

Kouprey Express  
Mobile Environmental Education Project  
2010-2011 Activities

# WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

9-Month Interim Report to Free the Bears Fund



Students playing the "Web of Life Game" in Thmor Sor, Koh Kong Province

May 18, 2011



## Background

In 2009, Wildlife Alliance's Kouprey Express Mobile Environmental Education Project successfully applied for and was awarded a grant of \$34,917 from Free the Bears Fund to implement the first 18 months of the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan. This generous contribution supports core operational expenses, including wages, transportation, insurance, communications, and office expenses, which helps ensure the Kouprey Express can continue building teacher capacity through specialized training and provision of key teaching tools, conducting educational outreach activities, and raising awareness about Cambodia's wildlife and forests through fieldtrips to Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center, with the long term goal of having a positive impact on environmental education and stewardship in the Southern Cardamom Mountains.

## Objectives and Activities:

During 2010, Wildlife Alliance's Kouprey Express commenced the implementation of the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan, designed to have a sustained and measurable impact on environmental education, wildlife and habitat preservation. The 2010-2013 strategy is a refined version of the previous strategic plan and focuses on a more sustainable education program.

The core project objectives of the Kouprey Express Mobile Environmental Education Project are to:

- **Promote** a conservation ethic in Cambodia by delivering a comprehensive and self-sustaining environmental education curriculum built upon six themes, and community awareness programs.
- **Achieve** long-term institutional capacity building within the Cambodian education sector by delivering our targeted teacher training program based on the curriculum, supporting material, yearlong teacher support and follow-up training.

To achieve these objectives we will:

- Build environmental education capacity by providing rural teachers with training, resources, incentives, and support needed to sustain effective environmental education in the long-term.
- Deliver curriculum materials to Koh Kong schools, reaching over 90% of Koh Kong primary schools by 2013.
- Lead interactive activities, games and field trips to Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center for school children to learn about - and get excited about - the wildlife, environment and biodiversity which is part of their daily lives.
- Develop community awareness about environmental issues by holding Community Night Shows with environmental themes, building community environment notice boards, and demonstrating the benefits of environment-related activities, such as water filters, home gardens and trash clean up activities.
- Participate in national and international events, such as International Tiger Day, International Elephant Day, Earth Day, World Environment Day, Arbor Day, and Clean up the World Day.

Two additional curriculum themes were added in early 2010 to broaden the environmental content of the educational curriculum for a total of six themes: **1. Habitat Protection, 2. Wildlife Protection, 2. Pollution Prevention, 4. Sustainable Livelihoods, 5. Water Quality, Waste, and Sanitation, and 6. Energy Use, Climate Change, and Adaptation.** Curriculum materials, issued to each school, were in the form of a reusable, cost-effective flipchart complete with activities and lessons for teachers, designed by Live & Learn Environmental Education.

## 2010 Achievements

The modifications that were implemented in late 2009 have delivered a more cost-effective and thorough environmental education curriculum, increased the dissemination of this material, and employed a systematic train-the-trainer approach for teachers in all target schools to maximize effectiveness and sustainability of our environmental education curriculum.

With the modification of the core project curriculum delivery platform, Wildlife Alliance has increased its objective to reaching approximately 20-plus primary schools per year, with an overall aim of 70 schools within the next three years, allowing Wildlife Alliance to reach 91% of the primary schools in Koh Kong Province between 2007 and 2013. This objective is on track with the KE team successfully delivering our teacher-training program and educational curriculum, support materials, and yearlong training to 23 schools during 2010. The unexpected resignation of two (2) members of the KE team resulted in a delay of activities for approximately two months while new staff were recruited and trained. However, excessive rains and poor access to many of the schools (some located on islands and the local ferries were not large enough to carry the KE bus) hampered the team's efforts to reach and deliver all scheduled activities (such as field trips and community night shows) to all targeted schools for the year.

