated by Cambodian visitors.

13. Sustainability and legacy

As a result of the high-level political support for our project (see Section 12) as well as the active role of the Areng Valley Community Based Ecotourism Association in promoting their community-based ecotourism product (Output 5) the project has a relatively high profile in Cambodia and the ASEAN region. And we believe our successes are influencing the development of similar projects and bottom-up community ecotourism development across Cambodia. We are satisfied with our Exit Strategy (see below) and particularly the sustained cultural legacy of the project.

The large number of Cambodian tourists visiting the Areng Valley is particularly pleasing both in terms of securing the future sustainability of the ecotourism but also through helping create a genuine legacy of environmental change and awareness raising. Connecting Cambodian youth to the environment and nature will play a major role in changing behaviours and perceptions and ultimately helping tackle aspects of the Illegal Wildlife Trade through reducing demand for wildlife products. In the long-term connecting urban Cambodian youth with the environment may be the project's greatest legacy.



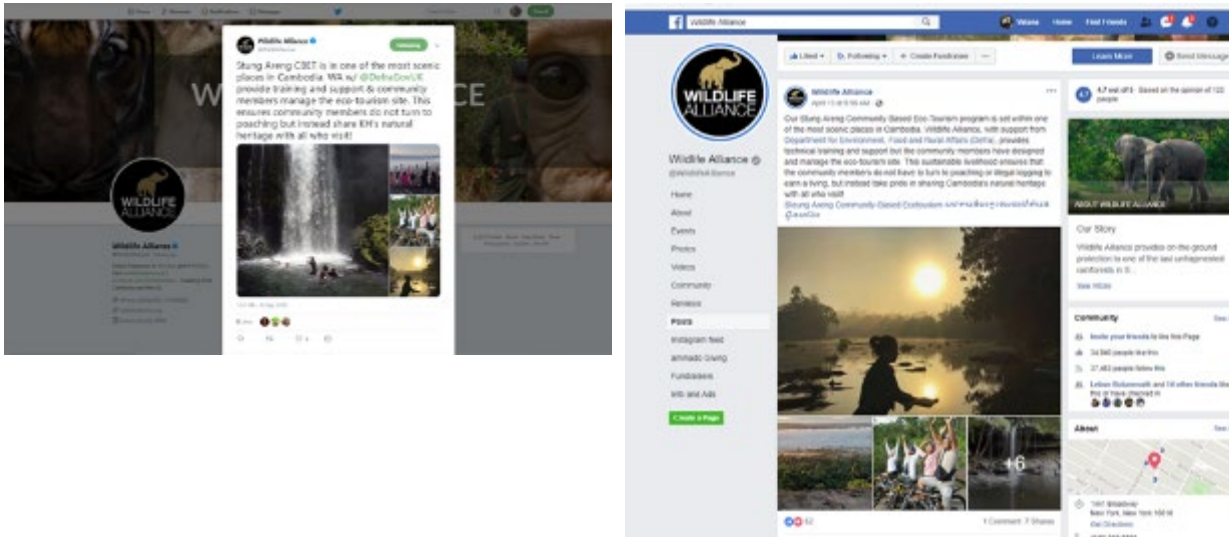
Cambodian Youth in Areng: inspiring the future in Nature

Our plans for exit strategy and the long-term project sustainability of our work across the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape revolve around carbon financing and the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project - one of Asia's largest REDD+ projects. This was officially validated and verified under the gold standard for voluntary carbon projects (Voluntary Carbon Standards-Community Climate and Biodiversity) in November 2018. The project has been designed, with the support of the Royal Government of Cambodia, to be fully aligned with future UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) compliance payment systems and the Cambodian government's National REDD+ Strategy (part of Cambodia's commitments under the Paris Climate Change Agreement). We currently have ~12,000,000 tons of verified carbon emissions (generated from forest protection activities between 2015 and 2017) available for sale. Advanced discussions are under way with a number of buyers for these credits. There is no guarantee that carbon financing will become a panacea for forest-based species conservation. However, if REDD+ is going to work anywhere, and become a viable mechanism to protect wild places and wildlife, it will work in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape given our strong track-record of preventing deforestation through law enforcement and engaging communities, and the flexibility for operating the project, and managing revenues generated, that we have agreed with the Royal Government of Cambodia.

14. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

Wildlife Alliance and our project partners are highly appreciative of the UK Government support to this project. As such we have attempted to publicise the IWT Challenge Fund and recognise the UK Government support (see also Section 11). During the reporting period our project, particularly Output 4 on law enforcement, featured prominently in the World Ranger Day issue of the DEFRA-Illegal Wildlife Trade Newsletter: <http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/assets/uploads/2018/07/IWT-Newsletter-July-2018-World-Ranger-Day-FINAL.pdf>.

We have also promoted the link to DEFRA and the UK Government across our English language social media feeds.



Wildlife Alliance Twitter and Facebook posts promoting the UK Government funding support for our community engagement and law enforcement work in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2018-March 2019)

Current Year's Costs	2018/19 Grant (£)	2018/19 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain any variance)
Staff costs				
Consultancy Costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others				
TOTAL				

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section.

Our project aims at reducing the impact of the Illegal Wildlife Trade on the wildlife and people of the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, Cambodia through 1) developing sustainable community livelihoods which are dependent on protecting natural resources and 2) supporting effective law enforcement patrolling and protected area management in collaboration with government partners. As such the project directly addresses two of the commitments of the London Declaration on the Illegal Wildlife Trade. The model of sustainable livelihoods which we are implementing is community based ecotourism. During the first two years of project implementation much of the capacity, infrastructure, and management systems for truly bottom-up community led nature-based tourism have been developed. The ecotourism facilities have now been open business for more than 12-months. One of the most pleasing aspects of the ecotourism is that the majority of visitors thus far have been young, educated, middle class Cambodians. These are the people who will shape Cambodia's future and the project, as an affordable and accessible opportunity, is providing their first experiences with nature and wildlife. This may be the project's biggest long-term legacy, particularly if exposure to nature turns these young Cambodians into advocates for conservation and helps reduce demand for illegal wildlife products in the country.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2018-2019

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Globally significant populations of 19 Threatened mammals recover, and Global Goals for Sustainable Development are met by all communities, across 5,000-km² of tropical rainforest of the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, Cambodia</p>		<p>During the reporting period we observed strong progress across both the Law Enforcement/Protected Area Management and Community Engagement components of this project. As such we contributed to reducing the negative effects of the Illegal Wildlife Trade on both people and wildlife across the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape.</p> <p>During the year >1,150 tourists visited the newly developed Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) project. These included an encouragingly large number of domestic Cambodian tourists. Income to community CBET service providers increased by >300% compared to the preceding year.</p> <p>Six Credit and Savings Groups were established meaning all Areng Valley residents have access to affordable micro-credit. The Groups were capitilised and the first loans were issued in early 2019 to support local microenterprises.</p> <p>Law Enforcement patrols covered 17,340-km and removed >5,400 illegal hunting snares. The Catch Per Unit Effort for snares increased three-fold when compared to the first project year. This likely represents both improved efficiency of teams detecting snares and also increased pressure in the</p>	

