

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Lao PDR Country Programme
Project Title:	Launching the Flagship: Collaborative Saola Conservation
Date of Report:	
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CEPF Region: IndoBurma Hotspot (Indochina Region)

Strategic Direction: 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: \$19,987

Project Dates: 9 March 2010 - 9 January 2011, with extension to 30 April 2011.

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

Saola Working Group of the IUCN/SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group: key partner in day-to-day implementation.

The following partners drafted or contributed substantially to key sections of the final document:

Division of Forest Resources Conservation, Lao Department of Forestry
WWF Vietnam Programme
WWF Lao Programme
WCS Lao Program
Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
RARE
Darwin Initiative 'Threatend Annamites Ungulates' project.

Conservation Impacts

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

Saola is one of the 26 mammals among the priority species for CEPF investment in Indochina. In this regard, the project contributed to Strategic Direction 1 of the Indochina profile, "safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats." In addition, it contributed to SD 3, "Engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives..."

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

1. Build a regional partnership (government, NGOs, industry) for effective Saola conservation.

Note: Because the project was based in Laos, most attention was put there. Furthermore, in Vietnam, several institutions, both government (e.g., IEBR, Vinh University, Thua Thinh-Hue FPD) and NGO (WWF) are working on saola, in a breadth not yet matched in Laos, which gives Laos a higher priority for attention at present.

- A national workshop in Vientiane (December 2010) led to the beginning of the formation of a Lao "National Saola Working Group", consisting entirely of representatives of different Government of Lao PDR (GoL) institutions.
- All three major saola field projects in Laos are supported by industry (two by hydropower projects, and one by the Sepon gold and copper mine in Savannakhet Province, Laos). The project worked with all three to encourage and strengthen their saola conservation efforts. This included a one-on-one presentation to the NT2 WMPA (Nakai-Nam Theun NPA's management body), and participation in and presentations on Saola at two planning workshops (both in 2011) hosted by WCS-Lao, for the Minerals and Metals Group (MMG) mining company and GoL partners.

In Vietnam, under this project one-on-one meetings were held with the following:

- Vinh University (including the VU Rector and the Head of the Zoology Department)
- Pu Huong Nature Reserve (Director and staff)
- Bach Ma National Park (Vice-director and staff)
- Saola Nature Reserve (Director)
- Phong Dien Nature Reserve (Director)
- Forest Protection Department of Thua Thien-Hue province (Director and Vice-director)
- Steering Committee, Darwin Initiative saola project
- WWF-Vietnam
- Lao students of Environmental Science at Vinh University.

2. Draft a collaborative, two-country strategy for conservation of Saola.

Completed. A first draft was circulated to the Saola Working Group for comment, and a revised final will be issued, as soon as the last reviewer comments are received and incorporated.

3. Through outreach, substantially increase motivation for Saola conservation among potential project partners. Particular focus will be placed on easing concerns over conflict between development and Saola conservation. Our goal is to secure concrete commitments, of money and/or other resources, from at least three new local or regional partners, beyond the sphere of conservation NGOs and government (such as businesses or development agencies).

In Laos, two Saola workshops were held for industry and development partners, one in 2010 and one in 2011 (the second hosted by the World Bank Laos office), in addition to some one-on-one meetings. Participants included representatives of (alphabetical order):

Asian Development Bank
Beer Lao

Book Cafe
Burapha Agro-Forestry Co, Ltd.
European Union
Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Green Discovery (ecotourism)
Lao Consulting Group
Minerals and Metals Group (MMG)
Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority
National University of Lao
Phu Bia Mining Company
Earth Systems Lao
SNV (Netherlands Development Organization)
Stora-Enso Plantations
Swedish Embassy
UN Environment Program
World Bank.

Concrete commitments to support of saola conservation have thus far been made by two of the above, NT2 WMPA, and MMG (largely through the efforts of WCS, but supported by the SWG through this project).

4. Steer completion of actions identified at the Vientiane Saola meeting in August, 2009.

Completed. A completion template will be finalized and issued with the proceedings of the most recent Saola Working Group meeting in Vietnam.

5. Make initial contact (at a minimum) with at least seven mid or large size potential donors, draft proposals to at least two under this project, and encourage partners to develop additional proposals.

