

## Social Assessment (including Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework) for CEPF

### Project Title: Understanding and inspiring conservation of Saola and other endemic species in a new protected area in Lao PDR

#### 1. Indigenous peoples in the project area:

A total of 10 villages will be visited during the study. These villages are located around the Phou Sythone Endangered Species Conservation Area (PST) which is located in the northern Annamite Mountains of Laos, between 18°-19° N to 104°-105° E. The main part of the conservation land has an area of approximately 142 km<sup>2</sup>. Nine of the ten target villages have ethnic minorities that make up a majority of their respective populations, while only one is Lao Loum (ethnic majority in Laos PDR) (see attached Table & Figure 1).

**Table 1.** List of the indigenous peoples of the 10 villages of the proposed project area (see also Figure 1 below).

<u>Village</u>	<u>Ethnic minority</u>
Phonmuang	Phong
Muangcham	Phong
Sopkhon	Hmong
Phongam	Lao Loum
Thentuang	Kha Mou
Phiangkeung	Kha Mou
Khamkouna	Toum
Phiangpho	Phong
Phondou	Toum
Pha kort	Hmong

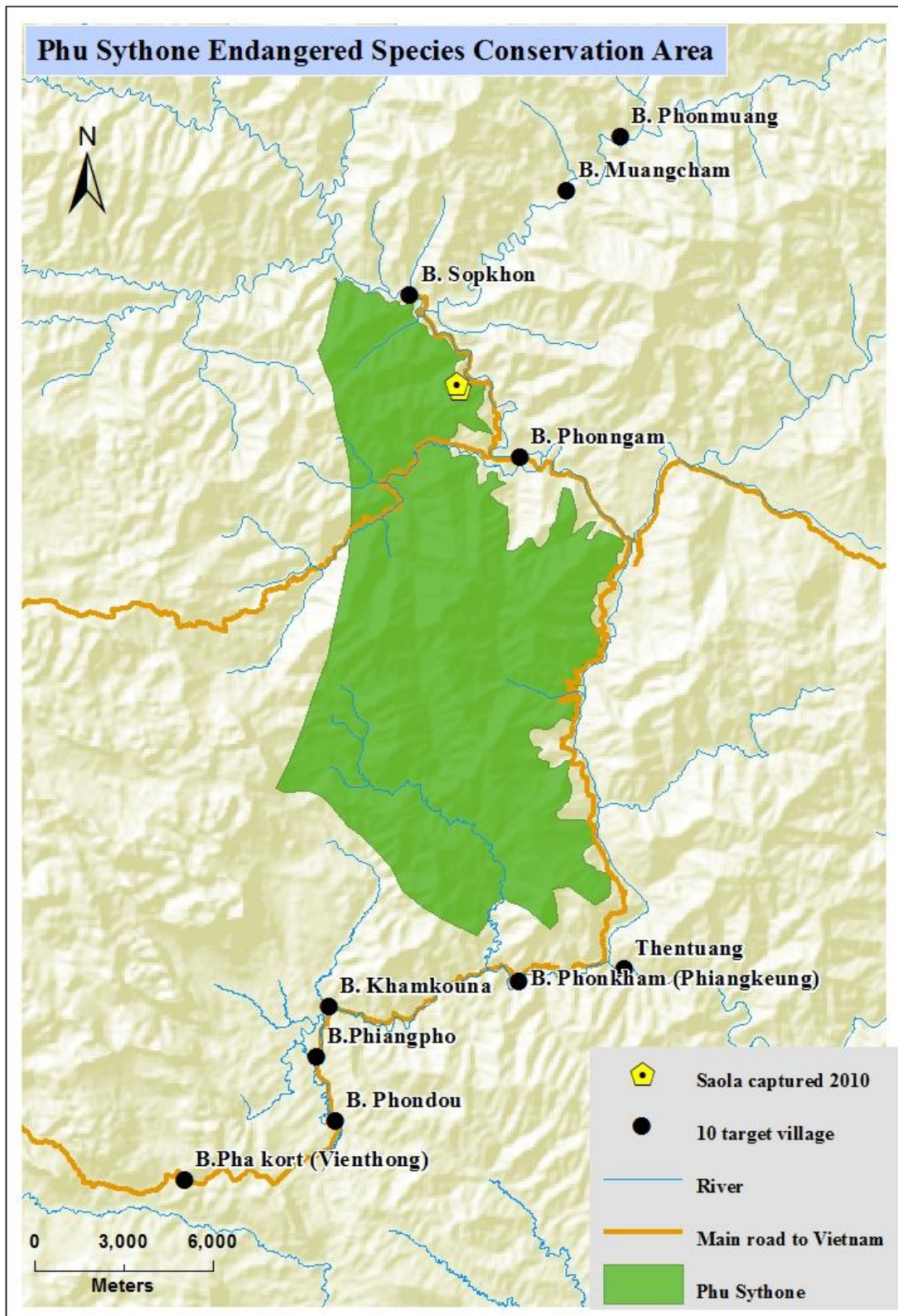


Figure 1. Locations of 10 villages the study will take place. Ethnic affiliations of the different villages are listed in Table 1.

**2. Expected project impacts** (both positive and negative):

As described in the LoI text, the principal investigator will hire and work with local guides, and participate in community mapping exercises. The principal investigator will discuss with a small group (roughly 8-10 per village) of the most experienced local people (those who spend large amounts of time in the forest) about the locations of threatened ungulates (saola, *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*, Chinese serow, *Capricornis milneedwardsii*, and sambar *Cervus unicolor*) within the study area. Following these interviews, we will then ask permission to set camera-traps in their customary village forests. We anticipate only benefits to the villagers from the project (e.g., income generation), and no adverse impacts.

**3. Community consultation and participation**

Free, prior, and informed consent will be the approach used in all project activities. Community mapping meetings will be held with 8-10 of the most knowledgeable members of each village regarding the identification and locations of targeted wildlife. This mapping exercise will be held in each of the 10 villages lasting no more than 2 hours per village. From these meetings, individuals from 5 of the villages which have regular direct observations of the critically endangered saola, will be asked to bring the field project leader (Mr. Chanthasone Phommachanh) to points in the forest where animals were seen. All such community members who agree to participate in these follow-up surveys will be paid for their time following fair and appropriate rates for the area. We expect these follow-up surveys