

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF)
Project Title:	Reinforced community-based and led biodiversity conservation and management initiatives in the Lam Binh conservation landscape, northern Vietnam
Grant Number:	CEPF-103468
CEPF Region:	Indo-Burma II
Strategic Direction:	4 Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas
Grant Amount:	
Project Dates:	January 01, 2018 - September 30, 2020
Date of Report:	December 02, 2020

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

List each partner and explain how they were involved with the project.

Local communities. 15 villages in the Sinh Long site and Lam Binh conservation landscape (Tuyen Quang). These mainly Tay and H'Mong communities were involved in most project activities given they inhabit in the greater conservation landscape, and are the direct project beneficiaries. Through established village institutions, community leaders and representatives were involved in defining and carrying out main field project aspects, inclusive of taking part in monitoring of safeguard measures.

Local government. Tuyen Quang Provincial Peoples' Committee (PPC), Tuyen Quang Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), and Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department (FPD). Immediate government partners were the Sinh Long Commune People's Committee, Na Hang District Peoples' Committee, and Lam Binh Forest Protection Management Board, all involved in helping with project direction and compliances with government policy.

Local institutions. Thai Nguyen Agroforestry University (TUAF), whose specialist staff participated in activities concerning the provision of technical support in agriculture, livestock, and forestry to the stakeholder communities. The national non-governmental organization People and Nature Reconciliation (Pan Nature) participated in workings related to co-management initiatives, together with the Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association (VNPPA).

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Project results and impact are summarized below under three categories: (A) Biodiversity impact, (B) Human impact, and (C) Enabling conditions.

A. Biodiversity impact

A1. The project was able to stabilize and help increase the population of the endangered Francois' Langur in the conservation landscape that includes Sinh Long commune in Na Hang district and Khuong Ha commune, and Thuong Lam commune in Lam Binh district.

A2. In addition to the *Trachypithecus francoisi* (EN-IUCN, IB-D160, CITES AII), threatened species receiving additional protection via Community Conservation Team (CCT) conservation and monitoring work include *Animals/ Mammals* - (i) *Manis pentadactyla* (CR-IUCN, IIB-D160, CITES AI); *Amphibians* - *Quasipaa boulengeri* (EN-IUCN); *Reptiles* - *Geoemyda spengleri* (EN-IUCN), *Bungarus fasciatus* (EN-RBV, IIB-D160); *Insects* - *Dorcus curvidens curvidens* (CR-RBV, IIB-D160), *Dorcus titanus fafner* (EN-RBV), *Cheirotonus jansonii* (EN-RBV, IIB-D160). *Plants/ Aristolochiaceae* *Asarum balansae* (EN-RBV, VU-IUCN); *Berberidaceae* *Dyosama difformis* (EN-RBV), *Mahonia nepalensis* (EN-RBV); *Bignoniaceae* *Fernandoa bracteata* (EN-RBV), *Fernandoa collignoni* (EN-RBV), *Garcinia fagraeoides* (EN-RBV, IIA-D160); *Magnoliaceae* *Magnolia grandis* (CR-IUCN), *Magnolia rostrata* (EN-IUCN); *Orchidaceae* *Anoectochilus calcareus* (EN-RBV, IA-D160), *Dendrobium longicornu* (EN-RBV, IA-D160), *Dendrobium nobile* (EN-RBV, IA-D160), *Paphiopedilum concolor* (EN-IUCN, IA-D160), *Paphiopedilum henryanum* (CR-IUCN, IA-D160); *Sapotaceae* *Madhuca pasquieri* (EN-RBV); *Taxaceae* *Taxus chinensis* (EN-IUCN, VU-RBV, IIA-D160); *Tiliaceae* *Burretiodedron hsienmu* (EN-RBV, IIA-D160); *Thymelaeaceae* *Aquilaria crassna* (CR-IUCN, IIC-D160); *Trilliaceae* *Paris polyphylla* (EN-RBV).

