# CEPF Final Project Completion Report

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| **Organization name:** | People Resources and Conservation Foundation |
| **Project title:** | Strengthening community conservation of priority sites within the Ba Be / Na Hang Limestone Forest Complex, northern Vietnam |
| **Date of report:** | January 2013 |
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**CEPF Region:** Indo-Burma

**Strategic Direction:** 2: 2.1: "Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 key biodiversity areas." In addition, the project also meets direction: 2.2: "Develop regional standards and programs that address overexploitation of biodiversity and pilot at selected sites."

**Grant Amount:** USD 151,831.0

**Project Dates:** 1 June 2010 to 31 December 2012

**Implementation Partners for this Project (involvement)**

| Implementation Partners | Type and level of involvement in project implementation |
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| Government agencies an provincial offices | Relevant government authorities at all levels supported project activities through their support and occasional involvement.<br><br>Although involvement of government officials in the project was mostly of a supportive and official nature, officers occasionally provided technical inputs, as these concerned standing Vietnamese policies and regulations relevant to the subjects of implementation.<br><br>The following government offices provided guidance and support to carry out project activities.<br><br>• Vietnam Administration of Forestry (Hanoi) |

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| | • Bac Kan Provincial Peoples Committee<br>• Bac Kan Forest Protection Department<br>• Tuyen Quang Provincial Peoples Committee<br>• Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department<br>• Na Hang District Peoples Committee/ Forest Protection Dept.<br>• Lam Binh District Peoples Committee/ Forest Protection Dept.<br>• Cho Don District Peoples Committee/ Forest Protection Dept.<br>• Ba Be National Park and Na Hang Nature Reserve<br>• South Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area<br>• Vietnam Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources |
| Fauna & Flora International (FFI) | Fauna & Flora International was the principal implementing institutional partner during the course of this project.<br><br>A large number of activities under the project were complementary to those carried out under the lager CEPF project implemented by the organization. FFI staff provided technical support on implementation of some of the project activities, and both organizations collaborated in the conceptualization specie action planning. |
| Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) | The Center for Plant Conservation was key in the delivery of project activities concerning magnolias and conifers.<br><br>Involvement of the Centre for Plant Conservation entailed surveys, strategic planning, and conservation prescriptions for magnolias and conifers at the South Xuan Lac SHCA and the Sinh Long areas under the project component entailing site-based conservation surveys, plans and conservation interventions undertaken at one location. |
| Vietnam Birdwatching Club (VBC) | The Vietnam Birdwatchers Club was the lead partner in activities that targeted White-eared Night Heron conservation.<br><br>Members of the organization coordinated awareness raising and education activities, established and supported heron nest protection schemes, and conducted training for collection of nesting data. VCB was instrumental in completing conservation action plans for the species at South Xuan Lax SHCA and Na Hang Nature |

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| | Reserve. |
| Local communities in the project areas | Our most significant partners in the entire project were the local communities, who collaborated in project activities through their provision of time, historical knowledge, and inputs. Without their involvement, the project would not have achieved its outputs.<br><br>Most of the sustainability aspects of project activities entailing collaborative conservation management work with local communities, and a key aspect of PRCF conservation endeavors are to help local communities protection their natural environment.<br><br>Project activities focused on securing the participation of local people to directly support conservation goals, while considering their own capacities and development needs.<br><br>Local people's involvement included:<br><br>• Provision of initial knowledge and information for surveys<br>• Participation in conservation awareness raising activities<br>• Involvement in the preparation of conservation action plans<br>• Participation in on-the-ground conservation initiatives involving nest protection and participatory natural resource use surveys<br>• Guiding surveyors and project staff to target species locations within the limestone forests<br>• Participation in the identification of species and locating these within the limestone forests<br>• Mapping of resources for conservation and for their management and thereafter sustainable harvests<br>• Various other inputs into project activities |

## Conservation Impact

### *How project has contributed to implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile*

The project concerned to Indo-Burma Ecosystem Profile: Strategic Direction 2: 2.1: "Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 key biodiversity areas." In addition, the it also met direction: 2.2: "Develop regional standards and programs that address overexploitation of biodiversity and pilot at selected sites."

For Strategic Direction 2:2.1 the project carried out several innovative strategies that encouraged the involvement of communities in conservation of natural resources and biodiversity. Most project activities focused largely on community participation of conservation initiatives, and though its implementation approach has built foundations for community-based conservation directly in line with Strategic Direction 2.1, and for the establishment of regional measures to address threats to biodiversity at the target sites.

