

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	World Wide Fund for Nature
Project Title:	Safeguarding the Saola within the Species Priority Landscape in Vietnam
Date of Report:	
Report Author and Contact Information	

CEPF Region: Indo-Burma Hotspot-Indochina region

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

Grant Amount:US\$242,674.00

Project Dates: 1 May, 2010 to 31 August, 2012.

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

Saola Working Group (SWG) of the IUCN/SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group (International) - This project has been designed with SWG priorities in mind, following the outputs of the SWG meeting in 2009. Furthermore, WWF Vietnam received technical support and coordination from the Saola Working Group and follow up with the Saola taskforce discussion, to promote true collaboration and coordination between organizations working towards the same goals for Saola conservation. In addition, we have built in a component to integrate this proposal with the SWG's proposal to CEPF. Our project supported the SWG (in addition to its CEPF small grant) in its effort to design a regional, collaborative 'Saola recovery plan', and in particular secure funding for its long-term implementation over the last three years.

WCS Lao (international) and the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management & Protection Authority (international) worked with SWG to share information between these organizations who are also working to conserve Saola. WWF Vietnam continued to promote this vital cooperation and coordination. In turn, experiences gained from this project informed SWG meetings and influenced protection efforts in other areas.

Forest Protection Department (local) - ThuaThien Hue and Quang Nam Forest Protection Departments, under the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, were key partners as they are ultimately the organisations responsible for forest protection. The project involved these departments in the planning stages. FPD staff was involved in all activities and FPD rangers were responsible for patrols and monitoring activities, except when these were carried out by protected area staff. Rangers were given training by the project in necessary skills to conduct these activities effectively.

Saola Nature Reserve in Hue (local) was established and a management board approved. The project worked with the new management board and FPDs to implement Saola conservation strategies.

Saola Species and Habitat Conservation Area, Quang Nam (local) – was approved is currently managed under FPD of Quang Nam Province. the project worked with the board and FPDs to ensure conservation strategies under development were effective. Staff of the reserves was involved in the way described for FPD rangers above.

Bach Ma National Park (local) - is under the management of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The expansion of its borders has assisted in ensuring important Saola populations can be incorporated into new boundaries between two other Saola protected areas. The national park staff was

included in patrol and monitoring activities and training courses as with FPD rangers and nature reserve staff.

Local communities (local) - were directly involved in protection and monitoring activities. Furthermore, this project and the linked Darwin Initiative project consulted local communities regarding resource use and dependence on hunting for subsistence and livelihoods and evaluated possibilities for replacement of hunting losses if appropriate. The activities of both of these projects helped to protect Saola in the long-term and achieved broad community support for this work.

Through the Darwin project, this WWF project had links to Cambridge University (International), the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent (UK) (International), Vinh University (local) and Hue University (local). These academic institutions partnered with WWF on certain project activities (eg. community consultations and participatory mapping) and also provided considerable technical advice, particularly regarding incentive-based conservation.

AMNH (American Museum of Natural History, International) played a key role in modeling Saola occurrence and distribution, mapping resource use by local communities and conducting genetic analysis on ungulate faecal samples. IEBR (Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources) (local) and CRES (Centre for Natural Resources and Environment Studies) (local) continued to support research activities related to Saola through their collaboration with AMNH.

Through the CarBi project which supported to prolong the project activities in sustainable way. The forest guard model was replicated to Quangnam Saola NR and are maintaining for both in Hue and Quangnam for another three till end of 2014. The commitment of Hue Saola NR to expand the NR for another 3,000hectre to connect then complex Protected areas in Saola habitat.

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):

- Sustainable long-term government financing secured for monitoring and protection activities (standardized intensive enforcement and monitoring programmes) through delivering the management plan of these Protected Areas, as well as get approval from authority levels.
 - Involvement of local communities in monitoring and enforcement activities through improving their awareness amongst local communities on species status and encourage greater responsibility to preserve limited natural resources and use them sustainably where legally permitted.
 - Lessons learned from this project (e.g. conservation modelling to benefit key species and local communities) will assist conservation planning elsewhere in the Annamites and other priority regions.
 - Funding secured to compliment government funding to further implement Saola conservation actions in accordance with SWG recommendations.
 - Funds are raised from government or international sources to ensure that models developed under this project for involving communities in conservation (including potential compensation mechanisms) can be maintained in perpetuity.
- Contribution to linking activities and goals in the Hue and Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserves with a regional Saola conservation strategy; in partnership with the Saola Working Group

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

- Relevant agencies, local authority in commune, district, and provincial levels, and local people participated in forest protection and management and biodiversity conservation, especially in Saola conservation in these Protected Areas in Central Truong Son, Vietnam.
- The proposal management plans of these Protected Areas are linkage with the regional Saola conservation strategy; in partnership with the Saola Working Group.

- The pilot model of forest protection and management will be established in Saola landscape in central Truong Son mountain range as well as Saola detecting and monitoring in these Protected Areas.
- Sustainable conservation achieved and improved through the implementation of conservation initiatives by local people and local authorities.
- Environmental conditions in three Sao La PAs where the key identified species exist, especially Sao La, are improved.
- Conservation models (incl. mitigation strategies) trialed and expanded to other priority locations for Saola. The intensive standardized enforcement program for the three Sao La PAs with innovative data analysis system is established and in effective operation. Funding secured to compliment government funding to further implement Saola conservation actions in accordance with SWG recommendations
- New granted funds for the short and long term run of Sao La conservation projects by WWF conservation strategy, the CarBi project are other fundraising program to maintaining the outcome of the project. The established NR shown the government commitment in Saola protection. The forest guard model established and replaced to other (Quangnam Saola NR) was convinced the local government to understand the value of the project conservation outcome.

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

- Comprehensive and standardized intensive enforcement programme designed, implemented and linked to monitoring programme so enforcement programme can respond to data on hunting patterns (adaptive management).
- Assessment of financial requirement for maintenance of comprehensive intensive enforcement programme.
- Protected Area Specialist part funded (50% for 2 years) to oversee and advise on all enforcement related activities, ensuring patrols are adaptive, efficient and effective
- Increased capacity of FPD and protected area staff in identifying and monitoring key species and in conducting effective enforcement patrols, including reporting on these activities in a standard format
- Full assessment of any potential economic benefits and losses, and of restrictions of access to traditional areas, arising from the activities of this project and reserve establishment
- Assessment of potential mitigation strategies which could be introduced to local communities, in response to any economic losses and restriction to traditional hunting areas as a result of improved protection and PA establishment.
- Local communities aware of reserve boundaries and restrictions on resource use in the protected areas
- Joint patrol teams adequately equipped to carry out enforcement activities
- Management boards established for Hue and Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserves
- Conservation Needs Assessments and Operational Plans completed for Hue and Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserves
- Government allocates budget to reserve management which includes significant funds to support patrols, including joint patrols, and the collection of data necessary for the effective adaptive management of patrols and monitoring beyond the lifetime of the project.
- The area, the species and the project have been publicized to a number of potential donors and WWF has formed a relationship with these donors to secure funding for further activities identified during the course of this project.
- Strong collaboration and coordination established between NGOs and other organizations involved in Saola conservation, achieved through SWG.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

- Two Management Boards of Thua Thien Hue Saola NR and Quang Nam Saola NR were established and in operation.
- Quang Nam Saola NR was established according the Decision No.2265/QD-UBND dated 13/7/2012 funded by Saola CEPF project.
- Operational plans for Hue Sao La NR and Quang Nam Sao La NR are approved by the Provincial People's Committees of ThuaThien Hue and Quang Nam.

