

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Douc Langer Foundation

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Safeguarding Vietnam's Douc Langur population through conservation and sustainable ecotourism

Implementation Partners for this Project: Hanoi National University of Science, National University, Hanoi, San Diego Zoological Society, Community Conservation, Inc. and Vietnam Forest Protection Departments of Da Nang, Son Tra Nature Reserve and Chu Mom Ray National Park

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 1 January 2010-31 December 2010

Date of Report (month/year): 28 February 2011

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

This project was designed to protect core populations of Douc Langurs in two of the most important sites in Vietnam. We believe that immediate protection should come from a strong Forest Protection Department and a highly skilled and well equipped ranger force. The next level of protection comes from a committed and empowered management board and local people who gain financial benefits and empowerment from douc conservation. This project aimed to provide new livelihood skills to local people who will take an active part in protecting Douc Langurs at Son Tra Nature Reserve.

Son Tra Nature Reserve, 10 km outside of Da Nang, is home to the largest population of red shanked Douc Langurs in Vietnam. At the moment, Son Tra is experiencing a period of intensive development brought on by the People's Committee decision to lease parcels of land for resort development. In conjunction with this, a series of roads have been built that provide access to the reserve and this has increased hunting inside the reserve. Coming on the heels of this development is tourism. Tourism, at the present time, is not managed by any authority but we believe that tourism management should be under the direction of the FPD and the management board of the reserve. Environmentally sensitive sustainable ecotourism has the potential to provide livelihoods for local people and at the same time give them incentives to protect forest and doucs. Our experience in Costa Rica demonstrated that local people value a forest and its animals when they are allowed input into its management and realize some financial benefits from the forest. In Costa Rica, education and well managed workable sustainable ecotourism strategies turned short term benefits into long term benefits for local people. In Vietnam, to date, only short term benefits have been realized: forests are cut and animals hunted, killed or captured for illegal trade. Our project introduced the concepts of sustainable ecotourism to the local people living around Son Tra Nature Reserve. We used a series of workshops to teach the necessary skills required for guiding and then practiced these skills in the forest. We believe that ecotourism can benefit the local population economically and at the same time protect the core populations of Douc Langurs. We also introduced sustainable tourism to governmental organizations, management boards, rangers and locals by offering informational and applied workshops on sustainable ecotourism.

In addition, in order to immediately protect the doucs, we sponsored snare and trap eradication programs that hired local people to take traps out of the reserves and release living animals from traps. The DLF and FPD also instituted a protocol which directs the return of healthy doucs back into the forest. In the past confiscated doucs were taken to the Endangered Primate Rescue Center at Cuc Phong National Park. Doucs taken into captivity at Cuc Phong have never been returned to the forest and some have been in captivity for more than 15 years. Our snare and trap program was highly successful and resulted in the confiscation of five doucs during 2010. The three healthy Douc Langurs were returned back into the reserve; a three month old infant was sent to the Saigon Zoo to be raised and a severely wounded douc died despite local efforts to treat the wound.

Our two surveys in Chu Mom Ray National park to establish the significance of the site for the conservation of Douc Langur populations identified several new populations of Douc Langurs. Evidence of more than one species of Douc Langur was found. We also found what may be a new variety of Douc Langur, marked differently that either red shanked, grey shanked or black shanked doucs. Further studies are underway to resolve this taxonomic issue. We found intense hunting pressure on all animals at Chu Mom Ray and have already started a snare- and trap-removal program at Chu Mom Ray National Park.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACTS

Project Impacts:

Long Term: Established a professional certified guide program. Three workshops prepared trainees for basic activities required for ecotourism guiding. Each trainee passed a series of tests both written and in the forest before they were certified as competent. We are raising the awareness of the local people that jobs associated with conservation are possible. Several local people have requested that we teach another set of workshops as soon as possible.

Continued an ecotourism program to help manage the tourist companies. We recruited guides from existing tourism companies so that they could benefit from skills taught at our workshops.

Provided training and re-certification program for guides. We are planning future workshops so that we can up-date and re-certify our guides in 2012.

Guides are taking part in protecting the Douc Langur and forest. Guides are adding additional protection for the doucs and the forest by their presence. Guides are contacting the Forest Protection Department whenever they see illegal activities. The Forest Protection Department then sends a squad of rangers to apprehend poachers. Guides are also removing traps and snares from the forest and releasing snared animals as soon as they find them.

