

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Fauna & Flora International
<b>Project Title:</b>	Promoting Community Based Collaborative Management to Strengthen Long Term Conservation of Globally Threatened Primates and Trees in Priority Sites of Northern Vietnam
<b>Date of Report:</b>	07 June 2013
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**CEPF Region:** Indo-Burma

**Strategic Direction:** 2. Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 key biodiversity areas.

**Grant Amount:** US\$694,009

**Project Dates:** 1 January, 2010 to 31 March, 2013

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

Two organizations have supported FFI under sub-grants by implementing particular components of the project, either by coordinating activities at particular sites and/or providing thematic technical support.

Each partner was closely consulted in developing this proposal. Technical inputs were provided by each partner for their specific area of expertise and the approach outline was developed and adapted following discussions with each partner:

1. People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) [www.prcfunion.org](http://www.prcfunion.org)

The People, Resources, and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) is an international, non-profit, non-government, non-membership organisation that promotes conservation, protection, and wise use of natural resources with sound social and economic development.

PRCF's mission statement is to "Strengthen local participation in biodiversity conservation through measures that address the protection and wise-use of natural resources with the socio-economic development of affected communities".

PRCF has been working in Bac Kan Province since 2004, in Ba Be National Park and South Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area. PRCF has an MoU with Bac Kan Forest Protection Department for working in the province to support conservation. During a mission to Tuyen Quang Province in June 2009, the Forest Protection Department agreed to PRCF restarting activities in Sinh Long Species and Habitat Conservation Area. This is the reason for the late inclusion of Sinh Long as a priority site, especially for Francois' Langurs.

PRCF has played an integral role within the project. Under a sub-grant, PRCF coordinated field-based

activities in Bac Kan and Tuyen Quang Provinces and provided essential technical guidance on the development of collaborative management mechanisms with local communities for conservation, under component 4.

## 2. Centre for Plant Conservation (CPC)

CPC is a local NGO established under the Vietnamese Union of Science and Technology Associations. FFI has been working with representatives of CPC for several years in botanical conservation, most notably supporting the Conifer Conservation Centre at Bat Dai Son Nature Reserve in Ha Giang Province, but also conifer and orchid surveys in Trung Khanh Province. CPC implemented components related to tree conservation at the selected sites, in particular by carrying out surveys, but also supporting the development of species conservation action plans and follow-up towards their implementation.

FFI and CPC are further extending their partnership to develop a national tree conservation programme under the umbrella of the Global Trees Campaign. FFI has been supporting CPC by raising funds and connecting with international expertise particularly in the UK. This project served to further strengthen the partnership between FFI and CPC. Through the provision of a sub-grant CPC was supported to develop its capacity for project management under supervision of FFI. FFI also provided technical review of methods for and outputs from field activities implemented by CPC, as well as CPC inputs into species conservation action plans.

Sub-granting served as a mechanism for engaging these two partners because they added complementary geographic and technical expertise to the project and FFI could build on existing relationships with local communities at the project sites. For example, PRCF had been working at Ba Be and Nam Xuan Lac (two of the project sites) since 2004 and had strong relationships with the local communities there and, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the provincial authorities. PRCF was also considered the best-placed organization to work in Tuyen Quang Province (at Sinh Long, a project site), because of its long-term institutional commitment to working in the Na Hang-Ba Be forest complex, and its existing relationship with the provincial authorities. CPC has complementary technical expertise to FFI with regard to study and conservation of threatened plants, and established relationships with key stakeholders, including local communities at the project site in Bat Dai Son, Ha Giang Province.

In addition to the above sub-grant receiving partners, the following partners played a key role.

### Local government partners:

In each province targeted by the project, the Provincial Forest Protection Department (FPD) was the main government partner. FFI worked very closely with the FPD in Cao Bang, Ha Giang, Yen Bai and Son La Provinces. In Ha Giang in particular, additional sites were included beyond those where FFI had previously been working and these were selected based upon discussions with FPD. These sites were reviewed again and finally agreed upon in June 2009. PRCF worked with the FPD of Bac Kan Province and Tuyen Quang Province. The project built upon on-going work in these provinces.

### Local communities:

Once the biodiversity conservation needs and priorities were identified, the focus of project activities was to involve local communities directly in meeting of conservation goals while taking into account their capacities and development needs. In this way local communities were important stakeholders in the project.