- Conservation need assessments for Hue Sao La NR, Quang Nam Saola NR, and Bach Ma NP are in service.
- Full assessment of any potential economic benefits and losses, and of restrictions of access to traditional areas, arising from the activities of this project and reserve establishment.
- Capacity of the PA staff, including effective enforcement patrols, identifying and monitoring key species, is improved through on-the-job training practices.
- Assessment of potential mitigation strategies which could be introduced to local communities, in response to any economic losses and restriction to traditional hunting areas as a result of improved protection and PA establishment.
- Joint patrol teams adequately equipped to carry out enforcement activities
- Lessons learned from this project (e.g. conservation modeling to benefit key species and local communities) assisted conservation planning elsewhere in the Annamites and other priority regions.
- An intensive standardized enforcement program/MIST is established, assessed, and efficiently operated in Hue Sao La NR; it is then re-assessed and scaled up in Quang Nam Saola NR and Bach Ma NP of the project region.
- The government agencies involved in forest protection and management as soon as established the activity plan for Saola detecting in these PAs.
- The capacity of staff from these Sao La PAs and relevant agencies are strengthened and thus, they are able to effectively and efficiently perform their duties and adapt themselves to changes in term of conservation techniques.
- Reduced levels of hunting of Saola and other wildlife in these protected areas through improved enforcement.
- Local communities aware of reserve boundaries and restrictions on resource use in the protected areas.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

- Supported the establishment of Quang Nam Saola NR. Quang Nam Saola NR was established following Decision No.2265/QD-UBND dated 13/7/2012 by Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee. (The total area of Saola PA complex arrives up to 44,175.9 ha (**Quang Nam Saola PA:** 15,822 ha; **Hue Saola PA:** 12,105.9 ha, **Bach Ma Extension:** 16,248 ha).
- Besides, an additional 3,000ha is proposed for Thua Thien Hue's approval of extending Hue Saola PA.

Species Conserved:

- The project focuses on Saola conservation through identifying key Saola habitat within Saola PA. However, other species at these Saola PAs also benefit from the program. Specifically:
- Within Quang Nam Saola PA
 - o **Flora:** As the PA was newly established, it has not been adequately surveyed on plants. Nevertheless, within the evergreen forest of Saola conservation areas, the plant species component is significantly abundant. The initial statistics show a record of nine species in World Red Book (IUCN 2010) and 50 species in Vietnam Red Book (2007). A further nine species were classified as IA, IIA (classification based on the 32 Decree of the government)
 - o **Fauna:** it is recorded 31 mammals of 12 families, 6 orders; 61 birds of 22 families, 8 orders; 34 reptiles of 9 families, 2 orders; and 28 amphibians of 5 families, 1 order. A total of 154 animals within 33 species were recorded in Vietnam Red Book and 10 species recorded in the World Red Book
- Within Hue Saola PA
 - o **Flora:** There is a pretty high value of biodiversity. Flora is of 816 species under 130 vascular families (Averyanov et al, 2006). Among them 56 species are regarded to be either endemic or regionally endemic. Furthermore, this area has been recorded presence of 16 newly-expected plant species to science, especially Saccolabiopsis species.
 - o **Fauna:** Recent studies have showed records of 41 amphibian, 24 snakes, 12 reptiles, 7 turtles, 137 birds under 30 families, 24 fish species of 8 families and 27 mammals under 18 families.

- Within Bach Ma NP
 - o **Flora:** it is recorded a total of 2,373 species, including
 - Mushroom: 55 families and 332 species
 - Moss: 25 families, 87 species
 - Fern: 28 families and 183 species
 - Vegetation: 164 families and 1,771 species, of which 73 species are listed in Vietnam Red book
 - o **Fauna:** It is recorded the presence of 1,715 species (occupies 7% of total whole country) belonging to 52 orders and 258 families. The Bach Ma NP's fauna is abundant, having many endemic, rare and precious species:
 - Insect: 17 orders, 137 families and 1,029 species.
 - Fish: 6 orders, 57 families and 57 species
 - Amphibian and reptile: 3 orders, 19 families and 137 species
 - Bird: 16 orders, 57 families and 363 species
 - Animal: 10 orders, 28 families and 132 species.
 - Among 1,715 species recorded in the Bach Ma NP, 69 species are listed in Vietnam Red book and 15 species belongs endemic species

Corridors Created:

- Supported conservation activities under the project at corridors created by WWF (Dong Giang, Tay Giang biodiversity corridor - 200,000ha by BCI Project; Nam Dong and A Luoi corridor - 130,000ha by Green Corridor Project)
- Intervention activities have been also conducted at buffer zone communities of Quang Nam Saola PA (35,135.44 ha); of Hue Saola PA (16,574 ha); and of Bach Ma Extension (10,000ha). CEPF funded surveys/community consultations on the livelihood alternatives at local communities. WWF then used fund from other WWF projects to implement the findings (i.e. CarBi project, and Rattan Project).

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

Given the small-scale scope of the project (two years time and around 242,000USD), it is considered greatly successful through:

- i) Successfully advocating the approval of the establishment of Quang Nam Saola PA, and the extension of 3,000ha of Hue Saola PA which expected to be approved in end of 2012;
- ii) Developing and implementing the model of Forest Guard which has currently improved effectiveness and efficiency in conservation efforts and law enforcement, in particular. The project also succeeded in lobbying for scaling up and duplicating Forest Guard model in Quang Nam Saola PA (FG was scaled up through the establishment of the model in Quang Nam Saola PA; CarBi project duplicated FG model which ensures the continued support of FG operation after CEPF Safeguarding Saola completes). This is the first FG model ever in Vietnam by WWF. The model is highly appreciated by WWF's local partners. FGs are co-managed by both WWF and local government. Significantly, 90% of FG members are local people, 30% out of that are ethnic minority people;
- iii) MIST software is successful. However, in the long run, sharing lessons learnt to GIZ project to replicate and promote to national level is still testing and need more efforts and more attention from government decision making authorities.
- iv) Investment for long term maintenance of FG model requires a lot of cost while the government budget is limited.
- v) Detecting Saola existence by DNA through leech analysis: need evidence of Saola to show to potential donors for long term fund/more fund.
- vi) FGs have limited power compared to FPD in law enforcement.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

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:

Intensive enforcement programme established in identified priority zones (remote river catchments) for Saola and removal of direct threats (snare and hunting with dogs)

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

1. Intensive enforcement programme standards produced in EN and VN

- Previously, all enforcement activities in the field funded by WWF were undertaken by partners (FPDs). The implementation methods were also decided by partners. To improve the performance, and to apply the lessons learnt from the CatTien NP, a new model for enforcement was recommended. Instead of providing fund for FPDs and PA Management Board to carry out the patrols, which was poorly implemented, in this new model the patrols are undertaken by a joint team of FGs and government staffs under the supervision of protected area managers from WWF (one bases in Quang Nam and another in Thua Thien Hue provinces).
- Over the course of implementation, lessons extracted are used in an adaptive manner to update the methods/standards for next cycle of activities (initial standards and strategies were formed from the implementation and currently adapted for use in Hue Saola NR). These standards were later adapted by Quangnam Saola NR when the enforcement was put into operation in September 2011.
- The regional enforcement workshop was held in Hanoi in March 2011, and some minimum standards for enforcement were finalized. Some of these were adopted for use in Hue, Quang Nam Saola NRs and Bach Ma NP.
- A workshop was organized July 22 2011 for PAs in the Central Annamites to share the lessons learnt in terms of FG model. Significantly, Quang Nam Sao La PA and extension Bach Ma also participated in the event, which consequently enabled them to effectively apply the model in Quang Nam Sao La PA.
- The revision of law enforcement manual was raised and discussed during the workshop. The last version (7th) was finalized and has been applied at Sao La PAs (Standardized field manuals on law enforcement were printed and delivered to relevant stakeholders, including technical department and field stations of Sao La Hue and Saola Quang Nam PAs; and forest guard teams at these PAs).

