

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Center for People and Nature Reconciliation
<b>Project Title:</b>	Raising Concerns – Reducing Impacts: Providing Inputs to Local Development Policies Related to Biodiversity and Natural Resources through Engaging the Media
<b>Date of Report:</b>	January 21, 2013
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**CEPF Region:** Indochina (Indo-Burma)

**Strategic Direction:** 3. Reconcile conservation and development

**Grant Amount:** US\$104,670

**Project Dates:** 1 Sep, 2009-31 Aug, 2012

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):** This project involved journalists and media agencies at national and provincial levels (in the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor). During three years of the project, PanNature involved 56 journalists of all provincial newspapers in the project sites and major national newspapers, including print, online, radio and television agencies.

PanNature joined WCS Vietnam Program in carrying out two journalist workshops and supported journalist field investigations. PanNature also participated in activities of the CEPF-funded project implemented by IUCN Vietnam.

PanNature and Fauna and Flora International in Vietnam (FFI) has developed partnership and worked together in several joint projects, including CEPF-funded projects in the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor and the cross-border project in Quang Binh and Lao. The communication team of PanNature successfully supported FFI to organize one media workshop in 2012 on wildlife trade in Ha Tinh province and related cross-border issues.

Other CEPF grantees such as PRCF and Warecod also shared field experience and meaningful support for PanNature's communication team and participating journalists to bring issues, lessons on the ground to the public forum. PanNature also attracted participation of other local civil society organizations such as CREDEP and Cao Bang Association for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection in organizing media workshop and disseminating information on the trade of wild medicinal plants in the project sites.

PanNature also got support from different international and national conservation organizations and individual professionals in specific issues and discussions on important development and conservation themes in forms of interviews and guest articles for publishing on ThienNhien.Net.

### Conservation Impacts

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

The project outcomes has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile through linkages with the strategic direction number 3 of the CEPF's Indo-Burma Investment Priorities, which states: "*engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives, with a particular emphasis on the Northern Limestone Highlands and Mekong River and its major tributaries*". Specifically:

- Investment priority 3.3 (*Conduct targeted outreach and awareness raising for decision makers, journalists, and lawyers*): The project was implemented by PanNature, a Vietnamese civil society organization, in cooperation with the media and other partners to bring issues related to development policies and conservation of natural resources to the policy-making level.
- Investment priority 3.1 (*Support civil society efforts to analyze development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and propose alternative development scenarios and appropriate mitigating measures*): In addition to brought up issues on the ground to the public forum, made local cases relevant to national policies, the project also helped PanNature to work on conservation issues from the perspectives of impacts of development, which is a different approach from conventional conservation. Through this project, PanNature also learnt to navigate its programs and activities to taking development issues into account rather than narrowly focusing on pure conservation interventions. By working with different actors, PanNature has built up its capacity in monitoring, analyzing, and providing inputs to development policies in support of nature conservation and environmental protection.

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

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

To promote better policies and good governance in biodiversity conservation and critical ecosystems management in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor in Vietnam.

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

The project has fostered positive impacts on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor in Vietnam through improving public information and influencing related policies in both local and national levels. Specifically:

- Drawing interests of Vietnamese journalists and media (provincial and national levels) to focus and report on development issues and impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems in the project sites.
- Improving transparency of information and accountability of local and national government agencies having responsibilities to manage natural resources and protect biodiversity through closely monitoring and supplying information to the public.
- Bringing field problems, issues, lessons to the policy agenda at both provincial and national levels through policy analysis, information briefing and dialogues.

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

To increase active and meaningful participation of the media and civil society in advocating for reconciling development policies and biodiversity conservation in four provinces within the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor in Vietnam.

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

The amount of public information about issues related to development themes and impacts on biodiversity conservation in four provinces in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor in Vietnam has been increasing significantly during the implementation of this project. Efforts in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management by civil society and local partners were reported to the public by participating journalists and the communication team of PanNature.

