

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Fauna & Flora International
Project Title:	Transitioning to Sustainable and Equitable Protected Areas for Vietnam's Primates
Grant Number:	CEPF-103485
CEPF Region:	Indo-Burma II
Strategic Direction:	4 Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas
Grant Amount:	
Project Dates:	March 01, 2018 - June 30, 2020
Date of Report:	September 01, 2020

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

List each partner and explain how they were involved with the project.

This CEPF funded project was implemented by FFI with the support of the following governmental partners in Cao Bang and Ha Giang provinces:

- 1. Cao Bang DARD: helped with all administrative procedures to obtain permission for international experts, assigned Cao Bang FPD to work with FFI, involved in the transboundary collaboration between Cao Bang province and Jingxi County in China.**
- 2. Cao Bang FPD: involved in project designing process, monitored project implementation.**
- 3. Trung Khanh district People's Committee: helped the project to engage relevant stakeholders (MAC) in PA management and decision-making process.**
- 4. Trung Khanh FPD: involved in activity planning and implementation.**
- 5. Ranger Station for Cao Vit gibbon SHCA: managed CCTs, facilitated and coordinated all activities on the ground.**
- 6. Trung Khanh MAC: advised community development activities and represented communities in managing the PA.**
- 7. Ha Giang Department of Foreign Affairs: helped obtain permissions, helped communicate between project and Ha Giang government and other relevant agencies.**
- 8. Ha Giang FPD: involved in project designing and monitored project implementation.**
- 9. Chau Ca SHCA MB: managed CCTs, and coordinated all activities on the ground.**
- 10. Quan Ba FPD: managed CCTs and coordinated all activities on the ground.**

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 results of this project were built around its five objectives and the four stated impact areas, as follows:

Biodiversity impacts: The project fully achieved its objectives for the long-term conservation of the two CR primate species, the cao vit gibbon and Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (TSNM). The TSNM population at Khau Ca (121-160) and cao vit gibbon population (124-136) at Trung Khanh appear to be stable, or possibly still increasing. The CVG have increased their occupancy and forest cover has improved also. The TSNM population at Tung Vai (~40) appears to be stable now, due to our actions, but significant challenges remain in monitoring this very wary and secretive population. The pathway towards creating a second population of the cao vit gibbon is now much clearer, as the Cao Bang government agreed to expand the existing PA by 4,390ha for the species, to the west. We have begun the work involved in systematically assessing new areas as suitable habitat or not for the cao vit gibbon. We have been continually pushing for formal protection of the remaining habitat at Tung Vai for the TSNM, whilst balancing the other priorities from the Ha Giang government. Improvement of forest management of around 40ha at the "Din Dam" area, inclusive of land use planning and afforestation, will maintain connectivity between Khau Ca and Du Gia, potentially extending the (usable) habitat for TSNM at Khau Ca to around 16,000ha.

Human well-being impacts: The project made significant strides towards more sustainable cardamom growing in Tung Vai, with a Sustainable Cardamom plan agreed locally and in place, and coupled with training on maintaining forest understory and low-impact harvesting, and the testing and provision of fuel-efficient dryers/smokers for cardamom in the forest. Alongside these, the project meets its targets for livelihood improvement, through micro-credit/provision of livestock to key households, five new bamboo and metal waterwheels, and 538 fuel-efficient cooking stoves. The MACs and CCT were also continued and the CCT expanded, to include a dedicated Gibbon Monitoring Team (GMT).

Civil society impacts: The MACs have been maintained and strengthened in TSNM SHCA and CVG SHCA, and they now provide both PA management facilitation for local people and in Trung Khanh (CVG) it is providing the governance framework to manage and oversee livelihoods components, very much functioning as a 'CSO'. Crucially, PA co-manage models, through MACs at Khau Ca and Trung Khanh, and the slightly different model in Tung Vai (SUF not designated yet), have all been operational and more stable in recent years. This model helped better manage the PAs, engaged more relevant stakeholders and representation of communities in the decision making process. The model can be appropriate for those new PAs or under development. FPIC was used for all consultations where impacts on of local people or their livelihoods were possible, including the gazettement process in Tung Vai and the 'corridor' between Khau Ca and Du Gia. Three phases of FPIC were deployed for this purpose, together with multiple rounds of consultation with households in Din Dam (Khau Ca), and alongside development and maintenance of the Grievance Redress Mechanism and the social/gender safeguard system, across all sites.

Enabling conditions impacted: Capacity building for local partners has been a key impact of this grant. CCTs at all sites are now working professionally on

forest patrolling and species monitoring. The CCT members are using smartphones (Blackview) whilst patrolling, in order to record standardised and ready-to-analyse data. PA managers use SMART reports to adjust patrol plans and forest management. A portion of the salaries for CCTs is now being paid from the Vietnam government budget in Trung Khanh and Khau Ca. This is a huge achievement of this project as it can be replicated to other sites where PFES revenues are the main income for the management of PAs throughout the country. The success of changing the CCT operation approach from just supporting law enforcement to more focusing on species monitoring (in Trung Khanh and Tung Vai) confirmed that the local governments and FPDs improved their law enforcement capacity that FFI has been supporting for more than a decade. Landuse plans and the PA feasibility process, including extensive FPIC and other consultation, have also clarified land rights for local people in the Tung Vai area. Communities support the new SUF, as long as none of the existing cardamom areas are taken away. Sustainable financing plans for protected areas/business plans have been developed for two species, Cao Vit gibbon and TSNM. The multiple income streams were identified and external donors were still considered important at this stage for these two CR species. The successful conservation approach of FFI at Khau Ca and Trung Khanh, including CCT model, MAC, species monitoring, sustainable livelihood development were recently introduced to the conservation of Delacour's langur in Kim Bang of Ha Nam province and grey shanked douc langur in Kon Plong of Kon Tum province.

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

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Biodiversity impact: • TSNM habitat (area) secured: Around 5,000ha of rare and critically important TSNM habitat protected from further encroachment and degradation (achieved by Y2/Q3); • TSNM habitat (area) availability: Pending results of the feasibility and risk assessments for a habitat corridor, up to 11,795ha of additional TSNM habitat (previously Du Gia Nature Reserve) made available (Y2/Q2); • TSNM populations (number of primates / census data): (i) Khau Ca area population maintained at 2017 levels (at least 120 individuals); (ii) Tung Vai area population stabilised and increased by 25% from 2017 levels (to at least 25 individuals) (Y3/Q2); • TSNM protection (illegal actions / SMART data): (i) Direct threats (hunting) maintained at a zero offtake rate for both sites; (ii) Indirect threats (logging) reduced by 75% for both sites (Y3/Q2); • CVG habitat (area): Maintained at 2017 levels (Y3/Q2); • CVG population (number of primates / census data): Maintained at 2017 levels (at least 130 individuals) (Y3/Q2); • CVG protection (illegal actions / SMART data): (i) Direct threats (hunting) maintained at a zero offtake rate; (ii) Indirect threats (grazing) reduced by 60% (Y3/Q2)</p>	<p>• TSNM habitat: Secured 2,024ha at Khau Ca and 4,267ha at Tung Vai. • TSNM habitat availability: Identified 65ha at Din Dam area to create habitat corridor; core 40ha already planned. FFI will follow up this intervention that latter will extend habitat to Du Gia (14,068ha). The project received support from local communities & authorities to maximize the current and potential habitat for TSNM. • TSNM populations: The project confirms these populations are secure and appear to be increasing, at least in Khau Ca. Recent data from CCT suggest there are around 40 individuals in Tung Vai and survey in June 2019 estimate 121-160 in Khau Ca. • TSNM protection: The project supports CCTs patrol forest and monitor these two populations on a monthly basis using SMART. No signs of hunting were reported. • CVG habitat: Well protected 1,656.8ha. Extension to the east 4,389.2ha is underway. Planted more than 4,000 native food trees and assisted natural restoration about 40ha. • CVG population: Gibbon census in 2018 estimated ca. 130 individuals; indicated a stable or increasing population. • CVG protection: The project supports species monitoring on a monthly basis, SMART report produced. Gibbons are being heard/encountered, no major threats to gibbon and its habitat were recorded.</p>