2. Protected Area Specialist in position

- Recruited Senior Protected Area Officer. The position was filled in mid 2010. Besides, PA managers were also recruited to technically support all activities under PA component in ThuaThien Hue and Quang Nam.
- Those PA managers, one based in Hue and another in Quang Nam have well provided technical knowledge and expertise to WWF and relevant partners.

3. Quarterly enforcement and monitoring reports for each PA, including GPS patrol routes, tracks and signs of key species and threat data mapped.

- MIST system is being operated; data on snare and threat is entered and used to inform monthly patrol plans.
- All monthly patrol reports in Hue Saola NR are now reported by MIST. The format and quality of the reports are standardized. For Bach Ma NP and Quangnam Saola NR, the confidence level of producing enforcement reports using MIST are less as Quangnam Saola NR is newly established and Bach Ma NP needs some more capacity building on this.
- Quarterly patrol reports at Sao La NRs were done and updated in MIST. The quality of the reports prepared by MIST staff is increasingly improved.
- MIST training courses were done and have recently been applied at Saola PAs in both Quang Nam and ThuaThien Hue.

4. Financial assessment of the resources needed to maintain this combined monitoring and enforcement system indefinitely

A conservation need assessment program for all three protected areas was done. The assessment also includes the financial assessment for enforcement programmes.

5. Informant Networks established

Three Informant Networks were set up at Saola Hue, Saola Quang Nam, and Bach Ma NP (Extension). This activity aims to:

- i) provide an insight on the status of poaching, logging, and wildlife trade at the three PAs and buffer zone communes;
- ii) Identify local and external poachers who hunt at these PAs, and related information such as their regular hunting zones and their target species.

These informants process collected information and periodically send the outputs to PA management board and WWF office. Their information has been used as input for the patrol planning by both FGs and multi-agency teams.

6. Standardized patrolling and monitoring conducted at least 18 times (approx. every 6 weeks) within each protected area throughout the project duration (increased in frequency by 50%).

Forest patrols by Forest Guards

20 forest guards were recruited in February 2011, stationing at Hue Saola NR. The other 20 were recruited in December 2011, stationing at Quang Nam Saola NR. Under the leadership of the Protected Area Managers and in close cooperation with FPD provinces and the Saola NRs, the law enforcement activities have been built up continuously and produced encouraging results. Four capable staff of Hue Saola NR and four rangers of Quang Nam Saola NR have been assigned to accompany the forest guard teams in patrolling and law enforcement with the NR. Under other source funds of CarBi and Saola CEPF, forest guard patrolling teams have conducted many patrols within NRs effectively. Bach Ma extension has been a part of Bach Ma National Park which has been one of six National Parks under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with priorities on investment and development ranger system comprehensively. So forest guard patrol team model was not a priority applied by Saola CEPF and CarBi project. Supports from project have focused on Bach Ma ranger patrol team and multi-agency patrol team.

Summary of results of enforcement at Hue Saola NR (February 2011 to end June 2012):

- 170 patrols (963 patrol days; average 6 days/patrol).
- 198 illegal camps of hunters and loggers were destroyed.
- 13,160 illegal animal traps (snares) were removed.
- Many animals released alive from snares; i.e. red-shanked douc langur, serow, big-headed turtles, ferret badgers and wild pigs.
- Action taken against 18 illegal logging incidents including: 25 cubic meters of timber have been confiscated or destroyed, two chainsaws have been confiscated and six violators were arrested.
- 118 groups of local people were confronted in the forest and records have been made.

Summary of results in Quang Nam Saola NR (December 2011 to end June 2012).

- 54 patrols (262 patrol days; average 6 days/ patrol).
- 158 illegal camps of hunters and loggers were destroyed.
- 4,752 illegal animal traps (snares) were removed.
- 70 cubic meters of timber were destroyed.
- 84 groups of local people were confronted in the forest and records have been made.

Forest patrols by multi-agency teams

22 forest patrols were conducted at different forest blocks in the provinces of Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue (5 at Saola Hue, 5 Saola Quang Nam, and 9 Bach Ma Extension). The patrol aims to:

- i) dispel violators out of the forest;
- ii) destroy violators' facilities and equipment such as camps, snares and logging devices.

- In Thua Thien Hue:

The activity contributes to strengthening law enforcement within Thua Thien Hue province, especially hot spots that have suffered considerable pressure from hunting and logging activities, which degrades biodiversity and results in severe negative impact on the ecosystem.. Specifically, the funded forest patrols aim to stop illegal forest resource extraction at Saola PA, and watershed area of Nam Dong and A Luoi.

Five forest patrol sessions were conducted in 30 days. Participants came from Saola PA, district FPD, watershed management board, and district public security (on average there were 7 people per patrol session which lasted for 6 days in the forest).

There were two sessions at Nam Dong, taking place from May 13 to May 18 and from June 4 to June 9 2012 at forest blocks of 393, 396, 398, 402, and Mu Nu stream. 3 sessions were deployed at A Luoi. The first was organized from May 22 to May 27. The second happened from June 9 to June 14. The third took place from June 5 to June 10 2012. These patrols covered forest blocks of 342,344, 347, 350, and along A Rai, Cha Lenh streams.

Results:

- + Detecting 2 logging sites with cut-down trees and 0.94m³ of Hopeasiamensis
- + Detecting 1 illegal transport of 1.42m³ timber.
- + Detecting illegal transport of wild animal and rescuing 2 snakes, 4 lizards, 1 monkey.
- + Detecting signs of logging at coordinates 761341, 1788569 with left roots of Hopeasiamensis
- + Detecting and destroying 3 violators' camps at forest block 350
- + At coordinates 760725, 1788890, there was sign of mechanized device operation.

- In Quang Nam:

Five forest patrols were conducted. Specifically, the first was deployed from May 15 to May 20 2012 at forest blocks 37 and 47, Song Kon commune, Dong Giang district. During the patrol, 7.6 m³ timbers was confiscated and destroyed; destroyed 5 violators' camps and 6 spring traps, and 25 snares; and spotted and dispelled 5 violators out of the forest.

The second took place from May 25 to May 31 2012 at forest blocks 12 and 13, Bhalee commune, Tay Giang district. 4 m³ timber was confiscated and destroyed. The team also destroyed 1 camp and 18 traps. In addition, 3 violators were spotted and dispelled out of the forest.