During 2010 the KE spent a total of 153 days in Koh Kong province focusing on 23 target schools and communities. Six curriculum modules were delivered and taught at the 23 schools, reaching 85 classes, 2,737 students from grades 4 to 6 and 175 teachers. Other activities were 5 Community Night Shows with an average attendance of 400 community members and 4 field trips with a total of 200 students, 20 teachers, and 20 community members to Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center. Additionally, 1,308 grade 1 – 3 students participated in our art activities, tree planting, and other non-theory based environmental educational activities such as theater, dance and games.

Teacher training and educational curriculum activities focused on the six core curriculum modules as described above.

The following 23 target schools/communities in Koh Kong were covered during 2010:

- |                   |                     |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Somdac Cheasym | 9. Wattrapeangrung  | 17. Kasachkrohorm |
| 2. Smacheanchey   | 10. Tatai           | 18. Taben         |
| 3. Chumuab        | 11. Andoung Teuk    | 19. Onchaert      |
| 4. Kaoh Sralau    | 12. Sovanna Baitong | 20. Nearpisey     |
| 5. Kaoh Kapi      | 13. Kandoul         | 21. Samsar        |
| 6. Chrouypras     | 14. Chi Phat        | 22. Damgpeaeng    |
| 7. Lamdam         | 15. Treak           | 23. Ta Thaong     |
| 8. Rongplamkesorn | 16. Sre Ambel       |                   |

## Project Outcome and Impacts

During 2010 the Kouprey Express team:

- Delivered our targeted teacher-training program, supporting material, continuing teacher support, follow-up training, and encouraging feedback from teachers on the effectiveness of our educational delivery platform. During 2010, 175 teachers have completed our teacher-training program.
- Delivered the environmental education curriculum materials to 23 schools and communities, as well as conducted art activities and other interactive environmentally related activities.
- Conducted 5 Community Night Shows at schools and communities in Koh Kong, depending on school locations, weather and logistics, reaching an estimated 2,000 people in 2010.
- Conducted 4 field trips to PTWRC with a total of 200 students, 20 teachers and 20 community members participating in these events.
- Promoted the protection of Sun Bears, Asiatic Black Bears, Asian Elephants, Indochinese Tigers, Pileated Gibbons, forests, and other endemic threatened species by delivering an education curriculum that focuses on identifying and responding to the main threats facing these species and habitat destruction.
- Built capacity within the KE team by delivering train-the-trainer training, provided by Live and Learn Environmental Education, in-house environmental awareness training, first aid training provided by Red Cross Cambodia resulting in four Senior First Aid and CPR certificates, and snake bite management and treatment training provided by Hand of Help Hospital in Sihanoukville.
- Delivered up to 20,000 student workbooks, 175 teacher manuals, 23 educational flipcharts including support materials (notebooks, posters, pens/pencils, water test kit, etc), and planted over 1,000 trees at the above-mentioned schools, which have provided shade and a positive learning experience regarding the necessity of trees in our environment.
- Participated in national and international event days, including Earth Day at the US Embassy, Friends Fair at Mith Samlinh, Arbor Day, and Tiger Day.

## Classroom education and teacher training



## The challenges of getting to the schools...



Slow going – moving equipment around the district

## KE team capacity building



Training session with Live & Learn on new flicharts



Sang Vanda handling a snake at the Hand of Help hospital as part of snake bite management and treatment training



KE team with other WA staff getting up close and personal with snakes at snake bite management and treatment training with Hand of Help in Sihanoukville

## PTWRC Field Trips



Students at PTWRC



Wildlife artwork at PTWRC



On the way to PTWRC



Military Police officer of the WRRT speaking to students



Guests at PTWRC with Free the Bears staff and with elephants

## Event Days



Earth Day at US Embassy, April 24, 2010



KE with US Ambassador Carol Rodley and H.E. Mok Mareth of Ministry of the Environment



Ang Virak, Scouts, and the KE Tiger at Arbor Day



KE at Friends Fair at Mith Samlinh



KE Mascots at the Chi Phat Water Festival, November 18, 2010