

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Process Framework

Project Title: Securing long-term sustainable financing of Community Conservation Teams for the protection of Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys in Khau Ca, Northern Vietnam
Organization: Fauna & Flora International
Application Code:
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A. Project background

The overall goal of the project is to continue financing of community conservation teams, to maintain the on-the-ground protection of the Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys and their habitat in Khau Ca Species and Habitat Conservation Area while allowing time for Fauna & Flora International to develop a long-term sustainable financing strategy.

With a known population of less than 200 individuals, the target species of this project, the Critically Endangered Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*), is endemic to Northern Vietnam and the entire population is now restricted to only a few isolated locations. Once thought to be extinct, in 2002 and FFI led team discovered in Khau Ca District what is today known to be the largest population of this species, consisting of more than 100 individuals.

Following the discovery of snub-nosed monkeys in Khau Ca, the immediate response of FFI was to improve the on-the-ground protection of the monkeys and their habitat through the establishment of Community Conservation Teams whose job it is to patrol the forest for illegal activities, monitor the Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys and other biodiversity, and raise awareness among local communities.

All Community Conservation Team members are ethnic Tày or Dao recruited from Tung Ba and Minh Son communes in Khau Ca District. The small but regular salary received by the CCT creates a tangible link between the conservation of the monkeys and the livelihood of the villagers.

The Community Conservation Teams were established in Khau Ca more than 10 years ago and have been supported by various grants, in the most recent years (2010-2012) under the CEPF funded project “*Promoting Community Based Collaborative Management to Strengthen Long Term Conservation of Globally Threatened Primates and Trees in Priority Sites of Northern Vietnam*” implemented by FFI at 11 sites between January 2010 and March 2013.

The project proposed here is to support the continuation of Community Conservation Team activities in Khau Ca for the first 10 months of 2013 during which time FFI will seek to diversify its funding portfolio in order to secure long-term funding for the Community Conservation Teams in Khau Ca. (Within the CEPF project sustainable funding has already been secured to support the CCT teams in Quang Ba, Muong La, Trung Khanh and partly Mu Cang Chai.)

Khau Ca is surrounded by 16 Villages in 3 communes, containing just fewer than 10,000 people in about 1,800 households. The largest ethnic group is the Tay (7,500 people), followed by Dzao (1500) and H’mong. These villages have a high levels of dependence on the forest and destructive traditions of slash-and-burn agriculture, logging and hunting. However with the work of the CCT in the past years, hunting is no longer a threat to the Tonkin snubnose monkeys. As a result of the dominance of what are considered nationally to

be ethnic minorities, no Indigenous People's Planning Framework will be prepared, because all measures to mitigate impacts to local communities that are described in this Process Framework will apply directly to local ethnic minority groups.

B. Participatory implementation

FFI has been working in Khau Ca District since 2002. Resource use assessments and participatory land use mapping was carried out among all surrounding villages. These processes ensured that land tenure issues, including traditional land rights and use of natural resources by different communities, were taken into account during the establishment of the Species and Habitat Conservation Area in August 2009.

Only two FPD rangers are assigned to Khau Ca as a legal protection force and the Community Conservation Teams have been established to support their work and patrol the forest and prevent illegal extraction of resources. They are entirely comprised of local villagers and are managed by the Forest Protection Department and protected area management board.

Under the EU Non State Actors Programme FFI also supported the establishment of a multi-stakeholder management advisory committee for Khau Ca Species and Habitat Conservation Area. The management advisory committee comprises representatives from Ha Giang FPD, Khau Ca SHCA, People's Committees, Police, village and commune leaders. It provides an innovative podium to discuss forest management issues and it facilitates the coordination of interventions in the bufferzone with forest conservation needs. It creates a direct contact between to forest management authorities, buffer zone authorities and the communities in the buffer zone.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

Community Conservation Team patrol activities may affect some members of the local communities who are engaged in activities inside the conservation area that contravene the protected area and village regulations.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

The measures to assist affected persons are implemented through parallel activities under an project funded from other sources.

FFI and partners are implementing an EU funded project at Khau Ca to strengthen grass roots participation in protected area management. This includes the distribution of small grants to the villages that enable village-level institutions to develop and implement their own small projects to support village development in such a way as to reduce pressure on the forests.

Educational activities to raise awareness in surrounding villages are currently implemented under a project funded by Denver Zoo.

Under a proposed project, FFI will test the feasibility of developing small-volume high-value ecotourism to the site. If successful this would provide alternative livelihood activities in the form of homestays, guided tours, etc, and would contribute to the sustainability of conservation activities at the site.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism

In addition to patrolling, the Community Conservation Teams perform the important function of acting as a communications link between local communities and protected area or forest protection authorities. The teams are members of the communities and ethnic minorities as the

people surrounding the conservation area. Therefore, communication between villagers and the protected area management board is facilitated by the Community Conservation Teams. They serve to identify sources of conflict and report to their supervisors. FFI and Ha Giang FPD meet with the Community Conservation Teams on a monthly basis. The teams are the main point of contact for informing potentially affected people of grievance mechanisms. Materials like postcards and flyers with the phone number of FFI have been handed out to the villagers at project inception in 2010 so they would have the means to contact FFI and FPD directly in case of grievances. Reports on grievance are provided to project partners. Project staff follows up on any reported issues with affected persons directly in the field. Where relevant, the project will support affected persons to contact CEPF RIT. FFI and Forest Protection Department partners work closely with Commune People's Committees in planning activities and reporting on results.

F. Implementation Arrangements

FFI will take overall responsibility for managing the project and ensuring appropriate mitigation measures are taken. FFI project staff will conduct on-going monitoring of project activities and implementation of this process framework at all sites where FFI is coordinating field activities.

The Forest Protection Department and Protected Area Management Boards will be the main government counterparts to the project and will be involved in all field aspects of project implementation. In this way the project will be supporting the Forest Protection Department and Protected Area Management Boards develop their capacity to resolve issues of conflicts between local communities and conservation.

Commune and District People's Committees will be involved throughout the project in planning, reporting and consultations. They will support the project to identify needs of local communities and identify solutions to resolve conflicts. Commune People's Committees will also monitor activities of the community conservation teams.

It is very unlikely that activities of the project will adversely impact the livelihoods of local communities. Nevertheless monitoring implementation of this process framework will mainly be included within regular coordination visits at the project sites.