Guides are teaching the tourists about the value of the forest and the Douc Langur population. Guides are instructing tourists about the value of the Douc Langur population and discussing conservation of the endangered doucs as well as many other animals and plants in the forest.

Guides are realizing cultural and financial rewards from protecting the doucs and the forest. The fees charged by the guides are being utilized to support the guides' families. Local people who have been poachers in the past are taking part in a sustainable activity.

Short Term: Snare and trap patrols are reducing hunting, poaching and wildlife trade. There has been a marked decrease in animals appearing in markets and on the menu in local restaurants. In the first three months of 2011, only one Douc Langur was confiscated compared to five in 2010.

Special areas that the doucs utilize for sleeping and feeding are being secured by Douc Protection Teams. Locals are taking jobs as Douc Protection Team staff. These new jobs reward

local people economically for engaging in a sustainable activity that preserves the large endangered douc population at Son Tra Nature Reserve.

Survey of Chu Mom Ray established the significance of the site for the conservation of Douc Langur populations. Several groups of doucs were located at Chu Mom Ray. This is an especially important site because an important new variety of Douc Langur was observed. These populations are in extreme danger because of intensive hunting, poaching and illegal trade activities taking place at Chu Mom Ray National Park.

Sustainable ecotourism is benefitting the larger population of local people and protecting the core populations of Douc Langurs. Local people are filling the jobs of Eco guide and Douc Protection Team member. Both of these new jobs conserve the doucs and the forest and maximize protection of this population of Douc Langurs. Conservation jobs are paying economic rewards to the local people.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

Twenty four trainees completed the ecotourism training. Seven of the trainees were former hunters from communes adjacent to SonTra Nature Reserve and two were tour guides from Tien Sa Tourist Company. Other trainees came from ranger forces of Son Tra Nature Reserve, Ba Na Nature Reserve and Lien Chieu and Hoa Vang Forest Protection Departments. Many of the trainees intend to start guiding tourists in the near future.

Our first survey of Chu Mom Ray National Park established that Douc Langurs still exist in the park. Evidence of more than one species of Douc Langur was found inside the park. This discovery confirms data from our previous surveys in 2007. Our second survey took place in a location that had never been surveyed. Here we found what may be a new variety of Douc Langur, marked differently than either red shanked, grey shanked or black shanked doucs. We are returning to the forest in order to collect samples for DNA testing. We are in the process of contacting individuals to process these samples once they are collected.

Snare and trap eradication patrols are finding fewer numbers of snares and traps set in the forest at Son Tra Nature Reserve. Five living doucs were confiscated. Three were healthy and immediately released back into the forest. One douc was severely wounded and died of his wounds and a three month old infant was taken to Saigon Zoo to be raised. These are the first confiscations ever to take place at Son Tra Nature Reserve. We have established a confiscation protocol with the Forest Protection Department which is designed to evaluate the health of a confiscated douc and minimize essential paper work so that healthy doucs can be returned to the forest in a matter of hours. Two Vietnamese veterinarians are on calls that have experience treating injured doucs.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Local community members around Son Tra Nature Reserve learned about ecotourism and its potential to bring them new livelihoods. Many have asked that the DLF do another training as soon as possible.

After confiscating several living Douc Langurs we worked on a protocol with the Forest Protection Department which outlines the steps to be taken to return the douc to the forest. First a designated veterinarian examines the douc to check for any injuries. If the douc is healthy the next step is to obtain clearance for the Forest Protection Department to return the douc to the forest. If the douc is injured it is sent to the Saigon Zoo which has agreed to take and care for all injured doucs. When the first douc was confiscated, this step took two days. By the next confiscation the use of the protocol had cut the time to less than 6 hours. The paper work needed to release the douc also took days to complete. The protocol speeded up the paperwork

to about 6 hours. Locations for release were also outlined in the protocol so that these were planned ahead of the confiscation. The Forest Protection Department was grateful for our aid in working out this protocol and they have been very efficient in using it since.