### Caritas:

This Swiss-based development NGO has an active Community Development project in Quan Ba District, Ha Giang Province and provides support to communities living around Tonkin snub-nosed monkey habitat. Caritas is committed to ensuring that their development work will also provide benefits to the local environment and wishes to support conservation of the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai and tree conservation in Bat Dai Son through its community development activities.

## Conservation Impacts

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

*Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.*

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

Improved conservation of five globally threatened species of primates and globally threatened species of conifers and magnolias at sites of high biodiversity interest in northern Vietnam focussing mainly on the Northern Highlands Limestone Priority Corridor.

### **Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

The conservation of the five globally threatened primates and conifer and magnolia species has been improved to some degree at all sites where the project was implemented. It is, however, difficult to assess the extent and sustainability of this improvement. The case studies conducted by PRCF have shown that the development of the SCAPs has strengthened community and government understanding of the species and their conservation status. SCAP development also, obviously, has improved the ability to identify threats and develop measures to address them, and has strengthened community participation in conservation activities. Finally the SCAP development has identified conservation and development links designed to satisfy livelihood needs that could otherwise pose an additional threat to the target species.

Furthermore, surveys conducted during this project will provide baseline information by which to measure the conservation success of implementing activities identified in the SCAPs.

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

Improved understanding of the status of globally threatened primate and tree species of conifers and magnolias at four sites (Tung Vai, Bat Dai Son, Nam Xuan Lac and Sinh Long) that guide long-term conservation interventions of project partners. As a result, during the project, parallel activities are initiated that run beyond the project timeframe.

Local stakeholders to collaborate for effective site-based conservation of globally threatened target primate and tree species at priority sites, following local government approval of five community-based species conservation action plans. This includes a key location for conservation of the Francois Langur in the region being identified with a clear site-based action plan, and action plans that respond to new records of magnolia species for Vietnam.

Community-based conservation teams provide protection for habitat of three (or four) highly threatened primate species (Tonkin snub-nosed monkey, Western black crested gibbon and Phayre's langur and possibly Francois Langur) at five locations. At each location, patrol records by these teams indicate a decrease in human threats.

A systematic approach to site-based species conservation action planning that enables conservation practitioners to most effectively take initial conservation measures with participation of key stakeholders.

The community-based and species-focussed conservation action planning approach is adopted by various institutions within the region, and draws from the experience of parallel collaborative management activities being implemented by partners.

Development of a community-based and species-focussed approach that can be replicated and adapted throughout the region.

### **Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

Surveys were carried out for Francois' langur in Sinh Long – Lung Nhoi – Ban Cai forest areas of Na Hang District in Tuyen Quang Province; for the Western black crested gibbon in Mu Cang Chai Species and Habitat Conservation Area in Yen Bai Province and adjacent forest in Muong La District in Son La Province; for the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai – Ta Van – Cao Ma Po forest in Quan Ba District in Ha Giang Province; and for all primate species in Than Sa - Phuong Hoang Nature Reserve in Vo Nhai District Thai Nguyen Province and South Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area in Bac Kan Province. Surveys for threatened conifer and magnolia species were conducted in Bat Dai Son Nature Reserve, Du Gia Nature Reserve, Tung Vai Watershed Protection Forest, Tay Con Linh Nature Reserve, Sinh Long forest and South Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area. The results of these surveys were the basis of the species conservation action planning.

The development of the SCAPs required participation and input from a broad spectrum of local stakeholders in order to identify a set of priority conservation actions that are both approved by the local government and embraced by the local communities.

This project supported the operations of Community-based Conservation Teams (CCT) in Muong La, Mu Cang Chai, Tung Vai and Khau Ca for the entire project duration and in South Xuan Lac for half the project duration, FFI has since secured funding for continuation of CCT activities in four out of the five sites, which were under direct FFI project management. The CCT was discontinued at South Xuan Lac, a site in Bac Kan where all activities were implemented by PRCF. The work of the CCTs is reviewed quarterly and they receive regular training in species identification, patrol techniques and law enforcement in order to further strengthen the protection of critically important primate and tree species.

