

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	The Wildlife Conservation Association (Lao WCA)
Project Title:	Mitigation of threats to species in Nam Mo-Nam Thong provincial protected area through awareness raising and strengthening partnerships with local communities
Date of Report:	30th June 2015
Report Author and Contact Information	Dr. Chanthavy Vongkhamheng Lao Wildlife Conservation Association Tel: 856-20-22207999/54321123

CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction: 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats

Grant Amount: US\$ 19,995

Project Dates: 1st May, 2014 – 30th April, 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

- Saola working group of the IUCN/SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group – the project has been designed with SWG priorities in mind.
- Department of Forest Resources Management (DFRM) - assist in field implementation.
- Provincial Forest Resources Management of Xiengkhouang – assist in field implementation.
- District Agriculture and Forestry of Mokmai – assist in field implementation.
- Village authorities and members – assist in field implementation.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The Saola and white-cheeked gibbon are priority globally threatened species in Indo-burma. This project attempted to mitigate key threats to these threatened species and other associated species through building local understanding about species conservation, and strengthening local coordination and participation in conservation activities.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

Through this project, we sought to achieve the following objectives:

- (i) Awareness about the conservation importance of *Nomascus leucogenys* is increased among villagers both inside and nearby Nam Mo-Nam Thong.
- (ii) Coordination and cooperation between local villagers and government staff for protection of *N. leucogenys* is improved.

Both objectives were met by the project. Awareness campaign materials were produced including t-shirts, stickers, and PPA boundary signs. A series of meetings were held at key target villages, with participation by government officials from central, provincial and district levels, and village authorities (headman, village cluster party secretary).

Species conservation awareness campaign activities were conducted in four target villages, which targeted young students and other villagers. PPA boundary signs with conservation messages were installed, and conservation agreements were drafted and agreed by villagers.

In conclusion, the project has generated an increase in local understanding about key threatened species, and has also encouraged participation by a variety of relevant stakeholders at different levels (both national and local) regarding conservation of critically endangered species in the protected area.

In addition, the project supported the building of capacity of government staff and local villagers through both formal and informal technical training, and learning-by-doing. These trained people are now capable of replicating or continuing field activities if further funding is available in the future.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 53,000 ha.

Species Conserved: Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) and Northern White-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus leucogenys*)

Corridors Created: None

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

Successes:

- Better understanding and support from local authorities and villagers on the importance of wildlife conservation and the conservation needs of priority species (especially the critical endangered Saola and white-cheeked gibbon) in natural habitat in the far-northern portion of the Annamite mountain range.
- Better understanding by local authorities and villagers on threats (including hunting and encroachment into natural habitat) to the Saola and gibbon.
- This was the first time that Saola and gibbon conservation was introduced to the local people and local government in this remote part of Xiengkhouang province.

Challenges:

- More funding is needed to continue awareness-raising activities and achieve long-term conservation impacts.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No unexpected impacts.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned:

Awareness of the conservation importance of *Nomascus leucogenys* is increased among villagers both inside and outside Nam Mo-Nam Thong.

To achieve the above objective, the following actions were planned:

- Hold consultation workshops with local authorities and communities, to introduce the project and create a platform for coordination and cooperation between and among villages and district government authorities
- Produce and distribute education and outreach materials (such as posters) addressing threats to wildlife.
- Conduct an awareness-raising campaign for adults and children in target villages
- Produce sign-boards and posts at key locations (entrance, and along boundary) in Nam Mo PPA, based on the outcomes of consultations and agreement

Expected results: over 80% of local villagers and officials gain better understanding about conservation significance and needs of those globally threatened species and increased involvement of local people in wildlife conservation in general.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

- Consultation meetings were held with villagers at four target villages. These meetings included awareness-raising efforts, and dissemination of information regarding national laws and regulations about forestry and wildlife conservation. The total audience of these meetings was 320 people, including 95 women.
- Education/outreach and awareness-raising materials were produced and distributed at province, district and village levels, including 200 t-shirts, 100 stickers, and 50 water bottles.
- Awareness-raising campaign successfully conducted in target villages. For more information, please see report submitted separately.
- Five PPA boundary signs were produced and posted at key locations in Nam Mo PPA.

