

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF)
Project Title:	Strengthening of community-based and led François' Langur species and habitat conservation initiatives in northern Vietnam
Grant Number:	65910
CEPF Region:	Indo-Burma II
Strategic Direction:	4 Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas
Grant Amount:	\$97,706.00
Project Dates:	March 01, 2016 - March 31, 2019
Date of Report:	June 09, 2019

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

A- People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) was directly responsible for all project technical and financials, providing leadership, direction, organization, and mentoring. PRCF led activities and with partners carried out programmed work, monitoring and reporting on implementation, including compliance with CEPF social safeguards.

B- Local communities (nine villages) of Lam Binh were the primary project implementation partners. Villagers were involved in activities entailing field conservation work and were the direct project beneficiaries. All project initiatives were geared to increasing the knowledge, capacity, and interest of members of the community towards conservation management.

C- Tuyen Quang Provincial Forest Protection Department (FPD Tuyen Quang) was the main government partner. FPD Tuyen Quang (under Tuyen Quang DARD), was the provincial government agency in charge of managing provincial forest resources, and therefore the principal partner to help advance co-management of Lam Binh high value forests.

D- Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association (VNPPA) partnered with PRCF in planning policy dialogue. VNPPA participated in assessment of community-based conservation activities at the project site, and helped draft aspects of co-management to be presented to DoNC as a statement of policy purpose to advance co-management work.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The overall project aim was to secure government recognition for community-based conservation efforts towards the endangered 'Francois' Langur', its habitat, and associated species in the Lam Binh landscape, looking at future prospects of establishing co-management measures through a pilot community-based conservation area. This aim was to be met through several short-term objectives, most of which were achieved successfully while others were initiated. The population status of the endangered Francois Langur at the project site was updated through several surveys, and conservation action towards the species and its habitat initiated with the involvement of local communities. The langur population has shown signs of becoming stable at the site, with a seeming increase in numbers from less than 100 individuals in mid-2017 to ~124 individuals in 2018. Together with local communities, the project was able to define and map forest areas subject to strict conservation measures, given the presence of high biodiversity values such as the sustaining habitat to Francois Langur, and other forest areas subject to different conservation prescriptions. Men and women from several villages in the landscape gained knowledge and skills in village institutions, conservation planning, conservation monitoring, and livelihood development activities. Village representatives were involved in the definition of strictly protected zones to safeguard langur groups, participated in conservation needs assessments, and were involved in the preparation of short and longer term conservation plans. Institutions at the village and inter-village level to support biodiversity conservation, advance livelihoods development, and to conduct safeguards monitoring were either established or strengthened, and villagers themselves are now starting to lead in the implementation of some of the activities. An establishment plan to the proposed conservation area followed a feasibility study that comprised social, institutional, and biodiversity components. The establishment plan was submitted to the Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department (FPD), who unfortunately raised concerns on needed funding to the site and therefore tabled the proposal. Further discussions with Tuyen Quang DARD and the Provincial Peoples Committee discussed other possible options for the proposed co-management approach at the site, as suggested (see below) by the Department of Nature Conservation--DoNC (Vietnam Forest Administration--MARD). Long-term mentoring and support by the Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAUF) to the Lam Binh communities has been discussed and was in process of consolidation at project end. Support would come in the form of technical advice and piloting of activities to advance forest conservation and livelihoods development initiatives unfolding in the landscape. Similar pledges of support have been discussed and agreed upon with the Vietnam Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (EIBR), for biological studies in the landscape, and the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) for botanical work and propagation of valuable species. Field visits by DoNC, People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature), and the Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association (VNPPA), followed by discussions on the proposed and unfolding co-management initiatives in the Lam Binh landscape have helped model the approach to harness relevant and emerging national legislation. Practical conservation management measures by local communities at the project site have been labeled by DoNC as progressive and worthy of replication to advance co-management in conservation landscapes. And, through the counterpart CEPF III project at the site, details into a policy concept note/ brief were (at the time of writing) in process of definition to possibly feed into a Circular on Co-Management measures. To advance the co-management initiative, DoNC has advised on furthering a second

option (alternative) to the establishment of a community conservation area (seen problematic by FPD because of funding), whereby co-management arrangements are set-up between the Lam Binh Forest Management Board (presently responsible for the target forests) and a community-based organization whose members comprise local villagers. The suggested arrangement would pilot co-management of Lam Binh forests for a few years, building credibility to the capacities and skills of local communities for conservation management, after which the community-based organization would replace or become the forest management board, thus receiving land management certificates that would allow the site to receive credits from international payments for environmental services and other long-term financial mechanisms. This initiative will be furthered through the complementing ongoing CEPF III project at the site.