		landscape driven by Chinese investment.	
<p>Outcome Community Based Ecotourism and Women's Credit and Savings Groups increase income and reduce poverty levels across eight communities in the Areng Valley, Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, which combined with effective law enforcement, provides cultural pressure for a reduction in the illegal poaching and commercial trade of threatened mammals</p>	<p>By Mar 2020 >75% of households (n=461) in the Areng Valley have annual income US. [Aug 2015 baseline = 37%]</p> <p>By Mar 2020 commune rate of poverty¹ declines to 6%. [2015 baseline = 12%]</p> <p>By Mar 2020 at least 200 microenterprise loans awarded from Women's Credit and Savings Groups.</p> <p>By March 2020 income to community members from Community Based Ecotourism is ranked as one of the top 4 income-generating activities amongst community members in the Areng Valley (July 2017 baseline rank = 8th) whilst income from illegal wildlife trade is reduced to outside the top 8 activities (July 2017 baseline rank 5th most important livelihood activity for communities).</p>	<p>The project made significant progress towards achieving our overall Outcomes through the successful implementation of all planned project activities.</p> <p>Close to USof revenue has directly entered the Areng Valley as a result of the now established, and flourishing, Community Based Ecotourism, whilst the first loans were issued from the six newly established Credit and Savings Groups.</p> <p>However no direct monitoring of the Outcome Indicators has been undertaken. In retrospect this was a mistake in project design.</p>	<p>Project focus during FY 2019/20 will be to further promote the Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) products to ensure high levels of visitation (thus revenue) combined with guidance and capacity building of CBET members, particularly management, thus ensuring future sustainability.</p> <p>The issuing of microenterprise loans from the Credit and Savings Groups will also be accelerated in order to meet our ambitious Outcome goals.</p>
<p>Output 1. Management structures, capacities, and infrastructure within communities in the Areng Valley are sufficient for successful establishment of Community Based Ecotourism (CBET).</p>	<p>By Jun 2017 gender and ethnically balanced management committee is in place to operate the Community-Based Ecotourism project.</p> <p>By Dec 2017 Appreciative Participatory Planning In Action (APPA)</p>	<p>The majority of the Outputs were completed during the previous reporting period and the project is satisfied with our progress against all indicators for this Output. The CBET management committee is in place and the The Appreciative</p>	

	<p>methodology used with communities to identify natural attraction sites leading to complete package of tourism products and services.</p> <p>By Jun 2018 at least 400 community members, >60% of which are women, trained to acquire tourism skills (e.g. hospitality, English, cooking, nature-guiding).</p> <p>1.4 By Jun 2019 ecotourism infrastructure is developed including: 25 homestays; 300 km of trails; 15 forest campsites; 30 mountain bikes; 50 sets of camping equipment.</p>	<p>Participatory Planning In Action (APPA) methodology has been used to identify tourism attractions across the Areng Valley.</p> <p>All CBET service providers have received training (13 total training events held between April 2017 and December 2018) with a culminative total of 405 trainees (40% women). During this reporting period 4 training events were held for 120 service providers.</p> <p>Ecotourism infrastructure which has been developed now include 22 homestays, 292-km of trails, 32 mountain bikes, and 54 sets of camping equipment and two large forest campsites.</p>
Activity 1.1 Facilitate CBET visioning, agreement on roles and responsibilities, and develop election policy and guidelines with all communities in Areng Valley		Completed May 2017
Activity 1.2 Hold fair and effective election of CBET committee		Completed April 2017
Activity 1.3 Develop CBET by-laws which includes clear, fair, and transparent benefit-sharing policy		Completed April 2017
Activity 1.4 Obtain legal registration from the government for CBET committee		The CBET Management Associated was officially legally registered an association by the Cambodian Ministry of the Interior in August 2017
Activity 1.5 Follow Appreciative Participatory Planning In Action (APPA) methodology to assist community to identify natural attraction sites, draw maps and compile stories		Completed June 2017
Activity 1.6 Conduct field research on natural attraction sites and trails		Completed October 2017
Activity 1.7 Develop map of attraction sites and trails.		Map completed January 2018 and displayed at CBET office
Activity 1.8 Finalize concept for content and packaging of ecotourism products and services		Completed in Feb 2018
Activity 1.9 Conduct targeted training and capacity building for skills required for effective CBET operations. Including training in hospitality and small-scale business management, English language, computer literacy, how to be a local guide, housekeeping, cooking, first aid application, leadership and management skills, problem solving and conflict resolution		All training completed by Dec 2018 (total 13 training events). Additional training may be conducted in project year 3 depending upon the needs and suggestions of the CBET committee and service providers.
Activity 1.10 Develop infrastructure required for CBET operations including building homestays, opening trails, developing forest camping site, acquiring mountain bikes and camping equipment for rental		Completed by October 2018

