

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Viet Nam Country Programme
Project Title:	Baseline population assessment of the Critically Endangered Cat Ba langur (<i>Trachypithecus poliocephalus poliocephalus</i>) and initiation of a long-term research agenda.
Date of Report:	October 31, 2013
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CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction: Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats

Grant Amount: \$19,991.96

Project Dates: 1st April 2013 – 31st October 2013

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

The Cat Ba Langur Conservation Project (CBLCP) has a 13 year history working at the site on the conservation of the Cat Ba langur. This project was invited by the CBLCP and developed in cooperation with them to support their ongoing initiatives to conserve this taxon. We worked closely with the CBLCP throughout, sharing information, providing technical support and receiving a good deal of technical, financial and logistic support from them to implement activities. During the grant period, CBLCP signed an MoU with both IUCN and ANU to solidify this close cooperation.

The Australian National University (ANU) School of Archaeology and Anthropology was a key partner for project implementation. As with the CBLCP, a tri-partite MoU was signed with IUCN during the grant period. IUCN and CBLCP worked closely with ANU, supporting the placement of a PhD student in Cat Ba to conduct scoping work for ecological research to begin in 2014.

We worked closely with relevant local government authorities, especially Cat Ba National Park and Cat Hai People's Committee to ensure activities implemented were supported.

IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) was consulted during the grant period to begin to develop population viability models based on the findings of population surveys and to educate population management options.

Conservation Impacts

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

This proposed work fitted within the investment strategy for CEPF in Indo-Burma as per the ecosystem profile. The work focused on an identified priority species for investment, the Cat Ba langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalus poliocephalus*) in a priority KBA; Cat Ba (VNM23). The project addressed Component I of the CEPF Strategic Directions: Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats and addressed Investment Priority 1.1 – Transform pilot interventions for core populations of priority species into long-term conservation programs. The project helped implement CEPF strong vision of species conservation within the hotspot through support of a project looking at new ways to conserve one of the regions most threatened taxa.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

Genetic Assessments: we assessed access to caves for collection of fecal samples for animals in the sanctuary, however the need for very fresh samples and inaccessibility of most caves has meant that we have had to alter our approach. We set up several fecal traps under caves that langurs are known to frequent and conducted a short training with rangers in that area on how to collect samples safely and to buffer with RNA*later* which resulted in the collection of 25 fecal samples. These samples have however not been analysed but have been retained awaiting additional samples for transport to and analysis at the University of Oregon's Molecular Anthropology Group. The next phase of the project will result in additional samples and analysis of existing samples.

Population and Demographic Assessments: Surveys were conducted and resulted in population status and demographic data (age/sex profiles) for all langurs believed to occur in both the sanctuary and the Cua Dong area. These represent the only areas with breeding sub-populations of the taxon and shows populations of 26 animals in the sanctuary and 20 individuals in Cua Dong. These confirmed records plus five females known from Cat Hai and due for translocation in December 2013/January 2014 and interview records from other locations suggest that the total global population is in the vicinity of 49 animals confirmed and 56 animals based on reports. This baseline is incredibly important for determining the breeding success of the species moving forward with conservation planning and population management. A paper on the population assessment will be completed and submitted to an international journal before the end of the 2013; the initial survey report authored by the surveyors is attached. Some preliminary work outside of this CEPF grant has been conducted on PVA modelling of these two breeding populations in collaboration with the IUCN SSC CBSG which will be finalized in coming months.

Population Monitoring: having completed baseline populations assessment of the breeding populations of the species, we have conducted spot checks on the two breeding sub-populations to determine most importantly whether mortality of infants is occurring as has been suggested, albeit based on inference. To date, no deaths have been recorded since the baseline determination of the two breeding sub-populations in June-July 2013. We will continue to go on to monitor those groups in coming months and years. The demographic data already collected is being used to inform a Population Viability Analysis in cooperation with the IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG). Initial life history parameters have been determined and sensitivity analysis of these is currently being undertaken by CBSG. A complete Vortex analysis of the remaining breeding groups will be conducted in 2014 and will include both projected population increases which can be compared with actual increases, as well as model various scenarios relating to population management through animal translocation, helping to determine the most effective population management approaches.