Component 2 Planned:

Coordination and cooperation between local villagers and government staff for protection of *N. leucogenys* is improved.

To achieve the above objective, the following actions were planned:

- Organize meetings at target villages for representatives of the border military, Nam Mo district offices, and key villagers, to discuss mechanisms and develop a conceptual model for better collaboration on protection of wildlife.

- Develop a regulation or agreement, signed by district or provincial governor, addressing threats to wildlife at the site. This will serve as a legal basis for villagers and local authorities to take more effective conservation action on the ground

Expected results: A regulation for conservation of gibbons is approved by district governor and accepted by all stakeholders to take effective implementation.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

- A first meeting with provincial authorities (the Provincial Forest Resources Management Division) was held in order to introduce the project and discuss the design of education materials.
- A second meeting was organized at the village cluster, with participation by village cluster authorities, headmen, DONRE, PONRE, and DFRM officials. 6 representatives from each target village were represented at this meeting.
- Conservation agreements were drafted with the village cluster, and were signed by the headman of each target village (Ban Nam Tak, Ban Chaleunmai, Ban Thong Peu and Ban Nam Ngard).

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

None

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

A summary report of conservation activities was submitted along this final technical report:

- A). Training workshop to the relevant local authorities on the topics of:
 1. Why conservation? Is conservation important?
 2. What is biodiversity? Is biodiversity important?
 3. How does biodiversity contribute to livelihood improvement and well-being?
 4. Who are the key drivers for biodiversity conservation?
 5. How natural resources and biodiversity link to the local lifestyle?
- B). Game
 1. Chair game (this game indicates the competition for the existing limited resources).
- C). Local views of the Game (Local explanation).
- D). Q and A

Lessons Learned

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

The primary purpose of the project was to enhance conservation of globally threatened wildlife species in their natural habitats, with particular reference to the Annamite mountain range. Participation and consultation of government officials at different levels (national, provincial, district and village cluster) was very important in designing project activities such as education materials, workshops, etc.

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

Participation of local government officials at different levels, including central, provincial, and district offices, in implementing project activities is a good way to create support for conservation at grass-roots levels. It is likely a good way to build trust between government and local people, and also build better understanding among them on the need for conservation of endangered species.

Working with ethnic minority groups in remote areas requires staff with specific communication skills, who can speak the local language. Some of these people, especially women, may be shy to speak out.

Providing sufficient training to government staff and villagers who implement the project activities at the beginning is most necessary to ensure achievement of activities. Continuity of project activities given sufficient funding and human resource is necessary to build conservation awareness among local people.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Organizing a series of consultation workshops with local people to allow them share ideas or solutions to the emerging threats or problems is the most effective mechanism to strengthen conservation support.

Participatory processes need to take into account all steps equally, such as involving people in thinking, making decisions, implementing, taking responsibility, and sharing benefits.

Working with ethnic minority communities (such as the Hmong) requires investing time to build trust between staff and villagers. Having dedicated staff with strong personal communication skills is very important in working with local people.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

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

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF 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.

The conservation significance of threatened species (and relevant national laws and regulations) is now better understood by the local government and local villagers. This may encourage further support from the government, to secure survival of this endangered Saola and white-cheeked gibbon in its natural habitat.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

This project was implemented in accordance with the Social Assessment that was prepared before the project started. Local people were key partners for implementation of this project, participating actively in many project activities. They were able to express their opinions about priorities and mechanisms for improving conservation of threatened species. Target communities were consulted prior to project implementation. Throughout project implementation we monitored any negative impacts on local people, and gave them the opportunity to express any grievances about project implementation (by sharing contact information for members of the project team, and CEPF Regional Implementation Team). For any problems that arose during the implementation of project activities, discussion with local people was the first mechanism used for addressing those issues. Of most importance, the project allowed local people to take part in implementation of project activities.

Additional Comments and Recommendations

Given the unique location of the Provincial Protected Area at the far northern extent of the Annamite mountain range, together with the presence there of threatened species including Saola and gibbons, it is strongly recommended that further conservation investment be made to continue these important activities. The future activities should focus on both outreach and land-use planning, so that law enforcement can be more effective.

Funding is needed to continue conducting field surveys, to confirm species occurrence, and estimate populations.

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.

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Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(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 during the grant term (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.