<p>Human well-being impact: • Livelihoods: No net loss of essential and/or legal livelihoods against socio-economic baselines and safeguard/indicators, for around 1,500 women and 1,500 men across the three sites (plus measurable benefits, as below) (achieved by Y3/Q2 and ongoing) • Waterwheels - At least two new waterwheels constructed in Trung Khanh. Target beneficiaries approximately 75-125 women and 75-125 men with each wheel positively affecting at least 50% of two target villages (Y2/Q4) • Cardamom (and/or related medical or other cash crops) revenue (up by ~25%) and sustainability (through observable zero-deforestation) increased against the baseline(s) and measured through GIS mapping and SMART. Target beneficiaries approximately 500-750 women and 500-750 men across five target villages in Quan Ba (Y3/Q1) • Maintenance of critical ecosystem services related to conservation of local forests and watersheds, including provisioning of water/irrigation, medical plants, pollination services, and so forth, measured by FPIC/social baselines and safeguard/social monitoring (Y3/Q2)</p>	<p>• Livelihoods: Total indirect beneficiaries 28,844 / total direct 2,700-3,000. In Trung Khanh, the 3 Common Interest Groups / saving & loans with 80 members (+\$16,700 fco-funds) have been successful. From other fundings, project supported 15 large-scale sustainable livelihood models and will support additional 9 households to raise cows. At Khu Ca, project introduced cooking stoves 308 households and received positive feedback from farmers. The project established 3 CIGs at Tung Vai and 1 at Khu Ca, with \$9,500. Project also introduced 230 cooking stoves to Tung Vai (PY2). • Waterwheels: The project replaced five wooden waterwheels with metal waterwheels in Trung Khanh. • Cardamom: Strategic action plan for sustainable cardamom cultivation for communities in Tung Vai developed (PY1). Piloted 10 fuel-efficient woodstoves to save firewood for drying cardamom (saved 61.3% firewood and 54% time) for approx.100 HHs, plus training for 118 farmer HHs on sustainable cardamom growing/harvesting methods (PY1); additional 60 woodstoves installed in 2020. • Maintenance of critical ecosystem services: FPIC reports/updated social data, safeguard reports and a grievance for local/impacted communities were developed, monthly received reports from CGRB, attended quarterly meetings</p>
<p>Civil society impact: • PA Management Advisory Committee (collaborative management) established in Tung Vai / Bat Dai Son NR (achieved by Y2/Q2) • PA Management Advisory Committees in the SHCAs (CVG and TSNM-Khu Ca) maintained and full handover to local stakeholders at both sites (Y2/Q4) • FPIC used and established as the 'norm' for project design, and combined with development of a long-term a grievances redress mechanism for (these) protected areas (Y1/Q4) • Safeguards monitoring and grievance mechanism developed (and maintained) for all sites – see also 'livelihoods', above (Human Well-being Impacts) (Y1/Q4)</p>	<p>• Forest Committee "MAC" Tung Vai: Slightly different model from PA co-management MACs at Trung Khanh and Khu Ca. The Tung Vai protection forest management committee maintained its role of representing local communities' in managing Tung Vai forest and in process of developing the feasibility study to establish Tung Vai special-use forest. This will be legalized as a MAC for once PA established. • PA MAC Khu Ca: Currently operating smoothly, in collaboration with the Ha Giang FPD to manage the Khu Ca SHCA. The management board of Du Gia Dong Van NP hasn't yet established, therefore this MAC is therefore still just to support Khu Ca. • PA MAC Trung Khanh: Is well organized and effective via its involvement in supporting law enforcement, transboundary cooperation and supporting livelihood development. • FPIC: The project conducted a third FPIC process in Tung Vai and Khu Ca; created Grievance Mechanism and Reception Boards. There is widespread agreement for upgrading Tung Vai to a Special Use forest (PA). Monthly receiving reports from Community Grievance Reception Boards and attended quarterly meetings • Safeguard monitoring and a grievance mechanism: Safeguard monitoring reports at all sites and a grievance mechanism at Khu Ca and Tung Vai were created.</p>
<p>Enabling conditions: • Continuation and improvement to both PA MACs (see above) and transboundary conservation actions (with China) under two jurisdictional, sub-national MoUs (achieved by Y1/Q3 and thereafter) • Clarification of land use and land use rights (Tung Vai) (Y1/Q3) • Sustainable financing plans for protected areas (Y2/Q1) • Revision of protected area management plans, to include expansion and/or corridor feasibility and management advice (Y1/Q4) • Improvements to PA law enforcement and biological monitoring (rangers and community conservation teams) (Y1/Q3)</p>	<p>• Continuation and improvement to both PA MACs: The project continued to facilitate the operation of MACs and build their capacity on co-management of PAs by attending their quarterly meetings in both Khu Ca and Trung Khanh. The MoU between Cao Bang and Guangxi is still valid until January 2020. Cao Bang PPC signed another long-term MoU with Jinxi City in March 2019. MoU between Quan Ba and Malipo was considered not necessary by partners in Ha Giang. • Clarification of land use and land use rights (Tung Vai): Participatory land use mapping, participatory resource use mapping, and participatory habitat zoning approaches were applied in the process of developing a feasibility study to upgrade Tung Vai forest to a SUF. • Sustainable financing: Two financing plans have been produced. PFES part-covered of salaries for CCTs in Khu Ca & Trung Khanh; significant improvement in gov't buy-in & sustainability • Revision of protected area management plans: Delayed due to the Ha</p>