The third lasted from May 25 to May 31 2012 at forest block 14 ,Bhalee, TayGiang district. 43 snares and 70m snare line were destroyed.

The fourth was implemented from June 6 to June 12 2012 at forest compartment 45, Song Kon commune, Dong Giang district. 6 m³ timber and 2 camps were destroyed. The team also spotted and dispelled 14 violators out of the forest.

The fifth was conducted from June 6 to June 12 at forest blocks 36 and 37, Ta L commune, Dong Giang district. The multi-agency team detected many cut-down trees, confiscated and destroyed 10.5 m³ timber, destroyed 1 camp and 30 traps. Furthermore, the team also dispelled 3 violators out of the forest.

- In Bach Ma Extension:

Forest patrols were conducted from Mar 14 to Mar 18, 2012.

+ Team 1 (6 people) worked at forest blocks 417 and 418. The team found and destroyed 21 snares and 5 camps of violators. In addition, the teams also spotted and dispelled 9 violators out of the forest.

+ Team 2 (6 people) worked at forest blocks 412, 386, 389, and 385. The team found and destroyed 2 snares and 4 camps. 3 violators were caught in the act setting snares and snare lines.

+ Team 3 (6 people) worked at forest block 429 and Ma Ray stream. 4 snares and 8 camps were destroyed. Besides, the team spotted 50 local villagers. Interrogation revealed different purposes, including 2 went for setting snares; the remaining aimed to collecting rattan and fishing. The team also confiscated and destroyed 0.73m³ timbers.

+ Team 4 (6 people) worked at forest blocks 372 and 376. The team destroyed 10 traps and 4 camps; confiscated and destroyed 1,6m³ timber; spotted and dispelled out of the forest 4 violators.

One forest patrol was conducted at forest block 410, and La Van stream from May 7 to May 11 2012 by a team of 6 people. The team destroyed 6 traps, 4 camps, and 1,9m³ timber. 22 violators were spotted and dispelled out of the forest.

Two forest patrols were organized at forest blocks 383, 376, 429, and Ma Rai stream from May 14 to May 18 by 2 teams of 12 people. The teams dispelled 21 violators out of the forest. The team also destroyed 7 camps, 17 traps and 5 steel cables which were used for snaring. 3.8m³ timber was destroyed.

One forest patrol was conducted at forest blocks 412, 413, 416, and 418 from May 16 to May 20 2012. The team detected and destroyed 30 snares and 2 camps. 9 violators were spotted and dispelled out of the forest. The team also destroyed 0.2m³ timber.

One forest patrol was conducted at forest blocks 413, 417 and 418 from May 11 to May 15 2012. 20 traps, 3 camps, and 0.7m³ timbers were detected and destroyed. The team also dispelled 5 violators out of the forest.

All monthly patrol reports are now reported by MIST. The format and quality of the reports are standardized. For Bach Ma NP and Quangnam Saola NR, the confidence level of producing enforcement reports using MIST are less as Quangnam Saola NR is newly established and Bach Ma NP needs some more capacity building on this though MIST system has been in place for these two PAs.

7. Threats to Saola from snaring reduced by 70% in priority areas

MIST system in Saola NRs have showed that threats to Saola, especially snares have reduced a lot. However we have not had enough time to assess and the figures has been different between Saola NRs in different periods. Specific figures of reducing threats have been presented in workshops, meetings on management and experience sharing between NRs or partner's meeting in different periods. For example, in MIST reports indicated that the start of forest guard model in Hue Saola NR, in the first three months from Feb to Apr 2011 , the number of traps destroyed up to 5,576 snares, but in the reporting period from Apr – June 2012, this number was reduced to 424 snares. The results were discussed lively in the workshops, meetings mentioned below.

Saola NR Management Boards are aware of and understand what pressures exist and how they can influence the PAs based on information collected by the informant network and FG teams and by processing information from MIST (the identified threats increasing or decreasing, hot spots of threats within the PAs, species distribution and density in areas). Consequently, tailor-made patrols for FG team are planned accordingly.

WWF cooperated with VACNE (Vietnam Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment) organizing the 4th workshop on biodiversity conservation in Truong Son cordillera. This year, the core theme of the workshop is Saola conservation.

The workshop, on 4 and 5 April., was attended by 100 representatives including scientists and government senior officers from Laos PR, national agencies and provinces located within Central Annamites region. The workshop covered such a wide range of topics such as; as trade-offs in conservation efforts at Truong Son cordillera, in general and Central Annamites, and analysis and assessment of executing conservation policies and Saola conservation. It was significant that the workshop did not only deliver technical reports and announcements of conservation research but also brought about specific solutions and recommendations so as for the government to stop biodiversity loss and especially protect species on the edge of extinction such as Saola.

8. Measures for reducing threats to Saola by hunting with dogs evaluated and implemented

The forest guards from Saola Quang Nam PA, Saola Hue PA and Bach Ma Extension gathered information about the use and number of dogs of the local communities.

People or hunters with dogs are chased away when being seen in the forest by patrolling teams. Information on this is also recorded.

Warnings made to violators that their hunting dogs will be neutralized if they repeat violating practices.

Component 2 Planned:

Resource use of local communities assessed, affected groups identified and suitable mitigation strategies evaluated and implemented.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

1. Report on resource use by local communities (ca. 75) surrounding the 3 protected areas, assessment of economic impacts and potential mitigation strategies.

- 35 villages were visited for conducting participatory mapping and interviews.
- P-mapping and community consultations were conducted in 32 villages of ARoang, Adot communes (ALuoi district, Thua Thien Hue) and Dong Giang, Tay Giang districts (Quang Nam province)
- A survey which assessed natural resource use by local people and economic impact to local people's lives because of the establishment of Sao la PAs in 36 villages (8 around Sao la A Luoi, 22 around Bach Ma extension, 6 around Sao la Quang Nam) was conducted.
- Village leaders and communal chairmen signed commitment letters at the community consultation meetings held at each village in Dec 2011.
- In the meetings with communities, the ideas on livelihood alternatives were also raised, discussed and recorded by WWF.
- The technical report was sent to CEPF and the Regional Implementation Team.

2. Free, Prior, Informed Consent from Ethnic Minority communities obtained for project activities.

- Free, prior, informed consent obtained from 36 villages in 5 communes of A Luoi and Nam Dong.
- Consultants was identified and contracted.
- 36 color maps were provided to 36 impacted villages. The maps show information emerged from community mapping activities, including village place, Sao La PA boundary, areas where villagers hunt and collect NTFPs.
- In addition, information about CEPF, WWF and address/contacts was shown so that local people can communicate when necessary.
- 36 color maps were sent to CEPF and the Regional Implementation Team.

3. Project impacts on local livelihoods monitored

- Forest use by local people in 32 villages was studied via consultation in villages around the protected areas.

- Within the scope of CEPF project, there are no livelihood intervention activities. Nevertheless, rattan project, a WWF-funded initiative implemented within the project areas, has supported many households in Sao la PAs.
- Additionally, the community consultation activity which took place in 36 villages identifies a number of alternatives livelihoods and a list of local people who are impacted. Therefore, though it is not obligatory and committed, the findings are a good source for reference and supporting in case WWF and local communities have fund from other sources.

