

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	International Union for Conservation of Nature, Lao PDR Country Programme
Project Title:	Moving from Planning to Action to Save the Saola: The First Meeting of the Saola Working Group.
Date of Report:	20/11/09
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CEPF Region: IndoBurman Hotspot (Indochina Region)

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

Grant Amount: \$19,794

Project Dates: 17-21 August 2009, plus several days preparation and follow-up.

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

Contributors of staff time to planning, attendance and follow-up for the meeting:
Gilman International Conservation, Lao PDR Department of Forestry, Smithsonian Institution, Vinh University (Vietnam), WCS-Lao, WWF-Lao and WWF-Vietnam.

Contributors of staff time, and also travel expenses: BirdLife-Vietnam, Global Wildlife Conservation and WWF-US.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile. Saola may be the most globally endangered mammal in the ecosystem, and this is the first meeting at which concrete action to advance its conservation was agreed upon, delegated and scheduled.

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

The project proposal listed the following five objectives.

1. A Saola conservation conceptual model, and prioritised list of actions and projects.
2. A decision on the appropriateness of Saola captive breeding, under what conditions.
3. A matrix of parties or partnerships to implement each component, next actions to move the components forward, potential funders for each component, and an implementation timetable.
4. An agreed mechanism to track implementation progress.
5. Agreement on a provisional date, venue and potential funder for the 2nd SWG meeting, which main objective will be to review progress of the action components, help solve any problems in implementation, and revise the components or timetable as necessary.

The first four were fully met by the project (the conceptual model drew from the Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group Regional Strategy Workshop in Tam Dao, Vietnam in 2008), and the fifth (and

least important) only partially, generally. The failure to fully meet the fifth objective was simply due to consensus that it is too far in advance to plan the next meeting in such detail.

In addition, significant, global press coverage of the project and the plight of saola was achieved.

After the meeting, the Coordinator of the Saola Working Group traveled to the headquarters of the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority (WMPA), in Khammouane Province, Lao PDR. WMPA has responsibility for protection of Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area (NNT NPA), one of the priority sites identified for attention during the meeting. Senior managers and staff of WMPA were briefed on the results of the meeting, and their implications for NNT NPA. WMPA's management team were given specific recommendations and encouragement to: i) increase the frequency of patrols in areas believed to hold Saola; ii) continue efforts to verify the presence of Saola in some areas by camera-trapping; iii) place Saola on the agenda of planned transboundary meetings with counterparts in Vietnam. The SWG was also put at their disposal for future technical guidance and support related to these and any other Saola issues.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:
Species Conserved:
Corridors Created:

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

- There was some difficulty in finding a meeting date workable for all key participants.
- Two key participants from Vietnam were unable to attend due to health problems.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

We achieved wider, more substantial press coverage about the plight of saola, as a direct consequence of the meeting, than we anticipated going in.

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.

- Potential invitees (as well as those who will not be invited) need to be kept closely informed during development of the objectives and invitation list for such a meeting. Specifically, a few partners felt there were some people who should have been invited but were not.
- The most important resource for the successful conservation of a critically endangered species is focused, undivided human attention and creativity. This is something that saola conservation has lacked since the species' scientific discovery in 1992. In this, the few days of the meeting proved substantially more valuable than months of diffuse email discussion among the Saola Working Group about saola conservation. This lesson needs to be remembered going forward: sustained, full-time, region-wide attention to saola will be

necessary to successfully conserve the species. Well-meant but scattered and part-time attention from a diversity of players (i.e., the situation since 1992) will be unable to achieve the momentum necessary for success.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

It remains an open question how well a closely focused technical analysis of a conservation problem (e.g., how to conserve saola) and the building of stakeholder support for proposed solutions can and should be combined within one meeting. The objective of this meeting was technical analysis, and we strived to maintain this focus, even as some participating partners viewed it as a flaw that a wider net of non-technical stakeholders was not included.

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

Despite some doubt about the approach expressed by a few partners, it was the consensus of the Saola Working Group that the format employed - an initial core technical group meeting for two days, followed by the larger, main session meeting for three days - worked well and was an effective, productive arrangement.

A shortcoming of implementation was not taking time after the close of the meeting to convene a small group to draft an agreed Table of Contents as a framework for drafting the meeting's written proceedings. This small effort of probably less than half an hour would have saved many days of delay in completing the written proceedings.

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
Global Wildlife Conservation	A	\$2600	
WWF-US	A	\$1800	

****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.

It is too early, of course, to know if the achievements of the meeting will be sustained or not. But we believe that one of the outputs of the meeting will go a long way to improving the chances of sustainability: and scheduled of actions steps, with identified responsible persons, target completion dates, and a monitoring mechanism.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The wide press coverage of the meeting continues to reap benefits for sustainability of saola conservation. This has come in the form of unsolicited offers of voluntary assistance, financial donations (though none yet received) and assistance, donations, additional media coverage of the issue, and partnerships.

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, 2007 to June 30, 2008 . <i>These dates N/A</i> (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.			100,000 ha	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no			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.	no			

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

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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