More specifically, the project has contributed to implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile though the following activities and measures:

- Preparation of participatory conservation action plans with full involvement of local communities, local mass organizations, and concerned government agencies, promoting effective collaboration of local stakeholders for site-based protection of globally threatened species at key locations.
- Production of long-term conservation plans and strategies, including:
  - Conservation management plan or the White-eared Night Heron (Ba Be National Park)
  - Five-year species conservation action plan François's Langur (Lam Binh)
  - Five-year species conservation action plan Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey (Na Hang)
  - Five-year François's Langur conservation monitoring plan (Lam Binh)
  - Conservation strategy for the François's Langur in Tuyen Quang
- Improved understanding on the non-timber forest product harvesting measures by local people and detailed measures to improve sustainability of harvest, complemented by a feasibility assessment for conservation and livelihood activities within a 'multiple-use' area within the South Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area.
- Greater awareness by stakeholders of regarding conservation issues of priority species (including two primates, one bird, and conifers and magnolias) within the Ba Be/ Na Hang Limestone Forest Complex, with some level of increased capacities to conduct planning to address key measures.
- Piloting of participatory conservation action plans to strengthen the impact of conservation interventions for target species and sites. Piloting took place in liaison with the FFI CEPF-funded project titled 'Promoting Community Based Collaborative Management to Strengthen Long Term Conservation of Globally Threatened Primates and Trees in Priority Sites of Northern Vietnam'.

- Improved collaboration and dialogue between local communities and government officers for the sake of conservation of the target species, and definition of measures to address threats many of which are caused by villagers themselves.
- Definition of conservation-oriented community development activities to help support local livelihoods through the provision of benefits through economic activities that directly or indirectly support conservation objectives.

PRCF
People Resources and Conservation Foundation

***Summary of overall results and impact of the project against the expected results***

**Component 1:**
Site based White-eared Night Heron conservation activities undertaken at four target locations within the Ba Be/ Ha Hang Limestone Forest Complex

| Defined outcome | Actual results | Impact |
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| 1.1 Preliminary WENH field surveys conducted and local community sight reports collated for the three BNLFC target locations | • Preliminary surveys at Xuan Lac (two trips), Tat Ke (two trips), Ban Bung (one trip)<br>• Nest protection training course to villagers | • Ability to plan the conduction of additional surveys on the basis of knowledge from local communities.<br>• Involvement of local communities in project activities, imparting awareness on the species and its conservation |
| 1.2 Awareness-raising activities on WENH conservation issues conducted at the three sites | • Distribution of awareness raising materials at survey locations | • Greater awareness on the conservation plight of the species, and on proposed project conservation interventions to help increase the species population.<br>• Easier identification of the WENH against other similar species for nest sighting and protection of the species. |
| 1.3 Four sets of WENH conservation awareness-raising materials prepared for and distributed to stakeholders at three target locations | • Poster on White-eared Night Heron conservation produced and distributed in Xuan Lac area<br>• Poster on White-eared Night Heron habitat threats<br>• Postcard on White-eared Night Heron identification | |
| 1.4 Four sets of training materials and four nest-protection training courses for at least four local partner staff and at least four community members | • Training curriculum and five module training courses, implemented with Xuan Lac participants<br>• Data collection and monitoring White-eared Night Heron proformas produced and tested | • Easier implementation of conservation activities at the target location. Further use of training materials for subsequent nest protection activities. |
| 1.5 Establishment of a hotline for people locating WENH to inform protected area staff and members of the VBC for conservation action | • Spotting of WENH hotline to inform concerned stakeholders | • Facilitated provision of information on encoutered WENH nesting sites for ready reporting.<br>• Encouraged involvement of protected area staff and communities in WENH protection efforts |

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| 1.6 Establishment of three site-based monitoring plans for target sites where WENH have been located and development of WENH data collection proformas | • Detailed nest protection mechanisms prepared<br>• Nest protection program completed with hatchlings witnessed<br>• Debriefing workshop with local stakeholders on nest protection program at Xuan Lac and Na Hang | • Easy and standardized information datasets and WENH monitoring and protection of nesting population, with increase in species numbers at the site.<br>• Informed communities on the status of WENH on the basis of project interventions, and on project results. |
| 1.7 One WENH out-of-breeding-season survey trip to three target locations | • White-eared Night Heron out of breeding season survey at Xuan Lac, Ban Bung, and Tat Ke | • Additional information on WENH population sites and status, increasing existing knowledge on the species for further conservation action as needed. |
| 1.8 Establishment of nest protection program at least two locations where WENH nests have been located and where a threat exists to nests and breeding birds | • Nest protection programs established at Xuan Lac and Na Hang | • Increase population of the species at the site. |
| 1.9 Workshop to review and document lessons learned, and revise nest protection scheme with information presented in a report | • Annual and debriefing workshops conducted with local village and government stakeholders | • Informed stakeholders on the state of project activities and results of conservation efforts. |
| 1.10 Site-based WENH Conservation Action Plans (SCAPs) produced at three target locations compiling results of multi-stakeholder planning workshops | • Framework for SCAP produced, but not conducted for the heron due to low population numbers<br>• Conservation action plans completed for Xuan Lac and Na Hang | • Guided conservation efforts on the basis of an action plans that address major threats to the species and which prescribe detailed conservation actions to address such threats. |
| 1.11 Conservation Management Plan for the WENH at Ba Be National Park | • Conservation management plan completed and provided to national park management board | |

