

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Global Wildlife Conservation
Project Title:	Nurturing the Flame: Promoting Collaboration for Saola Conservation Regionally and Internationally
Date of Report:	30 November 2013
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CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction: SD 1: "Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats."

Strategic Direction 3: "Engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives, with a particular emphasis on the Northern Limestone Highlands and Mekong River and its major tributaries".

Grant Amount: \$8,000

Project Dates: 1 December 2012 – 31 October 2013

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

Saola Working Group: The SWG's Coordinator, William Robichaud, was the principal executant of the project.

Conservation Impacts

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

Now that rhinos are likely gone from the ecosystem, saola is probably the most endangered large mammal remaining. The involvement of zoos, fostered by this project, significantly helped the Saola Working Group (SWG) to reach a decision, at its June 2013 meeting, to move forward with captive management of saola, to establish an 'insurance population' of saola in Laos or Vietnam. The conservation impact of this going forward could be substantial. It could result in saving one of the rarest, most iconic species of the ecosystem.

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

Our project proposed to initiate or deepen partnerships for saola conservation with three parties: potential donors in the Middle East, the Los Angeles and San Diego Zoos in the US, and, if resources allowed, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). We will detail the results of the project against each of these three objectives:

Middle East donors: We completed a written introduction to saola, with a provisional 10-year budget, for the Board of Directors of the Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ) Species Conservation Fund (based in Abu Dhabi). At their request, it includes everything needed, over the next ten years, to save saola from extinction. Please see attached. SWG member Barney Long met with

a member of the MBZ board in October, and we followed up and sent the brief to them on 16 November 2013. We are now waiting for their response. We have suggested to them that the SWG Coordinator now visit Abu Dhabi for further discussions, and if our suggestion is accepted, we will use other funds for this.

Los Angeles Zoo (LAZ) and San Diego Zoo (SDZ): SWG Coordinator William Robichaud visited and gave talks on saola conservation to staff of the two zoos in January 2013. The visits were highly productive, with these results:

- LAZ both renewed and increased their funding level of ongoing support to the work of the SWG, to \$13,000/year.
- SDZ committed to recurrent, core support to the SWG, starting at \$9,000/year.
- SDZ sent one of its mammal curators, Andy Blue, at SDZ's expense, to attend the SWG meeting in Vientiane in June, 2013, to advise the SWG on issues of captive management.
- Staff of both LAZ and SDZ are active members of the new Intensive Management of Saola Advisory Group (an advisory group formed by the international zoo community to advise the SWG on issues of captive management of saola).

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria:

SWG Coordinator William Robichaud gave a plenary talk on saola to the annual conference of EAZA in Edinburgh, Scotland in September 2013, and a saola talk during the conference to EAZA's Cattle and Camelid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG). The conference brought to a close EAZA's two-year fund raising campaign for conservation of SE Asian wildlife, for which saola was the campaign logo. The SWG's involvement in the campaign, of which participation at this meeting was a crucial component, resulted in EAZA donating 30,000 euros (approximately US\$40,000) to GWC for the work of the SWG.

Robichaud followed the EAZA conference with his first visit to ZooParc de Beauval (ZPB), in northern France. Last year, ZPB began supporting the SWG with a 10,000 euro contribution (approximately \$14,000). The visit was highly productive, and renewed ZPB's commitment to support saola conservation.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved: Significant progress was made toward the conservation of saola, but of course much remains to be done.

Corridors Created:

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

We believe we were successful in achieving all of the projects goals, with the exception of visiting the Middle East personally before the end of the project.

The main challenge was in trying to 'crack' a completely new donor (MBZ), in a new part of the world (Middle East). Especially in this context, it is important to first establish a personal relationship, and this takes time. But, hopefully, we are now on our way.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Yes! All positive.

1. The Executive Director of EAZA, Dr. Lesley Dickie, will soon climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa as a fund-raising exercise, and following the SWG's participation at the EAZA annual conference, she decided she will donate all the funds raised to the work of the SWG.
2. Dr. David Field, Director of the Zoological Society of London, has agreed to take on the role of building a consortium of highly experienced, international zoos to give technical and financial support to a saola captive breeding center in Laos or Vietnam. This was an outcome of the SWG's participation in the EAZA annual conference.
3. The contacts with LAZ and SDZ helped inspire and leverage financial support for saola conservation from two other US zoos, Jacksonville and Brevard (both in Florida). Brevard is currently conducting a saola awareness and fund-raising campaign at its zoo, and we won't know the amount raised until the end of the year.

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)

Building in options to the design, to provide flexibility, proved helpful. In this case, we proposed that if we were unable in the period of the grant to visit the Middle East, we would focus those funds instead on building donor relationships in Europe. This we were able to do, successfully, with relationships deepened with partners there (see details above).

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

Things went largely as planned and anticipated. Although a visit to the Middle East did not occur, significant progress has been made with the intended major donor, with a prospectus submitted for their consideration.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The most valuable lesson is the importance of personal relationships and *personal* interactions with donors. The difference between taking the time to visit someone, vs. just sending a written proposal, is all the difference in the world. The investment in time and money to fly to visit a potential donor for a day or two often repays for years. And these visits need to be repeated periodically: relationships are like gardens - they need to be regularly watered and tended to thrive.

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
Wildlife Conservation Network	A	\$5,000	
San Diego Zoo	A	\$300	approximate; lodging and meals
ZooParc de Beauval	A	\$500	approximate; lodging and meals
Los Angeles Zoo	B	\$13,000	
San Diego Zoo	B	\$9,000	
Jacksonville Zoo	B	\$1,000	
EAZA	B	\$40,000	

***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.

No particular challenges were encountered, other than we don't yet have an answer from MBZ if they will be interested and willing to support long-term saola conservation.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The commitments from the Jacksonville and Brevard Zoos to support saola conservation were not foreseen, and they came in large part from the successes with LAZ and SDZ, as a consequence of this project.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

n/a

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.	n/a			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?	n/a			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.	n/a			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	n/a			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	n/a			

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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.

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