Community involvement in species conservation, through the SCAP development and through direct employment in patrols, surveys, maintaining of tree nurseries, etc., is expected to result in long-term local engagement in conservation activities among the people who have the most direct impact on the threatened species. This project has shown that the site-specific nature of this approach is adaptable and replicable to suit the unique confluence of species conservation needs, threats, socio-economic conditions and livelihood development factors at a specific site.

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

**Hectares Protected:** 40,000ha (Mu Cang Chai: 21,000ha, Muong La: 10,000ha, Khau Ca: 2,000ha, Quan Ba: 5,000, Trung Khanh: 2,000ha.

**Species Conserved:** Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*); Western black crested gibbon (*Nomascus concolor*); Cao vit gibbon (*Nomascus nasutus*); Francois' langur (*Trachypithecus francoisi*); Vietnamese Golden Cypress (*Xanthocyparis vietnamensis*); *Manglietia grandis*; *Michelia balansae*; *Michelia coriacea*; *Michelia fulva*; *Parakmeria yunnanensis*.

**Corridors Created:** None

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

The long-term goal has been achieved and conservation of all target species has been improved during the project. However, the degree and sustainability of the improvement cannot be assessed. At least at seven sites however further conservation activities are ongoing (Muong La, Mu Cang Chai, Khau Ca, Lam Binh, Quan Ba, Bat Dai Son and Trung Khanh) , which are connected seamlessly and logically to activities under this project. It can be assumed that conservation achievements will be sustainable at these sites.

One challenge was to get the project partners to understand that the site –specific species conservation action plans developed for several sites were not project documents but guidelines for further conservation interventions.

Another challenge was the sheer size of the project and the multitude of sites it dealt with. This required extensive travelling and the time factor for this was certainly underestimated during project development.

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

No. The project was overall designed sensibly and in a way that could be conducted, though it appeared to be very ambitious in terms of mere scale.

## 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:**

Site-based primate conservation action plans established at least four locations.

**Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

Locally-based Species Conservation Action Plans complete for Francois Langur in Lam Binh, Western black crested gibbon in Muong La and Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai.

**Component 2 Planned:**

Site-based endangered tree conservation action plans established at three to five locations led by the Centre for Plant Conservation.

**Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

Locally-based Species Conservation Action Plans complete for threatened Magnolia in Tung Vai and Vietnamese Golden Cypress in Bat Dai Son.

**Component 3 Planned:**

Local communities are actively engaged in conservation of target species.

**Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

Local Forest Protection Department staff, Community Conservation Teams, and villagers participated in the primate and tree surveys, and preceding training courses. The Species Conservation Action Plan development process involved extensive consultation with local communities and authorities in order to identify the perceived threats to and potential solutions for the conservation of target species.

**Component 4 Planned:**

The People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) coordinates field based activities in Bac Kan and Tuyen Quang and provides technical advice and guidance on the development of community-based conservation.

**Component 4 Actual at Completion:**

PRCF participated in the SCAP development in Lam Binh District, Tuyen Quang Province, and conducted three case studies documenting and analyzing the effectiveness of the SCAP process in Muong La, Lam Binh and Tung Vai. The case study in Bat Dai Son was dropped during the course of implementing the project, given delays in starting activities at the site and the consequent lack of time available to carry out the case study.

**Component 5 Planned:**

Opportunities identified for medium to long-term implementation of actions plans.

**Component 5 Actual at Completion:**

The participatory nature of SCAP development prompted local communities and authorities to work together to identify critical conservation needs for target species. This approach has enabled the

communities most dependent on the forest resources to identify solutions to the threats to the target species, often prioritizing community development as a path to species conservation. During the stakeholder workshop phase of SCAP development, stakeholder roles and responsibilities were identified for the implementation of each conservation action in the plan. FFI has already utilized the SCAPs in securing funding to implement activities identified in the plans.

**Component 6 Planned:**

Experiences of site-based species conservation shared and integrated across sites.

**Component 6 Actual at Completion:**

Guidelines for the participatory development of site-specific Species Conservation Actions Plans were produced by the project and disseminated to participants in a closing project workshop at which the SCAPs, outcomes and lessons learned were shared among national stakeholders.

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

No components unrealized.