Perhaps the most significant impact of the project has been a change of behavior and attitude by the local communities towards the endangered Francois Langur and its habitat, matched by a positive attitude by local and provincial government regarding the attitude and interest of local communities towards conservation of their environment and protection of high conservation value resources. Both impacts are being harnessed in concept documents (in process through the counterpart CEPF III project) to inform policy regarding unfolding co-management approaches.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
LTI-1 François' Langur population stabilized in the Lam Binh Forest Landscape	The project was able to stabilize the Francois Langur population in the Lam Binh area, with no known and reported langur killings over the course of the project. Langur population counts at the beginning of the project were of 88 individuals and in in mid-2018 were of 124 individuals. The actual population count may vary somewhat from figures obtained during surveys given frequent group movements.
LTI-2 Endangered and threatened species within the Lam Binh site receive protection	Through continuous involvement of local communities as members of six Community Conservation Teams (CCTs), the project was able to carry out effective protection of high conservation value forests in the Lam Binh watershed area that includes habitat for 34 globally threatened species and their habitat, ten of which are animals and 25 are plants, follows: (Animals) Mammals: CR Manis pentadactylia, EN Trachypithecus francoisi; Birds: EN Urocissa whiteheadi; Reptiles: EN Geoemyda spengleri, Bungarus fasciatus; Insects: CR Dorcus curvidens curvidens, EN Dorcus titanus fafner, EN Cheirotonus jansoni, EN Triodes helena cerberus. (Plants) Aristolochiaceae: EN Asarum balansae; Berberidaceae: Dyasama difformis, EN Mahonia nepalensis; Bignoniaceae: EN Fernandoa bracteate, EN Fernandoa collignoni, EN Gardenia fagraeoides; Magnoliaceae: CR Magnolia grands, EN Magnolia rostata; Orchidaceae: EN Anoectochilus calcareus, EN

	Dendrobium longicomu, EN Dendrobium nobile, EN Paphilopendilum councilor, CR Paphilopendilum henryanum; Sapotaceae: EN Madhuca pasqueri; Tasaceae: EN Taxus chinensis; Tiliaceae: EN Burretiodendron hsienmu; Thymelaeaceae: CR Aquaria crassna; Trilleaceas: EN Paris polyphylla.
LTI-3 Increased knowledge and interest on community-based management of natural resources	Local communities from 26 villages in the Lam Bing area (Thuong Lam commune 14 villages--1,286 households, and Phuong Ha 12 villages--816 households), but in particular nine target villages have experienced an increase in awareness towards conservation of the endangered Francois Langur, its habitat and associated species. 63 member representatives from nine said villages, seven members from each village) were involved in all project planning for conservation management of natural resources in the project area. Additionally, 17 villagers from the 26 villages in the landscape were involved in direct conservation monitoring and patrolling measures in the high value forests. Overall, the interest of local communities towards conservation of resources within their living landscape has experienced significant increase, this can be witnessed through their present knowledge on conservation issues compared to their previous level of awareness.
LTI-4 Experience by stakeholders on the use of funds from payment for forest environmental services into conservation management	This proposed impact was not fully fulfilled, given the government's disinterest in sharing use and distribution of funds proceeding from Payment from Forest Environmental Services. Notwithstanding, the project was able to recommend better use of PFES funds as it concerned to forest monitoring in forests adjacent to the Lam Binh watershed area. Further, better conservation management methods were imparted upon Community Conservation Teams (CCTs) working under two government agencies in the region (Na Hang Forest Protection Department) and Na Hang Nature Reserve), through four CCT members seconded to PRCF during the course of the project.
LTI-5 Increased donor interest and support on the potential role of local communities in conservation and biodiversity management	Through implementation of this project, additional funding from several donors was secured to advance the community-based conservation management initiative in the landscape. Interest in long-term funding was expressed by members of the Plan Vivo Foundation, suggesting that the area could become a Plan Vivo project to secure funds from the international voluntary carbon market and channeled to the conservation area. However, for this to take place the area must be subject to a community-based