	<p>Giang government's slow process of establishing a new management board for Du Gia Dong Van NP and upgrading Tung Vai to a SUF. • Improvements to PA law enforcement and biological monitoring: Smartphones (BlackView) are using by CCTs, applied SMART at all sites, and developed an incentive mechanism for CCTs.</p>
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Describe the successes or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The overall goal of the project has been achieved. The Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (CR) in Ha Giang and Cao Vit gibbon (CR) in Cao Bang are safeguarded by (more) robust protected areas and the conservation actions therein. The project has made significant progress in improving the financial and overall sustainability of the PAs. Capacity has been improved for species monitoring, forest protection and PA management; engagement and landuse planning have been robust, and inclusive of FPIC; and financing has been addressed for the first time. There remains here a role for civil society, however, and it was not the stated aim that FFI would entirely 'exit' these landscapes, but instead there has been progressed. Both the existing SUFs have state funding secured and both provinces have agreed to expand and/or upgrade the two existing SUFs to a National Park (Gu Dia) and a Nature Reserve (CVG/Trung Khanh) respectively. It has been a long and complex process (as described later) but FFI is confident that the great progress made in Tung Vai will also, soon, lead to gazettal. Moreover, Payment for Forest Ecosystem Services, or PFES, payments are part-funding the community patrol teams in the existing SUFs, and in the CVG SHCA the amount has increased. State budgets are confirmed, PFES has somewhat increased and the private sector has been engaged for the first time, regarding CSR, tourism development, corporate funded awareness raising and sustainable supply chains/commodities. In achieving the project goal, the project has further embedded primate (biodiversity) conservation into local behaviours, governmental plans and management regimes, as below. The project has successfully achieved all outputs, securing the long-term conservation of the two priority (primate) species (of the 20 species listed in the Portfolio). Furthermore, under these key, umbrella species the project supported the conservation of countless others, including EN/CR or endemic trees/flora, herpetofauna and avifauna. Through training, better oversight and new equipment the protection and law enforcement in Khau Ca SHCA has improved, and the project and continues to work towards the operationalising of Du Gia NP. Moreover, the essential, connecting forest between Khau Ca and Du Gia has been preserved and efforts are underway repairing any damage already done, through local tree planting and the empowerment of the households living inside the SHCA. MACs have been maintained at all sites, as have the Community Conservation Teams (CCT), meaning the community(s) continue have both a voice and benefit from the PAs, while transboundary collaboration (CVG) has been strengthened with renewed and higher level commitments form both governments. A new Gibbon Monitoring Team and monitoring system has been developed for the CVG too, and the results have already been very positive and encouraging. From this FFI are also in the process to develop a permanent, student-lead research programme in the SHCA. Aside from the delayed process of establishing Tung Vai as a SUF, the population of TSNM at Tung Vai appears to have stabilized at around 40 individuals (it previously seemed to be in somewhat of a decline – although accurate figures for this small and timid population are difficult to confirm), the population at Khau Ca

increased (121 - 160 individuals estimated, 2019), the population of cao vit gibbon potentially increased (ca. 130 individuals estimated, 2018). The CVG and TSNM, other species, have benefited via the implementation of improved, smart-phone based SMART and Cybertracker in law enforcement and monitoring; reduced demand on firewood for daily cooking and also cardamom drying, through purpose-designed and build dyers in Tung Vai; ongoing and more sophisticated livelihood interventions; and the facilitation of co-management and transboundary management. The management capacity of both Khau Ca and Trung Khanh has increased (METT scores have increased, and SMART patrols are more numerous and effective). It is confirmation of an appropriate conservation approach, which continues to be applied at Tung Vai Forest, Khau Ca SHCA, and Trung Khanh SHCA, which has resulted in positive project impacts, for the short and the long-term.

Another positive has been a marked increase in the attention and support provided to the project in Ha Giang (TSNM) by the Provincial People's Committee (PPC), via the Department of Foreign Affairs. The project regards this a very important indication of changing attitudes, and new political will (for conservation) not least / in part due to the efforts of the FFI project over 20 years and long-time CEPF support. This change is in part related to the Don Van Karst Plateau Geopark and a drive towards more tourism revenue, but the government appears mindful and interested in the conservation of the TSNM, noting that its very existence now depends on Ha Giang. However, Ha Giang DARD/FPD have been very delayed in establishing management board for Du Gia Dong Van NP and there has been slow decision-making around the potential Tung Vai SUF; delays which have somewhat increased the size of the challenge of conserving these two sites. In Cao Bang, despite agreement and steps towards expansion of the SHCA, and possibly upgrading to a NR, the DARD/PPC remain as yet unwilling to establish a full Management Board for the SUF (due to the cost and other financial implications). The capacity of law enforcement from local partners is still relatively weak (although slowly increasing despite low salaries & weak oversight) in terms of ranger personnel, leading to the situation that project has to keep supporting protection interventions, to the detriment of existing or potential conservation interventions.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

During the implementation of this project, there were no major unexpected impacts, either positive nor negative. However, at Trung Khanh, from early 2020 there was a lack of involvement of border police in forest patrol, partly as a result of Covid-19. This sometimes created difficulties for CCTs during patrols near the border area with China, meaning that patrols needed to stay a short distance away from the border. Covid-19 did also cause some delays to other activities, including the gazettelement of Tung Vai, as having finished the technical work/feasibility process (and documentation) their process is largely about consultation and advocacy, and yet meetings and workshops could not take place for some months. Transboundary cooperation (CVG) with China has also largely been impossible for most of 2020, although this is just a temporary hiatus.

With primary-funding from CEPF and co-funding from the Arcus Foundation, the project established a Gibbon Monitoring Team (6 local people) in Trung Khanh. This is a new intervention that will help the project conduct vital research on

gibbon habitat requirements, which will feed into future conservation planning for the species - see box below.

The agreement of Cao Bang government to extend Trung Khanh SHCA to the west brings a great opportunity to establish a second population in the future. While there is still a narrow 'corridor' of habitat connectivity, right on the border with China, the ecology of gibbons means that translocation into the CVG SHCA extension area will likely be needed (although natural expansion in occupancy might eventually drive some gibbons to cross the corridor of their own volition). Moreover, the project has been simultaneously researching options for establishing CVG in the second forest and/or PA, which would, in fact, be the third population. So far, FFI is using existing grey and published literature and our current data to understand CVG habitat requirements (tree cover, canopy density and food availability), coupled with the area, topography and estimation of threats, to undertake a desk-based, the first iteration of the possible translocation (release) sites. FFI's 5-year vision for the CVG is to have the second population established in the newly expanded SHCA, in Trung Khanh, and be well into the process to establishing the second site (third population) via scoping, ground-truthing, data collection, feasibility assessments and lobbying.

In Tung Vai, local farmers have reported that some are 'leaving' their cardamon fields because of its low(er) yields in recent years, which may help the recovery of areas that have been degraded by this form of cultivation. We are working to put in place a robust set of land use plans, zonation and PA boundary (demarcated) such that an upswing in the market would not easily lead to re-clearance and cultivation inside the new SUF.

Capacity among PA managers and rangers is improving, but it is slow, and low salaries, non-existent incentives and poor oversight remain serious constraints, and these small SHCAs have all but no operational budget, aside from staff budgets and PFES (and FFI) financial support. FFI continues to work on all aspects - to improved high-level engagement, build capacity and moral, improve PA governance and secure additional, sustainable finance.

PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Improve the long term protection of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai Protection Forest, through gazettelement of a new protected area (Special Use Forest) and sustainable cardamom production	1.1	Justification document or feasibility study for upgrading Tung Vai to an SUF (PA); collating information on the TSNM population, state of forest cover/landscape, social and economic context and capacities of local stakeholders and identification of needs	The project has completed all biodiversity surveys, participatory land use mapping (PLUM), participatory resource use mapping (PRUP), participatory boundary zoning, updated socioeconomic status, conducted FPIC process, and organized a provincial level consultation workshop during first quarter. The project latter during the following quarters has updated the technical reports including social economic and biodiversity assessment reports to complete the feasibility study document. On 29th October 2019 project organized a multi-stakeholders workshop in Ha Giang to review conservation outcomes and plan for Tung Vai SUF development. One of the important recommendations from the workshop that the proposed area for the SUF can be added around 1,000ha from protection forest. It therefore needs to re-conduct participatory boundary zoning. The project planned to complete this task during 1st quarter of 2020 but because of the Covid-19 pandemic it was delayed until June 2020. The project hired two national consultants to complete this task and under on-going. The final feasibility study has not yet finalized. The project will organize another multi-stakeholders meeting at the provincial level to finalize and submit it for approval during the last 4th quarter of 2020.
1	Improve the long term protection of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai Protection Forest, through gazettelement of a new protected area (Special Use Forest) and sustainable cardamom production	1.2	Land use plan (zoning) for the new SUF and surrounding landscape / buffer zone, including degraded forest and fields including specific areas designated for cardamom cultivation.	The project had completed the participatory zoning for the new SUF in Tung Vai in 2018. Later in 2019, however, it was recommended by DARD/FPD that FFI could seek (as we wanted) to revise and add more protection forest to the proposed SUF (described in Action 1.1 above). Additional field work planned by FFI was then implemented by external consultants, and supported in the field by FFI, in May-June 2020 (after the first Covid-19 'lockdown' had eased). This revised PA zoning and boundary for the new SUF, or more likely as an extension (new section) to existing Bat Dai Son NR (also in Quan Ba District) now needs to be finalised by a provincial level multi-stakeholders workshop which is planned in quarter 4th of 2020, pending the current/second outbreak of the Covid-19 virus in Vietnam.

1	Improve the long term protection of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai Protection Forest, through gazettelement of a new protected area (Special Use Forest) and sustainable cardamom production	1.3	Draft SUF (SHCA or Nature Reserve) Operational Management Plan for Tung Vai, and/or updated for Bat Dai Son NR	The project had to slow down and ultimately pause the completion of the Operational Management Plan (now referred to as the Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) under the Forestry Law of 2019). In principle, the SFMP will only be developed after the establishment of the new SUF, in another words it the responsibility and legal requirement of forest owners, in this case PA managers, to produce the SFMP. The provincial partner, FPD, agreed with the project that this SFMP can be developed along with the development of the feasibility study so our documents do contain sections of a draft management plan. However, because the feasibility study or 'technical proposal for establishing the SUF' has not yet finalised by multi-stakeholders and signed off by the PPC, therefore this deliverable is still in draft and under the process of being finalised.
1	Improve the long term protection of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai Protection Forest, through gazettelement of a new protected area (Special Use Forest) and sustainable cardamom production	1.4	Tung Vai Forest landscape map measuring and categorizing the entire forest area proposed for the TSNM SHCA, including areas in need of strict protection and corridor rehabilitation , areas of sustained cardamom cultivation activities, and buffer areas.	The project had completed the habitat and land use zoning process and developed a corresponding landscape map of the Tung Vai forest landscape, including critical habitat areas, suggested zoning and PA boundary options (Deliverable 1.2 above) which suggested the area of a new Tung Vai SUF is 3,267.8ha in which the strict protection zone is 2,141.9ha and rehabilitation zone is 1,125.9ha. However, as recommended at the provincial consultation workshop in October 2019 with the intention to allocate additional 1,000ha of watershed protection forest to the proposed Tung Vai SUF, the project had to re-conduct participatory boundary zoning but this mission was delayed until June 2020. To date, the project is waiting for the result from external consultants and will organise another provincial level consultation workshop to further discuss and finalise the zoning. To avoid future conflict in land use between local communities and new SUF, the project was aware of this significant important and therefore the project will keep facilitating the process using co-funding from other sources.
1	Improve the long term protection of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai Protection Forest, through	1.5	A strategic action plan for higher yielding and higher value cardamom (linked to a business	During project year 1 the project has already developed the 'sustainable strategic plan to mitigate the impact of cardamom cultivation on TSNM habitat in Tung Vai forest'. The project organized a study tour for three local farmers to Sa Pa to learn about various models of 'fuel efficient' stoves used in other provinces. The project also organized four training courses for 118 local

	gazettement of a new protected area (Special Use Forest) and sustainable cardamom production		plan – Objective 3), to include exploration of seed varieties; added value from certification; market chain analysis and system development and private investment	farmers on sustainable cardamom planting and cultivation, including maintaining natural ground cover, less destructive spacing, seed selection and varieties. Adjusting the drying stove model from Sa Pa to the most save energy, the project then financially and technically supported local farmers in Quan Ba to build 10 efficient stoves to reduce the demand of firewood for drying cardamom. This testing stoves show the results that local farmers can save 61.3% firewood and 54% time of drying in comparison to traditional drying stove. This success was highly appreciated by cardamom farmers and therefore from co-funding sources the project is building 60 additional efficient stoves for cardamom drying in Tung Vai. In June 2020 the project conducted market chain analysis as part of the strategic plan for 'sustainable/forest protection friendly cardamom' products, for certification which is on-going.
1	Improve the long term protection of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai Protection Forest, through gazettement of a new protected area (Special Use Forest) and sustainable cardamom production	1.6	Provincial Decision (ordinance) stated that Tung Vai PF has been established (gazetted) as an SUF (SHCA or extension to Bat Dai Son Nature Reserve).	Establishing a new SUF is a long process. The proposed SUF must be stated in the provincial three types of forest plan. Considering the importance of upgrade Tung Vai watershed protection forest a SUF in order to apply more strict protection legislation, the project raised this matter to the partner FPD and Ha Giang government. In 2018 the Ha Giang FPD led on the reviewing three types of forest to adjust the plan for three types of forest in Ha Giang for the period 2016 – 2015 with provision to 2030. The Ha Giang government on 30 June 2018 issued Decision No. 1619/QD-UBND to approve the plan adjustment. This adjustment changed the area of SUF in Quan Ba from 4,531ha (current area of Bat Dai Son NR) to 7,101.9ha to include 2,570.9ha of Tung Vai watershed protection forest. This is the fundamental legal basis for the proposed Tung Vai SUF zoning process. It doesn't mean the area for Tung Vai SUF has to be exact 2,570.9ha. It can be suggested more or less depending on the consultation with local stakeholders and the final decision of Ha Giang government.
2	Increase protection and availability of habitat for TSNM at Khau Ca SHCA (and Du Gia NP if possible).	2.1	An updated operational management and zoning plan for a combined SHCA (Khau Ca) and Du Gia - Dong	Until June 2020 the management board (MB) for the Du Gia – Dong Van Plateau NP has not been established. The current MB of Du Gia NR has five members (1 Vice-director, 1 accountant, 1 admin and 2 technical staff) to manage the NR. Law enforcement task is under a separate FPD office called 'Du Gia SUF ranger station' with 10 rangers being in charge of law enforcement for Du Gia NR, Bac Me NR, and Khau Ca SHCA. As reported in the

