

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Quang Tri Center of Education and Consultancy on Agriculture and Rural Development (CEC
Project Title:	Surveys for additional information of Edwards's Pheasant (<i>Lophura edwardsi</i>) in Dakrong Nature Reserve, Quang Tri
Date of Report:	April 2012
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CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 1 and specifically Investment Priority 1.5: Conduct research on 12 species for which there is a need for greatly improved information on their status and distribution.

Grant Amount: \$ 19.825

Project Dates: 2011/3–2012/3

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

Following the requirements of CEPF, CECARD collaborated with World Pheasant Association (WPA) was a suggested as a partner organisation by CEPF, WPA supported to purchased additional equipment, training and field survey at the begin stage of the project.

King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) provided technical advice on camera trap methodology and research logistics as well as leading a workshop on the use of camera traps in pheasant survey and monitoring.

IEBR provided 01 consultant who involved directly in the field survey with total 45 working days.

Birdlife Vietnam provided a technical supports for the field surveys and maps and GIS data to define priority areas for the study, as well as carrying out fieldwork.

Provincial Forest Protection Departments (FPD) in Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Dong Chau-Khe Nuoc Trong Protection Forest in Quang Binh provided accommodation in ranger stations and staff members as acted as guides and field assistants. In addition, the Quang Tri FPD has provided other facility such as Meeting room, training equipment and supply to train stakeholders for the project.

Conservation Impacts

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

Edwards's pheasant, *Lophura edwardsi*, is one of the three globally threatened species identified for particular attention in the 2010 Call for Proposals. It is endemic to the forests of central Vietnam in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot and Truong Son IBA. Through this project we attempted to provide increased knowledge about the distribution of this species.

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

We have applied terrain maps, vegetation maps and GIS information to identify potential locations where Edwards's Pheasant (*Lophura edwardsi*) will be located. Since there have no information of *Lophura edwardsi* the researchers used the ecological information of Siamese fireback *Lophura diardi* with the assumption of similarity among the species. In this research, interested criteria include slope less than 15%, elevation from sea level less than 400m, focusing on types of common forest habitat with primary green or light impact (Tobler *et al.*, 2008).

The results of GIS analysis indicate that Dakrong Nature Reserve in Quang Tri province and Dong Chau-Khe Nuoc Trong Protection Forest in Quang Binh province are the places with high possibility of recognizing *Lophura edwardsi* (it is suitable for habitats and behaviour of the species). Therefore, CECARD, WPA, BirdLife chose the Dakrong and Dong Chau-Khe Nuoc Trong as the study sites. The areas such as Truong Son forest enterprise (Quang Binh Province), Bac Huong Hoa Nature Reserve (Quang Tri Province), Bach Ma National Park and Phong Dien Nature Reserve (Thua Thien Hue Province), and Ke Go Nature Reserve(Ha Tinh Province) will be studied in the following surveys.

Due to high steep and slope topography, it is impossible to conduct the survey following the map for establishing camera trapping positions designed by Mr Matthew Grainger (an expert of WPA). Thus, the research team had to set up the camera traps based on the situation of the ground. Distance between cameras are from 150 to 250m. The locations where cameras are located are neither thick nor clear ground-vegetation. The best time for activities in the field is from March to August. In order to discover and recognize all information at locations, we established minimum time for each location as 40 - nights (battery and memory card will be replaced after 20 days and nights, camera will be move to new locations after 40). We had got total 70.813 images at Dong Chau – Khe Nuoc. At Lang An, Dakrong, we had got 6.081 images.

Contrary to our expectations we did not record the presence of Edwards's pheasant in either site. We recorded 28 other animal species (see appendix 1) in Khe Nuoc Trong including humans and domestic animals (dogs and buffalo). We recorded 12 animal species in Dakrong including humans and domestic buffalo.

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

Short-term

For the Dong Chau-Khe Nuoc area, due to an appropriate trapping time was implemented hence a good number of pictures were available has allowed to make a conclusion that, perhaps the pheasant are no longer exist in this area or their population is extremely low.

However, in Dakrong Nature Reserve, the camera trapping time is quite short (1/3 of needed time), due to the available of picture and presence of animal, we conclude that the possibility of the species in this area is also low. Perhaps, more research should be implemented for this area to confirm the presence of the pheasant.