	<p>stewardship system, which is a major objective of the PRCF conservation program at the site. Further, interest in long-term funding to the site has been expressed by organizations working with PRCF in other regions (Indonesia) for possible allocation of funds from industrial liabilities (eg. palm oil and rubber plantations) in Vietnam payable in the form of biodiversity conservation offsets that could be applicable to the site. This is in process of discussion at the time of writing on the basis of similar measures under development between PRCF and several parties in Indonesia.</p>
<p>LTI-6 Inclusion of community-based conservation management and co-management approaches within new legislation on forests and protected areas</p>	<p>The community conservation management approach promoted by the project has received recognition from the local, provincial, and central government. Scoping visits to the area by several government officials have helped expose the approach, which has been commended by members of the Department of Nature Conservation (DoNC) within the Vietnam Forestry Administration (MARD). Although the co-mangement approach pursued at the site has not yet been included under new Vietnamese legislation, discussions have taken place regarding the possible inclusion of measures into a Co-management Circular corresponding to the new 2019 Forestry Law. At the time of writing, a concept note in the form of a policy brief is under development between PRCF and VNPPA (Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association). The concept note includes co-mangement measures suggested by DoNC regarding gradual strengthening of local community involvement in conservation governance. Continuation of this policy initiative is funded by the CEPF III project (CEPF Grant 103468),</p>
<p>LTI-7 Established precedent on community-managed protected areas in Vietnam, with a positive change of attitude by government officials on local community conservation initiatives</p>	<p>This is ongoing, but already several government officials at two other provinces (Gia Lai and Cao Bang) have expressed interest in following the community-based conservation involvement unfolding in Tuyen Quang. Government views on involvement of local communities in conservation management and governance is changing positively, although still rather slowly. Officials at DoNC express the need for good and tangible co-management samples, and have commended the work in the Lam Binh area for what it has been able to accomplish. Tangible examples of what is possible and how to go about collaborative management and co-management initiatives are needed to influence government thinking and attitudes</p>

	toward the conservation measure, and this is what this project (actually the program resulting from the collection of counterpart projects at the site) has been able to begin to establish. Although there is still much room for improvement and consolidation of ideas, the foundations have been established and can already show the incremental conservation benefits of community involvement.
LTI-8 established source of corporate funding into the community-managed conservation area as an alternative financing	Although an exact and definite source of corporate funding to the site is yet to be defined, measures towards corporate funding have been identified and in process of consolidation. As described above, the program at the site is pursuing a co-management approach whereby the local communities receive legal stewardship of the forests, and this is also a prerequisite for several forms of corporate funding linked to the sought long-term financing through international payments for environmental services.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
STI-1 Stronger positive attitude by local communities in support of biodiversity conservation in their living landscape, at project end in comparison with an established baseline at project onset.	The project was indeed able to develop and harness local felt needs for conservation of natural resources in the project area. Initial socioeconomic development surveys, which included several questions on attitudes and perceptions, showed some local awareness regarding biodiversity conservation (perhaps because of previous PRCF work at the site), which showed to increase as the project developed to the point of showing understanding by almost everyone surveyed towards the end of the project. Surveys targeted ten households in each of 15 villages in the landscape, and change in awareness towards conservation needs and measures changed from 40% just before project start to 92% near project completion.
STI-2 Decrease in direct threats to the François' Langur population and its local forest and karst cave habitat, at project end in comparison with an established baseline at project onset	Direct threat to the endangered François Langur, its habitat, and associated species reduced as a result of project interventions. In particular, there was no known or reported incidence of langur hunting, and population surveys showed an increase from 88 to 124 individuals during the course of the project.
STI-3 Provincial government recognition of local community management rights over the proposed community-based conservation area of about 5500 ha	This has not been yet secured. An establishment plan for the proposed conservation area was submitted to the Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department in mid-February 2018, but (unofficially) rejected for lack of funding. At the time of writing, PRCF is pursuing several options to secure management rights recognition to local communities by the Tuyen Quang government. An

	<p>option of gradual co-management measures has been described above. The proposed conservation area is of 24,000 hectares, but one possible alternative (should the establishment proposal be rejected officially) is to secure recognition for a smaller section of the protected area, whereby land-use rights could be given to several of the villages in Lam Binh over a sections of the proposed reserve landscape. At the time of writing, PRCF and TUAF (Thai Nguyen University for Agriculture and Forestry) have joined hands for biodiversity conservation and livelihoods development work at the site (and long-term mentorship by TUAF to local communities). An initial effort will be for the Rector of TUAF and Director of PRCF to meet with the Tuyen Quang Communist Party Leader and the Chair of Tuyen Quang Peoples Committee to present and seek approval of the co-management proposal and establishment plan.</p>
<p>STI-4 Functioning biodiversity conservation scheme using forest protection and development funds to support community-based conservation initiatives</p>	<p>This has not yet been fully achieved, given that the Tuyen Quang government has not yet approved the proposed conservation area. Notwithstanding, some community-based conservation initiatives are being funded from payment for forest environmental services, through the Lam Binh Forest Management Board (LBFMB). Measures to ensure that the entire network of Community Conservation Teams at the site are financed by PFES are still in process of consolidation--between PRCF and the LBFMB, and will likely happen through the ongoing CEPF III counterpart project at the site (CEPF Grant 103468).</p>
<p>STI-5 Recognition of the management rights of local people with regard to populations and habitats of threatened species following a community conservation area model, incorporated into Vietnam conservation policy</p>	<p>Recognition of management rights of local communities for high conservation value forests is still in process at the time of writing, and advanced through program work funded by counterpart projects in the landscape, including CEPF III (CEPF Grant 103468). The project has promoted such recognition at the local and provincial levels, and promoted it at the national level. Incorporation of such within Vietnam conservation policy has been furthered though policy discussions at the Department of Nature Conservation, where officers recognize the need for a co-management approach towards conservation management.</p>