			Van NP, including a management board capacity building plan, based on results (lessons) from previous conservation initiatives	progress reports, the project has held several formal and informal meetings with Ha Giang FPD and the MB of Du Gia NR to discuss the needs of an updated operational management and zoning plan (now referred to as Sustainable Forest Management Plan - SFMP) once the new MB of the NP is established. Both the project and partners were ready for this process but had to wait for the Du Gia - Dong Van NP MB established. The most recent updates is that the Ha Giang government has no plan to establish the new MB this year. The project therefore could not help or facilitate the revision of old OMP to a new SFMP. The recommendation is now that FFI raises this matter to Ha Giang government to establish the MB as soon as possible to secure and improve management of the critical important habitat for TSNM, the Khau Ca – Du Gia.
2	Increase protection and availability of habitat for TSNM at Khau Ca SHCA (and Du Gia NP if possible).	2.2	A habitat corridor (Khau Ca-Du Gia) risk assessment, produced in cooperation with the Primate Working Group (Vietnam) and IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, inclusive of zoning, short-term and long-term objectives and actions to create a green corridor	The potential area to make forest habitat Khau Ca – Du Gia continuity is not in the boundary between Khau Ca - Du Gia, but the area of Khau Ca SHCA. The project conducted surveys on the potential 'corridor' by drone and by rapid field observation of forest quality, corridors and threats, conducted consultation and FPIC meetings with two villages living adjacent to this corridor, conducted visits to this area, organised consultations and discussions with these five households on options to improve their livelihood through potential involvement in forest monitoring, land-use zoning & forest restoration/protection. The project and its partners considered the most challenging to be the five H'Mong households living and two Dzaio households farming in this area. Creating a green corridor may affect their livelihoods, but forest-garden models and alternative crops were considered the best options. In Feb 2020, two livelihood experts (FFI UK/VN staff) visited the area and helped develop a livelihood development plan that underpins corridor development. The project set up a community development loan fund for these five households with support from the village head (group leader). The project planned first disbursement of \$2,000 and more in the following years depending on its success.
2	Increase protection and availability of habitat for TSNM at Khau Ca SHCA (and	2.4	Guidance document developed for the habitat corridor - a set of	Since 2019 local partners agreed with the project to force two urgent intervention (1) stopping the cultivation of cassava (in the forest) and allowing these degraded areas to recover naturally. As results, all farmers from Khuon Pha village who are cultivating cassava illegally, without land tenure (red books) in this area (within the SUF) agreed

	Du Gia NP if possible).		proposed management actions for the potential corridor area.	with FPD and left the area after harvesting; and (2) improving forest governance (including monitoring) within the 'corridor' area. The Khau Ca SHCA MB agreed with the project and mobilised CCT to regular patrol this area at least 3 times per month. Two Dao households also left the area. Further details of actions were suggested for the corridor creation and sustainable livelihood for the five H'Mong households, including: plant trees at 25ha bare land, apply assisted natural rehabilitation at 40ha degraded habitat; allocate 10ha bare land for agriculture crops, allocate 4-5ha for livestock grazing, and 2ha to grow elephant grass. The project will work with local partners and these five households to step-by-step implement the plan.
2	Increase protection and availability of habitat for TSNM at Khau Ca SHCA (and Du Gia NP if possible).	2.5	Advisory document on 'adjusted' Khau Ca / Du Gia Management Board structure/membership in accordance with new Du Gia – Dong Van NP, on the basis of conservation success of existing MAC at Khau Ca and needs of the TSNM (at Khau Ca).	As described above [Deliverable 2.1], until June 2020 the MB of Du Gia – Dong Van NP has not yet established. The MB of Kha Ca SHCA is under Ha Giang FPD and MB of Du Gia NR is under Ha Giang DARD. Ha Giang government has no plan to establish MB of Du Gia – Dong Van NP this year. Although the idea of adjusting management structure of Khau Ca / Du Gia in accordance with new Du Gia – Dong Van NP has been discussed at several quarterly MAC meetings [bi-annual MAC meeting on 26th June 2019 and recently bi-annual MAC meeting on 19th June 2020], the remaining existing MAC Khau Ca was strongly suggested by MB of Khau Ca SHCA and members of Khau Ca MAC. The main reason for this is because Kha Ca MAC is paying an important role in supporting MB manages Khau Ca SHCA. It was also suggested that a separate MAC for Du Gia should be established to promote collaborative management at Du Gia while waiting for the decision of Ha Giang government to establish MB for Du Gia – Dong Van NP.
2	Increase protection and availability of habitat for TSNM at Khau Ca SHCA (and Du Gia NP if possible).	2.3	Feasibility study for the habitat corridor, including reforestation / assisted natural regeneration, land use planning for approx. five farms (within the corridor)	In 2019 FFI consultants first proposed for a large 'corridor' of 1,040 ha, of which forestry land is about 632.21 ha, accounting for 60.79%, the rest is agricultural land and a small non-agricultural part. Considering this unrealistic and may create huge impacts on local livelihood, based on several reports, FFI staff re-assessed/proposed a smaller area of around 400-500ha for key forest connectivity. In June 2020 FFI conducted a detailed habitat assessment and land use planning with five households in this area. It suggested 25ha bare land must be planted trees to restore habitat and another 40ha on-going natural rehabilitation should be apply assisted natural rehabilitation intervention

			and compensation options for any reduction in access or yield.	to faster habitat recovery. From co-funding, the project established a nursery at Tung Ba village (Khou Ca) and is nursing 2,000 seedlings of Nghien tree (<i>Burretiodendron hsienmu</i>), one of the main food species of TSNM at Khou Ca. The corridor creation activities and management latter will involve these five households as an alternative option that benefits directly to their livelihood. And, also, the project created a community development fund loan to help livelihood development for these five households. The two Dao households used to farm in this area have agreed with FPD and left the area.
3	Maintain collaborative PA management and community-based forest protection, and have increased revenue from diversified sources of income	3.1	Landscape level, PA business plans - for all three sites - designed to bring about financial sustainability and risk reduction through identification of multiple incomes streams.	The business or sustainable finance plans have been developed for the two species, Cao Vit gibbon and TSNM and their respective landscapes. Multiple income streams were identified, including existing state funds, greater potential for PFES (including carbon), REDD+ (albeit limited), Vietnamese CSR, and private engaging/investment in tourism & commodities. External donors were still considered important at this stage for these two CR primates. The project still considered the success of the CCT model at all three sites an important intervention that fill-in the gaps of weak law enforcement capacity of local partners. Therefore the project has been trying to convince local partners to adopt this model using PFES revenue to cover salary. The CCTs at Trung Khanh and Khou is being paid [small portion] from PFES revenue. For two sites Khou Ca and Trung Khanh, the PFES revenue is not much if consider this as a main financial source [Khou Ca receives about less than \$10,000 and Trung Khanh receives around \$1,000 per year]. For Tung Vai, [around \$100,000 per year], it has more potential but it is now paying to all community members equally for community development and forest protection purpose. This payment mechanism should be revised to reflect forest protection performance/monitoring.
3	Maintain collaborative PA management and community-based forest protection, and have increased revenue from diversified	3.2	PFES report which defines activities in need of financing and prospects for using payment for forest environment	Of around \$1,000 from PFES per year to cover a small portion of salaries for CCTs in Trung Khanh [VND200,000 per month] accounts for only 6.6% of current CCT's salaries. Only if the Trung Khanh SHCA expansion to the west is approved, the new Trung Khanh NR will include the Quay Son river basin and will add more PFES revenue to the NR and therefore the more sustainable finance sources for the CCT model can be more secured. The PFES model at Khou Ca is slightly difference, based on the reality of PFES revenue each year, the MB of

	sources of income		al services (to pay for them), inclusive of recommendations on frameworks, required monitoring and a result-based benefit sharing mechanism.	Khau Ca SHCA makes one payment for CCT members and it was considered a contribution from governmental source to CCT's salaries. It was about VND10 million per CCT member per year, previous years accounted for 30% but in 2019 accounted for 20% as salaries increased last year. The PFES payment mechanism at Khau Ca should be legalised to include PFES revenue of Du Gia as a whole but it must be built in the OMP or now the SFMP which was delayed due to MB of Du Gia – Dong Van NP has not yet established. The Tung Vai forest generates much higher PFES revenue than Khau Ca and Trung Khanh do. This is managed by Quan Ba district management board for forest protection and development fund. The fund was disbursed to all households through forest protection contracts.
3	Maintain collaborative PA management and community-based forest protection, and have increased revenue from diversified sources of income	3.3	Design of improved livelihoods models/financing mechanism(s), introduced to Tung Vai and Khau Ca, based upon successful livelihood development models in Trung Khanh, and inclusive of micro-finance (or similar) schemes / arrangements.	FFI, through other grants and previous CEPF grants, has been supporting micro-finance model in Trung Khanh and achieved successful results. The Common Interest Groups at three communes around Trung Khanh are now operating with further technical and financial support from the project. In addition to this, 15 large scale livelihood models received support from the project [\$7,500 co-funding] and 9 households will soon receive financial support to raise cows [about \$6,500 co-funding]. Learning experience from the model in Trung Khanh, the project has supported Khau Ca SHCA creates a micro-finance at Khuon Pha village which allows five H'Mong households at Din Dam area access this fund for their livelihood development. Similarly, the project worked with Quan Ba FPD to set up three Common Interest Groups in Tung Vai. This model is similar to the existing model in Trung Khanh where members not only borrow money from the fund, they also support each other and share experiences of success and lessons learned to group members. From other funding sources, the project supported \$9,500 to four groups at Khau Ca and Quan Ba. In the coming years, FFI will provide more financial support to these groups and scale up to other communities, depending on its success.
3	Maintain collaborative PA management and community-based forest	3.4	Report, with supporting budget and evidence/materials, which details the provision and	Continuing the success of the previous CEPF grant and livelihood development models in Trung Khanh, the project continued to help the Trung Khanh Common Interest Groups (CIG) of three communes with ongoing technical support, facilitation and review. In early 2019 the CIGs recalled (paid back) all the initial loans and then a subsequent round of

	protection, and have increased revenue from diversified sources of income		impact of additional (i.e. continuing from the previous CEPF grant), performance -based livelihood support in Trung Khanh	loans and investment was made, mostly in expanding their livestock. Large scale livelihood models were selected by CIG themselves and the project provided an additional \$US7,500 from co-funding [reported in Deliverable 3.3]. The project supported 14 households to pilot organic lemongrass production with 2ha [invested \$2,000 to purchase seedlings]. About \$6,500 [reported in Deliverable 3.3] is being invested in 9 households to raise cows. With the purpose of improving multiple livelihood incomes, the project is building two community nurseries to help produce fruit tree seedlings for communities, and also if possible and based on the need for habitat restoration for the Cai Vit gibbon, to produce food species seedlings for restoration.
4	Three Protected Areas have improved internal management structures and formalized external coordination	4.1	On the basis of MAC assessment results, from the previous CEPF grant, revised operational regulations and membership of MACs at Tung Vai and Chau Ca produced - these must comply with new SUF (Tung Vai) and NP (TSNM SHCA subsumed into Du Gia NP) structures	It was difficult for the project to convince partners in Quan Ba to revise the operational and membership of MAC at Tung Vai. The MAC at Tung Vai was formed as a requirement of implementing the species conservation action plan at Tung Vai (TSNM and Magnolia) during the previous CEPF grant. This MAC is still playing an important role in managing the Tung Vai forest. The project on 13th February 2020 organised a workshop for MAC at Tung Vai to review regulations and its membership. The members of MAC strongly suggested remaining this MAC with 16 members. Its members remain as follows: Director of Quan Ba FPD – Chairman; Project Manager of FFI in Ha Giang – Technical Advisor; Chairmen of three communes – Vice-chairs of MAC; members are representatives from Tung Vai Border police station, district police, district agricultural Unit, Agricultural Extension, and representatives of 7 villages around Tung Vai forest. The MAC at Chau Ca remains the same [reported in Deliverable 2.5] as it depends on the establishment of new MB for Du Gia – Dong Van NP.
4	Three Protected Areas have improved internal management structures and formalized external coordination	4.2	Study tour (south-south learning exchange) report	The project, in collaboration with the hoolock gibbon conservation project in Myanmar successfully organised two south-south learning exchange visits. The first visit was for three representatives of Trung Khanh SHCA and three project staff to Myanmar to learn and exchange experiences with the hoolock gibbon conservation project and its partners from 13th to 19 May 2019. The second visit was for a delegation 7 representatives from Myanmar hoolock gibbon