**Component 2:**

Site-based globally threatened primate conservation action plans established at one location and François's Langur conservation initiatives commenced at Sinh Long

| Defined outcome | Actual results | Impact |
|---|---|---|
| 2.1 Two primate surveying courses delivered to local partners | • Survey training material produced | • Standardized survey methodologies.<br>• Increased knowledge on the state and location of target species populations for more effective conservation planning and implementation of species conservation efforts. |
| 2.2 One survey for Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey—and resulting survey report, targeting both the Tat Ke and Ban Bung sectors of Na Hang Nature Reserve | • Survey on Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey and François's Langur in Tat Ke and Ban Bung<br>• Confirmation of four TSNM groups (1-Tat Ke, 3 Ban Bung with between 20 to 26 individuals | |
| 2.3 One survey for François's Langur—and resulting survey report, targeting both the Tat Ke and Ban Bung sectors of Na Hang Nature Reserve | • Evidence of François's Langurs using limestone caves in Tat Ke | |
| 2.4 Two sets of primate conservation awareness-raising materials prepared (i.e. one targeting the conservation of the Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey and one targeting the François's Langur | • Post-card on Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey<br>• Poster on François' Langur | • Increase awareness regarding the conservation status of target species and described ways to protect these from further endangerment, extirpation, and ultimate extinction. |
| 2.5 Detailed Threat Assessment for François's Langur family groups identified during the FFI CEPF Project survey at Sinh Long | • Threat assessment and data base maps produced | • Knowledge of local threats to the species thus facilitating planning of conservation efforts to more effectively address conservation efforts. |

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| 2.6. Detailed threat assessment produced, including threat assessment maps and mitigation strategies for locations where key groups of François's Langur and other primate species are observed | • Threats assessment survey with coordinates of physical threats in map layers<br>• Four groups of François's Langur documented, three at a known location and one at a new site | • Geographical definition of species locations and know threats, to better address the latter though concentrated conservation management. |
| 2.7. Two site-based species specific Participatory Conservation Action Plans for Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey and François's Langur (Na Hang) produced | • Stakeholder workshops on participant roles<br>• Consultation with five villages near found monkey groups in Tat Ke and Ban Bung<br>• Socioeconomic data collected for target villages<br>• Finalized species conservation action plans for François's Langur (Lam Binh site) and Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey (Na Hang site) | • Specific conservation efforts to the target species guided by stakeholder definition of conservation needs to the target species and sites.<br>• Guidance into conservation management of the target species through stakeholder participation.<br>• Defined opportunities for conservation-oriented village socioeconomic development activities. |
| 2.8: Five year François's Langur conservation monitoring plan—with cost estimations of conservation efforts, prepared, inclusive of funding source strategies and possibilities | • Finalized five-year monitoring plan for François's Langur, with (a) Actions, (b) Indicators, and (c) Means of verification | • Guided monitoring of the conservation status of the François's Langur population in Lam Binh, and of the measured success of target conservation interventions. |
| 2.9: Assessment of the overall implementation of Community Conservation Teams at Na Hang though a dedicated workshop, with a resulting CCT lessons-learned report for distribution in Vietnam | • Workshop on conservation monitoring plan<br>• Lessons learned document on community conservation groups prepared and shared | • Greater stakeholder knowledge of conservation prescriptions and results by the project, with acknowledgement of lessons learned to improve planning and delivery of future interventions. |
| 2.10: Overall NHLPC Conservation Strategy for the François's Langur prepared, inclusive of funding possibilities for future conservation interventions in four sites | • Workshop with stakeholders on framework and purpose of the François's Langur strategy<br>• Finalized François's Langur conservation strategy with (a) Species status, (b) Conservation threats, and (c) Recommended priority conservation actions | • Guided conservation strategy to improve the population status of François's Langur. |

**Component 3:**

Site-based tree conservation surveys, plans and conservation interventions undertaken at one location led by the Centre for Plant Conservation

| Defined outcome | Actual results | Impact |
|---|---|---|
| 3.1 One Magnolia and Conifer survey conducted at Sinh Long with corresponding survey reports produced and disseminated to interested stakeholders | • One 12-day survey with 450 specimens (eight magnolia and three conifer species)<br>• One species of magnolia discovered for the first time in Vietnam, with another possible new to science | • Greater knowledge on the state of magnolia and conifer populations at the target site, thus facilitating planning for future conservation activities. |
| 3.2 Threat analysis conducted on the basis of Conifer and Magnolia surveys at Sinh Long, with resulting report including conservation measures for the species at the site (up to five key villages sought to be included) | • Threat assessment completed for each target site | • Knowledge of threats to conifers and magnolias at the target Sinh Long site to guide conservation interventions. |
| 3.3 A collection of specimens obtained through field surveys at the Sinh Long target site processed and placed at the herbarium of the Vietnam Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources in Hanoi | • Specimens handed to the Vietnam National Museum of Nature | • Knowledge reference for future use for comparative, source, or cataloguing purposes. |
| 3.4 Seeds collected at Sinh Long for at least six Conifer and six Magnolia species targeted for conservation initiatives on the basis of the survey | • Survey of magnolia and conifer species during fruiting/ seeding season and collection of specimens (five species of magnolia and two species of conifer) | • Greater knowledge on the state of magnolia and conifer populations at the target site, thus facilitating planning for future conservation activities. |