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

- **Guidelines for participatory development of site-specific Species Conservation Action Plans:** This document contains guidelines for the development of Species Conservation Action Plans (SCAP) in a participatory manner. It provides an overview of the SCAP development process implemented by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF). By following these guidelines SCAPs can be developed with full stakeholder participation, and thus hopefully instill among stakeholders a sense of ownership of the resulting document and recommended actions. The step-by-step methodology of the SCAP development process should be easily replicable.

Submitted already

- **SCAP Local-based conservation of Francois' Langur at the Lam Binh forest 2013-2017:** This species conservation action plan has been developed as a document to provide guidance for conservation measures in Lam Binh District, Tuyen Quang Province for the coming years. It lists activities considered necessary by the local communities, authorities and scientists to assure the survival of the Francois' langur at this site. It can be used as a baseline document for fundraising by the government and international organizations. Its activities can, over the coming years, be gradually included in the provincial management plans and can be implemented as funding becomes available.

Submitted already

- **SCAP Local-based conservation of the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey and Magnolia at Tung Vai – Cao Ma Po – Ta Van Forest 2013-2017:** This Species Conservation Action Plan has been prepared following extensive consultation with local stakeholders to agree on steps to protect local biodiversity values of global significance while improving management of forest resources. It comprises three parts: (i) Chapters 1-3 describe the background to the plan, including the biodiversity values, socio-economic conditions and current management of the forest; (ii) Chapters 4-5 describe the issues to be addressed and opportunities; (iii) Chapters 6-9 comprise the action plan itself with a set of conservation actions, roles and responsibilities, an implementation plan and budget.

Submitted already

- **SCAP Local-based conservation of Vietnamese Golden Cypress in Bat Dai Son Nature Reserve 2013-2017:** This Species Conservation Action Plan provides guidance for conservation measures in Bat Dai Son Nature Reserve in Ha Giang Province for the coming years. It lists activities considered necessary by the local communities, authorities and scientists to assure the survival of the Vietnamese Golden Cypress at this site. It can, and should, be used as a baseline document for fundraising by the government and international organizations. Its activities can, over the coming years, also be gradually included in the provincial and protected area management plans, and can be implemented as funding becomes available.

Submitted already

- **SCAP Local-based conservation of Western Black Crested Gibbons in Muong La Watershed Protection Forest 2013-2017:** This Species Conservation Action Plan has been prepared following extensive consultation with local stakeholders to agree on steps to protect local biodiversity values of global significance while improving management of forest resources. It comprises three parts: (i) Chapters 1-3 describe the background to the plan, including the biodiversity values, socio-economic conditions and current management of the forest; (ii) Chapters 4-5 describe the issues to be addressed and opportunities; (iii) Chapters 6-8 comprise the action plan itself with a set of conservation actions, roles and responsibilities, an implementation plan and budget.

Submitted already

- **Participatory species conservation action planning: An analysis of the approach, outputs, and emerging impacts.** The SCAP assessment measures four key and interrelated aspects of the SCAPs strategy: the process itself, the process end result, the relevant impact of the process, and the sustainability of SCAP results.

Submitted already

- **Survey report for Francois' langur in Sinh Long – Lung Nhoi – Ban Cai forest areas of Na Hang District, Tuyen Quang Province:** This survey plays an important role in that it provides information on the current status of the Francois' langur population in this area. The SL/LH/BC forest area is thought to be the most important location in Vietnam for Francois' langur, and therefore as well as enabling the development of a Conservation Action Plan. The report also provides nationally and even internationally important information for the conservation of Francois' langur.

Submitted already

- **Survey report for Western black crested gibbon in Mu Cang Chai Species and Habitat Conservation Area, Yen Bai Province and adjacent forest in Muong La District, Son La Province:** The survey is the fourth full census within the 2006-2010 period. This report is the output of the 2010 population survey for Western Black Crested Gibbon *Nomascus concolor* carried out for FFI - Vietnam Programme from 2<sup>nd</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> May in Mu Cang Chai Species/Habitat Conservation Area and adjacent areas in Muong La District.

Submitted already

- **Survey report for Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Tung Vai – Ta Van – Cao Ma Po forest, Quan Ba District, Ha Giang Province:** This is the third specific survey conducted for Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey (TSNM), after the first discovery of a small population of TSNM in Tung Vai forest in 2007. This report is an output of a 2010 population survey for the TSNM carried out from 5 October to 25 October in Tung Vai-Ta Van-Cao Ma Po forest in Quan Ba District (Ha Giang Province). The 2010 survey confirmed total at least 3 to possibly 4 TSNM groups with at least 32-35 possibly up to 43 individuals of TSNM in Tung Vai-Ta Van-Cao Ma Po watershed forest.

