

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development (WARECOD)
Project Title:	Evaluation of Co-management as an alternative Model for Aquatic Resources conservation with greater participation of local people in Northern Viet Nam
Date of Report:	31 March 2015
Report Author and Contact Information	Nga Dao nga@warecod.org.vn

CEPF Region:

Indo-Burma Hotspot

Strategic Direction:

Strategic Direction 4. Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas 4.3 Develop co-management mechanisms for formal protected areas that enable community participation in all levels of management

Grant Amount: \$19,985

Project Dates: From July, 2014 to March, 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): None

Conservation Impacts

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years:

The aquatic resources of Tuyen Quang Province are equitably managed through the implementation of effective policies that support sustainable livelihoods for the community.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The project contributed to better aquatic resources management in Tuyen Quang province through creating a mutual space for fisher communities and local authorities to have dialogues and improve their understanding of each other's priorities and needs. In addition, following the analysis of current policies and legal documents, and discussions on the current aquatic resources management situation in Tuyen Quang Reservoir, we have developed recommendations for more effective government policies, and submitted them to the relevant province, districts and communes.

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

The project aimed at 3 short-term impacts:

1. The impact of WARECOD's co-management model on local livelihoods, food security, and populations of threatened and endemic freshwater species in Na Hang District, Tuyen Quang Province, is well understood.
2. The strengths and weaknesses of the co-management model and actual implementation of the Decision No. 01/2013/QD-UBND and related policy documents (in relation to the co-management model) are well understood.
3. Local authorities are provided with policy recommendations on how to improve the co-management model, and related policies, based on the results of WARECOD's research.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

- During the 8 months of project implementation, WARECOD held discussions with fishing communities in Na Hang town and five other communes (Son Phu, Da Vi, Yen Hoa, Khau Tinh, and Nang Kha) of Na Hang district in the reservoir area about the pros and cons of the current co-management model and supporting policies. Many people we interviewed (especially in Na Hang town and Son Phu commune, where people have started to form various cooperative groups for monitoring fishing in the reservoir) expressed their willingness to expand their groups and receive more support from the authorities. As a result of this process, we have developed a proposal that aims to support two communities (Na Hang town and Son Phu commune) in establishing and running co-management groups.
- We organized several meetings to discuss with relevant authorities Decision No 01/2013/QD-UBND, and about challenges and advantages of the co-management model. The project has encouraged the local authorities to review the Decision. Consequently, the authorities discussed the possibility of promulgating detailed guidelines in support of Decision No 01/2013/QD-UBND, aimed at developing a fisheries co-management mechanism that is more suitable for use by local communities.
- Based on in-depth discussions with both local authorities and communities, WARECOD has gained a much more in-depth understanding of the current local situation of aquatic resources management, the expectations, needs and priorities of fishery communities, and Tuyen Quang province's plan for aquatic development to 2020. This has helped us to now design suitable strategies for addressing challenges of aquatic resource management at this site, and elsewhere in Vietnam.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: Not relevant

Species Conserved: Not relevant

Corridors Created: Not relevant

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

Successes:

The project was implemented with the active participation of relevant authorities (Tuyen Quang province, Na Hang district, Na Hang town and 5 communes in Na Hang district) and fishery communities at these sites. After the project, these stakeholders, along with WARECOD, have a much more in-depth knowledge in fisheries management and models of fisheries co-management in Tuyen Quang Reservoir. These stakeholders were fully engaged in this work, and contributed valuable ideas for future work. Specifically, Na Hang's Division of Justice was willing to help the Na Hang group revise their regulations; the Division of Agriculture and Rural Development gave comments and discussed future activities with WARECOD (including how to set-up fisheries co-management groups, what types of communication activities are most relevant in the local context, and how DARD plans to work with communities in monitoring and protecting their aquatic resources).

Another success in the project was an improved relationship between local authorities and fishing communities at the site. In the past, there have been few opportunities for these parties to discuss issues of fisheries management in a constructive manner. This project created opportunities for them to engage in a constructive dialogue and better understand each other, through several meetings and discussions. For example, aiming at more active fisheries management, local people proposed to be given the right to manage certain surface areas. Authorities promised to seriously consider this. Local authorities were open to work with fishermen to revise regulations and help bring them in to law.