IV. PROJECT COMPONENTS

Project Components:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Component 1: Promotion of sustainable tourism at Son Tra Nature Reserve	
<i>Deliverable 1.1: selection of 25 potential guides.</i>	It was difficult at first to attract trainees to the training because they had no idea what ecotourism was and how it could provide jobs and protection to the reserve. We had to go to prospective groups to explain what the training was about and how it could provide livelihood for participants. However, after five days in the first workshop, trainees began to understand what sustainable ecotourism was and how it could benefit them personally and how it could benefit the reserve and the highly endangered Douc Langur populations.
<i>Deliverable 1.2: at least 12 guides certified in environmentally sensitive tourism</i>	Twenty four trainees from 9 different organizations were certified in environmentally sensitive tourism. This included seven former hunters who wanted to find a new livelihood and who are now considering ecotourism. Two members of a commercial tourism company and several members of local ranger forces and governmental employees were certified.
<i>Deliverable 1.3: some known hunters, poachers and local people become guides.</i>	Seven local hunters from communes adjacent to Son Tra Nature Reserve became guides after attending the trainings.(list appended)
<i>Deliverable 1.4: organized guide training for tour operators guides</i>	Professional guides from Tien Sa Tourism, Truong Mai Tourism and Globe Tourism attended the training.
Component 2: Intensified protection of Douc Langur populations at Son Tra	
<i>Deliverable 2.1: secure sleeping and feeding areas and make these off limits to tourist.</i>	Sleeping and feeding areas of doucs still remain difficult to secure. Candidates for Douc Protection Teams have been difficult to find, train and retain. We have not been able to convince FPD to close trails that pass near sleeping areas. We plan to continue to find and train DPTs and also to ask our guides not to take tourists near the sleeping areas of the doucs. We are continuing to recruit and train DPTs and support them from other funds. In time we believe that FPD will see the wisdom of protecting these vital places. We will continue to work with FPD to demonstrate the protective aspects of our program.
<i>Deliverable 2.2: fewer animals appear in captivity of families and as food items.</i>	We found 521 wire snares and 3,000 m of wood fencing during our first snare and trap campaign in 2009. In 2010, the number of snares was reduced to 321 and the amount of fencing was reduced to 2,090 m. Snares and fencing were destroyed. We await the final report of the Forest Protection Department on the weight of dead animals confiscated from restaurants.

<i>Deliverable 2.3: more doucs turned in alive and returned to forest.</i>	Five doucs were turned in or confiscated. Three doucs were returned to the forest, one died and other was taken to Saigon Zoo to be raised because it was a three month old infant. In the past viable doucs that were confiscated were taken to Cuc Phong National Park where they remain in captivity to this day.
<i>Deliverable 2.4: publicize fines and length of jail time for hunters and trappers caught in illegal activity in Son Tra.</i>	It has been difficult to convince FPD to publish fines. Many factors are at work. It has been the usual procedure to warn hunters first. Doucs have been confiscated and other living mammals have been confiscated and released. We were able to convince FPD to list the names of illegal hunters on a bulletin board at Son Tra FPD. However, this posting did not last long. We decided to bring journalists from Hanoi to publicize our program. They are writing articles now and we will append these articles as soon as we obtain them.
Component 3: Douc Langur population surveys at Chu Mom Ray National Park	
<i>Deliverable 3.1: report of actual species of Douc Langur present.</i>	There is more than one species of douc at Chu Mom Ray national Park. A small number of red shank (<i>Pygathrix nemaeus</i>) and black shank (<i>P. nigripes</i>) doucs were found in a previous survey (2007). In our first CEPF/DLF survey, red shanks were recorded. In our second survey we moved to a new location and found doucs that may be hybrids between reds and blacks. During this second survey we did not find any red shanks or black shanked doucs. We found doucs that might be hybrids because they exhibited morphological characteristics of both red and black.
<i>Deliverable 3.2: estimation of viability of Douc Langur species.</i>	Based on the observation of more than 5 groups with at least 20 members each we believe that these groups have the potential to be viable if they are actively protected.
<i>Deliverable 3.3: start appropriate conservation actions immediately</i>	Conservation actions have been started. We have recently been awarded funding to start snare and trap eradication at Chu Mom Ray. We are also in the process of selecting Douc Protection Team candidates.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

We were successful in introducing the concepts of sustainable ecotourism to the local people around Son Tra Nature Reserve and governmental officials at Danang, Vietnam. We trained 24 ecotourism guides that come from the local population, governmental offices, various ranger forces and commercial tourism operators. A sustainable ecotourism guide program was initiated with the support of CEPF and the expertise of Hanoi University Ecotourism Department, National University Faculty of Biology, Hanoi (also known as Hanoi University of Science), Community Conservation Associates, San Diego Zoological Society and the Douc Langur Foundation.