Submitted already

- **Survey report for primates in Than Sa Phuong Hoang Nature Reserve, Vo Nhai District, Thai Nguyen Province:** This reports the results of interview and field surveys conducted in May and August 2012 in the area of Nghinh Tuong commune. A total of 26 mammal species were recorded. No species of primate was directly observed during the field surveys. However, interview reports which, if confirmed, could be of great importance are those of there being 30 – 40 Francois' langurs and 30 – 40 Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys at the site. For the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey this would represent a sizeable increase to the known global population of the species.

Submitted already

- **Survey report for primates South Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area, Bac Kan Province:** The goal of the survey was to elucidate the status of two endangered primates, *Rhinopithecus avunculus* and *Trachypithecus francoisi* and provide adequate data to develop a Conservation Action Plan for those species in South Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area. The results suggest the possible existence of small groups of *R. avunculus* in Lung Li, Lung Luông, and Dâu Cáp areas in the South Xuan Lac SHCA. However, like previous surveys, information on the distribution and population size of the species is solely based on local reports, though survey efforts are relatively significant.

Submitted already

- **Survey report for threatened tree species in Ha Giang Province, 2010-2011:** Report of surveys for Endangered and Critically Endangered Magnolia and Conifer species in Bat Dai Son, Tung Vai, Du Gia and Tay Con Linh conducted by Center for Plant Conservation in 2010 and 2011.

Submitted already

- **Report of field surveys to locate and collect seed of Conifer and Magnolia species within the Sinh Long Forest Area, Na Hang District:** Report of a survey to identify and collect specimens and seed of Magnolia and Conifer species of global and of national conservation significance and assess their current level of status. The survey confirmed the presence of nine species of Magnoliaceae Family from three genera including Manglietia, Magnolia and Michelia. Among the species from the Magnoliaceae Family, CPC collected seed from four species including: *Manglietia rostrata*, *K. septentrionalis*, *Magnolia liliifera*, *Michelia balansae* and the cultivated species *Manglietia chevalieri*. The survey discovered nine species from a total of 34 conifer species found in Vietnam. Of considerable significance was the discovery of a population of *Xanthocyparis vietnamensis*. This discovery adds a second known population of *X. vietnamensis* population in Vietnam and the world.

Submitted already

- **Report of threatened tree surveys in Species and Habitat Conservation Area at South Xuan Lac Nature Reserve, Bac Kan Province:** Report from the survey to establish, or update, the status of priority taxa, recording biodiversity values, threats, conservation needs, local awareness and adding to regional understanding and knowledge.

Submitted already

- **Booklet on Selected Magnolia Species of Ha Giang Province, Vietnam:** A dual-language (Vietnamese/English) booklet produced by Center for Plant Conservation and FFI to aid in the identification of the ten rarest Magnolia species recorded during field surveys in Ha Giang Province.

Submitted via dropbox

- **Francois' langur poster:** Poster produced by PRCF depicting images of the Francois' langur and information about its protected status, ecology, conservation and threats. Includes contact details for PRCF, FFI and relevant conservation departments of the provincial Forest Protection Departments.

Submitted already

- **Western black crested gibbon calendar 2012:** A calendar displaying images of the Western black crested gibbon (WBCG), its habitat, and conservation activities carried out by FFI, as well as textual information regarding the conservation and protected status of WBCG in Vietnam, the value of the forest and the activities of FFI. FFI produced 1000 of these calendars to use for awareness raising and distributed them to households in Muong La and Mu Cang Chai in the villages surrounding the habitat of the WBCG.

Submitted already

- **Muong La – Mu Cang Chai calendar 2013:** With the slogan “My future is in your hands!” this poster-sized calendar shows an eye-catching image of the Western black crested gibbon. FFI printed 2000 calendars for awareness raising in Muong La and Mu Cang Chai. The poster presents textual information on the status of the WBCG in Vietnam and calls for people to report incidents of wildlife crime to Muong La and Mu Cang Chai Forest Protection Stations or the Wildlife Crime Hotline via the numbers displayed.