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| 3.5 Test propagation of at least four Conifer and four Magnolia species from Sinh Long undertaken at CPC facilities | • Nursery established for collected seeds<br>• Propagation trials | • Documented experience on magnolia and conifer propagation efforts for future reference. |
| 3.6 Report prepared on propagation findings, with recommendations for species of high economic and conservation value, and guidelines for propagation by local communities | • Report titled Seed Collection and Test Propagation of Conifer and Magnolia from Sinh Long Forest Area | |
| 3.7 Strategy and Action Plan prepared for the continuation of CPC on Conifer and magnolia conservation within the NHLPC | • Action plan for management of *Xanthocyparis vietnamensis* in Ha Giang through SCAPs and the population newly discovered in Sinh Long | • Guided conservation management of the target species at the selected locations, targeting conservation of remnant wild populations. |

**Component 4:**

Collaborative multi-stakeholder natural resource assessment, definition of 'multiple-use' areas and preparation of a collaborative management plan for conservation activities inside the South Xuan Lac

| Defined outcome | Actual results | Impact |
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| 4.1 Local stakeholders responsible for current and future management, harvesting, and trading of non-timber forest products (NTFP) identified for seven villages (documented in item 4.6) | • Stakeholder meetings at seven villages | • Stakeholder knowledge of conservation needs and of harvested non-timber forest products documented<br>• Instilled community involvement in sustainable harvesting methods and conservation efforts. |
| 4.2 Seven village meetings organized to understand the significance of the XLSHCA to local livelihoods issues related to community involvement in its management (documented in item 4.6) | • Meetings conducted with sharing of information between villagers (species of local importance) and project staff (species conservation and sustainable use needs) | |

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| 4.3 Field inventory and detailed assessment of key NTFP species used conducted, inclusive of description on their conservation significance (documented in item 4.6) | • Village meetings identifying 20 key NTFP species | • Documented use and perceived conservation status of non-timber forest products by local stakeholder communities. |
| 4.4 Documented current harvesting methods by local people and recommended sustainable harvesting measures, prepared for at least ten-targeted NTFP species (documented in item 4.6) | • Harvesting methods documented with images of harvesting activities for accurate assessment.<br>• Harvesting guidelines document produced and distributed among village stakeholders in Xuan Lac | • Guidance for sustainable harvesting of target non-timber forest products could help improve conservation status of target species.<br>• Sustainable harvesting methods could support proposal for multiple use area within the reserve.<br>• Specifics on proposed multiple-use area would support the special zoning proposal for benefit sharing within the protected area. |
| 4.5 Maps in place for locations of: (a) Multiple-use areas (i.e. key harvesting hotspots); (b) Main access trails to each location, and (c) New patrolling routes for community conservation team within the reserve. | • Data for proposed multiple-use areas and access trials recorded with GPS | |
| 4.6 Final Component Report prepared including: (a) Stakeholder analysis and NTFP resource needs of local people; (b) NTFP resource usage and inventory; (c) Documented harvesting methods employed by local people; (d) Finalized summary of methodology employed to enable future replication elsewhere in the country, and (e) Other component results | • Report for collaborative natural resources assessment and definition of multiple-use areas<br>• Item merged with the examination of the underlying foundation into resource-use sustainability at Xuan Lac, which could form the basis for a management plan for the proposed multiple-use area. | • Knowledge on core aspects for conservation management would support endorsement and functioning and sustainability of the proposed multiple use area within the reserve. |

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| 4.7 Management plan for a proposed "multiple-use' area within XLSHCA prepared and discussed with provincial stakeholders for endorsement by Hanoi Forest Protection Department | • Implementation of related project activities indicated the need to conduct a deeper analysis on the essential and underlying foundations that allow sustainable multiple-use, including law enforcement, capacity of protected area, involvement and engagement of local communities. This analysis should take place prior to multiple-use area planning. | • More in depth knowledge on underlying foundations for multiple-use, including law enforcement, capacity of protected area, involvement and engagement of local communities would enhance the prospects of sustainability. |
| 4.8 Preparation of a sustainable key NTFP species harvesting and "multiple-use" area regeneration plan | • Activity cancelled | |
| 4.9 Concept plan and project proposal prepared for buffer zone enrichment planting and forest gardens using key NTFP species identified during inventory process | • Activity cancelled, although a concept plan and proposed enrichment planting is included in the item related to sustainable harvests in multiple-use areas | |