We were successful in locating viable populations of Douc Langurs at Chu Mom Ray National Park. As a result of the surveys we found the doucs are under intense pressure from hunting and the population requires immediate protection. Using data collected from these surveys we were able to secure initial funding to protect these populations.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Protection of feeding and sleeping sites still remain difficult to secure for several reasons. Several candidates for the job of Douc Protection Team (DPT) started training but dropped out. It has been more difficult that we thought to find dedicated individuals for this position partly because they do not regard this occupation as permanent. Although we cannot guarantee funding for this program forever we have already obtained funding from another source to continue this program for another year. We are committed to this program and will continue to apply for external funding. We will explore other means of funding inside Vietnam.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

This project did not trigger any of CEPF's social safeguard policies.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

During workshops it is best to have all trainees introduce themselves at the very beginning of the workshop. At our first workshop we waited until the second day and we found that no one wanted to discuss the major points because they were unfamiliar with all the trainees.

We were surprised by the lack of knowledge of our guide group of the essentials of biodiversity and basic aspects of climate, history, fauna and flora of Son Tra Nature Reserve. Because doucs are so common at Son Tra Nature Reserve everyone thought they were not important. They were surprised that Son Tra is such a valuable nature reserve. Each one of the prospective guides admitted that since the doucs were so common here that they thought they were common everywhere.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

The outstanding success of this project design we believe is because it was designed in collaboration with our Vietnamese colleagues. Vietnamese scientists, educators, veterinarians and medical doctors did all of the lecturing, teaching and mentoring in the field. Mr. Vu Ngoc Thanh, our project co director is the leading primatologist in Vietnam and his opinions are highly respected and valued at all levels of government as well as in the field. The Douc Langur Foundation has been working at Son Tra Nature Reserve for many years and has built up a very positive relationship with the Nature Reserve staff and Forest Protection Departments of both Son Tra Nature Reserve and Danang Forest Protection.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

The success of this project we believe was because it offered a new possibility of an economic livelihood to local people and governmental workers alike. Another important aspect of the success was that it was taught by Vietnamese educators, scientists, veterinarians and medical doctors. Mr. Vu Ngoc Thanh, our co project director is an experienced, well regarded primatologist and biologist who has a special talent for encouraging people work together.

The Douc Langur Foundation is well known in the area and has contributed much to the protection of the douc through their contributions to the Forest Protection Department. It was not difficult for the trainees to understand why the Douc Langur Foundation was offering this sustainable ecotourism training

Breaking the trainings into three separate workshops worked well also. Each workshop built on the one before but there was a review before new material was presented. Many new concepts were presented and it took time to assimilate these new concepts. Workshops were spaced over the year so that there was enough time between them for trainees to think about the concepts. The mini review of everything worked well before the final certification.

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	C	\$26,000.00	To support snare and trap eradication and Douc Protection Teams at Son Tra and Chu Mom Ray
San Diego Zoological Society	A	\$5,000.00	To support snare and trap eradication at Son Tra Nature Reserve
Douc Langur Foundation	A	\$23,815.00	Snare and trap eradication; communication; Forest Protection equipment and assistance; guides from Bach Ma. Administration and office expenses
San Diego Zoological Society	C	\$2,000.00	To build an enclosure for short term holding of doucs at Son Tra FPD Headquarters

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

Additional funding has been secured from USFWS to further protect the core populations of Douc Langurs at both Son Tra Nature Reserve and Chu Mom Ray National Park.

Proposals are being prepared to offer the guiding program again in two years when re certification is scheduled to take place.

We have proposed another survey at Chu Mom Ray National Park so that we can collect more data on the distribution and conservation status of the Chu Mom Ray Douc Langur. A survey proposal has been sent to Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation (2/21/2011).

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The death of the injured douc after three months of medical care underscored the fact that a new policy must be put in place so that would not happen again. The DLF worked with Danang and Son Tra FPD to design a protocol for what to do with confiscated doucs. In some cases, doucs needed to be held in captivity for one or more days until arrangements could be made for their reintroduction or transport. The holding facilities at FPD were nonexistent so the DLF appealed to the San Diego Zoological Society to provide funds to build a "state of the art" holding facility behind the new Son Tra Forest Protection Department headquarters. We have also put into place an agreement with the Saigon zoo whereby FPD will call their medical team to come to treat injured doucs. We have a medical doctor in Danang who has agreed to treat acute injuries. According to our agreement, injured animals will be transported to Saigon Zoo by car or air where there are excellent medical treatment facilities for their care.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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