to require 2-3 days per participant. Chanthasone conducted some initial habitat measurements based on a handful of pilot interviews of local people in September-October of 2013 to test the methodology and to ask for their further cooperation. Most of the target individuals for the follow-up surveys Chanthasone has already met during community interviews conducted under the Integrated Ecosystem and Wildlife Management Protected Area (IEWMP) Project in 2011 under the Wildlife Conservation Society-Lao Program, thus a great deal of trust has already developed between the locals and Chanthasone.

**4. Measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits**

We are not anticipating any adverse impacts from this project. There are no invasive management activities planned as part of this project, the goal is simply information sharing about threatened species with follow-up surveys to try to locate animals through camera trapping and measure habitat at points where animals are observed either via cameras or by local people. Local people with direct knowledge will also be employed to help guide camera placement. These camera surveys will require perhaps one week to setup and another few days every six weeks to follow-up the cameras to replace batteries and memory cards. Although we will be providing extra income to a few individuals, particularly those fortunate enough to have seen saola in the forest, because of our project's temporary and occasional nature, we do not anticipate that it

will be so much money that it is likely to generate jealousy or ill will. Furthermore, we will instruct our team to not bring in alcohol. Finally, to the extent possible, field teams will be self-sufficient and will not rely on local communities to provide food or accommodation. If logistics prevent complete self-sufficiency, and such services are occasionally required, we will pay appropriate local rates for whatever services are provided. Field teams will also adhere to internationally-accepted codes of conduct.

## **5. Monitoring of potential adverse impacts**

We do not anticipate any adverse impacts however we will monitor behavior of other members of the community towards our selected guides and assistants for signs of jealousy or other ill-will due to their temporary employment with the project.

## **6. Grievance mechanism**

The project will create grievance mechanism, where any persons who are dissatisfied with the project or have a disagreement with any member of the project team are able to raise these concerns. We will produce A-4 handouts for project participants, in the local languages containing a brief summary of the project's objectives and providing contact details of the WCS-Lao coordinator in Vientiane (Laos) who can pass these grievances on to senior project coordinators in Bangkok (Thailand) so that anyone who has a grievance which they do not wish to discuss with the local project team, can raise it with staff in Bangkok.