

Social Assessment

1 April, 2021

CEPF Grant: CEPF-111997

WWF Viet-Nam

Rewilding the Annamites

Central Annamites Corridor, Viet Nam

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: *WWF Viet Nam*
2. Grant title: *Rewilding the Annamites*
3. Grant number: *CEPF-111997*
4. Grant amount (US dollars): *USD\$235,000*
5. Proposed dates of grant: *July 1st 2021 – June 30th 2023*
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: *Viet Nam*
7. Date of preparation of this document: *1 April 2021*
8. **Indigenous People affected:** This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

There are approximately 200,000 ethnic minority (EM) living in the target provinces of Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam Provinces (see Table 1) although considerably less in the remote bufferzones of the target protected areas. four main ethnic groups living in the project area: Kinh (Vietnamese majority), Co Tu, Van Kieu and Muong with and a small number of Ta O and Pa Ko ethnic groups; the Muong migrated to the area in the 2000s. The ethnic minorities here generally have low education levels, poor economic opportunity and some dependence on forest resources. The main economic activities of these communities is agricultural production with the main crops being wet rice, upland rice, vegetables, maize, and cassava. Pigs and poultry are raised mainly for meat while buffaloes and cows are used for production, with animal stocks used as a form of wealth reserve. Food per capita from agricultural production is 199 kg / person / year, which is just enough to meet the food needs of local people however there is still significant pressure on natural resources. In more recent years, the boom in agroforestry in the region has led to additional livelihood options and increased wealth.

Provinces	EM population	% EM per population	Majority EM groups
Thua Thien Hue	55,102	4.88	Pako, Co Tu (16,719), Ta Oi (34,967), Bru Van Kieu (1,389), Thai (554), Muong (240)
Quang Nam	140,590	9.40	Co Tu (55,091), Xo Dang (47,268), Gie Trieng (23,222), Co (6,479), Mnong (4,934), Tay (697)

Table 1 - Ethnic minority population by province (source [here](#))

The Vietnamese government does not recognize ethnic minorities as "indigenous peoples" to any. As per the Decree 05/2011/NĐ-CP, "Ethnic minority groups" are groups with a smaller population than the majority groups (50%) in the territory of Vietnam. However, EM groups and their right are recognized by the Government of Viet Nam (GoV). The socio-cultural characteristics of those EM groups are generally described at the following link: <http://english.ubdt.gov.vn/vietnam-image-of-the-commtnity-of-54-ethnic-groups.htm>.

9. Summary of the proposed project: This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.

The project aims to establish the conditions for a sustained long-term breeding and reintroduction program for four flagship species representing the core groups of terrestrial vertebrates in the central Annamites: mammals, birds, and turtles. Focusing on the Large-antlered Muntjac, Annamite Striped Rabbit, Crested Argus, and Bourret's Box Turtle we will (a) catalyse conservation breeding programmes, (b) establish locations for successful reintroductions, and (c) establish a monitoring baseline for each species in these micro-watersheds to enable evidence-based conservation impact over time. The project implementation modalities are described in detail in the proposal document. The specific activities are documented below in Table 2 along with positive and negative impacts these are likely to cause in relation to Ethnic Minorities in the area.

In brief, the project firstly aims to set up wildlife facility within the Service-administrative zone of Bach Ma National Park for ex-situ breeding of Annamitic endemics. No ethnic minority communities utilise this area of the administration area of the protected area and as such impacts have not been identified. Secondly, the project aims to determine wildlife population baselines in small areas of the core zone of two additional and adjacent protected areas; Hue and Quang Nam Nature Reserves. This will involve camera trapping and other species monitoring work conducted in cooperation with existing WWF contracted local community staff and local porters as local labour. These activities will occur in the core zones of protected areas which are non-access areas to the public including ethnic minority communities in the bufferzones who may have used these areas historically. The interplay between protected areas and community access are described in more detail below, noting that this information is provided for context, the project does not restrict access to local communities.

10. Potential impacts: This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.

The impacts to ethnic minorities, positive or negative, are assessed as minimal due to the project design being largely a science-based wildlife breeding and reintroduction project. The project activities are listed in Table 2 with potential positive and negative impacts identified.

The only potentially negative impacts identified relate to:

- Identification of areas suitable for reintroduction based on low snare threats and high biodiversity values would lead to these areas being subject to increased attention for snare removal work by the respective protected area management authorities due to adaptive management processes. **Snare removal is not included in this project**, however these areas receiving additional level of effort in snare removal may result in additional removal of illegally set snares within parts of the core zone of the protected area. It should be noted that; (i) hunting in protected areas is illegal, and that any activities geared towards increased biodiversity protection do so within the existing legal framework; (ii) snaring in the core zone of the protected areas is generally carried out by

professional hunters for supplying the illegal wildlife rather than as a subsistence activity, and; (iii) traditional natural resource use ties between forests in the core zone of protected areas and surrounding communities are no longer strong due to demographic, political and socio-economic changes and events in the past forty years.

