

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	The Wildlife Conservation Association (Lao WCA)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Conservation initiatives of Indochinese Silvered Leaf Monkey in Dong Phou Vieng National Protected Area of Savannakhet, central Lao PDR
<b>Date of Report:</b>	31st June 2015
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Dr. Chanthavy Vongkhamheng Lao Wildlife Conservation Association Tel: 856-20-22207999/54321123

**CEPF Region:** Indo-Burma

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

**Grant Amount:** US\$ 19,995

**Project Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2014 – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

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

- Department of Forest Resources Management (DFRM) - national coordinator, and assistant in field implementation.
- Provincial Forest Resources Management of Savannakhet – provincial coordinator/field assistant
- District Agriculture and Forestry of Phin – district coordinator and field assistant
- District Agriculture and Forestry of Chonnabuly – district coordinator and field assistant
- Savannakhet University – field assistants
- Village authorities and members – village coordinator and field assistants.

### Conservation Impacts

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

The Indochinese Silvered Langur is a priority globally threatened species in Indochina. This project included a systematic field assessment of Silvered Langur in Lao PDR, providing baseline information on the abundance and distribution of the species. This information will be essential for the development of an effective conservation action plan, to secure the long-term survival of viable populations of this species in Lao PDR. In addition, efforts to increase awareness about the species among local communities may allow more effective future implementation of species conservation activities.

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

With CEPF support, we aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- (i) Better understand the habitat and population status of *T. garmaini* at Dong Sakee, and other nearby forest blocks;
- (ii) Raise awareness about the conservation significance of *T. garmaini* among local villagers both inside and outside Dong Sakee;
- (iii) Strengthen coordination and cooperation between local villagers and government protected area staff, to improve protection of *T. garmaini*.

All of the above objectives were met by the project. A field assessment of the Silvered Leaf Monkey was conducted in August 2014, estimating the presence of 79 individuals.

A series of meetings were organized at key villages (Vongsikeo, Alao), with participation by government officials from central, provincial, and district levels, village authorities (headman, village cluster party secretary). The meetings discussed the conservation significance of species and built mutual understanding between local communities and government officials. Specific conservation agreements (regulations) for species protection was developed and acknowledged by relevant communities and local government. Boundary signs for boundary demarcation were installed, and sign boards with conservation messages were set up at key points of entry routes to inform the public about these restrictions.

Awareness campaigns were conducted in two target villages, and awareness materials were produced including t-shirts, stickers, and Dong Sakee Sacred forest boundary signs.

The project has generated better understanding about the langur population in the area, and improved local understanding about the conservation significance and needs of this endangered species. It has encouraged participation of a variety of stakeholders at different levels (national and local) to pay conservation attention on the critical endangered Silvered Langur in its natural habitat. In addition, the project built the capacity of government staff and local villagers through formal and informal technical training, and learning-by-doing. These trained people are now capable of replicating or continuing conservation field activities, if funding sources are available in the future.

***Please provide the following information where relevant:***

**Hectares Protected:** 375 ha of semi-evergreen forest within the 197,000 ha Dong Phou Vieng National Protected area

**Species Conserved:** Indochinese Silvered Langure (*Trachypithecus garmaini*)

**Corridors Created:** None

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

Successes:

- The project generated better understanding about the current population status and conservation needs of the Indochinese Silvered Langur in Dong Sakee Sacred Forest.
- The project improved understanding for local authorities and villagers about the conservation significance of this species, and the conservation needs.
- Boundary demarcations of the conservation area for langur was completed, and well known and accepted by local communities, which support effective protection of species and its habitat from poaching and encroachment.