				conservation project to visit the Cao Vit gibbon conservation project in Trung Khanh from 3rd to 8th June 2019. The study tours were regarded by all as being extremely useful, eye-opening and motivating. The most significant change after the visit to Myanmar was that the partners in Trung Khanh were interested in and considered the importance of species monitoring to deeper understand gibbon ecology to improve conservation intervention planning. The project supported Trung Khanh SHCA recruit 6 local people and provided trainings on gibbon monitoring. This intervention is on-going with financial support by co-funding.
4	Three Protected Areas have improved internal management structures and formalized external coordination	4.3	Transboundary agreements - Improved transboundary cooperation at Trung Khanh and Tung Vai sites, inclusive of management agreements signed between Cao Bang of Viet Nam and Guangxi of China, and Quan Ba of Vietnam and Malipo of China.	It was proposed that it needs to have the transboundary collaboration for TSNM in Tung Vai via the formal transboundary agreements between Quan Ba of Viet Nam and Malifo of China governments. In early 2019, the project had several discussions with partners in Ha Giang and it was clear that there is no need or desire for transboundary cooperation between Quan Ba and Malifo because there is no forest on the China side. In addition, before 2015 it was reported some cases that the people from China crossed the boundary to extract timbers and mini bonsai trees. This issue was solved by the border police between two sides. The transboundary agreements between Cao Bang and Guangxi were (re)signed in January 2018 for the term of two years until January 2020. In March 2019 Cao Bang government and Jingxi City signed a new long-term umbrella MoU which also includes the transboundary cooperation on Cao Vit gibbon conservation between two sides. This confirms there is no need to sign a separate MoU on transboundary cooperation for Cao Vit gibbon conservation.
5	Community based forest monitoring and law enforcement efforts have improved operational capacity, including new technologies and performance-	5.1	PA SMART reports and maps, for each of the sites, showing regularly updated biodiversity and illegal activity 'hotspots'.	Under this project, FFI has made great effort to improve CCT's working performance at all three sites, i.e. recruited a CCT/SMART Coordinator, provided SMART refresher trainings, and equipped smartphones (Blackview) to all CCTs. The regular monthly CCT meeting with the involvement of the Coordinator improved the quality of patrol. With the data/information collected during the patrol, every month the project produced monthly SMART report which shows patrol efforts of CCTs, human impacts on forest habitat (threats), records of flagship species and wildlife. The monthly SMART report was used to discuss at the monthly meeting to adjust the coming month patrol and forest

	based incentives.			monitoring plan to ensure they cover all illegal activity in the hotspots. Step-by-step, this project has been a move away from ad hoc and causal reporting of biodiversity (sightings) to a far more rigorous, structured biomonitoring system, focused primarily on target/primate species. Capacity building for the new systems and in some cases new CCT members is always on updated.
5	Community based forest monitoring and law enforcement efforts have improved operational capacity, including new technologies and performance-based incentives.	5.2	SMART-generated reports and annual reports on SMART implementation and PA Management (including METT scores), detailing adaptive forest patrolling / law enforcement and PA management , at all three sites.	Monthly SMART report is the key tool that helps to improve the quality of forest patrol and deal with issues that occurred in the month before. In addition to monthly SMART reports, the project also generated quarterly, bi-annually and annually SMART reports for each PA. The project organised bi-annual planning meeting with partners at all three sites to adopt PA management. At Khau Ca, the adjustment was to more focus on monitoring the Din Dam area where free grazing by some households from Minh Son commune created huge impacts on natural habitat restoration (cow owners cut trees and sometimes burns vegetation with the purpose to have more grass). At Tung Vai, the adjustment was shifted to more focus on TSNM monitoring. This was not because the project wanted to gather data of TSNM but the project wanted CCTs to patrol more intensive in the critical habitat of TSNM to better protect the habitat and TSNM. At Trung Khanh, the adjustment was that the project added one more Gibbon monitoring team working inside the core zone more often. The existing CCTs were requested to patrol deeper into the core zone.
5	Community based forest monitoring and law enforcement efforts have improved operational capacity, including new technologies and performance-based incentives.	5.3	Final Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools (METTs) for Khau Ca and Trung Khanh, showing an increase in protected area management effectiveness	Considering 2017 METT scores of Khau Ca SHCA and Trung Khanh SHCA from the previous CEPF grant (Grant No. 64645) as baselines, the project facilitated METT assessments for both sites (Khau Ca on 15 June 2020 and Trung Khanh on 22nd July 2020). After three years with support from the project, METT scores of both sites have made a significant increase, i.e. Khau Ca from 62 in 2017 to 70 in 2020, Trung Khanh from 58 in 2017 to 64 in 2020.
2	Increase protection and availability of habitat for	2.6	Semi-annual report on compliance with social	At the early stage of activity implementation, the project conducted FPIC meetings and established Community Grievance Reception Board (CGRB) at 7 key villages living adjacent to the Tung Vai forest

	TSNM at Khau Ca SHCA (and Du Gia NP if possible).		safeguard policies (Indigenous People and involuntary resettlement), including documentation of all consultation meetings held and consent granted	and corridor area between Khau Ca – Du Gia. Posters informing project activities and contact details on compliance with social safeguard policies were installed at all villages. An assessment on the environmental and social impacts of the project in Khau Ca, Quan Ba, and Trung Khanh to develop prevention and mitigation measures were conducted. The project organised regular meetings with CGRBs to collect feedbacks/concerns of local communities. Semi-annual reports on social safeguard were prepared to report to the donor and adjust interventions based on the feedback/concerns of local communities on compliance with social safeguard policies. So far, after 28 months of implementation, the activities of the project created no negative impacts on social and environment to local communities.
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Describe and submit any tools, products or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

- 1. Cao vit gibbon monitoring with the community conservation teams: We have begun our first phase of working with local community members to collect robust, maximally-useful data on the cao vit gibbon. This has involved training in a new smartphone-based data collection and mapping app. This is the next evolution of previous attempts at community-based monitoring, using SMART, ODK and related apps. Our new data collection platform (based around an app called *Input*), critically allows us to add custom baselayer maps, for example of forest cover and topography, which can then be used for navigation, or for plotting gibbon home-ranges, sleeping trees and singing trees. Essentially, it is Google Maps for gibbons. This is then automatically synced to the cloud, so that we can review and analyse the data in our Hanoi office. The Gibbon Monitoring Team (GMT) is based on a 6-person unit, with two teams of 3 people in each. The protocol is based around continual monitoring, meaning that while one team rests, the other can take over the monitoring (noting that the monitoring starts pre-dawn, at listening posts). The 6-person can be scaled based on available finance, but currently FFI is operating one such team, along with the 6-person CCT (how can now focus more effectively on deterring and monitoring threats/SMART patrols, snare removal, community engagement and tasks as needed by their FPD managers). The GMT will need significant oversight and technical support for some time to come, including - we hope - a research station in the PA, but the results in terms of location data, photographs and video have already been impressive. We have not yet written-up the new system although a manual and protocol are under development. No final report on this tool/method is available at this time.**
- 2. Bi-annual SMART reports for all three sites from January 2018 to June 2020 [reports attached].**
- 3. Corridor assessment for Din Dam area of Khau Ca [report attached].**
- 4. Land use planning scenarios for Din Dam of Khau Ca [report attached].**
- 5. Cardamon supply chain assessment for Tung Vai [report attached].**

6. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) used to assist the evaluation and future planning of Assisted Natural Regeneration in the CVG SHCA [report attached]

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)
- Any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