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

Short-term impacts - Success and challenges



Stronger positive attitude by local communities in support of biodiversity conservation in their living landscape was achieved, but cannot be measured objectively. However, this can be objectively observed through the increased knowledge, interest, and participation of local villagers in efforts to protect forests and associated species in the landscape. This change of behaviors and attitude does not come without the challenge of people not being familiar with conservation planning measures and implementation concepts, but constant trainings and support has helped alleviate these deficiencies and brought a positive impact.

Project implementation was key in supporting an increase in the population of endangered Francois Langur with local communities directly involved in conservation measures. The langur population at the site was shown to increase on the basis of data collected from langur group surveys between mid-2017 (where surveys recorded less than 90 individuals) and 2018 (where surveys recorded 124 individuals). This indicates a stable and increasing langur population with no hunting pressure. The challenge is that langur groups move quite actively and it is difficult to make accurate estimations of the population.

Through project implementation, there was an increase in government knowledge and recognition regarding the potential benefits of co-management of natural resources and biodiversity between local communities and government agencies. Support by local and provincial government authorities towards the involvement of local communities in co-management was witnessed to increase as the project unfolded (this and complementary projects), and there is strong indication that community conservation efforts are being noticed positively by government agencies. The challenge is to convert the positive government views into action by fully supporting proposed long-term co-management measures in the landscape.

A proposed short-term impact was a functioning biodiversity conservation scheme using forest protection and development funds to support community-based conservation initiatives. Although not fully fledged, the project's conservation monitoring initiative through Community Consecration Teams benefited from PFES funding with the allocation of six CCT members covered through provincial PFES funding. The challenge was to secure additional funding to CCTs directly from PFES whereby gradually payments by the project would be replaced by payments from PFES sources. At the time of writing, through the counterpart CEPF II project, there is an opening opportunity for co-management arrangements between local communities and the Lam Binh Forest Management Board. An impact of the project was the prompting of policy discussions on the potential role of local people to protect their natural environment, and the possible inclusion of co-management in national strategies on forest governance. Project practice on community-based conservation was experienced by colleagues attached to policy groups, which helped develop views on effective initiatives that can help bring local people and government together for conservation purposes. Discussions with DoNC were able to prompt brainstorming on possible arrangements for co-management of high conservation value forests and on defining measures for putting into practice feasible options. The challenge here is that policy discussions take much time and effort, and that not always national and provincial level ideas, interests, and policies match.

Long-term impacts - Success and challenges

A long-term impact of the project is the stabilization of the Francois Langur population in the Lam Binh Forest Landscape, through local community involvement and support. As far as we know the langur population seems stable and with no hunting pressure. The challenge is to maintain this positive trend, which has been primarily reached because of local community efforts in conservation, including habitat monitoring that is proposed to eventually be fully financed from PFES corresponding to benefits from forest conservation at the site.

Another long-term project impact is that endangered and threatened wildlife within the forests of Lam Binh have begun to receive effective protection through local community involvement.



Government agencies may protect the forest but not the wildlife within these; for example prior to community involvement langurs were often taken from these forest and this is no longer the case. Although we have not measured this impact objectively, the incidence of hunting seems to have reduced at the site, and shotguns are not heard in the forest as often as before (noticed during langur and biodiversity surveys). The challenge is to maintain this status and actually see a rebound in wildlife at the site.

A proposed project impact was the increase of experience by stakeholders on the use of PFES funds into conservation management. This was only slightly advanced by the project, given that direct access to PFES funds was not made possible by the provincial authorities. However, the project was able to influence conservation work of government counterparts funded from PFES. The challenge here is that government agencies are reluctant to share PFES financial resources, even if these are targeted to actually do what PFES funds are meant to be doing. Things are changing somewhat however, as some local government authorities in the region are willing to adopt new initiatives on the use of PFES funding for forest protection.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Nothing to report on unexpected impacts