Submitted already

- **Quan Ba calendar 2013:** 1000 copies of this poster, with a new and previously unpublished photo of the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey and information on the conservation and protected status of the monkey, were produced by FFI and distributed as awareness raising tool to the households in villages surrounding the monkeys’ habitat in Quan Ba District, Ha Giang Province.

Submitted already

- **Tung Vai Signboard:** This information board presents pictures of animals and plants protected under Vietnamese law that can occasionally be found in the markets around Quan Ba District, Ha Giang Province, and textual information on the relevant national legislation. One signboard (1.2 x 1.84m) was erected at Tung Vai Market and smaller signboards (0.8 x 1.2m) were erected in three People’s Committee headquarters.

Submitted already

- **CEPF project poster:** Produced by PRCF for awareness raising, this poster presents activities conducted under the current CEPF project.

Submitted already

Additionally submitted were all the minutes of the village PRA in all SCAP sites.  
Additionally submitted was the Muong La gibbon storybook.

## 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)*

None of the current FFI staff was involved in the design so this cannot be assessed.

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

A serious issue effecting project implementation was the fact that all staff originally involved in the project either left or were internally moved to other tasks. Also handovers to incoming staff were often ill prepared and thus time was lost. Despite this, all components were implemented, but it made the project unnecessarily difficult.

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

It is relevant to be more realistic about the possibilities of such a project.

There was confusion among government participants regarding the term 'SCAP' because the use of the word 'plan' indicated that the activities recommended in the document would be fully funded by the project. The name Species Conservation Action Plan should be changed to reflect in, local parlance, the function of the document. The term 'guideline' may be more appropriate when developing similar documents in the future.

SCAPs (under their revised name), should line up with the operational management plan of the target protected area, and if not within the landscape of a protected area, then to the provincial conservation and development plans for the area (e.g., district Socioeconomic Development Plans).

A guidance note should be prepared for facilitators/ conservation field staff to explain the SCAP concept to government officials, before activities start in the field. This will prevent misconceptions and add support for the plan through better understanding of its process of development and purpose.

Consistency of the involvement of stakeholders at the provincial /district stakeholder workshops is necessary to maximize understanding for the activity and to ensure a meaningful input. Participants should be identified at the outset of the process and commit to being involved in all follow-up meetings and document reviews.

The main lesson learned occurred during the final workshop. FPD (MARD) is currently charged with writing the new biodiversity action plan and primate action plan for Vietnam. Thus they are apprehensive of other documents appearing with the title action plan. However they did appreciate the groundwork done during the SCAP development process. They suggested if SCAPs are developed in the future following the protocol established by this project to name them "local based and participatory species conservation guidelines".

Components implemented by partners should only be implemented during initial project phases. FFI staff has limited influence on the completion of these components and cannot take measures to speed them up. This can lead to conflicts if such components are implemented until the end of the project.

The process of obtaining approval of the SCAP from the appropriate authorities has to be clarified in the very beginning of the project.

The main lesson is that the SCAPs need to contain a budget right from the start, even if it only gives an indication as to the actual cost. It is also important that it has to be clarified in the last workshop which authority is in charge of the endorsement.

We overestimated the ability of PRCF to conduct the Lam Binh SCAP. This was more or less entirely conducted by FFI.

The Species and Conservation Action Plan in Quan Ba probably involved too much consultation and could have been conducted quicker with similar results. The result being a broad set of agreed actions (not in too much detail) that can lead to more rapid implementation of conservation activities. The action plan was generally well-received at the workshop for presenting the action plan in Quan Ba. Other action plans should be conducted more quickly.

During the period we learned the importance of extensive community consultation in the development of the species conservation action plans. It is good that the process which we designed for making the plans is flexible enough to accommodate site level differences, and extend parts of the process as necessary