**Component 5:**

Opportunities identified for medium to long-term implementation of action plans

| Defined outcome | Actual results | Impact |
|---|---|---|
| 5.1 Stakeholder analysis conducted and key provincial agencies and development projects and programs identified at the four target sites, for inclusion in SCAP activities and activity co-financing | • Stakeholder analysis took place within each of the conservation action plans, as part of the SCAP development process | • Knowledge of stakeholders in species conservation, their roles and functions in protection of the target species. |
| 5.2 Five-year financing strategies for SCAPs developed at each PRCF CEPF project site with support for implementing action plans identified from national sources | • Calculation of estimated funds for actions outlined in the Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey species conservation action plan (Na Hang Nature Reserve)<br>• Five-year annual financial needs estimated within each of the SCAPs for François's Langur (Nam Binh) and Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey (Na Hang) | • Estimations on funding requirements to fulfill prescriptions identified within the individual SCAPs, thus providing guidance for possible funding sources and source allocations within a five-year term. |
| 5.3 Meetings organized to leverage additional conservation support and policy development from two Provincial Governments | • Meetings conducted at Na Hang district with participation of provincial stakeholders, for leveraging additional funds possibly through payment for forest environmental services | • Knowledge of possible funding from existing sources within the province, through payment for environmental services harnessing recent government legislation and the opportunity of Na Hang Dam nearby both Lam Binh (François's Langur) and Na Hang Nature Reserve (Tonkin Snub-nosed monkey) |

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| 5.4 At least four funding proposals prepared requesting funds for specific activities included within SCAPs | • Funding proposals to implement activities prescribed within SCAPs, for both biodiversity conservation and support for local sustainable livelihoods<br>• Proposal and grant from Save Our Species for François's Langur conservation at Lam Binh<br>• Proposal and grant from The McKnight Foundation, for François's Langur conservation related sustainable livelihoods for communities within the Lam Binh area<br>• Proposal to USFWS Critically Endangered Animals Fund for Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey conservation | • Additional conservation funding for the key two species (François's Langur and Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey).<br>• Conservation-related funding for local stakeholder communities in the Lam Binh landscape.<br>• Leverage conservation and sustainable livelihood options through funding of prescribed links between conservation and community development. |

**Component 6:**

Experiences of site-based species conservation shared and integrated across sites

| Defined outcome | Actual results | Impact |
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| 6.1 Input provided from action learning to FFI CEPF project guidelines for implementing site-based participatory species conservation action plans | • Inputs into guidelines of participatory conservation action plans | • Additional knowledge and experience in conservation and participatory aspects of conservation are included into the SCAP guidelines this increasing their value and suitability. |
| 6.2 Two final project workshops conducted to share project findings amongst interested national and international stakeholders in Vietnam | • Final workshops conducted in Bac Kan and Tuyen Quang provinces, with participation of stakeholders | • Acknowledgement of community inputs into the projects' conservation action plans reinforces the value of their involvement into defining conservation prescriptions. |
| 6.3 Technical paper prepared for publication in a peer reviewed journal, such as the Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society, Journal of Asian Ornithology - Forktail, and other | • Paper on status review of the White-eared night Heron on the basis of recent conservation activities | • Documentation of White-eared Night Heron nest protection scheme provide voice experiences and guidelines for possible replication elsewhere. |
| 6.4 Case study on implementation of a nest protection scheme in Vietnam published and disseminated to conservation practitioners and project partners | • Case study on White-eared Night Heron nest protection effort completed | |
| 6.5 Policy brief prepared for the Provincial and National Forest Protection Department on collaborative community management of forest resources within XLSHCA | • Policy brief on possible collaborative management of forest resources at Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area | • Ideas into possible policy dialogue in relation to multiple-use zones and benefit sharing from natural resources management and conservation within protected areas. |

### *Success of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives*

*Long-term impacts*

- Conservation understanding, and general awareness on the status of conservation needs of the critically endangered Snub-nosed Monkey, and the threatened François's Langur and White-eared Night Heron
- Greater understanding on conifer and magnolia species present within the Ba Be/ Na Hang limestone forest complex, particularly the Sinh Long and Xuan Lac sites, and their level of abundance and endangerment.
- Establishment of innovative community-inclusive conservation activities at sites with biodiversity value within the Ba Be/ Na Hang landscape, promoting dialogue and participation of stakeholders in planning for protection of endangered species.

*Short-term impact*

- Greater understanding on the conservation status and location of globally threatened primate species at two target sites, which will help guide long-term conservation initiatives of stakeholders and project partners.
- Improved knowledge on the status and location of globally threatened species of conifer and magnolia at two target sites, thus creating the foundation and guidance for long-term, focused conservation initiatives of stakeholders and project partners.
- Enhanced recorded knowledge of the conservation status of the White-eared Night Heron to help guide focused community-based conservation efforts of the species in northern Vietnam.
- Development of innovative conservation management mechanisms, and participatory planning activities to promote community-based collaborative of natural resource management and protection of threatened species.
- Establishment of community-based protection activities focused on increasing the population of the globally threatened White-eared Night Heron, with activities trialed, documented, and reviewed for easy replication.
- Contribution to the policy dialogue on collaborative community conservation initiatives within Vietnam's protected area network, through dissemination of results from natural resource assessments and multiple-use area planning activities.