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
2	Formal proposal for establishment of the 'François' Community-based Conservation Area' to the Tuyen Quang provincial government, for endorsement and for thereafter follow-up with community based and led conservation management activities.	2.3	Feasibility study and investment plan for the 'François' Langur Community-based Conservation Area', for submission to the Tuyen Quang provincial government for approval, and endorsement by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development —MARD.	Completed: The 'establishment plan' (previously referred to as feasibility study and investment plan) to the proposed Francois Langur Conservation Area was produced and submitted to the Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department (FPD) in mid-February 2018. It has been tabled by the FPD because the apparent lack of funding, but appeals are in process at the time of writing, to take place during proposed meetings with Tuyen Quang DARD and Tuyen Quang Provincial Peoples committee, and with the Tuyen Quang Communist Party leader. On behalf of the project, PRCF has joined hands with the Thai Nguyen University for Agriculture and Forestry TUAF), and meetings will include participation of the TUAF Rector. Elements of community-based conservation management present within the protected area establishment plan have been discussed with the Department of Nature Conservation (DoNC) at Vietnam Forestry Administration (MARD). The ongoing and proposed initiatives received un-official endorsement by the department, suggesting several options to pursue the initiative should Tuyen Quang officially not approve the protected area establishment plan proposal. Measures will be followed upon through the counterpart CEPF III project (CEPF Grant 103468).
3	Feedback on experiences and opportunities into policy 'think-tank' at Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association.	3.1	Established policy dialogue and exchange of information between PRCF and the Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association— VNPPA to inform policy on developments	Completed: Policy dialogue between PRCF and VNPPA, on co-mangement options and opportunities on the basis of community-based conservation work at the Lam Binh/ Sinh Long landscape, was established in late 2017 and continues to date through CEPF III (CEPF Grant 103468). Continuous dialogue on opportunities and options for co-management of high conservation value forests has also included the Department of Nature Conservation within the Vietnam Forestry Administration of MARD. At the time of writing, a policy concept on co-management is under definition between PRCF and VNPPA, on the basis of practical experiences coming from the project site. A policy brief is expected from the concept, to inform policy and ideas on producing a Circular on Co-Management under the 2019 Forestry Law.

			and experiences emerging from the conservation initiative.	
3	Feedback on experiences and opportunities into policy 'think-tank' at Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association.	3.2	Conducted policy discussions by PRCF, PanNature, and VNPPA to brief the Department of Nature Conservation (DONC) at VNForest (MARD), on experiences and opportunities from pilot activities at the Lam Binh site.	Completed: The project conducted scoping missions to the Lam Binh (and Sinh Long) site with the participation of officials from DoNC, VNPPA, and PanNature. Thereafter, policy discussions took place regarding the co-management approach unfolding in Lam Binh and possibilities and opportunities for influencing national policy related to collaborative conservation management and conservation co-management. Most recently in mid-March 2019, PRCF and DoNC discussed options for advancing proposed community-based conservation options at the site through co-management measures, should the Tuyen Quang government refuse to establish the conservation area.
4	Sourcing for corporate funding and alternative financing to support the community-managed conservation initiative.	4.1	Activities in need of financing defined (other than from payment for forest environmental services); and strategy and action plan to approach and secure funding from corporate sources in place.	Completed: Activities in need of financing for conservation management at the Lam Binh (and Sinh Long) area were defined and included within the establishment plan to the protected area. A strategy and approach for long-term funding to the community-based protected area was discussed with PRCF partners in Indonesia (given the existence of such model at the site) and with the Plan Vivo Foundation. This however was not written into a document, as it was felt that the strategies defined would to come only after the area had been given legal community-stewardship status. As it stands, PRCF is still working to secure official establishment of the proposed conservation area by the Tuyen Quang government. The strategy addresses long-term financing of the protected area through industrial liabilities and their biodiversity offsets. Through the approach, PRCF has already secured a 25-year conservation investment at one site worth USD 2.5M and is in process of securing a second 25-year investment with an estimated value of USD 4.4m. The prospects for this taking place at the Lam

				Binh/ Sinh Long location are good, once official legal recognitions to the local communities are secured.
4	Sourcing for corporate funding and alternative financing to support the community-managed conservation initiative.	4.2	Elements of the corporate funding strategy and action plan carried out, with an adaptive management modality to accommodate for incoming opportunities and adjust as needed in line with developments.	Incomplete: This item was not completed given that elements of the corporate funding strategy were to take place after the area had been given legal community-stewardship status, which did not occur during the timeframe of this project. At the time of writing, this is still being pursued through CEPF III (CEPF Grant 103468).
4	Sourcing for corporate funding and alternative financing to support the community-managed conservation initiative.	4.3	Established financial ties with corporate entities to help with alternative finance needs emerging from community-led conservation management initiatives at Lam Binh.	Incomplete: This item was not completed given that elements of the corporate funding strategy were to take place after the area had been given legal community-stewardship status, which did not occur during the timeframe of this project. At the time of writing, this is still being pursued through CEPF III (CEPF Grant 103468).
5	Sourcing for ongoing, pro-bono, technical support for the community-managed conservation initiative.	5.1	Defined activities in need of ongoing technical support, and strategy and action plan in place to approach and secure pro-bono technical	Completed: Conservation and development activities in need of follow-up support between 2018 and 20223 in the Lam Binh/ Sinh Long conservation landscape were defined and included into a matrix action plan. The plan prioritized featured work and identified partners and roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in implementation. It also provided a timeframe for possible implementation and proposed financial sources (including paid or pro-bono inputs). The action plan was discussed with Thai Nguyen University for Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF), as well as the Center for Pant Conservation (CPC), and the Vietnam Institute of Ecology

