# FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Name:** World Pheasant Association

**Project Title:** Using Galliformes to Monitor Biodiversity in Southwest China

## II. OPENING REMARKS

***Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.***
Carrying out this project has been a very rewarding experience that has taught us a great deal and allowed a considerable amount of effort to be put into an extremely important but technically complex issue.

The monitoring of Galliformes, emblematic species almost everywhere that they occur, has often been seen as more feasible than for many other groups of species. Given many advances in international techniques for surveying species and populations (and their habitats), this project provided an exciting opportunity to apply these to a suite of Galliformes in species-rich forests in southern Sichuan.

At the outset we knew that this was a very challenging project. We had anticipated devising protocols over a three year period but this was not possible for programmatic reasons. Nonetheless, we have made significant progress in developing a suitable approach, field methods and analytical protocols. The difficult nature of the environment (terrain, access, habitat density etc) indicates why international standard fieldwork is so rare in these forests. Our work has shown clearly that the overriding need now is for technical capacity to be established centrally (i.e. in Chengdu for Sichuan) so that these approaches, field methods and sampling designs can be adapted to each reserve. There is no 'off the shelf' package possible given the diversity of field conditions, but a common approach will allow forest condition to be related to key conspicuous elements of biodiversity, and so allow widespread and regular monitoring.

## III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

***Project Purpose****:* Newly designed monitoring protocols and sampling designs are used by the conservation community in the hotspot to detect change in a key element of the hotspot's biodiversity.

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
|---|---|
| **Purpose-level:** | |
| Monitoring protocols incorporated into workplans of relevant reserve staff | Monitoring approach, sampling design and analytical procedures all established. They have been used in selected reserves, but further work is required to incorporate them into workplans |

***Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.***
Overall, we are very pleased with the way in which WPA and Sichuan University worked together to develop the sampling design, field protocols and analytical framework. The two main partners complemented each other well and resulted in the development of useable monitoring methods. The support of Sichuan Forest Department, both in Chengdu and in Laojunshan and Mamize Nature Reserves, was also a great strength of the project and built on previous relationships with WPA.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***
Two field seasons (with one a little short given the timing of the start of the project) were available for this work, which presented a challenge. In the end it was clear that it was too difficult (for a variety of logistical and ecological reasons) to incorporate adequate butterfly sampling into the protocols, as we had originally envisaged. Ultimately, however, this may not matter as it is unlikely that monitoring butterflies would prove to be feasible in the long-term.

## IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

***Project Outputs****: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project*

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
|---|---|
| **Output 1:** | |
| All known relevant work and monitoring programmes reviewed from literature, reports and personal communication, and detailed analysis to identify important lessons | Completed and report produced |
| **Output 2:** | |
| Identify appropriate field protocols in the first field season | Completed |
| Sampling design determined in second field season | Completed and survey manual (see output 4 below) and analytical guidance produced |
| **Output 3:** | |
| Identify taxonomic groups that can be quantified and for which there is appropriate expertise available within 3 months | This was achieved by the end of the project: monitoring concentrated on Galliformes, other focal bird species and habitat characteristics indicative of forest management and condition |
| Selected taxa are monitored and the relationship between their distribution and that of the Galliformes assessed by the end of the project | These analyses were contained in four Masters theses produced by students from Sichuan University. An overall analysis is underway that will combine the findings of these studies |
| **Output 4:** | |
| Manual written to act as a 'stand alone' resource by the end of project | Completed and report produced |
| **Output 5:** | |
| Selected staff within sites that are surveyed are trained in field protocols | Training in field considerations provided to staff at Laojunshan and Mamize. Ongoing training in protocols provided throughout all field work |
| **Output 6:** | |
| Progress assessed against Performance Tracking Form at half-yearly intervals by Project Manager | Completed |
| Scientific merit of monitoring development peer-reviewed at 12 months and 24 months | Achieved through success of Masters theses. However, we are keen to gain additional peer- |

| | |
|---|---|
| | review given the challenging field conditions and the need for efficiency of effort (and other resources) in the field. This will continue and will also include a review of the additional overview analysis currently underway (noted in output 3.2 above) |

***Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.***
We have delivered the majority of outputs: we would like to produce an overall analysis of the results that will combine the findings of all four Masters theses. This will also provide for further peer-review of our approach and methods. We are very happy with the quality of the work and believe that we have a workable approach to monitoring biodiversity in Liangshan. The key now is to institutionalize the capacity to guide this.

***Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?***

Only as above and the overall analysis and further peer-review should be completed within six months.

## V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

N/A

## VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

***Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.***
It was very fortunate that we ran this project alongside a similarly technical project in the Philippines hotspot. This allowed us to maximize the technical development with important lessons flowing from one to the other and thus we feel that it was a much more efficient use of technical expertise than would otherwise have been the case.

As noted in our Philippine final report, "there is not always the easiest match between donor programmatic timetables and the duration of projects that are either designed or developed to have maximum impact". Our project would ideally have started a few months earlier so that we could have carried out more background work before the first field season. Nonetheless the energy and motivation of the field team in the second season ensured that overall the project met its objectives.

***Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)***
The combination of expertise available was crucial to the success of the project: matching technical expertise and a passion for training, with local expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm.

***Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)***
The commitment to be flexible in the timing of technical support visits to Sichuan University and in the way that ongoing guidance throughout the project was provided, was very important. We were able to provide additional resources for this. On the ground, the ability to make sometimes complex logistic arrangements at relatively short notice was instrumental in making the most of time in the field.

## VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A strong conclusion as the project ends is that it is perhaps not so important to have a standardized field protocol published in a book that anyone or any reserve can use exactly as it is written. It is far more important to institutionalize the skills and expertise necessary to adapt the approach, field methods and analysis for each occasion. The mountains of SW China present a huge range of ecological situations (forest type, steepness of terrain, species present etc) and logistic challenges (accommodation, access etc) and the precise, on the ground, details of the monitoring system will have to be tailored to individual sites. The key is that the tailoring at each individual site is performed in such a way that results are comparable between sites and over time. There is no reason why this should not be possible with the appropriate institutional capacity in place.

## VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.
Yes __X_____
No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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