4. Communities affected by project activities identified

- Community consultation meetings identified affected villages and households/individuals. They were also differently categorized as 'high impact', 'medium impact', and ' low impact'
- The list of the affected villages, households and individuals is a part of the technical report in 2.1 (the draft report on natural resource use by local people).

5. Mitigation strategies implemented if any negative impacts of project activities are recorded

- 32 of 40 forest guards are local community members who are being employed as forest guards. This provides income to these people; many of them previously relied on natural resource extraction.
- After P-mapping, under community consultation activity, lists of those who are impacted and of mitigation solutions has been identified; and are available for supporting. Because the impacted individuals are numerous, it is recommended that we need more fund and longer period for intervention by another project
- The list of the affected villages, households and individuals is a part of the technical report in 2.1 (the draft report on natural resource use by local people).

Component 3 Planned:

FPD and protected area rangers appropriately equipped and trained in species identification, monitoring techniques and enforcement methodologies.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

1. 70% of rangers reaching competency standards in enforcement and monitoring methodologies.

Training on field skills for forest guard team, including methods of patrolling, using of patrol tools (GPS, compass, map, etc.) in February 2011.

7 days training on enforcement provided to Forest Guards and Hue Saola NR rangers. The content of the training was about enforcing the forest protection law of Vietnam in Hue Saola NR, strategies for patrolling, and first aid, in March 2011.

A training course on law enforcement was held on the third week of May 2012. It aimed to provide law enforcement officers with adequate knowledge on legal documents on natural resource; to name just a few, Decree 117/ 2010/NĐ-CP, Circular 78/2011/TT-BNNPTNT, Circular 01/2012/TT-BNNPTNT, Decree 99/2009/NĐ-CP. This training also provided appropriate skills on how to efficiently conduct tasks in the field (i.e. requirements for forest patrol; things to do while conducting a law enforcement patrol; regulations on the cooperation between different forces of forest guards, FPD, public security, border army, and local authority; and basic knowledge on necessary health care during forest patrols such as popular diseases, accidents, conventional treatment, and first aid).

The course was participated by representatives from different stakeholders, including FPD, border army, public security and Saola PAs of Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam provinces

Number of trainees: 28

Time: May 15 to May 18 2012

Location: Hue city

2. Necessary equipment for enforcement and monitoring patrols/surveys provided.

3 GPS units, 6 digital cameras and some patrolling equipment purchased.

48 uniforms provided to FG teams of the two Sao la PAs (Hue, Quang Nam). Other equipments which are one-time or short-term use such as rain sheets, battery, and shoes... have been re-provided. Other equipments like GPS, backpacks, and hammocks were provided last quarters.

Component 4 Planned:

Awareness raised in local communities around each PA.

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

1. Rangers proficient in awareness-raising techniques.

A two-day training course on communication knowledge and skills was organized on the third week of March 2012. The course was to help improve Saola PA staff's performance on conducting conservational education. It provided the selected PA staff and forest guards with knowledge and skills on how to conduct conservational education activities through the application of professional communication methods at target communities around the PAs, which as a result, would improve the quality of awareness raising practices, and thus add value to the community-based natural resources management efforts.

The course focused on fundamental skills which are essential to field workers such as Facilitating a [communication] event, Listening and Questioning, and Presentation (preparing Powerpoint slides, writing on boards and cards). In addition, it also introduced preliminary knowledge on photography, which participants were significantly interested.

Number of trainees: 16

Date: Mar 23 to Mar 24 2012

Location: Hue city

2. Awareness-raising materials distributed and consultations held in 50% of local communities (in priority areas).

Saola Conservation leaflet: Leaflet on delivering the message of saving last Saola individuals in Vietnam was designed and delivered to local people living in 36 villages around Saola PAs in the provinces of Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam.

Short film on Saola conservation: WWF cooperated with TRT, a local TV to produce a short film on conserving Saola. The 25 minute film aims to:

- i) introduce Sao La conservation efforts so far across the provinces of Thua Thien Hue & Quang Nam in the Central Annamites by WWF, local authorities, and local people;
- ii) to improve local people's awareness on biodiversity value of Central Annamites, especially the endemic Sao La;
- iii) to send a message to protect and conserve the last Sao La individuals within the Central Annamites.

The Core Theme of the film is on Sao La, conservation efforts & initial achievements in the Central Annamites. The film provides:

- i) an overview on Central Annamites (i.e. providing general information of the landscape, including floral and faunal characteristics, biodiversity value, WWF Global 200;
- ii) information on Sao La and their habitat and possible threats to the extinction of the species;
- iii) conservation efforts by WWF, local authorities, and local people (i.e. WWF advocacy on Sao La conservation, consequent publication of relevant legal framework, Sao La PA establishment, community-based conservation practices – FG teams & other project activities such as livelihood improvement, biodiversity corridor, biodiversity monitoring, and awareness raising efforts); and
- iv) the message - ***Save the last Sao La individuals on earth.***

The film's target audience: it can be used for raising awareness of local people and local authorities on Sao La conservation. It can also be used as a scientific reference source or conservation education media by conservationists, communicators (i.e. NGO or governmental officers, and school teachers) and researchers (i.e. students and university lecturers).

Color maps: 36 color maps provided to 36 impacted villages. The maps show information such as village place, Sao la PA boundary by stream (local name), river, hill etc; areas where villagers go for hunting and collecting NTFPs.

Component 5 Planned:

Survey and monitoring programme of Saola and threats designed and implemented

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

1. Manual produced detailing standardized monitoring methodology for Saola, ungulates and other priority species (linked to deliverable 1.1).

The review of the biodiversity monitoring system was done in the Conservation Need Assessment (CNA) for all three protected areas. This is also an ongoing process which is undertaken by learning the lessons from the ongoing activities and patrolling and monitoring of the biodiversity in the protected area. The information and methods from the ongoing research are continually incorporated into the working methods for the activities in the field although a formal manual for this has not been drafted.

30 monitoring blocks were established within Hue Saola NR, Quang Nam Saola NR and Bach Ma NP Extension to monitor gibbons, crested Argus and other biodiversity. A biodiversity monitoring team leader was also recruited to manage biodiversity monitoring activities. The surveys began in June 2012 and 10 blocks in Hue Saola NR were finished. The same surveys and monitoring will be continually conducted in Quang Nam Saola NR and Bach Ma Extension under CarBi fund.

2. Database for monitoring and patrol data created with participation and ownership of provincial FPDs. The database will automatically produce summaries of the data in map form to inform adaptive management.

Adoption of MIST approved in PAs. MIST manual developed and translated and provided to 3 PAs. MIST training provided to WWF and 3 PA staff.

MIST established in Saola NR in Thua Thien Hue (with standard monthly report outputs), Saola NR in Quangnam (set up and input data, reports has not been standardized yet).

MIST staff were trained and MIST has been established in Bach Ma NP. Suggestion from WWF agreed by Bach Ma of the right person responsible for MIST that helps BM started running well.

3. Same as 1.3 (Quarterly enforcement and monitoring reports for each PA, including GPS patrol routes, tracks and signs of key species and threat data mapped)

The review of the biodiversity monitoring system was done in the Conservation Need Assessment (CNA) for all three protected areas. This is also an ongoing process which is undertaken by learning the lessons from the ongoing activities, patrolling and monitoring of the biodiversity in the protected area. The information and methods from the ongoing research are continually incorporated into the working methods for the activities in the field.