<p>Output 2. CBET functions effectively within the Areng Valley and generates annual income increases to CBET members</p>	<p>By Jan 2020 annual income to CBET members generated from tourism exceeds US\$</p> <p>By Jan 2020 at least ten tour operators have signed business contracts with CBET management committee.</p> <p>By Jan 2020 at least two international travel guides describe Areng Valley CBET.</p> <p>By Jan 2020 at least 500 international tourists visit Areng Valley CBET annually.</p>	<p>The Areng Valley Community Based Ecotourism project was officially opened by H.E. Mithona Phouthong the Provincial Governor of Koh Kong on 26th January 2018 following a soft opening at the end of 2017. By March 2019 a total of 2,460 tourists (112 international, 2,348 domestic) had visited generating USD income for the CBET [full copies of all receipts and income records from the CBET Association are available on request].</p> <p>Whilst the number of foreign visitors during the current reporting period was lower than during the preceding 12 months (49 vs 63) overall income grew by 340% (US\$) due to visitors staying longer and spending more.</p> <p>By January 2018 five tour operator had signed a business contracts with the CBET Association whose Facebook page is operational (https://www.facebook.com/arengcotourism/) with more than 4,000 combined likes and followers. The web-page (including online booking capabilities) will be officially launched in May 2019.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1 Contact tour operators and sign contracts</p>		<p>On-going activity with five tour operators signing contracts. Project liaising with the Cambodian Association of Tour Agent and local Koh Kong tourism operators to contract an additional 5 operators by Jan 2020.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2 Create a booking website and conduct social media promotion on Facebook.</p>		<p>See above. Due to some hosting and Cambodian translation issues the full roll out of the booking website was delayed but will be fully operational from May 2019.</p>
<p>Activity 2.3 Provide ongoing mentoring and training for CBET committee and members on operations.</p>		<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>Output 3. Women's Credit and Savings Groups established in 8 villages in the Areng Valley and supporting at least 200 microenterprises per year</p>	<p>By Jan 2018 eight Women's Credit and Savings Groups established with at least 200 women participating.</p> <p>By Jan 2018 credit and savings policies for Women's Credit and Savings Groups have been developed and agreed upon.</p> <p>By Jun 2018 at least 100 women from the community have received financial literacy and basic business management skill training</p>	<p>Following delays in implementation due to staff turn-over this Output is on-track for largely meeting our deliverables. Credit and Savings Groups have been established in six villages (75 members) and have been capitalised (~\$). The first loans to community members for micro-enterprise have also been issued. All members have received training on financial management and literacy.</p>
<p>Activity 3.1 Facilitate formation of Women's Credit and Savings Groups in all 8 villages.</p>		<p>Completed February 2018</p>

Activity 3.2 Provide financial literacy and basic business management skill training to Credit group members		Initial training completed December 2018.
Activity 3.3 Develop credit and savings policy and regulations		Completed February 2018
Activity 3.4 Provide ongoing mentoring and training for operations of Savings and Credit groups		Ongoing
Output 4. Multi-agency anti-poaching law enforcement teams patrol minimum of 15 days per month reducing threats to commercially hunted mammal species	By Jan 2018 at least 15 multi-day law enforcement patrols conducted monthly	Law enforcement patrolling by two teams of multi-agency law enforcement agents from the Chhay Areng Law Enforcement station continued throughout the project period under the technical supervision of Wildlife Alliance. A total of 433 law enforcement patrols covered 17,340-km resulting in the removal of 5,477 hunting snares and 600-metres of hunting nets, the rescue of 26 animals from the illegal wildlife trade, the confiscations of 60 chainsaws, 5 vehicles, and 2 homemade guns. Twenty-three illegal hunting camps and 58 charcoal kilns were destroyed by patrol teams. Monthly patrol reports from the station and a full GIS database of patrol coverage and reported incidents are available on request.
Activity 4.1 Conduct effective monthly law enforcement patrolling		Ongoing.
Output 5. Model of Community Based Ecotourism in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape is regarded as a global best practice methodology for developing sustainable livelihoods for communities impacted by the Illegal Wildlife Trade	By Jan 2020 at least one peer-reviewed paper documenting CBET process and outcomes in Chi Phat and the Areng Valley is published By Jan 2019 all project materials and resources are available on an open-access website By Jan 2020 at least two alternative livelihood development projects, from outside Cambodia, have visited CBET sites in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape	The Outputs of this project component are largely on-track for deliverables by project end. Some delays in website finalisation (most notably Khmer language compatibility) have prevented uploading project materials and resources but this will be a priority during Q1 of this year. One study tour has visited the Areng Valley whilst key members of the CBET Management Team have visited, and spoken at, multiple events and forum designed to promote community-based ecotourism concepts in both Cambodia and regionally.
Activity 5.1 Draft and submit a publication on lessons-learned and approach for using CBET for developing sustainable livelihoods for communities impacted by the Illegal Wildlife Trade		Structure of paper drafted. Planned for submission by October 2019.
Activity 5.2 Develop and manage a project website with all relevant materials uploaded		Website to be operational by May 2019 and documents (largely in Khmer) uploaded by July 2019
Activity 5.3 Organise (participant funded) study tour visits (approx. 7 days) to CBET sites in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape		One study tour completed. Second to be conducted in August 2019.