			assistance from local/ international civil society organizations.	and Natural Resources (IEBR). Both pro-bono and consulting inputs into biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods were identified within the strategy, sought to initiate in 2019, supported by partly by CEPF III (CEPF Grant 103468) the implementation framework.
5	Sourcing for on-going, pro-bono, technical support for the community-managed conservation initiative.	5.2	Established technical ties to provide pro-bono technical direction into sought conservation-friendly enterprises, like eco-tourism, and to satisfy emerging technical needs by local communities at the Lam Binh site..	Completed: Technical ties and agreements to support local communities in biodiversity conservation and livelihoods development were established with Thai Nguyen University for Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF), the Center for Pant Conservation (CPC), and the Vietnam Institute of Ecology and Natural Resources (IEBR). An initial result of these agreements was seen in the participation of IEBR and CPC in field surveys and activities leading to the definition of an establishment plan to the proposed protected area. Initial work with TUAF members has included delivery of training to local communities in the areas of agriculture and home-forestry. The result from initial activities are in process of expanding and intensifying though ongoing work at the site, and through counterpart projects that include CEPF III (CEPF Grant 103468).
1	Together with local communities of the Lam Binh area, present a technical and financial case for community-based and led conservation management of the karst landscape holding the target François' Langur population.	1.1	Justification document collating information on the Lam Binh François' Langur population, state of forest, socio-economics and capacities of villagers, and community-based conservation work to date, identifying conservation management gaps and	Completed: Priority activities for sustainable conservation of the Francois Langur, its habitat, and associated species in the landscape were defined on the basis of: biodiversity survey results in sections of the proposed conservation area, a zonation system to the landscape (internal and buffer zones), and conservation needs assessments. A justification document collating information on the Lam Binh François' Langur population, state of forest, socio-economics and capacities of villagers, and community-based conservation work, identifying conservation management gaps and needs has been completed and forms the bulk of a establishment plan proposal to Tuyen Quang Province to establish the proposed community-based conservation area.

			needs.	
1	Together with local communities of the Lam Binh area, present a technical and financial case for community-based and led conservation management of the karst landscape holding the target François' Langur population.	1.2	Lam Binh landscape map measuring and categorizing the François' Langur Community-based Conservation Area, inclusive of areas in need of strict protection and rehabilitation, multiple use areas that allow sustainable extraction and proposed buffers	Completed: Boundaries to the proposed conservation area have been produced and discussed with Tuyen Quang FPD and Tuyen Quang DARD, for submission to the Tuyen Quang Provincial Peoples Committee for endorsement and approval into establishment of the protected area. These boundaries will all remain in draft form until the province has endorsed the protected area. As it stands, the geographical map to the proposed protected area includes: Internal zones (i.e. Strictly Protected—9,630 ha, Ecological Restoration—1,975 ha, Services and Administration 20 ha, Sustainable use/ Multiple use 277 ha, Habitat management 12,351), for a total of 24.252 ha. Further, two Buffer Zones have been considered; a Northwestern buffer zone of 5,920 ha and a Southwestern buffer zone of 7,160 ha.
1	Together with local communities of the Lam Binh area, present a technical and financial case for community-based and led conservation management of the karst landscape holding the target François' Langur population.	1.3	Description of institutional arrangements for community management of the François' Langur Community-based Conservation Area, inclusive of a Five-year Action plan for provision of technical support by a local NGO and monitoring by a government agency	Completed: Institutional arrangements for community-based management of which conservation value forests in the Lam Binh area were drafted and included within the establishment plan for the proposed conservation area in the Lam Binh/ Sinh Long landscape. A five-year conservation action plan for the site included measures needed to advance protection of the endangered Francois Langur and its habitat, together with other threatened species in the landscape. Elements of this plan were included in the establishment plan to the proposed conservation area, which submitted in mid-February 2019 to the Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department.
1	Together with local	1.4	Annual participatory	Completed: Annual participatory program activities in the landscape (of which this project is a component),