All monthly patrol reports in Hue Saola NR (ALuoi dist.) are now reported by MIST. The format and quality of the reports are standardized. For Bach Ma NP and Quang Nam Saola NR, the confidence level of producing enforcement reports using MIST are less as Quang Nam Saola NR is newly established and Bach Ma NP needs some more capacity building on this.

Quarterly patrol reports in Hue Saola NR were reported by MIST. As the staff responsible for MIST has achieved better performance, the quality of the reports are more improved. For Bach Ma NP and Quang Nam Saola NR newly established, MIST training done and has recently been applied in the two PAs

4. Same as 1.4. Financial assessment of the resources needed to maintain this combined monitoring and enforcement system indefinitely.

A consultant group conducted a conservation need assessment program for all 3 protected areas. The assessment also included the financial assessment for enforcement programmes. The technical report of the assessment was completed.

5. DNA analyzing

Approximately 100 leeches already collected and sent to Copenhagen.

Wild caught leeches were digested, and mammalian 16smtDNA was PCR amplified and prepared for deep sequencing on a Roche GS FLX sequencing platform. This platform, which enables deep sequencing of PCR amplicons, should enable high resolution diet analysis and thus recovering signs of diet should they still exist in the caught leeches.

We analysed 25 leeches collected during July 2011 from Bach Ma NP (19) & the Saola reserve (6). The leeches were collected forest guards when they were about to bite them. They used a primer to extract DNA which does not detect primate (and thus human) DNA to prevent contamination. From the 25 leeches 21 (84%) had non-primate mammal DNA inside. Each leech had only one species' DNA present. The species detected were:

Small-toothed Ferret Badger = 6 leeches

Wild Pig = 5 leeches

Annamite Stripped Rabbit = 4 leeches

Serrow = 3 leeches

Domestic Cow = 2 leeches

Truong Son Muntjac = 1 leeches

These represented the first ever record of Annamite Stripped Rabbit from Bach Ma (despite many years of camera-trapping at the site) and the first confirmed (to species) records of Small-toothed Ferret Badger and Truong Son Muntjac as these cryptic species are (near) impossible to identify from signs or camera-trap photographs. The eloquently demonstrates the power of this methodology and how it really could be the way to detect and confirm Saola presence in coming detection and analyzing under CarBi project.

The trial of leech-based survey method was highly successful and a revised draft of a paper is being submitted to Current Biology where we expect imminent publication. In the meantime, WWF is

developing protocols for applying this method both for broad-scale monitoring and for targeted species searches

Through forest guard patrol trips, a leech data collection protocol was developed in which one team member per patrol collects leeches from the body/clothes of forest guards. Each leech collected is then placed in sampling tube. Leeches have been collected as-and-when encountered with ideally one leech every 30 minutes (approximately when the patrol team stops and records UTM position into MIST form). This activity has started in June 2012 in both Quang Nam and Hue Saola NR. Up to now 214 sampling tubes have been collected and stored at WWF Hue office for DNA analysis under CarBi fund in the next time.

Component 6 Planned:

Management boards of the new protected areas established, budget allocated and management plans formulated.

Component 6 Actual at Completion:

1. Feasibility assessment for establishment of Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserve

Feasibility study drafted and submitted to provincial authorities.

There have been several workshops by the PPC of Quangnam province on the establishment of Saola NR in Quangnam. Basically, the workshops' results were that Quangnam fundamentally endorses for the establishment of the Saola NR in the province. The technical design of the NR as well as the operational plan for the NR have also been agreed upon.

2. Workshop report for establishing management board of Quang Nam Saola Reserve

Proposal to establish the management board submitted to PPC.

The management board for Saola NR in Quangnam was established and the establishment workshop was held in May 2011.

3. Conservation Needs Assessment for A Luoi Saola Reserve

Conducted METT at Bach Ma, and Hue Saola

Conservation Need Assessment for all 3 protected areas is being carried out. Different aspects of management in these three protected areas are identified and analysed: current and potential threats to Saola, agencies and approaches to Saola conservation, ecological and biological characteristics of Saola, capacity for Saola conservation, sustainable finance for Saola conservation, local people livelihood around protected areas, long and short term conservation plans, etc.

4. Operational Plan for ALuoi Saola Nature Reserve

Operational and Investment plans drafted and submitted to government departments.

Conservation Need Assessment for all 3 protected areas is being carried out. Different aspects of management in these three protected areas are identified and analysed: current and potential threats to Saola, agencies and approaches to Saola conservation, ecological and biological characteristics of Saola, capacity for Saola conservation, sustainable finance for Saola conservation, local people livelihood around protected areas, long and short term conservation plans.

Operational and Investment plan for Hue Saola NR has been approved by the provincial People's Committee.

5. Operational Plan for Quang Nam Saola Reserve

Consultant for the operation was identified and selected. Operational plan for the Quangnam Saola NR have been drafted. Processing for the document to get approved has been initialized.

6. Budget allocation for management of Thua Thien Hue Saola Reserve

Allocation not yet complete for overall management of the NR. 50% funding provided for staffing of NR by government plus office rental, the remaining 50% for staffing requested and provided by WWF under the Forest Guards approach.

Funding from VCF cannot be secured as there has been an unexpected pending from VCF. because of Hue Saola NR was out of the prior list of VCF fund

7. Budget allocation for management of Quang Nam Saola Reserve

Efforts made by SWG and WWF team have brought optimistic result for Sao la conservation mission, at least in the upcoming period.

WWF French committed contributing \$25,000\$, the Rhino Carry Forward \$30,000\$, excluding CarBi project (\$80,000/year/PA on average) which has been being implemented in the three Sao la PAs

Component 7 Planned:

Funds raised for future Saola conservation action, in collaboration with the Saola Working Group.

Component 7 Actual at Completion:

1. Fundraising trips, proposals and outreach to international donors, institutions and other organizations potentially interested in supporting Saola conservation beyond the lifetime of the project.

Under Safeguarding Saola CEPF project, the following institutions and individuals (partners and donors) were visited and/or met with personally:

- Wildlife Conservation Network; USA (Charles Knowles, Executive Director)
- Zoological Society of London (Sam Turvey and Carly Waterman; twice)
- Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (Philip Thomas and Mark Newman)
- Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, Portugal (Albano Pereira and Shanyuan Chen)
- Prince Albert II Foundation, Monaco (Pierre Rondielli)
- Act for Nature, Monaco (Olivier Arnoult)
- Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations; Germany (Roland Wirth, Director)
- Leipzig Zoo (Frank Oberwemmer)
- IUCN Species Survival Commission (Simon Stuart, Chair)
- Los Angeles Zoo (Jeff Holland, Curator of Mammals)
- Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation; USA (William deBuys, Board member)
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; USA (Chris Holtz)
- Centre for GeoGenetics of Natural History Museum of Denmark (Tom Gilbert, Director)

The following additional activities were completed:

- Gave a presentation and promoted Saola conservation at the Wildlife Conservation Network's Wildlife Expo (San Francisco, October 2010);
- Gave a presentation and promoted Saola conservation to the Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, Portugal (June 2011);
- Gave a presentation and promoted Saola conservation at the mid-year meeting of the US Association of Zoos and Aquaria (California, April, 2012);
- Gave a presentation and promoted Saola conservation at a conference of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (Vienna, May 2012).
- Helped EAZA draft saola promotional materials for their 2-year campaign to support endangered wildlife of Southeast Asia;
- Helped draft a press release marking the 20th anniversary of the scientific discovery of Saola, which had broad international uptake. (May 2012).
- Gave interviews on Saola conservation to US radio shows (October 2010, April 2012)
- Convened in Vientiane a one-day strategy meeting of regional Saola Working Group members (March 2012)
- Gave a presentation on saola conservation at the University of Wisconsin (May 2012)
- Helped The Tree Shirt House (Singapore) set up sales of saola t-shirts that provide funds to saola conservation.
- Wrote and distributed to partners and donors periodic "Saola Update" email newsletters (September 2012; March, May and October 2011; January, April and May 2012);
- Established a saola YouTube channel, "SaolaStories", with income-earning potential for saola conservation;
- Wrote or helped write saola proposals to SOS, Los Angeles Zoo (three), Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation (three), ZGAP, MacArthur Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Network.