## 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.**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount (USD)	Notes
Co-management Learning Network	A	41,054	Strengthening collaborative management at Mu Cang Chai
EU Programme for Non-state actors and Local Authorities in Development	A	423,000	Participation of grassroots conservation organizations in Special Use Forest protection and management.
Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation	A	7,583	Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Quan Ba until June 2010.
Twycross Zoo	A	83,250	Cao Vit Gibbon Conservation Project. On going from April 2009 to April 2010 with a new budget approved each year.
USFWS Great Ape Conservation Fund	A	27,974	Project: Western Black Crested Gibbon in the Hoang Lien Son. Period: January to December 2010
USFWS Great Ape Conservation Fund	A	51,826	Muong La Period: May 2008 – May 2010
USFWS Critically Endangered Animal Conservation Fund	A	29,868	Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey Conservation Project at Khau Ca, Ha Giang Province, Vietnam. Period: Sept 2009 – Sept 2011
USFWS Great Ape Conservation Fund	A	55,207	Transboundary planning for habitat restoration for the cao vit gibbon, Vietnam/China: April 2008 – April 2010
USFWS Great Ape Conservation Fund	A	54,860	Project: Addressing current threats to the Western black crested gibbon in Muong La District. Period: Jun 2009 – July 2011
USFWS Great Ape Conservation Fund	B	58,320	Project: Strengthening Community-based Protection and Species Monitoring to conserve the Western Black Crested Gibbon <i>Nomascus concolor</i> in Yen Bai and Son La Provinces, Northern Vietnam Period: Aug 2012 – Aug 2013
USFWS Great Ape Conservation Fund	B	53,404	Project: Census of the transboundary Cao Vit Gibbon population and review of protected area management planning. Period: Sept 2011 – Sept 2012
USFWS Critically Endangered Animal Conservation Fund	B	24,611	Project: The conservation of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Quan Ba District. Period: Sept 2012 – Sept 2013
Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation	A	15,000	Conservation of the Critically Endangered Tonkin Snub-Nosed Monkey ( <i>Rhinopithecus avunculus</i> ) at Khau Ca Species and Habitat Conservation Area, Ha Giang

			Province, Vietnam Period: March 2013 – Nov 2013
Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation	B	15,000	Population Assessment, Viability Analysis and Status Review of the Critically Endangered Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Northern Vietnam Period: May 2013 – April 2014
CEPF	B	19,994	Project: Securing long-term sustainable financing of Community Conservation Teams for the protection of Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys in Khu Ca, Northern Vietnam. Period: Apr 2013 – Oct 2013
The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund	B	10,000	Project: Cao Vit Gibbon in Trung Khanh. Period: Jan 2013 – Jan 2014
The McKnight Foundation	A	80,000	Project: Improving natural resource management for Tay and Nung ethnic communities around the Cao Vit Gibbon Conservation Area in northern Vietnam Period: July 2010 – Dec 2012
The McKnight Foundation	B	45,000	Project: Improving natural resource management near Cao Vit Gibbon Conservation Area in N Vietnam Phase 3. Period: Jan 2013 – Jan 2014
Fota Wildlife Park	B	26,000	Project: Supporting Community Conservation Teams in Quan Ba and Mu Cang Chai Districts. Period: June 2012 – June 2013

**\*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.**

This project was designed to gather baseline information on little known sites, develop guiding documents for the most important of these sites and simultaneously consolidate ongoing conservation activities.

The project funded the activities of Community Conservation Teams and supported efforts to secure mid to long-term funding from alternative sources. Community Conservation Teams in three sites are now supported by two British and Irish zoos, and individual team members are supported by two Hanoi-based

travel companies. FFI has also secured funding for the Community Conservation Teams through the traditional donor agencies and continuation of community based conservation for at least one to three years is guaranteed for all FFI primate sites (Muong La, Mu Cang Chai, Khau Ca, Quan Ba, Trung Khanh).

The Species Conservation Action Plans produced by this project suggest a suite of conservation interventions for each site until 2017. The activities therein have been proposed by the local communities and approved by provincial authorities. Furthermore, the SCAPs comprise a suggested budget, implementation timeframe and agency roles, and are, therefore, valuable resources when developing project proposals, and ideally district and provincial development plans, and have already been used as such. Local communities have been involved throughout the SCAP development process and the implementation of the proposed actions is therefore more likely to be accepted by the communities and consequently more sustainable than conservation interventions imposed on the community from the outside. Although SCAPs were not developed for all sites involved in this project, surveys of threatened primate and tree species provided important information about the status and distribution of the target species. This data can now be used to prioritize conservation activities, to raise further funds, and to provide a baseline by which to measure conservation success. Skills acquired by those involved in the surveys, including CPC, FFI, Community Conservation Teams, Forest Protection Department, etc., can be used to carry out research at other sites in Vietnam. A comprehensive primate survey training course has been developed and can be replicated at any site which might require primate surveys.