- Greater awareness of conservation issues within the Ba Be/Na Hang Limestone Forest Complex by decision makers, resulting in greater consideration of such issues in future conservation planning processes and budget allocations.
- Strengthened collaboration of local stakeholders for site-based conservation of target globally threatened primate, bird, and tree species at priority sites, following government endorsed participatory species conservation action plans.
- Application of a systematic approach to site-based species conservation action planning that enables conservation practitioners to effectively take initial conservation measures with participation of key stakeholders.
- Involvement of a wider base of institutional stakeholders in the process of community-based and species-focused conservation action planning trialed by the FFI and CEPF projects, establishing mechanisms and conservation reasons for mutual collaboration.
- Ongoing development of a community-based and species-focused approach that can be replicated and adapted throughout the northern limestone and mountainous region of northern Vietnam.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:**

**Hectares protected:** None

**Species conserved:** François's Langur (*Trachypithecus francoisi*)
White-eared Night Heron (*Gorsachius magnificus*)
Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*)

**Corridors created:** None

***Project success toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives***

The project was able to strengthen knowledge and local awareness on the target François's Langur and Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey, and to establish management plans to improve their conservation status at sites within the Ba Be/ Na Hang forest complex.

Project interventions were also able to further community-based conservation activities through protection of the endangered White-eared Night Heron, and to introduce conservation methods within the participating local communities.

Work with local communities documenting ways in which they harvest forest resources have been complemented by defining sustainable harvesting methods in specific guidelines for each major non-timber forest product in the South Xuan Lac landscape.

Participatory planning between local communities and government authorities prompted discussions and collaboration between these vital stakeholders to further conservation of the target species, inclusive of definition of solutions to threats and conservation-oriented livelihood activities.

***Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)***

No unexpected negative impacts have been witnessed thus far, and it is expected that none will occur, as the project strategy was well prepared and built on the basis of previous work at the sites and a good foundation of knowledge and expectations.

Project activity results will favor and support additional work planed by the organization at the target sites. Activities conducted in partnership with other organizations, particularly FFI; hold synergistic measures to support additional conservation interventions at the target sites. This is the case for example with the participatory species conservation action planning approach, which has promoted additional collaboration and application of the method at other locations.

## Project Components

### Project Components

Results by project component, with specific reference to products from the approved project design

**Component 1 Planned**

Site based White-eared Night Heron (WENH) conservation activities undertaken at four target locations within the Ba Be/ Ha Hang Limestone Forest Complex

**Component 1 Actual outcomes at project completion**

- WENH surveys in the landscape of Xuan Lac SHCA
- WENH surveys in the landscape of Na Hang Nature Reserve
- WENH out of breeding season survey at Xuan Lac, Ban Bung, and Tat Ke
- Nest protection training courses to villagers in both Xuan Lac and Na Hang
- Preparation and distribution of awareness materials on WENH
- WENH nest protection programs established at Xuan Lac and Na Hang
- Data collection and monitoring of WENH nests
- WENH conservation action plans for Xuan Lac and Na Hang
- WENH conservation management plan for Ba Be National Park

**Component 2 Planned**

Site-based globally threatened primate conservation action plans established at one location and François's Langur conservation initiatives commenced at Sinh Long

**Component 2 Actual outcomes at project completion**

- Survey materials for François's Langur and Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey groups
- Survey of Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey and François's Langur at Tat Ke and Ban Bung
- Four groups of François's Langur documented (one new group)
- Primate conservation awareness materials produced and distributed
- Threat analysis on François's Langur at Sinh Long site, with resulting data on maps
- Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey participatory species conservation action plan
- François's Langur participatory species conservation action plan
- Five-year monitoring plan for François's Langur
- François's Langur conservation strategy (Vietnam population)

**Component 3 Planned**

Site-based tree conservation surveys, plans, and conservation interventions undertaken at one location led by the Centre for Plant Conservation

**Component 3 Actual outcomes at project completion**

- 12-day survey on magnolias and conifers with 450 specimens collected
- One species of magnolia discovered for first time in Vietnam
- One species of magnolia possibly new to science
- Threat assessments on magnolias and conifers at Sinh Long site
- Specimens of magnolia and conifers deposited at Vietnam National Museum of Nature
- Magnolia and conifer propagation trials and report on seed collection and propagation
- Action plan for management of *Xanthocyparis vietnamensis* at Ha Giang and Sinh Long

**Component 4 Planned**

Collaborative multi-stakeholder natural resource assessment, definition of 'multiple-use' areas and preparation of a collaborative management plan for conservation activities inside the South Xuan Lac

**Component 4 Actual outcomes at project completion**

- Harvesting methods documented with descriptive images on harvesting activities
- Harvesting guidelines document produced and distributed at Xuan Lac location
- Geographic data records for multiple-use area and access trials
- Report for collaborative natural resources assessment and definition of multiple use areas