Achievements: The purpose of the project component was to support the SWG Coordinator to promote saola conservation. Primary achievements as a result of this support include:

- Helped persuade the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) to make saola the logo, and saola conservation a priority project for support, of EAZA's current two-year fund-raising and awareness campaign (for endangered large animals of Southeast Asia). This guarantees funding for saola conservation from EAZA (amount not yet determined), starting in 2013.
- Helped secure post-graduate scholarships (two of them from the Wildlife Conservation Network) for four Lao students: one to do his PhD on wildlife conservation awareness (at Cornell University,

USA), one to do his MSc. on saola (at King Mongkut's University, Bangkok), one to do his MSc. on wildlife in Nakai-Nam Theun, and one to a post-graduate diploma in wildlife ecology and conservation at Oxford. All of them are in the midst of their studies now.

- Established a good relationship between the SWG and the Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation (LCAOF). This has resulted in three rounds of funding from LCAOF to saola conservation, included a major effort to improve protection in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, Laos.
- Established a good relationship between the SWG and the Los Angeles Zoo (LAZ). This has resulted in three rounds of funding from LAZ for saola conservation, and an invitation for the SWG coordinator to speak at a mid-year meeting of the US Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).
- Established a good relationship between the SWG and the Zoological Society of London. This resulted in ZSL encouraging the SWG to nominate a young conservationist to be one of their EDGE Fellows, with a focus on saola conservation. This application has been submitted, and we await ZSL's answer.
- Established a good relationship between the SWG and the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) in the US. This resulted in WCN twice inviting the SWG as a guest speaker at its annual Wildlife Conservation Expo, in San Francisco (the next will be in October 2012). Appearance as a guest speaker each time guarantees a minimum of \$10,000 in contributions from WCN to saola conservation (and in fact has proved to be more).
- Helped establish close collaboration between saola conservation partners (in both Vietnam and Laos), and the University of Copenhagen and the Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (Portugal). Both institutions will help saola field projects with genetic analyses (one for leeches, one for dung), at almost no cost to the saola projects.
- Established a good relationship between the SWG and the MacArthur Foundation. This resulted in MacArthur's acceptance of anLoI for a saola conservation project, and invitation to submit a full proposal. We have just received the approved from MacArthur for this grant of \$75,000 for one year activities and it will be implemented to match as CarBi project..
- Secured funding for the initial training of new rangers for the Hue Saola Nature Reserve, Vietnam.
- Funded and placed a biodiversity protection technical advisor at Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, Lao PDR
- Helped organize and secure funding necessary to hold the second meeting of the Saola Working Group (in Vinh and Hue, Vietnam, 2011).
- Held the third meeting of the SWG, in Vientiane in March, 2012.

2. Funds raised for continuation of WWF's Saola conservation initiatives in the priority landscape of Thua Thien Hue-Quang Nam.

Approval from German government for landscape scale WWF GMPO and KfW project covering both saola reserves, Bach Ma, Xe Sap and Xepian NPs granted with 7,000,000 € as named CarBi project . Funds will support 'Forest Guards' approach for four years in Hue and Quang Nam PAs, pending approval from GoV and GoL.

Hue CarBi project approved on Apr 01, 2011 by the Decision 725QĐ-UBND; Quang Nam approved on July 06, 2011 by the Decision 2383/UBND-ĐN for implementation of project with 3,773,284 €.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the 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.

List of project documents which were sent to CEPF

- Consulting communities in the buffer zone of the Saola landscape Protected Areas on strategies for mitigating impacts of the protected areas on local livelihoods in accordance with World Bank safeguards
- Saola leaflet
- Short film on Saola conservation
- Pictures of 1) Law enforcement training; 2) Communication training; 3) CEPF completion workshops; 4) forest patrols
- Final Report of the Saola Working Group component of the
- WWF-Greater Mekong project, "Safeguarding the Saola within the species' priority landscape in Vietnam", funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
- Maps of forest patrols in Bach Ma and Quang Nam

- CNA reports
- MIST report from Quang Nam
- P-map Nicholas report
- Color maps of 36 impacted villages
- Enforcement manual version 7th

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)

- *Provincial processes in Quang Nam, such as the establishment of the QN Reserve, have taken longer than in ThuaThien Hue, due to working differences between the two provinces. This needs to be kept in mind and solutions found to speed up the process in the future for lesson learn. However, Quangnam Saola NR finally approved and forest guard models was replicated successfully although its late than expectation.*
 - o *We have a strong partnership with the provincial government and ThuaThien Hue Saola NR Director, which has enabled us to make good progress on the set up of the NR. We have worked in collaboration with the Saola NR Director, to develop the Forest Guards approach, obtain permission from government authorities for this and recruit the Forest Guards.*
 - o *We specifically invited local communities surrounding the Hue Saola NR, to apply for the Forest Guard positions, to provide some positive benefits from the project to local people through an alternative and more reliable livelihood than the harvesting of natural resources. A combination of 18 local community members, law enforcement personnel and Forestry Graduates from Hue will be employed to work in the Hue Saola NR as Forest Guard team members.*
 - o *WWF GMPO have been in close consultation with colleagues and partners throughout the region (e.g. WWF network, WCS, Nakai Nam Theun, enforcement experts) to identify and help us establish effective enforcement systems for saola. NGOs and PAs throughout the region have set up different systems prompting the need for a regional enforcement workshop in March to discuss and develop standards for densely forested mountainous landscapes. This project will be hosted by the linked Saola Darwin project and the KfW project.*
 - o *We have worked closely with the SWG Coordinator, to provide input to the development of the Saola Conservation Strategy and in the development of funding proposals to fill funding gaps for research and enforcement work. We have also partnered with Vinh University to co-host the 2nd SWG meeting in April 2011.*
 - o *Through the linked Darwin project, PAs in the northern Annamites have also shown interest in improved enforcement and we hope to be able to assist the set up of MIST in these areas with support from their VCF projects.*