Finally, WARECOD, in collaboration with fishermen and authorities, successfully developed a suite of proposed activities for future work.

Challenges:

One challenge in conducting the project was a lack of updates of secondary data provided by the local statistics office. There was also a difference between the data provided by the statistics office, and reality, especially in terms of fishing households. Many households who used to catch fish, have since changed their livelihood and no longer depend on aquatic resources. It took some time to check the data, and identify households who are still dependant on aquatic resources, before we could carry out the surveys and discussions.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

“Listen From The Gaps – LFTG”, a student group established under a different project implemented by WARECOD, also participated in this project. They are students from various Universities in Hanoi (Vietnam National University of Agriculture, Water Resources University, Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment, and others), who are interested in and care about environmental issues in Vietnam. The students participated in many project activities including helping to prepare questionnaires and facilitate community group discussions, and participating in the surveys. Through these activities, the members of the student group became more confident, and better understood issues of fisheries co-management, and the importance of the co-management model in promoting sustainable aquatic resources management.

Project Components

Component 1 Planned:

The impact of WARECOD’s co-management model on local livelihood, food security and population of threatened and endemic freshwater species in Na Hang, Tuyen Quang province, is well understood.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

In order to implement this project component, the research group held a series of meetings and in-depth interviews with local authorities at the district and commune level. We also carried out a questionnaire survey with 73 households who both catch aquatic natural resources and conduct aquaculture. This allowed us to better understand the current fisheries co-management situation as well as the level of demand for implementing fisheries co-management in Na Hang.

Some key points from the surveys and discussions are as follows:

1. Currently, there is no real co-management group existing in the area. The previous project stopped at raising awareness through training events and communications work. However, there is a real willingness to set-up co-management groups among fishing communities, especially in Na Hang town and Son Phu commune. Some fishers have already been voluntarily working together in order to better protect their fishing grounds. Although this group is very small-scale and follows neither a specific model nor legal documents, it could eventually be developed into a fisheries co-management group.
2. The most recent draft regulation is still pending, even though the provincial authorities used it for the development of Decision No 01/2013/QĐ-UBND. Some articles in the regulations are now out-of-date and there is therefore a need to revise them, so people can make proper use of these policies.
3. Communities who participated in our previous project are well aware of the local situation and understand the importance of the co-management model in ensuring sustainability of aquatic

natural resources in their area. According to these people, an efficient co-management model will help improve people's income and sustain fish populations in the reservoir.

4. Local authorities strongly support developing the co-management model and are currently working with a couple of communities to better promote this model.

Component 2 Planned:

Strengths and weaknesses of co-management model and actual implementation of Decision No.01/2013/QD-UBND and related policy documents (in relation to the co-management model) are well understood.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

In order to conduct this component, we held 2 meetings with local authorities in Tuyen Quang province at three levels (provincial, district, and commune) and held other meetings with other relevant stakeholders (Tuyen Quang hydropower plant Management Board and fish traders); as well as Na Hang and Son Phu fishing groups.

Participants from the local authorities include the following:

At province level:

1. Tuyen Quang Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
2. Tuyen Quang Department of Natural Resources and Environment
3. Tuyen Quang Department of Fisheries

At district level:

1. Na Hang People's Committee
2. Na Hang district's Division of Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Na Hang district's Division of Natural Resources and Environment
4. Na Hang district's Division of Justice

At commune level:

1. Na Hang commune
2. Da Vi commune;
3. Nang Kha commune
4. Yen Hoa commune
5. Son Phu commune

In these meetings, we discussed the advantages and risks of implementing the co-management model, and the implementation of related policies that authorities and communities have experienced so far.

Some key advantages of the model are as follows:

- (i) there has been strong support from the authorities. Indeed, there is an inter-agency team consisting of DARD, DONRE, forest patrols and waterway patrols who are responsible for monitoring fishing activities in the reservoir. This team is willing to collaborate with community groups in protecting the aquatic resources in the area;
- (ii) Members of the groups set up by the last project have helped fishing communities raise their awareness and convinced them to quit using the destructive fishing tool to catch aquatic resources;
- (iii) Small groups will work better and more efficient for designated areas.

