

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development (WARECOD)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Thai Baan Research on Aquatic Species on the Nang River, tributary of the Gâm River, Na Hang district, Tuyen Quang province, Vietnam
<b>Date of Report:</b>	28 June 2010
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Luu Ho Quang quang@warecod.org.vn

**CEPF Region:** The Nang river within the Northern Highlands limestone Priority Corridor. This site is adjacent to Tat Ke Priority Site (Na Hang district, Tuyen Quang province) - Indo Burma area.

**Strategic Direction:** 3.1 and 3.3: support local communities' efforts in analyzing development and impacts of the Tuyen Quang Dam on aquatic species; Build research capacity for researchers who are local people; Raise awareness for local decision-makers, i.e., Environment and Natural Resource Division of Na Hang and DONRE of Tuyen Quang.

**Grant Amount:** \$ 19 850

**Project Dates:** June 2009-June 2010

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

- Local researchers were the key people in the project. They were selected from the local fishermen in project site. These people have the best experiences in aquatic catching and intensive knowledge in both modern and traditional fishing gear. Local researchers have responsibility of taking pictures, categorizing aquatic species and fishing gear, drawing river ecosystems, and collecting related information such as their village's history and development. Our monthly project action plans were prepared with active participation of the local researchers. Local researchers were also the one who presented our findings at different workshops.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources at district and provincial level, and Da Vi People's committee were our important partners. WARECOD worked with these local authorities to ensure that the work of WARECOD has gone in line with the regulation, plan and strategy of the province, commune, and community level in term of environmental protection and sustainable development. We have received strong support from Tuyen Quang Department of Environment and Natural Resources for our project registration at province level. Representatives of the above agencies participated in our planning and opening workshop. Monthly action plans were then sent to local authorities to keep them informed on our work. These agencies' representatives were also invited to our mid-term and final workshops to hear about the research result. They gave us their comments/suggestions to our research activities, and feedbacks to the final report.

## Conservation Impacts

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

WARECOD are congregating all our studies on “Local knowledge research” in different localities including the one in Da Vi commune in one publication in Vietnamese. The publication will be distributed to fishing communities, local authorities and concerned agencies in Tuyen Quang and other provinces we have been working on. Our study results will also be shared with other local NGOs working on environmental and communicational issues such as PanNature and CRES...Key findings would be released on WARECOD website, PanNature website and Vietnam Rivers Network’s bimonthly newsletter.

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

- A methodology training course was organized during 4-6 July 2009 for local researchers who were selected in the opening workshop;
- Information on 83 aquatic species of which 76 species with full information and scientific name and some images, has been documented;
- The data and images of 37 local fishing gears were collected, studied and documented in detail;
- History of the project site was studied and documented;
- Sketch of the Nang River was drawn by local researchers in order to compare the river ecological systems before and after the construction of Tuyen Quang hydropower dam;
- Discussion on how the dam has been causing impacts to aquatic species and ecological systems of the river were held in the community;
  
- Research findings were analyzed, discussed and shared among the villagers and to the local authorities as well as to relevant agencies, including: 1) the Nang river’s landscape has changed, so have its ecological systems; 2) the hydrological regime has been modified (the water flow in the Nang river became very slow); 3) biodiversity of aquatic species has been reduced; many aquatic species living either only in shallow or in fast flowing water lost their habitats. As consequence, they have been significantly reduced the number or going to be extinct, such as long spiky-head carp (*Luciobrama macrocephalus*). On the contrary, the changes have created favorable conditions for some others aquatic species such as catfish (*Clarias fuscus*)
  
- Three workshops were held: 1) An opening workshop to introduce the research project (objectives, method, schedule, etc.); 2) A midterm workshops to assess the research activities and results in the first six months. The workshop aimed to identify project’s achievements and constraints, as well as advantages/disadvantages of both organizational work and research content. It was also the first time village researchers able to present their work in a workshop with participation of local authorities and related agencies; and 3) A final workshop for sharing entirely research results, and getting feedbacks and comments from all related stakeholders.
  