- Specific conservation agreements were together created by local communities and government officials, which could strengthen the traditional conservation norm to increase effective protection of species and its habitats.
- Coordination and cooperation between local communities and the government officials have been strengthened

#### Challenges:

- Local communities in this area are Katang ethnic minority. They speak their own language, and some people are shy to speak Lao language, especially women. Therefore communication is a challenge for building effective awareness campaigns in this region.
- Most villagers are subsistence farmers, and depend on forest resources for their food and income. They are mostly away from home (leaving their children at school) during the daytime, to search for non-timber forest products and other resources to support their family. During the rainy season several families live in their rice fields. Therefore, good time arrangements is crucial to ensure local participation in the conservation activities
- High demand of luxury timber at international and national markets has resulted in increasingly illegal logging of large trees in the conservation area by local people, especially outsiders, and so causes direct and indirect impacts on the survival of species. Therefore, on-the-ground protection is highly needed. This can be achieved by strong commitment by the government and local communities.
- Dong Sakee and Langurs have long been protected by local taboos, as people in Ban Vongsikeo (and some nearby villages) believe in Animism. However people from other villages have recently changed their religion from Animism to others (such as Christianity), resulting in opportunistic poaching of some trees and langurs in Dong Sakee.
- Building local capacity in wildlife survey and monitoring techniques is difficult as both government staff and villagers are often substituted, so it is difficult to rely on them to conduct data collection and monitoring of species populations.
- Creating economic gains or incentives from conservation of species to link with local livelihood development is most important to secure long-term support for conservation of this endangered species. Therefore, integration of conservation of species into provincial or national socio-economic development plans is a challenge for the project to support this.

#### ***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

The Indochinese Silvered Leaf Monkey is well recognized internationally, but is little known among local government officials and local communities. The species has now been introduced to officials at the central, provincial, and district and village levels. Conservation needs of this species are now understood by local people, including local government authorities and villagers. Measures against those emerging threats have now been raised at local villages to help save the species. Of the unexpected impacts, Dong Sakee and the Langur is included in priority attraction sites for ecotourism in the province

## 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:**

Better understand the habitat and population status of *T. garmaini* at Dong Sakee, and other nearby forest blocks

Planned activities:

- Conduct a refresher-training event for staff, on survey techniques.
- Conduct a field survey at Dong Sakee.
- Carry out an assessment of remaining forest habitat in the areas close to Dong Sakee
- Identify priority sites for conservation activities focused on *T. garmaini* in and around Dong Sakee

Expected results: updated reliable data on population abundance and distributional map of silvered leaf monkey in Dong Sakee and nearby forested areas. Identified important areas used by monkey are included in management plan.

### **Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

A refresher training for the field survey team was conducted by Lao WCA staff at Ban Vongsikeo, with participation by government staff from central, province, and district offices, and local villagers, on field sampling techniques.

A line transect survey of Dong Sakee forest was completed, generating an estimate of 79 individuals.

A distribution map was produced, showing the spatial distribution of species, and priority areas for conservation.

Intact natural habitat near to Dong Sakee was identified and mapped.

A technical report of the field surveys was produced

### **Component 2 Planned:**

Raise awareness about the conservation significance of *T. garmaini* among local villagers both inside and outside Dong Sakee.

Planned activities:

- Conduct meetings with villagers at Ban Vongsikeo and other nearby villages, to inform participants about the project initiatives, and seek their input.
- Produce education and outreach materials (including posters), to distribute to target villages and district offices.
- Conduct an awareness-raising campaign in target villages.
- Develop signboards, and install at key entrances to the silvered leaf monkey conservation forest area

Expected results: Completed boundary demarcation for silvered leaf monkey conservation forest area and increased understanding about species conservation significance and needs, and conservation of species included in district and village development profile.

**Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

- 180 boundary demarcation signs were produced, and installed around Dong Sakee Sacred forest (see Annex 1, photo).
- One large board sign was produced and set up at the entrance to Dong Sakee (see photo submitted separately)
- 170 t-shirts, 100 stickers, and 50 water bottles with stickers were produced and distributed at local villages (see Annex 1, photo)
- Two meetings were conducted with villagers, and various outreach activities were conducted at Ban Vongsikeo and Alao, to raise awareness about national laws and regulations regarding forestry and wildlife conservation. The total audience was 215 people, including 92 females (Ban Alaokao: 83 people, 35 females; Ban Vongsikeo: 79 people, 32 females; and Ban Alaomai: 53 people; 25 females). Village agreements were developed and agreed..