A3. Stronger positive attitudes of local stakeholder communities towards conservation of biodiversity in their living environment is considered a project impact and attested to on the basis of the result of periodical discussions with members of the community at all levels and through their involvement (not mere participation) in project conservation-support activities.

B. Human impact

B1. Increased recognition of the management rights of local communities towards natural resources in their surroundings was a major theme of the project to further its objective of community-based conservation management. An increase of recognition by local authorities can be recognized through the provincial government's willingness to endorse the piloting of a community-based conservation area at the project site.

B2. Elevated capacity of local stakeholder communities for conservation management and to participate in decision-making to manage natural resources is attested by the conservation planning and management products produced through the direct involvement of local communities, and their involvement in conservation monitoring and patrolling, inclusive of data collection to feed into a SMART database.

B3. Improved local stakeholder community livelihood sustainability, particularly for households that are most at risk from resource conservation interventions, can be seen in the result of annual socioeconomic assessments (uploaded into the CEPF platform), of which results are compared to socioeconomic baselines established at the onset of the project.

B4. Strengthened knowledge by local villagers on improved agriculture, agroforestry, and forestry measures and opportunities to support their livelihoods in a sustainable manner is observed through the increased villager adoption and replication of project-supported agriculture and agroforestry activities in both Lam Binh and Sinh Long villages.

C. Enabling conditions

C1. Increased knowledge and interest in community-based management of natural resources is witnessed by the continuous participation of 15 Village Co-Management Committees (VMCs) in guiding conservation management measures at the village level and throughout the conservation landscape via the VMC Network. Similarly, an increase of interest, knowledge, and capacity by Community Conservation Team (CCT) members is noticed in training and monitoring sessions, where additional tasks are given and older tasks are no longer requiring training except for new members.

C3. Strengthened donor interest and support for community-based conservation of high-value forest areas through direct funding opportunities is attested by the fact that PRCF is currently involved in three additional community-based conservation measures in Vietnam, two of these aim to establish additional community-based conservation areas.

C4. Improved acceptance of community-based conservation governance in support of a changing and enabling legislation on protected areas in Vietnam is still in process, given the length of time that takes to improve government attitudes towards the involvement of local communities in conservation management, from initially merely allowing single-sided participation in conservation activities to the allowing actual hands-on involvement in decision-making processes and implementation.

Planned Long-term Impacts – 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>The Francois Langur population is stabilised in the conservation landscape, with a minimum of eight population groups and 88 individuals, and gradually increases towards additional viability. Threats to the Francois Langur are reduced by at least 80%, as measured through SMART monitoring on the basis of community patrol group patrolling sheets.</p>	<p>The project contributed towards stabilizing the population of Francois' Langur in the Lam Binh/ Sinh Long conservation landscape. At project onset the langur metapopulation at the site consisting of a minimum of eight groups and a minimum of 88 individuals. It gradually increased by 39 langurs to a minimum 124 individuals counted during a March 2019 survey. Thereafter, further increase to the population was found following a June/ July 2020 survey, yielding a minimum of 139 individuals. The above steady increase in the population of Francois' Langur is a clear indication of a reduction of threat to the primate and involvement of local stakeholder communities in monitoring and preventing threat. SMART monitoring is conducted at the site, involving species and habitat conservation monitoring and patrolling by local community conservation teams (CCTs). Exact figures and percentages into the reduction of threat cannot be determined by the SMART database, given that baselines were not secured back in 2018. Notwithstanding, the langur population has experienced a 63% increase over the three years of project implementation, and this can be attributed to a significant reduction of direct threats to the population.</p>
<p>The project facilitates and supports the Umbrella Community Base Organisation (UCBO), formed by and representing all 19 villages in the target conservation landscape. The UCBO is actively involved in conservation action towards the Francois Langur and high value forests with habitat to other threatened</p>	<p>The originally-proposed Umbrella Community Based Organisation (UCBO), although still being sought, was not formed legally during the project timeframe due to several reasons, inclusive of needed larger coverage in the conservation landscape (ie. at the time of writing on 19 of the 25 villages involved). Notwithstanding, the project advanced the establishment and strengthening of a network</p>