More specific impacts include:

- Provincial and national journalists having interests in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor are aware of policies and issues related to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management through regular updates on PanNature's network of journalists.
- Local and national journalists can get support from PanNature for information, contacts of experts and organizations, and advice when they need.
- Issues and problems in natural resources management and exploitation in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor are closely followed up reflected on the media. PanNature's news website ThienNhien.Net also serves as an alternative outlet for disseminating information that may not yet be considered as priority by mainstream media.
- Issues around protected area management in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor have been covered on the media and PanNature's news website ThienNhien.Net intensively during the implementation of this project, in addition to policy dialogues at national level of PanNature's policy activities.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:** Not applicable

**Hectares Protected:**

**Species Conserved:**

**Corridors Created:**

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

**Success:** Overall, this project has helped PanNature to enhance its organizational capacity in environmental communication and media, create a network of Vietnamese journalists interested in biodiversity conservation issues, and develop ThienNhien.Net as one of leading environmental news outlets in Vietnam.

The project well applies the approach of using the media for creating positive social changes in biodiversity conservation. By engaging journalists to report stories on the ground, the project helps bring more conservation issues and challenges to the public and policy arena.

PanNature also witnessed positive responses from local and central governments after media reports on provincial, national newspapers and ThienNhien.Net. An example is the request from Deputy Prime Minister in September 2012 for Tuyen Quang province to report on forest destruction in Na Hang forest<sup>1</sup>. A detailed summary of major success cases is attached in the Appendix of this report.

The project also helps PanNature to enrich arguments and evidence for discussions on development issues and impacts on the environment and biodiversity. Some development themes have become focal points for public attention and policy debates on their impacts on communities and living environment, including mining, hydropower, commercial plantation, and land conversion for economic purposes. PanNature has been recognized as a resource organization for the media and also other agencies for information and knowledge about environmental aspects of hydropower and mining issues<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Link on government's web portal: <http://baodientu.chinhphu.vn/Home/Kiem-tra-thong-tin-rung-dac-dung-Na-Hang-bi-phat-tia/20129/148042.vgp>

<sup>2</sup> Selected media reports and quotes are available on PanNature's website. English: [www.nature.org.vn/en](http://www.nature.org.vn/en); Vietnamese: [www.nature.org.vn/vn](http://www.nature.org.vn/vn)

### **Challenges:**

In the social and political contexts in Vietnam, the government policies on media and information have strong influence on the publishing process. In addition, there are still different viewpoints of the state on roles of civil society, including negative perspectives (see "*Public image of INGOs and civil society in Vietnam*" in <http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/ingo-forum-meetings-2012>). As a local organization, PanNature has to operate within the available space and legal requirements, which are not totally favorable sometimes.

The other challenge for media and communication efforts is the lack of stable funding to invest in more media activities and engagement of journalists. Considering the importance of media on policy reform and social changes in Vietnam, PanNature needs to continue our efforts to work with these change agents to create more support for conservation.

PanNature's capacity to handle important development issues is also a major challenge. As the organization grows and engages more in national policies, there are often requests from both government agencies and partners to provide inputs, voices, and analysis on different development themes. PanNature still needs more investment to develop internal systems and human resources to cope up with its growing position, as well as flexibility to respond to public demands that sometimes are not yet in our plan.

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

The media brief on mining impacts in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor gets good responses from the media and government agencies (see *Appendix*). During their meeting session in 2012, the National Assembly has requested PanNature to provide print copies of this resource for them to distribute to their members.

In May 2012, after intensive reports on ThienNhien.Net on impacts of mining in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor, local governments sent complaints to the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC). MIC asked PanNature to clarify and requested to follow the laws on media and publishing, which does not allow information website such as ThienNhien.Net to publish its own news and stories rather than reproducing from media sources. The second warning of MIC came in late 2012 after series of reports on Mekong dams on ThienNhien.Net. Due to these constraints, PanNature now has to find alternatives for information dissemination while maintaining the work with media and journalists.

## **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:**

Strengthening capacity of PanNature in working with media to promote voice and participation of different stakeholders in development process

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

The project has helped PanNature to become a resource organization for the media on different environmental and conservation issues (*also see description of impacts in the above section*). In addition, the network of collaborating journalists is maintained and expanded with more participation of those sharing interests in issues related to biodiversity conservation in the

Northern Highland Limestone Corridor. The current PanNature's Google Group of collaborating journalists includes 364 members.