The production and dissemination of guidelines for the participatory development of Species Conservation Action Plan will enable the process to be repeated at the selected sites following the 2013 – 2017 implementation period, and enable the process to be replicated at other sites in the region. Similarly, lessons learned from the case studies documenting and analyzing the effectiveness of the SCAP process in Muong La, Lam Binh and Tung Vai will contribute to the success of future SCAP development. Sites where little conservation and socioeconomic information is available will benefit from SCAP development as outlined in the SCAP guidelines.

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

## **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

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

The draft SCAP process document outlines methods of ensuring full community participation in the species action planning process so that activities planned did not lead to environmental or social safeguard issues.

During provincial level workshops in Ha Giang and at meetings with FPD in Son La province the issues relating to World Bank safeguards were discussed.

1,500 posters were distributed around project sites to explain the purpose and content of the project and to give local stakeholders the chance in provide input or complaint.

During the PRA in the SCAP process, special attention was paid to involve elderly people and women via invitation of the Women's Union and Veteran's Union. The majority of the people participating in these meetings were members of ethnic minority groups. In the PRA, local people were asked to list the problems which they experience and which relate to the forest in any way. Information was collected on the ways they use forest resources. Local people were asked what, in their opinion, threatens the target species. They were asked to list the drivers for the threats and how it could be addressed and who should, in their opinion, address it. The PRAs were conducted only by local staff of FFI, who have experience with outreach work. They were supported by local Community Conservation Team members

and a district ranger. The latter two ensured that FFI staff sufficiently understood the local context and they also helped with minority languages so everybody had a chance to contribute, in particular older people without a formal school education or Vietnamese language skills. In these meetings local people raised a lot of grievances, eg the loss of land through inundation for hydropower projects, overpopulation, lack of vocational training and lack of employment opportunities. These were included in the species conservation action plans and thus officially passed on to the authorities. This gave the local opinions more of a voice. All the species conservation action plans make very clear that the conservation of our respective target species will only be successful if the concerns of local people are taken into account.

At some of the project sites (Mu Cang Chai, Khau Ca and Trung Khanh) FFI also established stakeholder groups as forest management advisory committees. In these committees all villages are represented and they have a direct way to express their concerns or wishes to forest protection authorities, district authorities and of course the representatives of other villages. FFI staff finance and facilitate the stakeholder meetings in order to make sure everybody is heard. As meetings get more of a routine, people become more confident to voice their opinion.

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

During review of Community Conservation Team activities with village members and FPD, FFI received information that Phong Quang Nature Reserve (Ha Giang Province) might hold a population of Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey. If this were true, it would be highly significant for the conservation of Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey because the site contains approximately 10,000 hectares of forest and is almost contiguous with the forest in Tung Vai (where through CEPF funds, FFI IS already working). Conducting a survey at Phong Quang was planned for 2012 but could finally not be implemented as due to border conflicts along the Sino-Vietnamese border no permit to work in this area could be obtained.

This project was the most comprehensive primate conservation project implemented in Northern Vietnam during the past decade. It allowed standardization of primate conservation in the project sites, to a certain degree, which allows for even better use of resources now and in the future. As these sites are mostly very small it is very important to standardize protocols and approaches instead of re-inventing the wheel for each site. Under this project FFI could develop five comparable projects. Of course there remain differences in administrative structures, environment and species, however, FFI strongly believe that if working at such small sites should be sustainable it is very important that NGOs enhance their own effectiveness by creating a large degree of replicability.

## 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.

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**\*\*\*If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\***

## 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 from  1 July, 2012 to 31 March, 2013  (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?	Yes	10,000 ha	10,000 ha	The protection status of Muong La Watershed Protection Forest is currently in the process of being upgraded.
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	23,000ha	24,700ha	Maintained community based patrolling in the following CEPF priority sites: Trung Khanh SHCA (2000 ha), Mu Cang Chai SHCA (21,000ha); and South Xuan Lac SHCA (1700ha).
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	12,000ha	12,000ha	Community based patrolling has been maintained in Muong La (2000ha), Tung Vai (5000ha) and Khau Ca (2000ha)
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**