The project was designed in 2017 to carry forward the success and momentum of our previous CEPF Grant No. 64645 for biodiversity conservation at three KBAs, Khau Ca, Tung Vai, and Trung Khanh. In consultation with local partners, the direct engagement of local people in forest patrols through Community-based Conservation Teams (CCTs) contributed great impacts to secure the cao vit gibbon population in Trung Khanh and TSNM populations in Khau Ca and Tung Vai. The project successfully applied some targeted livelihood development support, i.e waterwheel replacement, but it remained difficult during the project to clearly demonstrate beyond doubt the linkages with reduced timber extraction from the natural forest (and therefore the impacts on target primate populations). The project also underestimated the complicated process of government or the ambivalence of some local stakeholders to the establishment of a new protected area. It, therefore, will take a longer time to complete the process of establishing the Tung Vai special use forest. The corridor development that the project designed to connect Khau Ca and Du Gia is actually the area that falls inside the boundary of Khau Ca SHCA. This area is used by five H'Mong households and therefore it will need more time to work with them on land use planning. In terms of organizational development and capacity building, two project site managers (one for Trung Khanh and one for Ha Giang) have been working full-time under this project since September 2019 and are continuing to work for FFI after this project finishes. In addition, at site level, two project assistants have been working at the site for over three years (Hoang Van Tuan at Trung Khanh received an award from CEPF for his landscape photography of the site, and Nguyen Quyet Tam at Khau Ca has now strong expertise on biodiversity survey and bird identification). Their capacity has been hugely improved. This secures core personnel for on-going and coming conservation projects for these three KBAs. FFI is also aware that while we seek sustainability, hand-over and eventually an exit strategy, it will likely be sometime before FFI - as the lead NGO in the conservation of the TSNM and CVG - is not needed in these landscapes. Previous and current PA gazettement, and now also PA expansion and upgrading is all still be driven by FFI. Moreover, FFI is still be asked to support the PAs and directly pay for the protection and monitoring of the priority primate species. FFI is also the one driving technical improvements, with new monitoring systems and now we are testing audio-moths to record gibbon songs (and gunshots), remotely. Only

FFI is driving these innovations and efforts, although local partners are highly supportive (and do what they can, despite their own budget limitations). FFI is, however, reasonably content that progress has been made, especially in the last 2-3 years, with regard to political will and - crucially - recognition by high-level authorities that both provinces have an obligation, legal and ethical, to save these primates from extinction. FFI is working hard to further develop this thinking at both provincial and national levels, simultaneously helping but also gently applying political pressure, through greater awareness and transparency.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Summarize the successes 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 successfully achieved conservation outcomes through the engagement of local people in forest patrol through the community-based conservation team (CCT) and protected area management through the engagement of the Management Advisory Committee (MAC). The more financing for the CCT in Trung Khanh is now on a more sustainable footing, now that the Cao Bang Forest Protection Fund is paying part of their salaries (6.6%). This small portion is due to the small PFES revenue in Trung Khanh (it is a small area), but it represents a pioneering intervention to sustain CCT intervention and is replicable in other sites. The MACs at Trung Khanh and Khu Ca represent the ongoing engagement of local communities in managing the protected areas and playing an important role in the protected area management decision making. At other FFI project sites - Kim Bang and Kon Plong - where the process of establishing the new protected area is in process, FFI is facilitating the MAC model, and applying the lessons learned from Trung Khanh (and Ha Giang) for the PA designation process, the design of livelihood interventions and also how to set up and make sustainable a community-based forest patrol / protection unit of some kind.

The project also observes that the CCT and GMT model are very important, but also require significant funding and, critically, oversight from FFI if they are to be successful. Handover has already been achieved in terms of FPD managing these teams, but our oversight, checking and technical support cannot yet be replaced by FPD, who often lack the skills and budget to properly manage the enforcement or the (increasingly scientific) monitoring side. FFI is committed to ensuring these teams are effective, through a combination of gradual FPD 'uptake, continue and more intensive FFI engagement (in the near-term) and through securing additional PFES finance for the SUFs and CCTs, coupled with advocacy to upgrade the SHCAs to NP or NR.

FFI also has seen in recent years that to deliver the kind of interventions described in this report takes a significant investment in human resources and a multi-skilled team of people, as well as the dedicated project manager(s). To this end, FFI plans to remain fully engaged in the landscape for at least five more years, and will provide a team able to deliver on these actions, and on the objectives of the TSNM and CVG Species Conservation Action Plan(s), which will both be collaboratively developed in Q4 2020.

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.

The project has already submitted 5 Social Safeguard Reports to CEPF for the period of every six months [enclosed with progress reports]. From the early dates of implementation, the project organized FPIC meetings at all 15 villages around Tung Vai forest and Khau Ca corridor area. The project then established 7 Community Grievance Reception Boards (CGRB) at 7 key villages where the project's activities may create negative impacts on social and environmental aspects. The project designed the poster which contains information of project activities and contact details of whom the local people can contact and report to if any of the local concerns. At least 05 A2-sized posters per village were distributed hang up in the village centers and places where villagers can easily reach and read (village leaders' houses, village cultural houses, etc...) to make sure that project information is informed and communicated. It is also a very well designed and attractive poster, with the layout designed to be easy-to-understand for the local villagers to contact and raise their feedback/ideas/desires from the project. The project organized regular meetings with CGRBs to receive feedbacks and concerns of local villagers.

In late December 2018 early January 2019 the project hired an external consultant to assess the environmental and social impacts of the project in Khau Ca, Quan Ba, and Trung Khanh to develop prevention and mitigation measures. This report was submitted to CEPF.

In brief, during 28 months of implementation, the project's activities created no social and environmental impacts on local communities. The project received strong support from local communities to protect forest habitat and biodiversity conservation.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

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

FFI has been working in Trung Khanh and Khau Ca since 2002 and in Tung Vai since 2007. We have achieved huge success in terms of habitat and species protection, and increased the number of CR gibbons and monkeys at Trung Khanh and Khau Ca. With the limitation of state funding and insufficient conservation capacity, external support in both technical and financial are of hugely significant importance. The CEPF funding has been vital for maintaining and improving upon the conservation models and actions to date. For future funding projects, specifically for these two species, the priorities should be to improve our understanding of species ecology (targeted on aspects crucial for near-term planning), improving corridor connectivity in order to expand habitat capacity and make populations viable long into the future, and in the creation of insurance populations at new and well managed sites.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

Total additional funding (US\$)
\$839,500.00

Type of funding

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. Arcus Foundation granted \$USD220,000.0 for Cao Vit gibbon conservation from 2019 to September 2020 (on-going) - Category B**
- 2. Disney Conservation Fund \$USD50,000.0 for Cao Vit gibbon conservation from October 2019 to September 2021 (on-going) - Category B**
- 3. Halcyon Land & Sea \$USD252,000.0 for TSNM monkey conservation from January 2019 to December 2021 (on-going) - Category A**
- 4. Species Conservation Fund (FFI internal) \$USD300,000.0 for TSNM conservation from August 2019 to July 2021 (on-going) - Category A**
- 5. AZA's Ape TAG Conservation Initiative \$17,500.0 for Cao vit gibbon conservation from October 2019 to September 2020 (on-going) - Category A)**

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 website, www.cepf.net, and may be publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, email address) below.

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