species. UCBO members patrol and monitor Francois Langur habitat, and plan and carry out planned conservation work.	of Village Co-Management Committees (VMCs) representing 19 villages in the Francois' Langur Conservation Landscape. The VMC Network is operational and actively involved in conservation action towards the Francois' Langur, together with supporting design and implementation of conservation-support livelihood activities, and indeed in the monitoring of village socio-economics and social safeguards. The VMC Network is also actively involved in the monitoring of the Francois' Langur population and habitat, and is involved in decision-making regarding village socioeconomic interventions. As a Pilot Community-based Conservation Area, it is still seeking to establish the proposed UCBO to represent all 25 villages in the landscape to support conservation and development activities linked to the conservation area and conservation support activities in its buffer areas.
A Community-based Francois Langur Conservation Area (e.g. Species and Habitat Conservation Area) is piloted to protect the langur and its habitat, together with nearby high value forest areas. The conservation area is managed in a co-management fashion by local communities in the landscape, for long term sustainability through direct stakeholder interests.	The Tuyen Quang Government endorsed a Pilot Community-based Francois' Langur Conservation Area on 15 October 2019 (ie. Letter uploaded into CEPF web platform) from third quarter of 2019 to the end of 2021. Further work and discussions into establishment of the site as a Special Use Forest in the form of a Species and Habitat Conservation Area will follow the mentioned timeframe, at which time the conservation area could be officially managed in a co-management fashion by local communities in the landscape, for long term sustainability through direct stakeholder interests.
By 2020, there is an increase in the number of sites targeted for conservation management in Vietnam, with improved co-management by local communities with local stakeholder government agencies	PRCF targets four conservation sites in Vietnam for community-based Conservation Management: 1- In Tuyen Quang province, the Francois' Langur Conservation Landscape; 2-In Bac Kan province, the Nam Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area; In Gia Lai province, the Kon Ha Nung Community-based Conservation Area; in Cao Bang province, the (in proposal) Ha Lang Community-based Conservation Area. The above corresponds to two additional conservation management sites in Vietnam supporting co-management by local communities with local stakeholder government agencies.

Planned Short-term Impacts – 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Pilot activities towards protection of the Francois Langur and its habitat lead to the establishment of a community-based conservation area at the site by 2018. This is supported by planning and implementation of conservation management prescriptions through Five-Year Development Plans and corresponding One-Year Operational Management Plans. Plans are produced through involvement of local stakeholders on a continuous basis.	Project activities in support of protecting the Francois' Langur and its habitat led to the provincial endorsement of a Pilot Community-based Conservation Area in the Lam Binh/ Sinh Long conservation landscape. The site, although not yet legally established as a Special Use Forest, constitutes the first pilot in Vietnam of a conservation model directly by local stakeholder communities. Conservation management at the pilot site is supported in forward planning and implementation through a Five-Year 2020-2025 Conservation and Development Plan and an Operational Management Plan, both produced through the direct involvement of local stakeholder communities, with the participation from the Lam Binh district Forest Protection Department.
The conservation management setup of the Lam Binh watershed protection area is upgraded into a full-protected area status (e.g., Species and Habitat Conservation Area), supported with a Five-Year Development Plan and corresponding annual Operational Management Plans. Plans are produced by local stakeholders and address biodiversity conservation and livelihoods development aspects in the landscape.	The official conservation management setup to the Lam Binh Watershed Protection was not upgraded into a Special Use Forest ascertaining a full-protected area status. However, the Tuyen Quang provincial government endorsed the piloting of a Community-based Conservation Area at the site, opening the doors for the establishment of a sought Community-based Francois' Langur Species and Habitat Conservation Area. Conservation management to the pilot site is supported by a five-year conservation and development plan and corresponding first Operational Management Plan, both produced by local stakeholder communities and government