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

N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Globally significant populations of 19 Threatened mammals recover, and Global Goals for Sustainable Development are met by all communities, across 5,000-km ² of tropical rainforest of the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, Cambodia			
<p>Outcome: Community Based Ecotourism and Women's Credit and Savings Groups increase income and reduce poverty levels across eight communities in the Areng Valley, Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, which combined with effective law enforcement, provides cultural pressure for a reduction in the illegal poaching and commercial trade of threatened mammals.</p>	<p>0.1 By Mar 2020 >75% of households (n=461) in the Areng Valley have annual income US\$ >. [Aug 2015 baseline = 37%]</p> <p>0.2 By Mar 2020 commune rate of poverty¹ declines to 6%. [2015 baseline = 12%]</p> <p>0.3 By Mar 2020 at least 200 microenterprise loans awarded from Women's Credit and Savings Groups.</p> <p>0.4 By March 2020 income to community members from Community Based Ecotourism is ranked as one of the top 4 income-generating activities amongst community members in the Areng Valley (July 2017 baseline rank = 8th) whilst income from illegal wildlife trade</p>	<p>0.1 Social surveys of household income</p> <p>0.2 Social surveys of household income</p> <p>0.3 Loan records from Women's Credit and Savings Groups</p> <p>0.4 Targeted social surveys using an appropriate methodology (e.g. Randomised Response Technique²) to anonymously and robustly monitor levels of illicit activity</p> <p>0.5 Ranger patrol records from GIS database</p> <p>² e.g. Nuno & St John (2015). <i>Biological Conservation</i> 189:5-15. doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2014.09.047</p>	<p>Income and benefits from CBET is sufficient to create societal and cultural pressures to reduce poaching and trade in threatened mammals.</p> <p>Randomised Response Technique surveys able to accurately measure levels of illegal poaching and wildlife trade.</p> <p>Law enforcement patrols provide sufficient deterrent to prevent outsiders accessing forest and poaching threatened species for illegal wildlife trade.</p>