**Component 3 Planned:**

Strengthen coordination and cooperation between local villagers and government protected area staff, to improve protection of *T. garmaini*.

Planned activities:

- Organize meetings at Ban Vongsikeo village between provincial and district officials and key villagers, to discuss challenges, resolutions, and ways to improve collaboration to protect *T. garmaini* in its natural habitat.
- Develop a regulation/agreement to specifically address the conservation of *T. garmaini* at Dong Sakee and nearby forested areas

Expected results: A regulation for species conservation is approved by district governor and accepted by all stakeholders to take effective on the ground implementation. Government officials get more involved in conservation activities of the species.

**Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

- A meeting with government officials (Department of Forest Resources Management, Provincial Forest Resources Management Division, and District Office of Natural Resources and Environment) was organized, to introduce the project and discuss conservation activities.
- A meeting at Ban Vongskeo village cluster was organized, with participation by village cluster authorities, headmen, village authorities, DONRE, PONRE, and DFRM officials.
- Agreements were drafted and signed by the headman of each target village, including Ban Vongsikeo, and Alao, and acknowledged by DONRE (see Annex 2).

***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 alongside 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 gain baseline information on population status of the endangered Indochinese Silvered Langur, and also raise conservation awareness of species for government officials and local communities. Therefore, involvement of government authorities at different levels (national, provincial, district and village cluster), and local communities in implementation is most important to accomplish activities.

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

Formal and informal discussion with local government officials at central, provincial, district, and village levels to build better understanding gain better support for conservation at the ground level.

Participation of government officials from different levels as well as local communities in the implementation of activities is considered the most effective way in building local support at village level as villagers felt the attention of government.

Sufficient training to staff and villagers (and sufficient funding) was most important to achieve field activities.

### ***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

Organizing workshops with local people is most important to build local understanding and gain local support.

Participatory process need to take into account all of these steps equally such as involve people in thinking, making decision, implementing, taking responsibility, and sharing benefit.

Working with ethnic minority groups like the Katang community may require some time to build trust between staff and villagers. Dedicated staff with good 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.**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>

**\*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 species (and relevant laws and regulation) has been realized by the government and local villagers, and thus may encourage further support from the government to secure survival of this endangered Silvered Langur in its natural habitat. Boundary demarcation signs have been installed, and those give warnings to outsiders not to encroach into natural habitats, and thus support effective law enforcement.

**Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.**

The species conservation status is now widely recognized by local government officials and local people so it hopes that the species will be included into local conservation agenda.

### **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 by LWCA before the project started. Local people were key partners for implementation of this project, participating in various project activities. They were given opportunities to express their opinions on what they think is most important for securing conservation and protection of species. We maintained good communication with these communities, to make sure that there were no negative impacts on them, and so that they could raise any grievances.

### **Additional Comments and Recommendations**

Dong Sakee Secret Forest is probably the last well-known population of silvered langur in Lao PDR. It is likely to be a subspecies, although this is not yet confirmed by genetic studies.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended that further financial support is provided to continue conservation activities at this site, focusing on monitoring, outreach and land use planning, and livelihood activities so that the enforcement of laws or regulations are possible and more effective.

### **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](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

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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.**



<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved during the grant term (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	375 ha	375 ha	Dong Phou Vieng National Protected Area
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.	Yes	375 ha	375 ha	Better understanding by local people on conservation significance of species
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.**

**Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities**

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under **Community Characteristics** and **Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit**, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit														
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other	
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services										
<b>Total</b>																						

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the **Community Characteristic** and **Socioeconomic Benefit**:

