

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Fauna & Flora International
Project Title:	Long-term research and conservation field station in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, central-eastern Laos for improvement of management strategy and conservation of CEPF's priority species
Date of Report:	06 January 2016
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CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction:

Strategic direction #1: Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats

Grant Amount: 18,306 US \$

Project Dates: 01 October 2014 to 31 December 2015

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

Fauna & Flora International and Project Anoulak (in Lao PDR).

Fauna & Flora International: administration of grant.

Project Anoulak (www.conservationlaos.com): implementation of the project on site.

Conservation Impacts

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

During the project period we achieved:

Agreements with authorities:

- February 2015: First official meeting with notably representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, which led to an agreement letter signed by the Ministry for the implementation of the project.
- May 2015: Meeting with village leaders from two clusters to agree on project activities, common interests and collaboration. Five villagers from two villages were chosen by village leaders to work with Project Anoulak
- November 2015: Visit of field station and meeting with head of the Navang and newly in charge of conservation activities, for the area, representative from the Watershed Management & Protection Authority and representative from the District office of Forest Resource Management to report on activities 2015 and discuss workplan 2016.

Field station, office and headquarter:

- A milestone this year was the construction of our field station in the middle of the Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area in May 2015. Our field station is composed of four traditional wooden houses, a kitchen and toilets. We are powered by the sun, with solar panels and have a vegetable garden. It is permanently staffed with a keeper and our Primate Monitoring Units. The Anoulak field station is our base for all our long-term research and forest protection activities and can welcome other researchers, students and visitors for specific projects.
- In March 2015, following official meeting and agreement between Project Anoulak, the Government of Lao PDR (Department of Forest Resource Management of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment) and the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority (WMPA), the latter provided us with an office in their headquarter building in Ban Oudomsouk, in Nakai.
- In November 2015, we also started building our headquarters in Nakai (Ban Oudomsouk), which will be completed in 2016 and be our base outside the forest.

In-Situ primate research programmes:

- In June and July 2015 a grid trail system around the field station was cut and marked with red paint to facilitate movement at the research site. The trail system was completed in August 2015, with a total of 55 km of trails, covering 12 km².
- We employ four villagers to form our Gibbon Team and Douc Team; Both teams are in charge of habituating a group of gibbons and a group of doucs for our long-term behavioural ecology study.
- Habituation process began in September 2015 and is still in progress. We have not yet been able to start collecting behavioural data on both species because they are still wary of our presence.

Environmental Education programme:

- In 2015, Project Anoulak started working with a volunteer from the US, Miss Janelle Kaczmarzewski to develop some environmental education activities and resources.
- Janelle will be leading our environmental education programme from January to May 2016 in collaboration with the Watershed Management & Protection Authority and District Education Office.

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

Protection of priority area and priority species.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

- Establishment of field station as based for
 - 1) Research priorities on priority species programme
 - 2) Forest patrolling programme
 - 3) Capacity building programme
 - 4) Education and community outreach programme
 - 5) Sustainable livelihood programme
- Strong collaboration developed with management authority of Nakai-Nam Theun national Protected Area and Governmental authorities for the long-term implementation of the project
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with main partner: the Watershed Management and Protection Authority of Nakai-Nam Theun

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

- Establishment of field station as based for
 - 1) Research priorities on priority species programme to inform conservation management plans
 - 2) Capacity building programme with a team of independent Lao researchers
 - 3) Education and community outreach programme in place for the long term
- Strong collaboration developed with management authority of Nakai-Nam Theun national Protected Area and Governmental authorities for the long-term implementation of the project
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with main partner: the Watershed Management and Protection Authority (WMPA) of Nakai-Nam Theun

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

- Establishment of field station as based for
 - 1) Beginning of the Research on priority species programme
 - 2) Beginning of the Capacity building programme (2 research assistant, 4 villagers)
 - 3) Beginning of the Education and community outreach programme (PHASE I and on-going PHASE II)
- Strong collaboration developed with management authority of Nakai-Nam Theun national Protected Area and Governmental authorities for the long-term implementation of the project

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: ~100 km²

Species Conserved: at least seven CEPF's priority species, including the white-cheeked gibbon, the red-shanked douc, the large antlered muntjac, two species of pangolins.

Corridors Created: N/A

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

The major challenges was to establish the project at a time when the main authority in charge of the management of the protected area (the Watershed Management and Protection Authority, WMPA) where the project is based was in reform, which delayed the discussion on long-term collaboration with them. However, we obtained approval from the Government of Lao PDR to implement the project. We are still waiting for the WMPA to reform in 2016 to proceed with a signed MoU with them.