However, this model still meets some difficulties, including:

- (i) So far there has been no real co-management implementation in Tuyen Quang to date. Beneficiaries from our last project mostly focused on communication and awareness raising activities but they have not worked on other activities such as developing co-management plan

and adaptive management (which emphasizes on the stakeholders' feedbacks on decision-making progress);

(ii) Resources for maintaining the inter-agency team for monitoring is limited;

(iii) Tuyen Quang Reservoir covers a large water area while the human resources is limited.

In terms of policy implementation, we have discussed the need of having detailed guidelines for Decision No. 01/2013/QĐ-UBND. Even the staff from DARD considered that the Decision was very general and it was very difficult to implement. Decision No.27/2009/QĐ-UBND on financial support for catching and exploiting aquatic resources has also barely been followed due to lack of detailed guidelines.

The Deputy Director of Tuyen Quang Department of Agriculture and Rural Development indicated that the implementation fishery co-management mechanisms in Tuyen Quang province has been ineffective due to the following issues:

(i) aquatic resources are not concentrated just in the reservoir;

(ii) overlapping role in managing the reservoir among 3 functioning agencies (Agriculture and Rural Development; Natural resources and Environment, and Tuyen Quang Hydropower Plant) and

(iii) Tuyen Quang province has not been very clear about the role in managing various designated areas among its districts and communes.

Na Hang people's committees and six communes around Tuyen Quang reservoir showed that they were looking to receive the guidance documents of fisheries co-management from province and would be keen to follow it.

Division of Agriculture and Rural Developments of Na Hang district has included fisheries co-management in their action plan on aquatic development.

Component 3 Planned:

Local authorities are provided with policy recommendations on how to improve the co-management model, and related policies, based on the results of WARECOD's research.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

The final workshop was held on 26th January, 2015 in Ha Hang district, there were 31 participants who came from Na Hang people's committee; communes belong to Tuyen Quang Reservoir and other related stakeholders (such as Tuyen Quang Hydropower Plant and fish traders). At the workshop, WARECOD's staff presented the study findings and recommendations on co-management model and received many feedbacks from Tuyen Quang Department of fisheries and other participants. Our key recommendations include:

1. Guidelines for fishery co-management model establishment at district and commune levels should be developed and issued.

2. Co-management regulations proposed by fishermen should be reviewed, revised and legalized at district level. After completing this regulation, it should be shared and amplified to other communities surrounding Tuyen Quang Reservoir.

3. Surface water area should be designated to communities for better management.

4. At least two fishery co-management groups at these communes should be set up. These groups will be the pilot one and later be multiplied to other communities. The groups will frequently monitor and protect aquatic resources in their designated areas. These groups will communicate their activities to other communes.

5. Communication on fishery co-management model should be promoted so that more local communities will know, understand and apply the model.

Local authorities recognized these recommendations and provided some suggestions for realizing these recommendations. For example, they suggested Na Hang Town, Son Phu commune, Mo waterfall and Dau Dang waterfall are suitable areas for aquatic resources conservation.

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

No

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

None

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 projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

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

N/A

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The Objectives of the project are to assess the efficiency of fisher co-management model developed in the previous project and to propose activities for a new project. Close coordination with local partners and communities is a key factor for the project's success.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

N/A

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 the CEPF investment in this project.

None

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

**Additional funding should be reported using 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.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

WARECOD has assessed the effectiveness, weakness and strengths of co-management model in Tuyen Quang Reservoir. We also understand how local communities understand about the model and that they want to get involved in co-management groups. This is the basis for WARECOD to design suitable and effective activities for the coming project.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

None

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

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

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Nga Dao

Organization name: Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development (WARECOD)

Mailing address: Suite 801, Building Hacisco, No 15 Lane 107 Nguyen Chi Thanh Street, Hanoi, Vietnam

Tel: (+84) 4 3773 0828

Fax: 84 (0)4 37739 491

E-mail: nga@warecod.org.vn

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF GlobalTargets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No			

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