	communities of the Lam Binh area, present a technical and financial case for community-based and led conservation management of the karst landscape holding the target François' Langur population.		social monitoring workshops, and periodical six month reports on the results of assessment and monitoring of social monitoring and compliance with CEPF social safeguard policies..	workshops, and periodical social safeguards monitoring assessments took place as per descriptions. Although participatory safeguard assessments were conducted on a yearly basis however, at the request of local communities, continuous monitoring of possible safeguard issues was continuous and reported on a six-month basis. Results of continuous monitoring work are described within submitted safeguards reports.
2	Formal proposal for establishment of the 'François' Community-based Conservation Area' to the Tuyen Quang provincial government, for endorsement and for thereafter follow-up with community based and led conservation management activities.	2.1	On the basis from project deliverable 1.1, a 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats—SWOT assessment and strategy produced for sustainable conservation of the François' Langur and its habitat through community-based conservation measures.	Completed: The SWOT analysis was conducted as part of a Conservation Needs Assessment (CNA) exercise, and results incorporated within the Strategic Action Plan describing priority conservation measures in the landscape. The action plan was corroborated and adjusted a second time within the project timeframe to target emerging issues considered as a priority by local communities and project staff.
2	Formal proposal for establishment of the 'François' Community-	2.2	On the basis of results from deliverables 1.1 and 2.1., elements of a	Completed: The strategic action plan led to production of an Operational Management Plan framework, which were incorporated as elements of a five-year plan. All planning documents included results from the SWOT analysis, together with those of the conservation needs

	based Conservation Area' to the Tuyen Quang provincial government, for endorsement and for thereafter follow-up with community based and led conservation management activities.		five-year Operational Management Plan (OMP) produced, inclusive of management objectives and actions, conservation management funding projections and sources, and monitoring needs.	assessment, all conducted in a participatory manner with the full involvement of local community representatives, in particular members of Village Co-Management Committees (VMCs), which includes five-to-seven representatives of all target villages in the landscape (nine in the Lam Binh area).
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Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

No new tools, methods, or procedures resulted from this project.

#1 Field manual for community conservation teams (reprinted from a TRAFFIC publication that provided reprinting permission, excluding some irrelevant species and including extra information relevant to the Lam Binh/ Sinh Long conservation landscape). NOTE: this document is not subject to reprint, sharing, or distribution without prior consent by PRCF.

#2 Document "Plan to Establish the Thoug Ha-Sinh Long Nature Reserve, Lam Binh and Na Hang Districts, Tuyen Quang Province". The document uploaded is in Vietnamese, but an English version is also available. NOTE: this document is not subject to reprint, sharing, or distribution without prior consent by PRCF.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

- 
- **Close coordination with local (Commune/ District) authorities.**
Project success does not only depend on a close collaboration between project staff and local communities, but importantly coordination with commune and district authorities. This includes the continuous coordination for conservation management measures between local communities and government authorities at the various levels but particularly the local level.
 - **Thorough community involvement in all activities**
Community participation is often quoted, but participatory conservation projects need actual community involvement in all stages of a project from planning to implementation to monitoring. Only through their actual involvement in project measures can local community stakeholders feel 'project owners' and therefore bring sustainability to proposed long-term measures.
 - **Monitoring Village Forest Protection through incentives**
Programs that aim for forest protection by providing payment to local communities through conservation contracts are not effective unless such payments are made in connection to outputs, where there is an incentive basis to actually do forest conservation monitoring and protection. All such programs should include checks and balances to ensure incremental benefits in exchange for payment.
 - **Communities forest ownership is crucial for conservation measures.**
Long-term conservation measures in a landscape holding community settlements, where local people have traditionally had access to protection forests, are strengthened by providing a sense of ownership to local communities over the forests and therefore changing the perception of forests being a 'commons' resource.
 - **A priority measure is to build the capacities of the community.**
Project and program initiatives with a co-management purpose need to include long-term and dedicated measures into strengthening the capacities of local communities for biodiversity conservation and management and for supporting and increasing their livelihood resources. Strengthening local capacities is a measure of sustainability.

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

The project was able to impart to local communities a sense of belonging towards the endangered Francois Langur and its habitat. Government attitudes towards the involvement of local people in conservation also seem to be changing positively, but the challenge is now to advance on that change of attitude and convert it into action towards co-management measures. Government attitudes are not always compatible across the various provincial and national levels, and this represents a major challenge for the future.

Additional work is needed to ensure legal stewardship of target high conservation value forests by local communities, but the project has been able to establish a solid foundation for sustainable conservation of the langur by the local people communities, and therefore sustainability of the intervention has been secured.