	agencies and address biodiversity conservation and livelihoods development aspects in the landscape.
By mid-2018, an additional 7,889 ha of karst forest will be protected within the Lam Binh side of the protected area, with ~4,659 ha in the Thuong Lam (commune) section and ~3,230 ha in the Khuong Ha (commune) section. This change in conservation status will strengthen protection and management of the high value forests in the landscape.	The Tuyen Quang Government endorsed a Pilot Community-based Francois' Langur Conservation Area on 15 October 2019 to the end of 2021. Further work and discussions into establishment of the site as a Special Use Forest in the form of a Species and Habitat Conservation Area will follow discussions in 2021 and further work, at which time the conservation area could be officially managed in a co-management fashion by local communities in the landscape. The site comprises 24,252 ha within Lam Binh and Na Hang districts. Lam Binh with 10,708 ha in Khuon Ha commune and 8,990 ha in Thuong Lam commune, and Na Hang with 4,554 ha in Sinh Long commune.
By mid-2020, at least 7,889 ha of karst forest in the Lam Binh key biodiversity area will be under stronger conservation management and protection, particularly through involvement of local communities working in a co-management fashion with government stakeholders.	The Tuyen Quang Government endorsed a Pilot Community-based Francois' Langur Conservation Area on 15 October 2019 to the end of 2021. Further work and discussions into establishment of the site as a Special Use Forest in the form of a Species and Habitat Conservation Area will follow discussions in 2021 and further work, at which time the conservation area could be officially managed in a co-management fashion by local communities in the landscape. The site comprises 24,252 ha of which approximately 65%, or 15,763 ha corresponds to karst forest .
Between 2018 and 2020, there is an increase in the number of direct beneficiaries to conservation and development activities in the project site, with an increase of at least 400 women and 300 men (about 20%) from the established baseline. This equals to about 200 women and 150 men in each of Thong Ha and Thong Lam, for a total of about 700 persons.	Between 2018 and 2020, the number of direct beneficiaries to conservation and development activities in the project site increased from 350 to 965 households, or 615 additional households, of which 65% (or 627) of the direct beneficiaries are women. This increase in project beneficiaries resulted from the expansion and replication of project livelihood activities in support of conservation efforts in the region.
Between 2018 and 2020, there is an increase in the number of direct beneficiaries to conservation and development activities in the target landscape, with an increase of participating communities who benefit directly from project conservation and development activities from the established baseline.	Between 2018 and 2020, the number of direct beneficiaries to conservation and development activities in the project site increased from 350 to 965 households, or 615 additional households benefiting directly from project conservation and development activities.

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

Successes

- 1. Project activities targeting protection of the Francois' Langur and its habitat through direct local stakeholder community involvement led to the endorsement by Tuyen Quang province, supported by the Department of Nature Conservation within MARD, of the first Pilot Community-based Conservation Area in Vietnam. This Pilot is supported by planning and implementation of conservation management prescriptions to 2025 through a Five-Year Conservation and Development Plan. This was produced through the direct involvement of local stakeholder communities and government agencies.**
- 2. By project end, an additional 24,252 ha of karst forest became recipient of increased protection through the involvement of communities from 15 (mostly ethnic) villages in the conservation landscape. This additional conservation measure strengthened protection and management of the high conservation value forests in the landscape, particularly through trained, skilled, knowledgeable, and interested local communities working in a co-management fashion with government stakeholders.**

3. Between 2018 and 2020, the number of direct beneficiaries to conservation and development activities in the conservation landscape increased from 350 to 965 households (in nine of 15 villages targeted), or 615 additional households, of which 65% (or 627) of the direct beneficiaries are women, some heads of families. The increase in project beneficiaries resulted from expansion and replication of project-supported livelihood agriculture (eg. improved farming methods) and agroforestry (eg. new agroforestry and forestry models to the region) activities designed to support conservation efforts.