- Supporting activities proposed by the local community include:
  - ✓ Open more training courses on livelihood for the local community; supporting them capital and technology for development of some alternative livelihoods, such as fish cages or mushroom growing;

- ✓ Support development of tourist services on the Nang River, aiming at creating jobs for local people, increasing income and protecting the river's ecosystem; and
  - ✓ Support for developing a model on natural aquatic resource management in local community.
- 100 posters on aquatic species and local fishing gear, and 1500 leaflets introducing the research methods and results were printed and disseminated to fishing communities, local organizations and related agencies.
  - A two-version (English and Vietnamese) report on the research results is released and distributed to the local communities, local authorities and relevant agencies.

***Please provide the following information where relevant:***

**Hectares Protected:** not applicable

**Species Conserved:** not applicable

**Corridors Created:** not applicable

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

**Long-term impact:**

- Research findings will be used as reference data for local authorities in their further decision making related to aquatic resources management.
- Increasing awareness of local people will contribute to reduction of the overexploitation of aquatic resources from using illegal fishing gears

**Short term impacts:**

- The information about aquatic species and local fishing gear have been documented and kept for next generations.
- Local people will be proud of their work and culture which will lead to enhance their awareness and capacity to take action for better nature resources conservation.

***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.***

In conserving river ecosystems and aquatics species, consulting with local communities before and during project is extremely important to ensure project success. It is also very crucial to raise awareness of local people on the importance of their natural resources and build up their capacity. However, it is also very crucial to pay attention to alternative livelihoods for local people.

Besides, during project implementation, we need to closely collaborate with relevant agencies. In our case, they are MONRE, Division of Environment and Natural Resources of Na Hang district, and of Tuyen Quang province. They need to be consulted during the project planning and implementation, and invited to join trainings and workshops organized by the Vietnam Rivers Network and WARECOD on World Bank safeguard policies, and recommendations of World Commission on Dams.

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

When designing a project, its objectives, activities and implementation schedule must be clear. There should be consultation inputs from the local community and relevant agencies from early on.

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

When implementing the project, it needs to have strong collaboration with the local authorities and different stakeholders; get their comments and feedbacks during the project implementation in order to make timely adjustments and improvements.

Local researchers were actively and creatively involved in the project implementation from the beginning. We helped the local researchers (fishermen) learn to present the project results at all workshops. When presenting at the workshops, they were proud of themselves, and this is intensive way to encourage their participation in the project and empower them.

**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
None	None	None	None

\*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 reliability of project components or results.

This is the second Thai Baan research WARECOD implemented in Tuyen Quang province. WARECOD has achieved success in introducing and applying the Thai Baan research method (local knowledge research) in Na Hang district, Tuyen Quang province. Our partners and stakeholders understood and appreciated this method. By actively involving local people’s participation, this work has made local people proud of their work and helps them understand the root causes of aquatic resource reduction and loss of river ecosystems. This also helps raising their awareness on the importance of aquatic resources to their life and preparing for further action to preserve these nature resources. In other words, this will encourage them to maintain the natural resources in their areas in sustainable manners. These people will continue to

participate in WARECOD's long-term conservation program in Tuyen Quang province.

*Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.*

### **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

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

The project did not involve activities that have adverse impacts on the environment and on the local community. In contrary, the research activities can help to mitigate environmental and social impacts, and positively contribute to biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. During this period, the data of aquatic species and local fishing gear have been documented by local people with assistance from WARECOD's staff.



## 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.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

Name: Luu Ho Quang

Organization name: Center for Water Resource Conservation and Development.

Mailing address: Suite 801, HACISCO Building, No. 15, Lane 107, Nguyen Chi Thanh Street, Hanoi

Tel: 84-43-773 0828

Fax: 84-43-773 9491

E-mail: [quang@warecod.org.vn](mailto:quang@warecod.org.vn)

Or:

Name: Nguy Thi Khanh

Organization name: Center for Water Resource Conservation and Development.

Mailing address: Suite 801, HACISCO Building, No. 15, Lane 107, Nguyen Chi Thanh Street, Hanoi

Tel: 84-43-773 0828

Fax: 84-43-773 9491

E-mail: [khanh@warecod.org.vn](mailto:khanh@warecod.org.vn)