Within three years of the project, PanNature has increased the amount of information on environmental and conservation issues on the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor on ThienNhien.Net significantly. The number of articles published are higher than expected in the project design. For examples, from January to June 2012, there were 74 news articles and stories related to the project sites published in comparison to 30 in the project plan.

During the project, in addition to participation of 56 national and provincial journalists, PanNature's communication team also received effective support of 51 university student volunteers and 17 interns working both from the distance and in Hanoi office. Partner organizations having operation in the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor (CEPF grantees and others) also helped provide both technical and logistic support for PanNature and participating journalists during their field investigation trips.

The project also helped PanNature to upgrade ThienNhien.Net to a more stable and robust publishing platform for smooth delivery of information, as well as engaging with the public through social media tools integrated in the news website. The communication team is equipped with necessary digital equipment for carrying out reporting and daily publishing work.

**Component 2 Planned:**

Engaging media to investigate and analyze multi-faceted impacts of development policies on biodiversity and ecosystem services

**Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

PanNature organized field exposure trips and investigation with participating journalists on a wide variety of themes, ranging from hot development issues such as hydropower, mining and forest destruction to rubber plantation, illegal logging, land conversion, and good lessons of forest protection and natural resources management on the ground. In addition to 56 participating journalists, PanNature maintains connection with non-journalist collaborators (70 nation-wide to date), who occasionally provide reports on local issues and stories.

Reports from field trips were published on ThienNhien.Net as well as provincial and national newspapers and media. Coverage on various themes from these field trips have caught attention of the government, which led to specific requests and directives from central agencies to local authorities for actions to solve reported problems. Examples include mining in Cao Bang province, rubber plantation and impacts in the Northern Mountains, or forest destruction in Na Hang. Details of these responses are included in regular reports to CEPF and summarized in the Appendix of this report.

The project also provides platforms for journalists to share their experience and discuss perspectives on different development issues with other actors such as scientists, researchers, and civil society organizations. Three workshops were organized during the project duration. The first workshop with focus on exploitation and trade of medicinal plants in four provinces of the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor was organized in March 2011 by PanNature in cooperation with a Vietnamese NGO CREDEP and two provincial associations in Cao Bang province. The second workshop "Behind Mekong Dams" was organized in Ho Chi Minh City in October 2011 to respond to the urgent development of dam projects on the Mekong River. This journalist workshop was part of both media and policy projects funded by CEPF. The third workshop "The Future of Vietnam's Special-Use Forests: Perspectives on Policies, Resources, and Laws Enforcement" was organized in June 2012 in collaboration with Fauna and Flora International and Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association.

PanNature extended the work with media and journalists through joining with WCS on wildlife trade issues. PanNature helped WCS organize two journalist workshops in Binh Duong province (in November 2009) and in Mong Cai, Quang Ninh province (in March 2010). In addition to newspaper reports and stories from these two workshops, a series of television reports on wildlife trade in Vietnam was also broadcasted by Channel II of Vietnam Television<sup>3</sup>.

**Component 3 Planned:**

Keeping the public and decision-makers informed about potential risks and solutions

**Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

During the project period, PanNature gradually published 115 articles and stories from field investigation trips on ThienNhien.Net. Participating journalists also published their reports on newspapers and media agencies where they're working. There are 93 trackable articles and stories published on other media outlets after these field trips. This total does not include those published in print newspapers by provincial and national media, as well as radio and television reports that PanNature was not able to track. Some television reports are reproduced on PanNature's YouTube Channel.

PanNature has produced and distributed a number of briefings to the network of participating journalists. These include on briefing on mining impacts in the four project provinces (including an interactive map), exploitation and trade of medicinal plants, Mekong dams and potential impacts on Vietnam, trade of rosewood, deforestation hotspots in the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor, and an interactive map of poorest districts in Vietnam (*available links to these resources are listed in following section*). Participating journalists also receive regular updates and important information through the Google Groups email list managed by PanNature.

A distinct feature of ThienNhien.Net is its knowledge collection of translated contents from selected international sources on wide variety of environmental and conservation themes. In total, 125 articles were translated, published and also reproduced by other online newspapers, government's portals and other websites. This part of ThienNhien.Net has contributed valuable information, knowledge and data for certain issues that do not have sufficient knowledge available in Vietnamese, such as the controversies over proposed hydropower projects on the mainstream of Mekong River or concepts around the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for the problematic mining sector. This section of ThienNhien.Net also covers emerging issues related to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management such as payment for environmental services, biodiversity safeguards, REDD+, and climate change.