Research Agenda: A PhD candidate at the Australian National University, Rebecca Hendershott, has spent several months at the site conducting a scoping study for research to begin in January 2014. The project also supported a field trip for her Supervisor, Dr Alison Behie in July 2013. The project is supporting her and her department at ANU to develop a research agenda on the taxon to feed into conservation planning. An outline of potential hypotheses concerning the populations apparent lack of rebound have been identified based on literature review and will now be tested through behavioural observations and modelling. These include infanticide, predation, inbreeding depression and nutritional deficits. Full time research will begin in 2014, however CEPF funding helped to scope the opportunities for data collection and resulted in a preliminary ethogram for data collection.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: NA

Species Conserved: Cat Ba langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalus poliocephalus*)

Corridors Created: NA

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

This investment by CEPF in the conservation of the Cat Ba langur can be considered a significant step in developing a multi-disciplinary approach to conservation of the taxon, despite the short duration and limited funding. It has provided the basis for multi-institutional cooperation under a common conservation cause which brings to bear different skill sets in conservation including enforcement, research, modelling and monitoring. The short-term benefits include the bringing together of a quorum of conservation organisations in a common vision for conservation of the Cat Ba langur. The longer term benefits include the provision of a population baseline of the breeding population of the Cat Ba langur which to date has not been available. With this in place,

effectiveness of conservation interventions can be assessed and population management interventions more effectively planned.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No

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)

The project design was based on input from multiple experts in their fields educated by the strong local knowledge and relationships of the CBLCP. In general, the design of the project was made to provide a basis for cross-institutional cooperation and an additional phase of work and it has been a success in this respect, with additional fundraising in partnership having been conducted to move to a second phase of work.

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

Project implementation went as planned and on schedule due to ensuring that no project elements were unknown quantities at the time of proposal development. Surveys were carried out by consultants as planned, although poor weather reduced the total field time resulting in less coverage of the total population than originally hoped and budget for consultants was slightly underestimated. We placed a PhD student at the site for 2 months, who had already been secured prior to project design and who will return for 12 months in 2014. The only element which was not completed, the DNA analyses, was because of the underestimated complexity of cave access and collection which could have been better planned.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

It is clear, that given the limited resources and technical capacity available in the conservation sector and the magnitude of the problem with conserving CR primates and other species, that cross-institutional development and implementation of projects remains a good option for ensuring the right skills are brought to bear. There are always difficulties in these kinds of arrangements, and much hinges on personal relationships rather than institutional ones, however clear messaging about roles and responsibilities (in this instance through the development of an MoU between project partners) and joint fundraising can help to alleviate many misunderstandings.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund	B	\$12,000	Raised by ANU with IUCN as a partner

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF 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 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.

Given the short timeframe of the grant period (7 months) there was no intention for the project to develop a framework for long-term sustainability. However, the building of partnerships with ANU, CBLCP and IUCN SSC CBSG over the project period has resulted in a solid basis for ongoing multi-disciplinary conservation interventions for the taxon. The next phase of the project, which will additionally involve Fauna & Flora International's Primate Conservation Programme, will work towards sustainability through building additional capacity within the Management Board of the Cat Ba National Park for adaptive management in enforcement and build scientific capacity of Vietnamese scientists through information exchange with Chinese counterparts working on the species sister-taxon, *Trachypitecus poliocephalus leucocephalus*.

There is significant opportunity for replication of the project design. This project has laid the groundwork for multi-stakeholder multi-disciplinary approaches to the conservation of the Cat Ba langur which could be replicated to other taxa of Critically Endangered primates in Vietnam and beyond. Fauna & Flora International for example will be using this general model for conservation of threatened primate species under their remit in other areas in northern Vietnam.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

NA

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

NA

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 from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. (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.	NO			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	NONE			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NO			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NO			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	NA			

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

Total																				

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

There is considerable need to further upscale financial and technical investment in the Cat Ba langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalus poliocephalus*) given its most critically endangered status. Only through collaborative and transparent approaches to conservation of the taxon, involving all stakeholders in the process and taking a long-term planning approach, will there be scope for conserving this taxon into the medium term. Considerable challenges lay ahead, both technical and political.

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.ceph.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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