**Component 5 Planned**

Opportunities identified for medium to long-term implementation of action plans

**Component 5 Actual outcomes at project completion**

- Calculation of estimated funds needed for actions in Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey SCAP
- Five-year annual financial needs estimated within the François's Langur SCAP
- Funding proposal to Save Our Species (Granted – François's Langur at Lam Binh)
- Funding proposal to The McKnight Foundation (Granted – François's Langur at Lam Binh)
- Funding proposal to USFWS critical animals (In process – Tonkin Snub-nosed at Na Hang)

**Component 6 Planned**

Experiences of site-based species conservation shared and integrated across sites

**Component 6 Actual outcomes at project completion**

- Paper on status review of the White-eared night Heron
- Policy brief on possible collaborative management of forest resources at Xuan Lac SHCA
- Case study on White-eared Night Heron nest protection efforts

## Unrealized components

### How unrealized components affected the overall impact of the project

All components in the original proposal were implemented, although a few activities under two of the components did not take place in full.

Under Component 4, entailing collaborative resource use assessment and definition of multiple-use zones within Xuan Lac SHCA, Activity 4.8 Preparation of a sustainable key NTFP species harvesting and multiple-use area regeneration plan did not take place. Neither did activity 4.9: Concept plan and project proposal prepared for buffer zone

enrichment planting and forest gardens using key NTFP species identified during inventory process.

Although significant, available time and funding to conduct the two activities was not sufficient to ensure a quality product. The basis to produce both outputs have been prepared, and concentrated additional inputs into the subject would produce the multiple-use area regeneration plan and buffer one enrichment planting. A key sustainable harvesting method is already in place, as is knowledge on key species to use for enrichment planting.

Under Component 5: entailing opportunities identified for medium to long-term implementation of action plans, Activity 5.5: Three-years of funding secured for implementation of at least two site-based species conservation action plans including ongoing nest protection activities within the Ba Be/ Na Hang limestone forest complex.

Under 5.5, funding was secured to implement prescribed action plan activities promoting conservation of the François's Langur, although not for the entire three years specified in the project document. Funding was secured from the IUCN Save Our Species grant for two years of implementation for several of the prescribed conservation actions. Similarly, funding was secured from The McKnight Foundation for two years of implementation for several of the prescribed conservation-oriented livelihood activities.

No funds have been secured for continuation of White-eared Night Heron nest protection activities within the Ba Be National Park landscape. Although the latter is significant, it is foreseen that the national park management board will take prescriptions within the WENH conservation management plan onboard their own operational management plan.

## Tools, products, and methodologies

### Description of tools, products, or methodologies resulting or contributing to project results

The most significant tool used within the scope of this project was that of Participatory Species Conservation Action Plans (SCAPs).

Although piloted through this and another CEPF-funded project (led by FFI), the tool has been useful to raise general conservation awareness for the target species, involve local people and key local stakeholders in conservation dialogue, and to secure inputs by local communities into conservation prescriptions to address threats to the target species.

SCAPs are plans that outline actions required for the conservation of a species facing population threat. They are developed within a framework that acknowledges the

presence of local communities and stakeholders as a central component for the sustainable conservation of the species. They summarize key scientific information about the species, identify threats, and suggest conservation interventions to address key threats. They ensure that suggested conservation actions for a species are based on scientific information and take into account local knowledge to address critical issues. They create a framework for action, identify key stakeholders, and outline financial needs for conservation of the species within a given timeframe.

SCAPs can be either site-specific or species-specific planning documents. Site-specific SCAPs focus on one or more target species at a particular site, and suggest actions to address threats to the target species at this one site. As threats to any one species might differ between sites, site-specific SCAPs might suggest different solutions at different locations. Species-specific SCAPS cover all sites where a species occurs and usually include all actions required for a species, even if they do not apply at every site where the species occurs.

The SCAPs process is described in detail within a document under the FFI CEPF titled 'Promoting Community Based Collaborative Management to Strengthen Long Term Conservation of Globally Threatened Primates and Trees in Priority Sites of Northern Vietnam'. The document is not attached herein.

## Lessons Learned

### Design and implementation – organizational capacities

- PRCF was rather ambitious in the design of activities and proposed outputs for the project, given available timeframe, technical capacities, and funding. The proposed project timeframe proved insufficient, and the capacities of local stakeholders, national consultants, and staff showed to be somewhat lower than estimated during the project preparation phase. Much time was invested beyond that included in the project document, to improve project documentation and written outputs to meet PRCF standards and otherwise expectations. Documentation had to be reviewed several times for technical aspects and language suitability by PRCF personnel outside the project and its allocated timeframes.

  In future project designs, the above will be taken into consideration so that the project will not end costing more to the organization than what was granted.

This was not a capacity-building project, as such activity requires persistence and repetition after repetition, and the project had many outputs to deliver in a short time. However, future projects should include capacity-building aspects wherever possible and when such inputs are likely to succeed and support project implementation.

- PRCF was unfortunately unprepared to deal with the leaving of key project personnel before project completion. The departure of leading project staff brought substantial delays and additional costs to the organization, given that momentum had to be reestablished through additional inputs to remaining activities and historical knowledge had to be regained for reporting, at considerable extra cost to the organization.