**Component 4 Planned:**

Providing inputs to local development polices through open dialogues among different stakeholders.

**Component 4 Actual at Completion:**

The section for in-depth interviews, discussions and analysis on development policies on ThienNhien.Net has included 75 articles during the project period. This section is used for timely response to emerging issues of public interests. In addition to internal analysis, PanNature also invited experts from other national and international agencies to provide their writings and commentaries.

In recent years, PanNature's senior managers have also commented on various issues upon requests from media agencies. These include quotes on wildlife trade, environmental impacts of proposed dams on Mekong, hydropower controversies in Vietnam, mining impacts on ecosystems, water resource governance, protected area management, and so on. Collection of

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<sup>3</sup> Also available on PanNature's YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/PanNature](http://www.youtube.com/PanNature)

media stories with PanNature's comments are reproduced on PanNature's website (English: [www.nature.org.vn/en](http://www.nature.org.vn/en); Vietnamese: [www.nature.org.vn/vn](http://www.nature.org.vn/vn)).

The Communication Department also supported the Policy Department (implementing the other CEPF grant) to organize a policy workshop "Mainstream Mekong Dams: Implications on Livelihoods, Food Security and Regional Stability" on 4th October 2011 in Hanoi, in addition to the journalist workshop in Ho Chi Minh City. Journalists participating in field investigation trips in the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor were also invited to deliver presentations on their findings on mining impacts and rubber plantation program in a policy workshop organized in September 2012 by PanNature's Policy Department.

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

One deliverable in component 3 (*Three focal issue publications based on results of field investigation are published and distributed to relevant organizations and agencies at provincial and national levels*) was unrealized as planned. However, results of field investigation were published fully on ThienNhien.Net as well as provincial and national media. These media reports on ThienNhien.Net were also reproduced by many other organizations and agencies (for examples, Google search of the phrase "ThienNhien.Net" on Vietnam Environmental Administration shows 1,200 results; on website of Vietnam Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment shows over 4,800 results). Therefore, this can be considered not affecting the overall impact of the project.

The deliverable "*One policy workshop with participation of different stakeholders organized to discuss about important development and natural resources conservation policies, which are related to issues raised by journalists and PanNature in field investigation activities*" in component 4 was unrealized. As described above, the workshop "The Future of Vietnam's Special-Use Forests: Perspectives on Policies, Resources, and Laws Enforcement" in June 2012 and the policy workshop in September 2012 also included participation of those journalists involved in field investigation trips in the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor. With this consideration, this unrealized deliverable did not affect overall impact of the project.

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

Below are links to resources resulted from the project available electronically:

ThienNhien.Net: [www.thiennhien.net](http://www.thiennhien.net)

Interactive Maps

- 62 poorest districts in Vietnam: <http://nature.org.vn/vn/category/tu-lieu/multimedia/ban-do/>
- Mining hotspots in the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor: <http://nature.org.vn/vn/2012/08/nhung-diem-nong-khoang-san-phia-bac/>

Media briefings

- Mining hotspots in the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor (file for print): [http://www.nature.org.vn/vn/tai-lieu/MediaBrief\\_Mining\\_in\\_NHLC\\_VN\\_web.pdf](http://www.nature.org.vn/vn/tai-lieu/MediaBrief_Mining_in_NHLC_VN_web.pdf)
- Mekong hydropower dams: Who win – who lose? <http://nature.org.vn/vn/2011/10/thuy-dien-me-kong-ai-duoc-ai-mat/>
- Collection of resources on Mekong dams: <http://nature.org.vn/vn/2011/10/dang-sau-nhung-con-dap-me-kong/>

Media quotes:

- In Vietnamese: <http://nature.org.vn/vn/category/news/bao-chi/>
- In English: <http://www.nature.org.vn/en/category/news/on-media/>

Videos:

- Produced by the communication team:  
<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL355E191055CA743E>
- Exploitation and trade of medicinal plants in the Northern Highland Limestone Corridor:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGDd58RFL10>
- Fights against wildlife trade (from journalist workshops with WCS):  
Part I <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjeJFMKTRMM>  
Part II: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wfo81jgz7nM>  
Part III: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHqsqLQMu9Q>

## 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)***

This project was designed with recognition of special role of the media in influencing social changes and policy reform in the contexts of Vietnam. While social and economic issues have been covered intensively by the mainstream media, environmental and conservation aspects often have lower priority in the reporting agendas. This project aimed to bring about the balance by supplying more information and contents on the media on impacts of development on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management.