Challenges

- 1. Overcoming government attitudes and perceptions was and will remain a challenge, given that government officials often change and the process of improving attitudes and perceptions on new officials is a constant endeavor. Although PRCF has worked at the site since 2010, and during this time has been able to improve government perceptions and attitudes towards the involvement of local communities in conservation, this is a continuous task and challenge. The recommendation is to involve relevant government officers from the beginning of activities, bringing them to the field and as much as possible encouraging their involvement in hands-on activities that allow direct witnessing of interest, skills, and knowledge of local communities.**
- 2. It is always a challenge to train local communities from different ethnicities, education, and ways of thinking, particularly when doing so in a landscape covering 15 villages and a population of close to 5000 people. Although training can take place, retention of skills demands re-training activities in most subjects. The recommendation is to involve training of trainers methodology, through key model farmers (both men and women) acting as trainers in their villages, with the provision of incentives embedded into a village extension program, linked and supervised by a village institution.**
- 3. The COV-19 health risk issue was a challenge to the successful delivery of project activities and objectives, particularly during the last three quarters of the project. Government restrictions of movement and gatherings and village health risk concerns hindered the delivery of several activities without having a suitable solution.**

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Nothing unexpected, other than to restate the high level of interest by local communities in conservation of the Francois' Langur and on how that interest has grown across villages in the landscape beyond expectations. This impact has helped advance the project in terms of the attaining most of its objectives, moving forward and opening the doors for more conservation opportunities.

PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
4	Consolidate feedback from field experience and implementation of co-management work into national policy 'think-tank'	4.3	Short report on study tour to China, plus materials in Vietnamese to communicate findings to audiences in Vietnam.	A short report on the study tour to China was completed and uploaded into the conservation grants website.
1	Implement Five-Year Conservation Management Plan in liaison with local communities and government authorities	1.1	Produce annual Operational Management Plans in line with the Five-Year Conservation Management Plan, in liaison with local stakeholder communities and government agencies, and based on the previous plan implementation assessments.	<p>A 2018-2019 Bridge Operational Management Plan (OMP) was produced in direct liaison with local stakeholder communities, particularly members of Village Co-Management Committees (VMCs), and officials from the Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department.</p> <p>A 2019-2020 OMP was produced in liaison with the VMCs and officials from the Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department.</p> <p>A 2020-2025 Five-Year Conservation and Development Plan was drafted in liaison with VMC members and local government authorities from three communes, to advance conservation management and monitoring in the Pilot Francois' Langur Community-based Species and Habitat Conservation Area.</p>
1	Implement Five-Year Conservation Management Plan in liaison with local communities and government authorities	1.2	Quarterly reports on implementation of activities in the annual Operational Management Plans, as per available budget and	On a periodical basis, PRCF produced project implementation reports for submission to the Tuyen Quang DARD through the Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department (FPD). All field activities were submitted to the FPD in advance via Activity Plans/ Proposals. Activities mostly on the basis of a Bridge 2018-2019 OMP and 2019-2020 OMP. Other special technical and progress reports were produced and submitted to the provincial government from time to time.

			in liaison between local community stakeholders to the community-based conservation area, and local government agencies.	On a quarterly basis, the project examined the state of progress on items within the OMPs, together with an assessment of results from conservation monitoring/ patrolling collated in the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) database. Results of this were discussed with stakeholder communities via Village Co-Management Committees (VMCs) and Community Conservation Teams (CCTs), leading to the subsequent planning and implementation of field activities beyond descriptions within OMPs.
2	Plan and implement livelihoods action to complement conservation initiatives and to reduce possible impact to most at risk households	2.1	Assess impact of established village institutions to help improve local livelihood conditions, efficiency of institutional representations evaluated, and effectiveness of conservation teams reviewed, with action plans produced for improvement .	<p>Village institutions are a vital component of the community-based species and habitat conservation initiative under the PRCF Francois Langur Conservation Program (FLCP).</p> <p>Impact assessment of village institutions established within the Francois' Langur conservation landscape was a continuous process throughout project implementation. An initial 2018 assessment evaluated the functions and workings of each village institution. This included a participatory SWOT analysis, resulting in an Action Plan to strengthen the function, capacity, and work of each institution. The effectiveness of Community Conservation Teams was examined in late 2019 through SMART tools and field assessments, showing positive results. Evaluations thereafter showed that village institutional representations were in line with the community-based conservation objectives of the program in the landscape.</p> <p>The latest work to strengthen village institutions was in August 2020, to support PRCF and target stakeholder communities to strengthen village institutions in the Francois Langur Conservation Landscape. Workings reassessed village institutions in place and at their related workings under the FLCP to strategize their strengthening through a reformatted forward action plan.</p>
2	Plan and implement livelihoods action to complement conservation initiatives and to reduce	2.2	Evaluation report of priority livelihood measures showing strengthened village	Through a commissioned exercise (report not yet available), priority livelihood measures to strengthen village livelihood activities in support of high conservation value natural resources in the landscape were evaluated, aiming to define a forward action plan for their strengthening.