A challenge has been sufficient time to consolidate proposed co-management initiatives in the landscape, given the level of knowledge and understanding of local communities regarding conservation management therefore needing extra time to reinforce, and the somewhat weak government interest in actual conservation governance, which will require additional work that this project was not meant to address.

Replication of measures being achieved at the project site elsewhere is always a possibility and incremental positive impact of the project. Thus far two other provinces (Gia Lai and Cao Bang) have expressed interest in pursuing measures similar to those unfolding in Tuyen Quang and open to activities furthering community-based conservation work in the form of co-management.

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

Periodical consultation and assessments

This item under the social implementation safeguard relates to:

A. regular consultation between project staff and stakeholder communities to assess socioeconomic change, difficulties, and opportunities brought by project implementation. Activities initiated early in the project given that previous work at the site had a socioeconomic development focus. Regular consultation subject to CEPF-funded activities started in late 2016, and continued throughout the project, through meetings between PRCF staff and members of Community Conservation Teams (CCTs), Village Self Help Groups (VSHGs), and Village Co-Management Committees (VMCs).

B. Periodical village meetings and consultations to learn about emerging socioeconomic issues or otherwise surfacing concerns from villagers regarding project impact. Complemented by counterpart funding, the project was able to monitor the state of socioeconomic conditions at stakeholder villages in the landscape (nine in the Lam Binh area—funded through CEPF II, and other funded by counterpart funds). Since mid-2017, monitoring was conducted mostly through members of Village Co-Management Committees (VMCs), together with PRCF staff, to measure change in the overall cultural, social, or economic standing of the village. Monitoring work targeted ten village households in each village. Households were selected as belonging to four economic categories: best-off, medium, poor, and most-at-risk.

No project-born grievances were reported/ noted during the course of project implementation.

Awareness materials

The larger program to which this CEPF II project corresponds designed several awareness materials that includes both biodiversity conservation and livelihood development themes. Awareness materials provide information on the program's objectives, present and long-term benefits to local communities and their living environment, and ways in which local communities are involved and can further participate in program goals and objectives. Because some of the program stakeholders do not read Viet language, the program brought in members of the local Youth Union (VYU members) to help

convey ideas and descriptions in posters to Hmong and Dao (mainly in the Sinh Long part of the landscape) community, such as for the Grievance/ Ideas Poster.

Community involvement

The project's community-based approach of implementation of the was a theme continuously repeated in all project stakeholder meetings. Representation from stakeholder villages, through Village Co-Management Committees (18 committees that include representatives from each village) became increasingly involved in most program workings, inclusive of monitoring outcomes and impact of the project in terms of conservation of the flagship Francois Langur and its habitat and in terms of change in local livelihood economics and village development.

Through project implementation, VMCs became increasingly involved in the management and monitoring of Community Conservation Teams (six groups of 19 members funded by counterpart funds) in charge of patrolling and monitoring Francois Langur groups and their habitat. Similarly, VMCs also became involved in livelihoods development work promoted through the Village Self-help Groups (VSHGs) (eleven at eleven villages, funded through counterpart funds) and their revolving funds schemes linked to livelihoods socio-economics and village development. The proposed Umbrella Community

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

No further comments

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$511,115.00

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

- A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B *Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*



1- "A" The McKnight Foundation. USD 100,000.

Two grants over two years (2017-2018) and overlapping with the CEPF II project timeframe. Project activities targeted areas in the same landscape as CEPF II, but embraced larger sections of the landscape. The project has concluded.

2- "A" Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF I). USD 19,195.0

One grant over one year (2016-2017) and overlapping with the CEPF II project timeframe. Project activities targeted areas in the same landscape as CEPF II, but embraced areas adjacent to those of CEPF II. The project has concluded.

3- "A" Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF III). USD 132,432.0

One grant over three years (2018-2020) and overlapping with the CEPF II project timeframe. Project activities targeted areas in the same landscape as CEPF II, but embraced areas mostly adjacent to those of CEPF II. The project is still under implementation.

4- "A" Rainforest Trust. USD 259,488.0

One grant over four years (2018-2020) and overlapping with the CEPF II project timeframe. Project activities targeted areas in the same landscape as CEPF II, but embraces larger sections of the landscape. The project is still under implementation.

5- "A" People Resources and Conservation Foundation.

The above figure of USD 511,115.0 does not include in-kind contributions by PRCF, which are estimated at USD 82,500.0 over the three years of the project.

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.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

Fernando Potess, People Resources and Conservation Foundation, 1801 Century Park East, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90067, United States. No 65A Alley 310 63 Nghi Tam Road, Tay Ho, Hanoi 124544, Vietnam. Mob: +84918415622. Em: fpotess.prc@gmail.com