The project design also tried to link issues on the ground to policy level through media reports through two main channels: the mainstream media and ThienNhien.Net as an alternative outlet. While the current legislation hinders the ability of PanNature to continue our independent publishing, the results in 2009 to 2011 showed that with sufficient, good information and evidence, civil society and media can contribute to positive changes for better governance of natural resources and biodiversity conservation through enhancing transparency and accountability of government and public awareness.

The project was also built upon existing initiative ThienNhien.Net and network of journalists that worked with PanNature since the organization's inception.

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

Although having obstacles and limited space in the current social and political contexts, the project helped PanNature strengthen good media relation and maintain its own communication channels for environmental and conservation information. To date, PanNature is one of a few local civil society organizations that work closely and intensively in partnership with the media. Being part of the information flows help PanNature catch up with emerging development issues that have impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems.

As an organization with young team of staff, PanNature sometimes has to deal with shortage of human resources due to maternity leave. For examples, in 2012, three female staff of the Communication Department took maternity leave. This leaves great pressure on other members



of the Communication Department since PanNature cannot recruit replacement for these positions in a short period of time.

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

From our experience with this project and other efforts, development policies in emerging economy like Vietnam have significant impacts on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management. Without effective and sufficiently strong voice from the media and civil society sector to monitor, report, and challenge the development sector, biodiversity and ecosystem will be put lower in the policy agenda. Building strong and effective local civil society actors will certainly ensure long term commitment of the country to conservation goals and help balance the development agenda.

For knowledge generation and information dissemination, utilizing online publishing will ensure cost effectiveness, make use of viral effects for information distribution, and be suitable for places with very fast growing Internet users like in Vietnam.

## 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	Notes
Center for People and Nature Reconciliation	In-Kind	\$3,600	Volunteer/intern work contribution to the project (36 months @ \$100/month)
Ford Foundation	Project co-financing	\$7,500	
Foundation for Open Society Institute (FOSI)	Project co-financing	\$69,540	Two grants for communication activities from 2009 – 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.**

As noted above, in 2012, PanNature had to deal with obstacles in current publishing and information laws. We're trying to find suitable alternatives to maintain ThienNhien.Net as a permanent initiative of the organization.

In recent years, with the trend of economic downturn in Vietnam, it's not likely that ThienNhien.Net can sustain on potential advertising possibilities as planned. PanNature will continue to seek further funding for maintaining communication and media work from other funding partners.

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

The Asia Foundation in Vietnam discussed with PanNature about potential funding for media work with focus on environmental impacts in industrial zones in Vietnam, utilizing ThienNhien.Net and the current network of journalists, for at least one year starting from the last quarter of 2012.

## Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

The project did not cause any environmental or social safeguard issues.

## **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

PanNature would like to thank CEPF for supporting this media project, which enables our organization to advance communication work in reporting and analyzing impacts on natural resources from development policies and activities. Together with policy initiatives, outcomes from this project have contributed to the development and conservation discourses from local civil society in contemporary Vietnam that have been mainly the foreground of state agencies and large international organizations.

## 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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**\*\*\*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.

<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 from</b>  1 July 2012 to 31 Aug 2012  <b>(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.	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**