	<p>is reduced to outside the top 8 activities (July 2017 baseline rank 5th most important livelihood activity for communities).</p> <p>¹ Based on Cambodian government definition of US\$ < income per day; baseline 12%</p>		
<p>Outputs: 1. Management structures, capacities, and infrastructure within communities in the Areng Valley are sufficient for successful establishment of Community Based Ecotourism (CBET).</p>	<p>1.1 By Jun 2017 gender and ethnically balanced management committee is in place to operate the Community-Based Ecotourism project.</p> <p>1.2 By Dec 2017 Appreciative Participatory Planning In Action (APPA) methodology used with communities to identify natural attraction sites leading to complete package of tourism products and services.</p> <p>1.3 By Jun 2018 at least 400 community members, >60% of which are women, trained to acquire tourism skills (e.g. hospitality, English, cooking, nature-guiding).</p> <p>1.4 By Jun 2019 ecotourism infrastructure is developed including: 25 homestays; 300 km of trails; 15 forest campsites; 30 mountain bikes; 50 sets of camping equipment.</p>	<p>1.1 CBET management committee established with documented work plan, agreement on roles, responsibilities, election policy, guidelines and by laws in place; list of members of committee including gender and ethnicity</p> <p>1.2 Map of attraction sites and trails, details of the numbers of products and services</p> <p>1.3 Training reports with names and gender/ethnicity of trainees, verbal reports of community members of new skills</p> <p>1.4 Photographic reports of infrastructure, site-visits, receipts for equipment</p>	<p>The CBET management committee, and the rules and regulations for benefit sharing are perceived as inclusive, balanced, and fair.</p> <p>Sufficient attractions exist within the Areng Valley, and are identified through the APPA process, to justify CBET.</p> <p>Sufficient households within the Areng Valley able and willing to join CBET and receive capacity training.</p> <p>Logistics and conditions within Areng Valley are suitable for the construction of CBET infrastructure.</p>
<p>2. CBET functions effectively within the Areng Valley and generates annual income increases to CBET members</p>	<p>2.1 By Jan 2020 annual income to CBET members generated from tourism exceeds US\$ 60,000.</p>	<p>2.1 Financial records from CBET management committee</p>	<p>Ecotourism market within Cambodia and Southeast Asia is not saturated and sufficient numbers of tourists exist to prevent over-competition</p>

	<p>2.2 By Jan 2020 at least ten tour operators have signed business contracts with CBET management committee.</p> <p>2.3 By Jan 2020 at least two international travel guides describe Areng Valley CBET.</p> <p>2.4 By Jan 2020 at least 500 international tourists visit Areng Valley CBET annually.</p>	<p>2.2 Copies of business contracts</p> <p>2.3 Copies of travel guides; screenshots of websites; link to CBET booking website</p> <p>2.4 Visitor records from CBET management committee; photographs; endorsements from tourists</p>	<p>with existing and developing ecotourism initiatives. Cambodia remains safe and stable global tourism destination.</p> <p>Marketing and attractions able to attract Cambodian and Asian tourists in addition to 'Westerners'.</p>
<p>3. Women's Credit and Savings Groups established in 8 villages in the Areng Valley and supporting at least 200 microenterprises per year</p>	<p>3.1 By Jan 2018 eight Women's Credit and Savings Groups established with at least 200 women participating.</p> <p>3.2 By Jan 2018 credit and savings policies for Women's Credit and Savings Groups have been developed and agreed upon.</p> <p>3.3 By Jun 2018 at least 100 women from the community have received financial literacy and basic business management skill training.</p>	<p>3.1 Meeting minutes and lists of members of each Credit and Savings Group</p> <p>3.2 Copies of policies and regulations of each Credit and Savings Groups</p> <p>3.3 List of trainees and reports of trainings; verbal endorsements from women trainees regarding skills</p> <p>3.4 Financial records from Women's Credit and Savings Groups</p>	<p>Opportunities exist for microenterprise within communities in Areng Valley.</p> <p>Rules and regulations of Women Credit and Savings Groups perceived as transparent, fair, and inclusive.</p> <p>Women in Areng Valley sufficiently empowered to engage in Women's Credit and Savings Groups.</p>
<p>4. Multi-agency anti-poaching law enforcement teams patrol minimum of 15 days per month reducing threats to commercially hunted mammal species</p>	<p>4.1 By Jan 2018 at least 15 multi-day law enforcement patrols conducted monthly</p>	<p>4.1 Law enforcement patrol data and monthly reports from enforcement database</p> <p>4.2 Law enforcement patrol data from enforcement database</p>	<p>Law enforcement patrolling, combined with societal peer-pressure in communities involved in CBET, sufficient to reduce levels of</p>

			commercial poaching of threatened mammal species.
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Annex 3 Standard Measures

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

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with IWT-Fund@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.	X
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. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	