	possible impact to most at risk households		agriculture, livestock, and forestry activities in support of livelihoods, conservation of high value forests areas, and natural resources in the target landscape.	<p>The evaluation comprised participatory SWOTs on each of the villages institutions in place to assess their present functions, workings, and needs for strengthening through a forward action plan. It resulted in a forward strategy and action plan to strengthen their function and support to local community livelihoods and their ongoing involvement in biodiversity and conservation management.</p> <p>The consultant sought into established village institutions in the Francois' Langur Conservation Landscape, including: Village Co-Management Committees (VMCs), Village Self-help Groups (VSHGs), Community Conservation Teams (CCTs), and Village Forest Management Committees (VFMCs).</p> <p>The resulting forward plan will be put in place for subsequent and continuous community-based conservation and livelihoods development work in the conservation landscape, holding the Pilot Community-based Francois' Langur Species and Habitat Conservation Area.</p>
3	Draft measures to sustain technical and financial support to the community-based conservation area that supplements current funding	3.1	<p>Prepare five-year and ten-year financial needs projections and list of potential sources of funding to the protected area. Discuss funding plans made and results with stakeholders, provincial government, and funding sources.</p>	<p>Draft financial projection needs for 2019-2023 were calculated and defined as major budget categories within the Bridge 2018-2019 and the 2019-2020 operational plans.</p> <p>Further, a preliminary draft financial projection was produced for the Five-Year 2020-2025 Conservation and Development Plan. A revised and finalized 2020-2025 Five-year Conservation and Development Plan, developed with the involvement of VMC members and local authorities including the Lam Binh Forest Management Board and Forest Protection Department, and the Ha Hang Forest Management Board and Forest Protection Department.</p> <p>Plans were submitted to the Tuyen Quang Forest Protection Department (FPD) and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) for endorsement and further planning, as these included financial inputs into conservation monitoring work rooting from "Payment From Forest Environmental Services" (PFES) via the Lam Binh Forest Management Board.</p>
3	Draft measures to sustain technical and	3.2	Plan Vivo Project Idea Note	A Plan Vivo Project Idea Note (PIN) was drafted but not yet submitted to Plan Vivo for validation and registration, given the remaining need to define

	financial support to the community-based conservation area that supplements current funding		prepared in liaison with local stakeholders and submitted to Plan Vivo Foundation for consideration . Project design document prepared and submitted to the Plan Vivo Foundation for follow up validation and registration.	ecosystem outcomes and performance indicators, and the still uncertainty of the land status for the forest areas corresponding to the conservation area. As it presently stands, the lands are under piloting for community-based conservation management, but lands are still under the legal ownership of the Lam Binh and Na Hang Forest Management Boards. A stronger legal stewardship of the forestlands is needed for Plan Vivo Foundation to accept the site under the Plan Vivo Standard for certification and issuance of carbon credits. PRCF will continue to work with the stakeholder communities, Tuyen Quang government, and the Plan Vivo Foundation to advance the possibility to process and establish the site as an emission reduction project.
4	Consolidate feedback from field experience and implementation of co-management work into national policy 'think-tank'	4.1	Hold policy discussions for collaborative management on the basis of field work at six-to-eight month interval. Produce and distribute discussion summaries to key stakeholders as needed.	<p>An initial 2018 three-day field visit to the project site by members of the Department of Nature Conservation (DoNC) within MARD, the Vietnam National Parks and Protected Areas Association (VNPPA), and People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature) provided an excellent opportunity to become initially aware about the community-based conservation management initiative unfolding in the Francois' Langur conservation landscape.</p> <p>A second field visit was conducted in 2019 after PRCF discussions at the DoNC, which concentrated on the piloting of a co-management model at the project site, in furtherance of establishing the community-based conservation area. These discussions prompted Tuyen Quang provincial support and a decision to endorse the Pilot Community-based Conservation Area. The 2019 site visit with provincial government officials and PRCF partner University of Thai Hguyen (TUAF), proved crucial in supporting the drafting of the provincial endorsement to establish the pilot.</p> <p>Further discussions with VNPPA and DoNC and a third visit to the project site were planned for May/ Jun 2020, but given the health risk and government restrictions due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, the site visit could not be carried out as planned.</p>