## Appendix I: List of Major Success Cases Resulted from CEPF-Funded Project for ThienNhien.Net

Issues/Problems	Field Investigation Process	Reporting Process	Responses from Government	Follow-up Actions
<p>Illegal construction of religious buildings inside Tam Dao National Park: A notorious figure tried to set up his own worshipping place based on untrue claim of religious vestige inside the park.</p>	<p>Two field missions were organized to investigate the illegal construction of a large pagoda inside the core zone of Tam Dao National Park (in Vinh Phuc, Thai Nguyen and Tuyen Quang provinces) upon the request for help from the management of the park. One prominent investigative journalist from Lao Dong Newspaper, one team from Vietnam Television, and one member of the Committee on Science, Technology, and Environment of the National Assembly (NA) joined these missions.</p>	<p>A series of articles was published on ThienNhien.Net and other major newspapers (Lao Dong, Tuoi Tre and others). Vietnam Television also featured the case on the news.</p> <p>A video clip of the construction activities as published on YouTube and got attention of quite a lot of people (link: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I66i6EUSS4k">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I66i6EUSS4k</a>)</p>	<p>Government's officials at different level, from the park director, district chairman, provincial leaders and National Forest Protection Department (FPD), gave different opinions. However, under public pressure, the provincial government of Vinh Phuc order to stop further construction in August 2009.</p>	<p>To date, the construction of these religious buildings was completed but not with the size as planned.</p>
<p>Volfram mining in the core zone of Phia Oac Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Field mission was organized in March 2010 with participation of PanNature's communication staff, three journalists from national media agencies (The Labour - Lao Dong, Vietnam News Agency, and The People - Nhan Dan) and two provincial journalists from Cao Bang Television. PanNature developed the field plan and organized the trip to bring journalists to the sites, talked with local miners,</p>	<p>After the trip, a series of news articles were published on ThienNhien.Net and other national and provincial newspapers.</p>	<p>The central government sent an official correspondence No. 1894/VPCP-TH dated 24 March 2010 signed by Minister/Chief of Staff Nguyen Xuan Phuc requested Cao Bang People's Committee to investigate issues brought up by the media and report back to the Prime Minister.</p>	<p>In early 2012, the management board for Phia Oac-Phia Den special-use forest in Cao Bang province was established to provide better management of forests.</p>

	authorities and provincial officials.			
Gold mining in Cao Bang creating serious impacts on river flows and water pollution.	Field mission was organized in March 2010 by PanNature's communication team with participation of three journalists from national media agencies (The Labour - Lao Dong, Vietnam News Agency, and The People - Nhan Dan) and two provincial journalists from Cao Bang Television (the same team in the Phia Oac case).	After the trip, a series of news articles were published on ThienNhien.Net and other national and provincial newspapers. The most influential articles are those on Lao Dong Newspaper and VietnamNet.	Official correspondence No. 2037/VPCP-TH dated 30 March 2010 signed by Minister/Chief of Staff Nguyen Xuan Phuc requesting MONRE and Cao Bang People's Committee to investigate and report to the Prime Minister about issues brought up by the media.	Together with other following coverage on mining problems in Cao Bang, in early 2011, the provincial government decided to stop licensing new mining projects <sup>4</sup> .
Controversial development of hydropower dams on the mainstream of Lower Mekong River.	During the last two quarters of 2010, PanNature involved in providing intensive coverage of the new development of Mekong River, in addition to two workshops and one policy dialogue that we coorganized with other partner organizations.  PanNature monitored and followed up regional and international sources about hydropower dams, as well as actively joined events and discussions inside Save the Mekong Coalition.	Vietnamese journalists were invited to join workshops and related events, which then resulted in strong coverage on national media on impacts of the potential hydropower dams on the intactness of ecosystems and food security in the Mekong Delta.  PanNature also intensively published news and analysis around Mekong River development on ThienNhien.Net <sup>5</sup> .	PanNature's involvement in Mekong dam issues through both policy and media efforts has contributed to the changes ("turning point") of the government of Vietnam's position in the negotiation, as commented in the recent publication of Isabelle Whitehead <sup>6</sup> .	In recent years, PanNature has been invited by government's agencies (e.g. VNMC) to join workshops and provide inputs to policies related to Mekong River development.  PanNature continued to monitor the issue.

<sup>4</sup> Cao Bang stops licencing mining projects: <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/en/society/3451/cao-bang-stops-licencing-mining-projects.html>

<sup>5</sup> Special page on Mekong on ThienNhien.Net: <http://www.thiennhien.net/category/tieu-diem/me-kong/>

<sup>6</sup> Isabelle Whitehead, 2011. *Closed Channels or Open Waters*. School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney.