  In future project implementation, the above will be kept in mind so that the regular reporting modality to the donor is complemented by a more proactive, efficient, and comprehensive reports to the organization.

  In addition to the above, contractual arrangements with key personnel to a project will be made to match project timeframes as projects are secured, and in as much as possible payments will to be linked to actual project components and outputs.

### Project Design Process

Perhaps the most significant aspect of project design that contributed to its success was that it was designed in collaboration with stakeholders, which included local communities, government representatives, and institutional partners.

In addition to the above, project design complemented activities of another CEPF project in the region, executed by Fauna & Flora International, within which several activities were carried out by PRCF under a sub-grant to PRCF.

### Project Implementation

Similar to the design process, the project was implemented in very close collaboration with stakeholders, and involved a variety of local partners to carry out several of its activities. This mainly contributed to its successful delivery of activities and outputs.

## Additional Funding

**Details on additional donors who supported this project and funding secured as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project**

| Donor | Type of Funding* | Amount | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Save Our Species | B | 90,000.0 | Grant awarded to PRCF |
| The McKnight Foundation | B | 100,000.0 | Grant awarded to PRCF |
| People Resources and Conservation Foundation | A | 19,290.0 | In-kind contributions (Staff 18,000)<br>In-kind contributions (Equip ~ 1,290) |
| Vietnam Birdwatching Club | A | 16,990.0 | In-kind contributions (Staff ~ 8,000)<br>In-kind contributions (Equip ~ 8,990) |

***Additional funding reported using the categories:***
***A*** *Project co-financing* ***B*** *Grantee and Partner leveraging* ***C*** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging*

## Sustainability/ Replicability

**Success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability of project components or results**

The project was designed mainly to establish groundwork and build a foundation for additional conservation interventions in the region, and not as an end to itself. Sustainability of project activities is only secured if stakeholders assimilate project results for further implementation without additional project interventions. The project timeframe and purpose has not allowed this to happen just yet.

Notwithstanding the above, project planning for species conservation action planning have already attained a certain level of sustainability, as plans have been used to prepare successful funding proposals to carry out some of their prescriptions. Further, solid grounds of collaboration between local communities and government officers have started to pay off, as both parties have prompted the establishment of stakeholder groups at each of the project sites, and requested for technical and logistical support from PRCF.

## Safeguard Policy Assessment

**Implementation of actions towards the environmental and social safeguard policies**

Throughout project implementation, careful attention and periodical assessments focused on defining any possible impact to local livelihoods and their sociocultural characteristics.

As predicted within the project document, activities were unlikely to have adverse impact to the local communities, and planned future activities were careful to maintain this premise.

The project featured community-level planning to ensure that the development of conservation plans and activities reflected community felt needs and otherwise economic issues. All stages of project implementation promoted involvement of local communities, and prescriptions within action plans and management plans reflected benefit sharing, community incentive schemes, and formalization of local people's roles in decision-making.

All project activities involved local communities, and most activities promoted dialogue and positive conservation planning interactions between local people and government authorities.

Project implementation and resulting plans bring opportunities to increase the benefits to local people from forest protection and sustainable use, and to support conservation authorities in their objectives to protect forests and the resources contained.

All project activities were carried out in areas where ethnic groups, regarded as minorities at a national level, are the majority. The project design and subsequent implementation has strengthened the capacity of these ethnic minorities for natural resources management through its broad consultative process.

## Additional Comments/ Recommendations

None

## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

**Contact details**


| | |
|---|---|
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PRCF
People Resources and Conservation Foundation

## Performance Tracking Report Addendum

| CEPF Global Targets<br>(01 Jun 2010 through 31 Dec 2012)<br>Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.<br>Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Project Results** | **Is this question relevant?** | **If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.** | **Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.** | **Describe the principal results achieved from** 1 July, 2012 to 31 December, 2012 **(Attach annexes if necessary)** |
| 1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved. | no | | | Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. |
| 2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement? | no | | | Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. |
| 3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares. | Yes, but not particularly relevant to a number of hectares unless the entire landscape of intervention is considered. If so then this would correspond to approximately 80,000 hectares, but this measurement is irrelevant and we discourage its use. | | | |
| 4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares. | Yes, but not particularly relevant to a number of hectares unless the entire landscape of intervention is considered. If so then this would correspond to approximately 80,000 hectares, but this measurement is irrelevant and we discourage its use. | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below. | An answer to this question is not relevant at this time, and through this particular project, although planning and materials for sustainable use of natural resources were produced by the project. | | | |

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table**

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## Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

**Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.**

| Name of Community | Community Characteristics | | | | | | | | Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Increased Income due to: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Small landowners | Subsistence economy | Indigenous/ ethnic peoples | Pastoralists/nomadic peoples | Recent migrants | Urban communities | Communities falling below the poverty rate | Other | Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices | Ecotourism revenues | Park management activities | Payment for environmental services | Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices | More secure access to water resources | Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc. | Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc) | More secure sources of energy | Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit | Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management | More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance. | Other |
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| **Total** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:**