The following donors were contacted directly in the course of this project:

Successful approaches:

- Los Angeles Zoo: US\$5,858, for extension to this project
- Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation: US\$17,896 for project development in Nakai-Nam Theun NPA
- 'Zoological Society for the Protection of Species and Populations' (ZGAP, Germany): EUR 5,000, to begin training contract rangers in the new Hue Saola Nature Reserve.
- Leipzig Zoo: EUR \$2,000 for the 2nd SWG meeting.

Total additional funds raised directly by the project: \$33,725.

Unsuccessful approaches (at least thus far) by the project;

Cologne Zoo
Frankfurt Zoo
National Geographic Society
Prince Albert II Foundation
Qatar Airways (through an intermediary).

Partner proposals:

Through contacts provided by this project, WWF-Vietnam raised the following sums for the 2nd Saola Working Group meeting:

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria: \$4000
Copenhagen Zoo: EUR 2000
ZSL London/Whipsnade Zoo: US\$1000
Wildlife Conservation Network: US\$1000
Friends of Banham Zoo: GBP 500
Givskud Zoo: EUR 995.

Including the direct amounts above, total funds raised by the project: \$44,785 (more than twice the amount of the original CEPF grant)

6. Mentor, inspire and build capacity in a young, eager Lao 'Saola champion' of the future.

A recent Lao university graduate in environmental science worked as an intern on various components of the project. He became quite interested in things "Saola", and joined the fieldtrip to Nakai-Nam Theun NPA under the funds raised through the project from the Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation.

Under the same LCAOF grant (raised during this project) a current Lao university student also joined the NNT survey, and is now working on the WCS/CEPF Saola surveys in Bolikhamxay, and has the ambition of starting an MSc. on Saola as soon as he finishes his undergraduate studies this year.

7. Identify and, if time permits, establish a suitable administrative and financial 'home' to receive funds for Saola conservation.

As an interim measure, we have continued to use a Saola account managed *pro bono* within the US-based NGO Global Wildlife Conservation.

During the project, a meeting was held in Vientiane between representatives of WCS, IUCN and the SWG to discuss a more permanent 'home' in the region for Saola conservation. Progress was made, but no final decision reached yet.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved: jury still out, or, need to define "Conserved"

Corridors Created:

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

The main lesson demonstrated is that Saola has a compelling story. If for a can simply be found to tell the story to potential partners, interest and often support quickly follows.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Based on input provided by this project, the European Associations of Zoos & Aquaria (EAZA) selected Saola as the logo for their 2011-2012 conservation fund-raising campaign.

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)

It was good to invite various partners to contribute to the portfolio design by specifically committing and contributing staff time in-kind. It added a sense of regional ownership to the document. One lesson learned, however, is that partners commonly (and understandably) forget the time commitments they made, and therefore should be periodically reminded.

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

One thing we learned and tried to adapt to, is that it is difficult to reach upper level decision-makers (from industry and other sectors) through invited meetings and workshops. Although gathering several partners together in the same room to pitch the story of saola seems an efficient approach, in reality partner organizations (at least the larger, more important ones) often send lower-level minions to such gatherings. Instead, it is necessary to invest the time to visit such key partners one-on-one. This we did with ADB, UNEP, World Bank and Phu Bia Mining company. In hindsight, we should have allotted time to do it with others as well.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

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
Los Angeles Zoo	A	US\$5,858	
Various	B		<i>See list in Achievements, #4, above</i>
European Assoc. of Zoos & Aquaria	C	Not yet known	<i>Based on input provided by this project, EAZA selected Saola as the logo for their 2011-2012 conservation fund-raising campaign</i>

****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.

The main requirement for sustainability of the project (i.e., implementation of the portfolio's projects) will be the establishment of a long-term, regional Saola conservation program, operating from one of the NGOs in Laos or Vietnam. This has been forefronted in the portfolio.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

EAZA's adoption of Saola as the logo for their 2011-2012 conservation fund-raising campaign was an unexpected surprise, and certainly bodes well for a measure of financial sustainability for Saola conservation.

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, 2010 to June 30, 2011. (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.		15,800 ha	15,800 ha	Hue Saola Nature Reserve; 15,800 ha. Sourced funding to start the enforcement training (through WWF-Vietnam), which led to eventual deployment of contract rangers
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.		15,800 ha	15,800 ha	Hue Saola Nature Reserve, Central Annamites
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
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.

Please include your full contact details below:

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