- Potential health and safety issues for ethnic minority members in engaging in field-based wildlife surveys as either WWF-Viet Nam contracted staff or local porters.

Project Activity	Positive Impact	Negative Impact
1.1.1. Construct four habitats for ungulates of 1,200m ² each with 2m high fencing and paired with a 16m ² holding enclosure and 1m wide connecting gates.	none	none
1.1.2. Construct eight habitats for rabbits of 50 m ² each with a concrete curb perimeter, dig barrier and enclosed with aviary mesh panels.	none	none
1.1.3. Develop community-based and ranger awareness activities, and an identification guide for Annamite Striped Rabbit to potentially source individuals confiscated in the trade.	Increased awareness of biodiversity values and legal framework for protection	none
1.1.4. Construct eight pheasant aviaries of 35 m ² and 4.5 m high each with a concrete curb perimeter, dig barrier and enclosed with aviary mesh panels.	none	none
1.1.5. Develop MoUs and/or protocols to transfer Crested Argus from zoos in Japan and/or Vietnam to the Bach Ma breeding centre.	none	none
1.1.6. Construct two tortoise secure cages of 150m ² each subdivided into 12 breeding enclosures.	none	none
1.1.7. Transfer of 20-30 Bourret's Box Turtles from the Turtle Conservation Centre in Cuc Phuong National Park to the Bach Ma breeding centre.	none	none
1.2.1. Define technical needs, staffing required, risk management, husbandry, biosecurity protocols and standard operating procedures at the Bach Ma breeding centre.	none	none
1.2.2. Capacity building on husbandry, biosafety and operational protocols for technical staff at the Bach Ma breeding center.	none	none
1.2.3. Develop husbandry guidelines and conservation breeding programmes for each focal species according to IUCN SSC standards.	none	none
1.3.1. Implement expert consultations and develop Population Viability Analysis models for each focal species.	none	none

1.3.2. Develop species-specific reintroduction guidelines for each focal species according to IUCN SSC standards.	none	none
2.1.1. Analyses of systematic camera trapping and SMART patrolling data to identify areas with high potential for successful reintroductions.	none	Increased attention to snare removal in small core areas through other projects
2.2.1. Design protocols for intensive monitoring of focal species through coarse-grid camera-trapping (ungulates and pheasants), fine-scale camera-trapping (rabbits) and capture-mark-recapture (turtles) in the reintroduction sites.	none	none
2.2.2. Capacity building on survey and monitoring methods for Forest Protection Department rangers and community patrol teams.	Opportunities for capacity development for EMs contracted as WWF staff	none
2.3.1. Conduct field surveys to collect population data on ungulates, rabbits, pheasants and turtles.	Opportunities for capacity development for EMs contracted as WWF staff and wage labour for porters from nearby villages	Health & safety for EMs involved as WWF staff or field porters
2.3.2. Data analyses and report generation on occupancy modeling for ungulates, rabbits, and pheasants, and capture-recapture for turtles.	none	none

Table 2 - Positive and negative impact assessment to Indigenous People from project activities

11. Participatory preparation: This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.

Based on the assessment above of potential impact, the need for need for Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the project is not required. The project in its entirety occurs within the confines of legally designated protected areas which do not contain indigenous people within their boundaries and which under Vietnamese law are not subject to natural resource extraction. Somewhat problematically, protected areas have been designated historically in areas which, while they may have avoided human settlement, have often included traditional areas for collection of NTFPs and hunting. This conflict between legal frameworks for protected areas providing hard boundaries which exclude access and traditional access rights is not new in the Vietnamese context and is particularly problematic. WWF works to address these imbalances through a number of activities for ethnic minority communities in bufferzones in the site. For example, under CarBi Phase I, WWF increased livelihoods in selected bufferzone villages by 29% over the project period.

Other interventions include:

- Supporting red books (land certificates);
- Supporting forest protection contracts;
- Supporting Community Forestry Management;

- Supporting Village Development Funds;
- Supporting livelihood development activities;
- Supporting access to watershed protection forests for NTFP collection;
- Supporting co-management processes.

It must be noted here though that, despite the ongoing issues relating to protected areas and community access, under this CEPF investment, there are no activities which will contribute to a restriction of access to resources for Indigenous People nor impact communities in a negative way which would require an FPIC process. Activities that WWF conduct under other projects which involve law enforcement action are subject to our Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework and Social Policies which dictate development of FPIC and GRM processes in addition to any donor requirements.

It should be noted that there are two projects currently being implemented in the landscape which *do* contain activities which impact local communities; these projects (CarBi II and USAID BCA) are undergoing processes to ensure FPIC and assessments and mitigation measures are in place.

12. Mitigation strategies: This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

Below in Table 3 the mitigation measures for identified negative impacts are presented.