<p>Exploitation of construction materials threatening Lo River in Tuyen Quang province.</p>	<p>PanNature's communication staff and provincial journalists carried out field trips to different location along Lo River to observe and document impacts through interviews of local communities, photos, and video filming.</p>	<p>Two articles were published on ThienNhien.Net on the issue, in addition to other coverage on local newspapers.</p>	<p>In April 2011, the provincial government of Tuyen Quang decided to stop licencing projects related to exploitation of construction materials on Lo and Gam rivers:</p>	<p>Impacts of mining were brought to discussions during the National Assembly annual meeting in late of 2011. The Standing Committee of National Assembly had chosen mining sector as one of the focal content under their supervision for the year 2012. In late August 2011, the central government also tightened their control by putting temporarily stop on giving new mining exploration and exploitation licenses in the whole country.</p>
<p>Illegal mining activities in</p>	<p>Following up previous field trips, PanNature continued to</p>	<p>News articles and analysis were published on both ThienNhien.Net</p>	<p>In late June 2011, Bac Kan and Cao Bang provinces signed an MoA for</p>	<p>As above</p>

bordering areas of Bac Kan and Cao Bang provinces	expand activities to other mining sites in the two provinces Bac Kan and Cao Bang in the first two quarters of 2011 with participation of both national and provincial journalists.	, provincial and national newspapers.	coordinating to prevent and stop illegal mining activities in the area of border between the two provinces.	
Involvement of government's law enforcement agencies in illegal logging and trade.	Together with Forest Trends (presented by Dr. To Xuan Phuc and Dr. Thomas Sikor), PanNature also organized a media briefing for a group of 8 senior journalists on Illegal logging in Vietnam.	It resulted in a series of media reports published on national media in late of 2011 describing the intensive involvement of forest protection departments and other government agencies in the value chain of illegal logging.  The main article with details about research of Forest Trends was published on ThienNhien.Net.	The Minister of MARD and FPD leaders were then questioned by the media for justification.  The Minister of MARD also ordered to review performance of local FPDs and have appropriate punishment for those involved in illegal logging and trading <sup>7</sup> .	PanNature continued to monitor the illegal logging issues, in addition to provide inputs to related policy initiatives (e.g. FLEGT).
Rapid development of rubber plantation in the Northern Mountains and impacts on forests and local livelihoods	PanNature's communication staff and participating journalists observed the situation from previous trip that rubber plants died in massive scale in Ha Giang province. While Ha Giang and some other provinces are not in the list of sites for rubber plantation development plan of the government, the plantation areas kept expanding, which created wasting investments and having negative impacts	Articles from field trips were published on ThienNhien.Net, Nong Nghiep Viet Nam (Vietnam's Agriculture Newspaper) and others in February 2012.	Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai sent the official correspondence letter No. 1039/VPCP-TH in February 22, 2012 to request MARD to report on on the development of rubber plantation in Ha Giang, Thanh Hoa and Hoa Binh provinces as reported on Nong Nghiep Viet Nam.	In March 2012, MARD sent a report to the Deputy Prime Minister that confirmed the issues and pledged to monitor further development.

<sup>7</sup> Detailed report in Vietnamese (Assign forests protection to local communities): <http://nld.com.vn/20111226103124779p0c1042/giao-rung-cho-dan-bao-ve.htm>

	on local livelihood. The team organized field trips to talk with local people, authorities and other stakeholders to investigate the drivers behind this development.			
Cutting down protected forests for ... planting forests inside Na Hang Nature Reserve.	PanNature's communication team was informed by local people about the story. A field team went undercover to the site to investigate the issue, then came back and probe local authorities. Interviews and field information were incorporated into news stories.	The main article and a series of photos were published on ThienNhien.Net in late August 2012.	On the 4 <sup>th</sup> September, the Deputy Prime Minister sent correspondence letter No.6888/VPCP-TH to Tuyen Quang province with request to report on forest destruction in Na Hang forest <sup>8</sup> .	On 20 <sup>th</sup> September, Tuyen Quang provincial government sent a report to confirm the story and pledged to solve the problem.  A detailed analysis of this case was also prepared by PanNature's communication team to share with partners.

<sup>8</sup> Link on government's web portal: <http://baodientu.chinhphu.vn/Home/Kiem-tra-thong-tin-rung-dac-dung-Na-Hang-bi-phat-tia/20129/148042.vgp>