4	Consolidate feedback from field experience and implementation of co-management work into national policy 'think-tank'	4.2	Produce policy brief on co-management initiatives, as a result of project implementation and periodical discussions with policy partners. Present the document at a workshop and distribute to stakeholders for input and further deliberation.	<p>On the basis of discussions with DoNP, VNPPA, PanNature and workings with local stakeholder communities and the provincial government in the Francois' Langur conservation landscape, a policy brief on possibilities and opportunities for community-based conservation management and co-management was initiated, but not finalized.</p> <p>It was the intention to finalize the policy brief on the basis of a third field trip with DoNP and VNPPA to the project site during the second quarter of 2020, and consolidate ideas and recommendations on the basis of the results from direct discussions with local stakeholder communities, commune, district, and provincial authorities, together with results of the sought co-management workshop. Unfortunately, neither the planned third field trip to the site nor the co-management workshop were carried out due to COV-19 virus health risk issues and government restrictions of travel and gatherings.</p> <p>Both PRCF and VNPPA remain committed into the finalization of the policy brief however, and recognize this will have to take place even beyond completion of the project.</p>
1	Implement Five-Year Conservation Management Plan in liaison with local communities and government authorities	1.3	Reports on Francois Langur population surveys at the beginning and end of the project, conducted in liaison with the Vietnam Primate Technical Working Group, as a stakeholder to provide technical advice on population survey techniques and other matters.	<p>Initial (project-funded) Francois Langur population surveys were conducted in March 2018, updating population figures and status and distribution of langur groups in the conservation landscape. The resulting March 2018 langur population figures indicated a minimum of 124 individuals, up 39 individuals from the minimum 88 documented during the 2017 survey.</p> <p>Survey methodologies were reviewed after the 2018 survey, given that one of the 2017 groups was not found in the 2018 survey until after a second visit to the group site was conducted, and that two additional langur groups were accounted in 2018. Surveys carried out in mid-March 2019 (through counterpart funding), showed a steady population with a minimum of 124 individuals--10 infants and 114 adults.</p> <p>A June/ July 2020 population survey yielded a minimum of 139 individuals--comprising 8 infants, 26 juveniles, 17 adult males, 34 adult females, and 54 adults of not determined gender. Mr. Le Khac Quyet, from the Vietnam Primate Specialist Group participated in the 2020 survey, providing guidance</p>

				and recommendations to both the survey proceedings and thereafter conservation monitoring work.
2	Plan and implement livelihoods action to complement conservation initiatives and to reduce possible impact to most at risk households	2.3	Compliance with social safeguard policies monitored and six-monthly monitoring reports submitted to CEPF.	<p>Social safeguard policies under the project were monitored periodically, with reports produced and submitted to CEPF. A final Social Safeguards Report is uploaded.</p> <p>Social Safeguards Monitoring was mostly conducted through the direct participation of Village Co-Management Committee (VMC) members, who were trained beforehand on how to conduct the annual surveys. These same members suggested that monitoring take place on an annual basis to show change, as opposed to a six-month basis, were not much change is likely to be noted. Notwithstanding, interval semestral safeguards reporting remained and highlighted issues and actions as needed.</p> <p>Full scale socioeconomic/ safeguards assessments under the CEPF project herein took place in Mar. – Apr. 2018, Oct. Nov. 2019, and Sep. Oct. 2020. For these, socioeconomic baselines were defined at 15 villages in the conservation landscape, and at each village ten households were subject to recurring focused monitoring (ie. two-better off, two medium, two poor, and four most-at risk) were targeted for yearly assessments to examine changes in socioeconomic conditions and any impact resulting from project interventions.</p>
2	Plan and implement livelihoods action to complement conservation initiatives and to reduce possible impact to most at risk households	2.4	Final Gender Tracking Tool submitted by PRCF at project end.	Uploaded into this platform