Other challenges are finding dedicated, honest and hardworking people to work on the project.

The successes were the positive feedback we received from the local community and the authorities on our project and their desire to collaborate with us. We also found some good team members that are hard working and dedicated and will be trained.

One of the milestone of this project, and the main component of it was the construction of our field station which will facilitate our long-term work.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No major unexpected impacts

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: Official agreement with local partners for long-term activities of project

Component 1 Actual at Completion: We received approval from the Department of Natural Resource Management of the Ministry of Natural Resources & the Environment for implementation of this project and have signed an agreement with local authorities at the Provincial, District and Village levels. The Memorandum of Understanding that we planned to sign with the management authority of Nakai-Nam Theun NPA (WMPA) was not possible due to their reform during the year of implementation of this project. However they communicated their full support of the long-term implementation of the project. A draft MoU has already been prepared in English and Lao and following the completion of the reform of WMPA, we should proceed with the signature of this MoU, which will facilitate the implementation of all activities in the future.

Component 2 Planned: Long-term data collection protocols and methodologies established and protection of target species achieved at field site

Component 2 Actual at Completion: We have started establishing all the foundations for the long-term data collection of priority research and have already completed some data collection and analysis. This will be continuing in the long-term with data collection on behavioural ecology of the red-shanked douc and white-cheeked gibbons. Some systematic trails have been established at the research site around the field station, covering 12 km². Our presence at the site allowed preventing poachers around the field station. However, we are planning (pending funding) to train a patrolling team to cover a larger area around the research site (>100 km²) monthly.

Component 3 Planned: Action Plan produced, incorporating recommendations to the management authority of NNT NPA

Component 3 Actual at Completion: As mentioned above, the MoU with the management authority is delayed. Early 2016, the reform should be completed and we will proceed with discussion on strategies development. However, during all the period of implementation, we communicated our goals and activity planning to them.

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

The last project component, production of an Action Plan, was only partially realized, due to delays in signing an MoU with the management authority of Nakai-Nam Theun NPA (WMPA), as described above. However, this did not significantly affect 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.

N/A

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)

Contributing to its success:

- Establishment of a long-term field station as base for activities
- Prior meeting with all stakeholders
- Involvement of local communities

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

Contributing to its success:

- Establishment of a long-term field station as base for activities
- Prior meeting with all stakeholders
- Involvement of local communities

Contributing to its shortcomings:

- Lack of training of staff involved

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Organize several training and follow-up trainings to reinforce and assess if villagers involved really understand their role in the project.

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
Multiple European Zoos	B	\$47,177	For gibbon research
Arcus Foundation	B	\$25,000	For operating support of the organization (and gibbon research)
Beauval Nature and Mohamed Bin Zayed Conservation Fund	B	\$15,374	For douc research
Otter Specialist Group and Phoenix Zoo	B	\$4,044	For otter research
Quagga Conservation Fund and Rufford Grant	B	\$13,304	For education programme
Ocean Park Conservation Foundation	B	\$36,880	For 4 villager staff for 2 years

****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.

With the project funded by CEPF – the establishment of a field station on site – this attracted several other donors for all our other programmes (i.e. research, education, patrolling). This means that as a direct positive impact of the CEPF funding, we have secured funding for the sustainability of the implementation of our programmes. We will continue to seek additional partners to fund our long-term programmes.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

N/A

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

- The construction of the field station complied with the Environmental Impact Assessment, which was prepared and submitted with the project proposal.
- All The material used for the construction were common/non-valuable species that are authorized to be harvested under the Lao Forestry Law (Government of Lao PDR, 2007). Only the structures of the houses were made using larger trees (no more than 15 cm of diameter); the roofs, walls and floors were made of palm leaves and bamboo, (according to the traditional construction method) readily available and a sustainable source of natural material.
- Only traditional equipment was used to collect the material (e.g. axes, large knives) to avoid noise disturbance from motor machinery.
- We have installed solar panel to power the field station.
- We have set up a vegetable garden with a composting area.
- All waste is limited as much as possible managed on site to reduce any major impact on the surrounding environment (controlled burning).
- A Field station rules document was prepared in English and Lao on best behavior regarding respect of the environment and was agreed by all staff on site.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

None

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.cepfn.org, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets				
(Enter Grant Term)				
Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant. Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.				
Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved during the grant term (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	3,000	3,000	Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area. See narrative sections above.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			
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	3,000	3,000	Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area. See narrative sections above.
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