Project Activity	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Mitigation Measures
1.1.1. Construct four habitats for ungulates of 1,200m ² each with 2m high fencing and paired with a 16m ² holding enclosure and 1m wide connecting gates.	none	none	none
1.1.2. Construct eight habitats for rabbits of 50 m ² each with a concrete curb perimeter, dig barrier and enclosed with aviary mesh panels.	none	none	none
1.1.3. Develop community-based and ranger awareness activities, and an identification guide for Annamite Striped Rabbit to potentially source individuals confiscated in the trade.	Increased awareness of biodiversity values and legal framework for protection	none	none
1.1.4. Construct eight pheasant aviaries of 35 m ² and 4.5 m high each with a concrete curb perimeter, dig barrier and enclosed with aviary mesh panels.	none	none	none
1.1.5. Develop MoUs and/or protocols to transfer Crested Argus from zoos in Japan and/or Vietnam to the Bach Ma breeding centre.	none	none	none
1.1.6. Construct two tortoise secure cages of 150m ² each subdivided into 12 breeding enclosures.	none	none	none

1.1.7. Transfer of 20-30 Bourret's Box Turtles from the Turtle Conservation Centre in Cuc Phuong National Park to the Bach Ma breeding centre.	none	none	none
1.2.1. Define technical needs, staffing required, risk management, husbandry, biosecurity protocols and standard operating procedures at the Bach Ma breeding centre.	none	none	none
1.2.2. Capacity building on husbandry, biosafety and operational protocols for technical staff at the Bach Ma breeding center.	none	none	none
1.2.3. Develop husbandry guidelines and conservation breeding programmes for each focal species according to IUCN SSC standards.	none	none	none
1.3.1. Implement expert consultations and develop Population Viability Analysis models for each focal species.	none	none	none
1.3.2. Develop species-specific reintroduction guidelines for each focal species according to IUCN SSC standards.	none	none	none
2.1.1. Analyses of systematic camera trapping and SMART patrolling data to identify areas with high potential for successful reintroductions.	none	Increased attention to snare removal in small core areas through other projects	Mitigation measures being carried out under other projects responsible for LE activities including FPIC and livelihood offsets
2.2.1. Design protocols for intensive monitoring of focal species through coarse-grid camera-trapping (ungulates and pheasants), fine-scale camera-trapping (rabbits) and capture-mark-recapture (turtles) in the reintroduction sites.	none	none	none
2.2.2. Capacity building on survey and monitoring methods for Forest Protection Department rangers and community patrol teams.	Opportunities for capacity development for EMs contracted as WWF staff	none	none
2.3.1. Conduct field surveys to collect population data on ungulates, rabbits, pheasants and turtles.	Opportunities for capacity development for EMs contracted as WWF staff and wage labour for porters from nearby villages	Health & safety for EMs involved as WWF staff or field porters	H&S protocol completed and implemented, insurance for porters
2.3.2. Data analyses and report generation on occupancy modeling for ungulates, rabbits, and pheasants, and capture-recapture for turtles.	none	none	none

Table 3 – Mitigation measures by project activity

Under this project mitigation measures are minimally required. As noted above under the under section 10, negative impacts associated with the broader issues in relation to protected areas and community access are outside the scope of this project and are being actively addressed under other WWF investments. Under activity 2.3.1, where health and safety issues are a potential impact for local community members wellbeing where involved in field activities, see the Health and Safety Plan submitted as part of this application.

13. Monitoring and evaluation: This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.

Based on the assessment above, monitoring of the impact of project on ethnic minorities will be limited to management of the Grievance Mechanism, which will be rolled out in bufferzone villages as described below.

14. Grievance mechanism: All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team or the CEPF Secretariat.

This grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- You should include the following text, exactly, in any grievance mechanism: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail.”

Following the guidance above, describe the grievance mechanism that you will use.

WWF has a Standard on Grievance Mechanism which is applied across the networks operations. This includes standards and principles for addressing grievances including timeliness, escalation processes, case logging and management, non-retaliation clauses and final arbitration which sits with the WWF Ombudsman if resolution can not be made at the landscape or national level.

Central to this mechanism for ensuring logging of all grievances is the WhistleB site, which can be accessed at <https://report.whistleb.com/en/wwf>. The WhistleB site contains options for communities to lodge grievances which will be logged by WWF-International and stream into WWF oversight processes at both the country and international levels.

For this project a simple GRM will be implemented which provides information in bufferzone villages most closely situated to the identified site(s) for intensive monitoring and eventual reintroductions. Information will be shared in the form of posters in Vietnamese language at village houses, and will include language as per Box 1.

Box 1 – Grievance Mechanism

If you have concerns around the reintroduction or monitoring of wildlife populations in Hue or Quang Nam Saola Nature reserve or the conduct of WWF or other project staff then you can contact the project proponent WWF through the following contacts:

- wwfvietnam@wwf.org.vn
- 024 37193049
- Or lodge a complaint directly through our online system here: <https://report.whistleb.com/en/wwf>

Or you can contact the CEPF Regional Implementation Team through:

- Tu.NGUYENDUC@iucn.org

We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail.”

15. Budget: This section will summarize dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples. These costs should be incorporated into the budget of the CEPF grant and/or covered by co-financing.

The budget includes \$250 for printing of posters for the GRM and \$100 for insurance for porters.