Describe and submit any tools, products or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

None as a result of this project.

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:

- Project design process (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
- Project implementation (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
- Any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Project design

Success-1 Project thus far success is mostly attributed to the participatory manner in which it was designed and within its design the embedded continuous consultation with stakeholder communities and government agencies.

Project implementation

Success-2 Linked to Success-1 Project field implementation has advanced steadily through the involvement, and not mere participation, of local stakeholder communities inclusive of villagers being involved in planning, monitoring, and assessment of project workings.

Challenge-1 The project receives ample interest, support, and cooperation from lower-level government counterparts (ie. Commune and District, especially in Sinh Long commune), but at the higher provincial level (ie. Forest Protection Department), the real interest is not forthcoming although they believe and state they support the project and its objectives. This will be addressed in further program activities by encouraging more frequent visits by DARD and FPD officers to the project implementation sites.

Challenge-2 Some local communities in the conservation landscape, particularly in villages where the project is not thoroughly involved, do not appreciate the strong impact from the project and sometimes households appear not to know about the project or pay much interest in what is being done in the landscape. This will be resolved in future program activities through a stronger and wider awareness program in the conservation landscape.

Challenge-3 PRCF continues to lose staff to other international non-profits in the country, particularly because of higher salaries and the possible length of their contracts, of course detrimental to the continuity of project objectives. Notwithstanding institutional memory of program workings is maintained within core staff in the organization.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Summarize the successes or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

Successes

The project was able to receive endorsement by the Tuyen Quang Government, specifically the Tuyen Quang Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) for a Pilot Community-based Conservation Area at the project site. Although the first timeframe is stipulated to be the end of 2021, this will be likely

extended to reflect the needs to fulfill objectives within the "pilot" phase of the program. The measure is supported by DoNC within MARD, Tuyen Quang DARD, and Khuong Ha, Thuong Lam, and Sinh Long communes.

Local stakeholder communities from 15 villages (now 14 as two merged in 2019) are supportive of the program of which the project herein is part, and have gained understanding, knowledge, skills, and voice in conservation management. The site is a pilot for co-management between local communities and government and sought to become the first Pilot Community-based Species and Habitat Conservation Area in Vietnam.

Replication of program/ project measures carried out in the Francois' Langur Conservation Landscape of Tuyen Quang, are under initial replication measures in Gia Lai province at the Kon Ha Nung Community-based Conservation Corridor (between Kon Ka Kinh National Park and Kon Chu Ran Nature Reserve), and under planning at the proposed Ha Lan Community-based Conservation Area in Cao Bang province.

SAFEGUARDS

If not listed as a separate project component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental or pest management safeguards.

Uploaded report into CEPF platform

- Safeguards Report (Periodical Reporting)**
- Socioeconomics and Safeguards Assessment Report (Information only, not for distribution)**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

No additional comments

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization or region as a result of CEPF investment.

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$481,070.00

Type of funding

Provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

- A. Project co-financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this 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-funded project)
- C. Regional/portfolio leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)

A Project Co-financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of the project)

- **Other donors direct cost funding USD 413,270**
- **PRCF in-kind USD 64,000**
- **Other in-kind USD 3,800**

B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)

- **None for other than the program to which this project is part**

C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of successes related to the project)

- **None yet at present time**

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 website, www.cepf.net, and may be publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, email address) below.

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