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

- *The employment of several local community members as Forest Guards, will provide a regular and reliable income to these people, many of whom previously relied on natural resource extraction.*
- *The SWITCH rattan project is ongoing in most communities surrounding the two Saola NRs. The project has supported sustainable rattan management and harvest plan of 6768 ha for 40 villages in three district A Luoi, Nam Dong and Nam Giang . The project approach to enhance the local people living surrounding Saola PAs for increasing the likelihood from Rattan activities through enrichment of rattan seedling under community forest management, promotion handicraft at villiage level and link to market, capacity building to sustainable harvest and link to forest protection.*
- *"Forest Guard" is a new enforcement model, although it appears to be an effective model, there are many issues arise during the implementation: the collaboration between the PA staffs and FG members, roles and responsibility of forest guard members, the management of a large team, etc. All of these require the dedication of a skillful PA manager and a close collaboration with PA management board. In addition to these, every issue has to be though and planed carefully beforehand.*

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- *We have maintained a close partnership with ThuaThien Hue and Quang Nam FPDs, to assist with the set up of the two new PAs. Our support has greatly sped up the process and although slightly delayed in Quang Nam we expect the management board to be established very soon.*
- *WWF and Sao la Hue management board by different diplomatic channels and advocacy, have persuaded ThuaThien Hue PPC to reject a gold mining project suggested in Sao la NR. This was a very big win of conservation workers as well as those who love and protect the forest.*
- *The establishment of new PA and strong enforcement in recent time, according to report of Hue Sao la manager, led to some reduced income of forest-based households as well as land conflict between the MB and communities. This issue was clarified/explained by PA staff/FGs to local people for their understanding as long-term and sustainable use of the resources*
- *Alternative livelihoods have been much mentioned in meetings/workshops, however, in reality, we still lack 'significant practice' under a clear strategy to support local communities for releasing pressures to the PAs. Current solutions are integration of part of rattan project but this is not enough and does not meet diversified needs of impacted communities.*

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
Centre for Ancient Genetics at the University of Copenhagen	A	20,000 euro	
Darwin Initiative	A	80,000 USD	
WWF (CarBi, France, USFWS)	A	200,000 USD	Committed for coming next three years (1 millions)

*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.)*

- Sao la Darwin project funded by Darwin Initiative for 150,000 pounds from 2009-2012

- WWF network donors including WWF US, WWF France funded for forest guard model operation in Hue for 2011, amount 70,000\$

- carBi project funded by German Government for 2011-2014 with amount upto 7million euro for two country Laos and Vietnam. Direct fund to Saola conservation is 3,773,284 €.

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.

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.

Community consultation has been consulting with communities who are live depending on the nature forest where NR established.

Consulting communities were carried out in 36 selected villages based on the results of community mapping, of which 26 villages belong the buffer zones of the Bach ma NP extension and the Hue Saola Nature Reserve in ThuaThien Hue province, and 10 villages belong the buffer zones of Hue Saola Nature Reserve and the Bach ma NP extension and the in Quang Nam province.

Three PAs are established in different periods. Before and after establishment of these PAs, there are 7 ethnic groups (Kinh, CaTu, Muong, Thai, Tay, Ta Oi, and Hre) living in the buffer zones, most ethnic people was very poor and have strongly depended on the forests for a long time for their livelihood. The establishments of three PAs have influenced directly their life; the major impacts are less income from the forest product collection. Interview and group discussion results indicated that the extent of using products from the natural forest of these PAs have reduced since the PAs established but they are still very high. After establishment of these three PAs, the number of impacted household varied for each protected area. the percentages of impacted households are: 89.1 %, 44.5 % and 54 % of total household in 36 villages in the buffer zones of Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserve, the Hue Saola Nature Reserve and the Bach Ma NP extension, respectively.

The boundaries of three PAs are defined by physical boundaries such as compartments, and contour line. Redefinition of the boundaries between the buffer zone communes and the PAs is unclear. Local people go to the forests of three PAs to exploit forest products without knowing, so it is difficult to manage. At present, biodiversity of three PAs is still threatened by hunting and trapping, illegal logging and over exploitation of the NTFPs.

Through the village meeting, the intervention programs are developed with the impacted individuals and villages. Main activities should be done as below:

- Support development of livestock production.
- Support development of fuel wood plantation
- Support development of Rubber plantation.
- Support improvement of current cultivation production.
- Support improvement of mixed gardens and fruit trees.
- Support management of natural resource in buffer zones (Benefit Sharing Mechanism and sustainable use of the NTFPs).
- Support forest protection contract.
- Support development of infrastructure.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

- Continue supporting for improving Saola conservation efforts at Saola PAs.
- Coordinate all funds for Saola for concentrating Saola conservation.
- Analyze leech DNA to detect Saola existence.

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, 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 GlobalTargets

(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 July 1, 2012 to August 31, 2012 (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.	Yes	44,175.9 ha (Quang Nam Saola PA : 15,822 ha; Hue Saola PA : 12,105.9 ha, Bach Ma Extension : 16,248 ha).	44,175.9 ha (Quang Nam Saola PA : 15,822 ha; Hue Saola PA : 12,105.9 ha, Bach Ma Extension : 16,248 ha).	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	Quang Nam Saola PA:15,822 ha; In addition, Thu Thien Hue FPD is preparing a proposal for expending an additional area of 3,000ha for Hue Saola PA	Quang Nam Saola PA:15,822 ha; In addition, Thu Thien Hue FPD is preparing a proposal for expending an additional area of 3,000ha for Hue Saola PA	Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	44,175.9 ha (Quang Nam Saola PA : 15,822 ha; Hue Saola PA : 12,105.9 ha, Bach Ma Extension : 16,248 ha).	44,175.9 ha (Quang Nam Saola PA : 15,822 ha; Hue Saola PA : 12,105.9 ha, Bach Ma Extension : 16,248 ha).	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	- Supported conservation activities under the project at corridors created by WWF (Dong Giang, TayGiang biodiversity corridor - 200,000ha by BCI Project; Nam Dong and A Luoi corridor - 130,000ha by Green Corridor Project) -Intervention	- Supported conservation activities under the project at corridors created by WWF (Dong Giang, TayGiang biodiversity corridor - 200,000ha by BCI Project; Nam Dong and A Luoi corridor - 130,000ha by Green Corridor Project) -Intervention	Corridor/buffer zone

		<p>activities have been also conducted at buffer zone communities of Quang Nam Saola PA (35,135.44 ha); of Hue Saola PA (16,574 ha); and of Bach Ma Extension (10,000ha). CEPF funded surveys/community consultations on the livelihood alternatives at local communities. WWF then used fund from other WWF projects to implement the findings (i.e. CarBi project, and Rattan Project).</p>	<p>activities have been also conducted at buffer zone communities of Quang Nam Saola PA (35,135.44 ha); of Hue Saola PA (16,574 ha); and of Bach Ma Extension (10,000ha). CEPF funded surveys/community consultations on the livelihood alternatives at local communities. WWF then used fund from other WWF projects to implement the findings (i.e. CarBi project, and Rattan Project).</p>	
<p>5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.</p>	No			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

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

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit														
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/homadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other	
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services										
A Roang	X	X	X	X			X															
Huong Nguyen	X	X	X	X			X															
Thuong Nhat	X	X	X	X			X															
Huong Huu	X	X	X	X			X															
Thuong Long	X	X	X	X			X															
Song Con	X	X	X	X			X															
Prao	X	X	X	X		X	X															
A Vuong	X	X	X	X			X															
Bhalee	X	X	X	X			X															
Total	9	9	9	9		1	9															

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