We also wished to assess potential pressures on the species, such as hunting and disturbance due to collection of forest products by local communities. Traversing the forest was difficult and we could only provide a descriptive assessment of threats although we attempted to determine the density of anthropogenic threats by walking transects away from human paths where possible. The density of evidence of human use in Dakrong (including recent logging activity, rubbish piles, camp fires, domestic buffalo tracks and dung) was 0.212 per hectare. We found little evidence of ground-dwelling animals in the forest, 0.030 per hectare (we only found Muntjak tracks and Civet dung). In Khe Nuoc Trong the density of recent human use was 0.15 per hectare. The density of tracks and signs of ground dwelling animals was 0.20 per hectare. The tracks and signs included muntjac, giant muntjac, civets, wild boar, macaques and pheasant.

Long-term

Trained skill in the field and monitoring important endangered species in local area, also used as experiences of monitoring other valuable species in Quang Tri province and other areas. We trained 16 senior rangers of the Quang Tri Forest Protection Department and four BLI field staff in the use of camera traps for surveys of pheasants and other difficult to detect species. This training will allow the Quang Tri Forest Protection Department to develop monitoring surveys. Fieldwork in Dakrong Nature Reserve was carried out by Birdlife staff independently suggesting that the fieldwork protocol is sufficiently repeatable to be used in different lowland forest sites across the region.

Collected updated and adequate information on Edwards's Pheasant (*Lophura edwardsi*) situation in Quang Tri province and other areas as a basis of making reservation plan and long – term monitoring.

Updated information on population and threat to survival of Edwards's Pheasant (*Lophura edwardsi*) for Vietnam's Red Data Book and World Red Book for warning of more urgent conservation of species. For precise information, updated in Vietnam's Red Book, we need time examining all the potential areas.

Assessed main threat to Edwards's Pheasant (*Lophura edwardsi*) and other species, made natural reserve with overview of species' situation and then provide effective conservation measure for the area.

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.

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

Data on map do not match the fact on the ground, for example, medium and rich forests indicated on the map, in the contrary, it is poor forest on the ground. This fact derive from inputs of available GIS data. In the future, we need higher quality resource of GIS data to guarantee that camera traps can be implemented in right habitat of Edwards's Pheasant.

Suitable forest habitat for Edwards's Pheasant was fragmented and degraded by human. It would be affected to survival of this species in high density.

A lot of rain during the survey period was affected on the technical issues of camera as well as active behaviors of Edwards's Pheasant.

Due to limitation of funding, we only conducted survey at two prior areas as Khe Nuoc Trong-Dong Chau watershed protection forest and Dakrong Nature Reserve; there are many potential locations without fund for survey. Due to budget allocated for cameras was related small so that we are only bought cheap cameras. Therefore, proportion of death camera is related high rate; it is about 40% of the total.

High quality camera traps and accurate maps will give us opportunities to make detailed plan for identifying locations to set up camera traps faster and more accurately.

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

Procedure for free import tax of camera traps having some obstacles had leded to delay during import of camera traps into Vietnam, also had influence on result of training and plan of survey. Due to the delay arrival of camera, the King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) experts only organized training skills by using second hand camera traps of Quang Tri Forest Protection Department. To tackle this issue, we contacted Hanoi Customs for approval of importing camera traps without all import document related.

There is different forest cover producing by GIS analysis and on the ground; it took more time to choose suitable locations for placing camera.

Dong Chau – Khe Nuoc Trong Watershed Protection Forest's map was incorrect, difficult terrain for accessing, those facts let us take a longer time to set up camera traps than original plan

In addition, unfavorable weather and time, lack of logistical funding gave us only 5 days to set up cameras in forest (instead of 10 as planned). Therefore, cameras had been set up in smaller location than planned.

Quality of images taken in afternoon and early morning not good enough (overexpose). This would be related to technical characters of cameras. At the moment, we didn't know how to fix this error.

Case of damage or loss of camera traps was predicted; we propagandized local people to be aware of protecting camera traps at locations. However, we had lost 3 (2 lost and 1 broken) and 7 belts of camera and additional two cameras were supposed to be broken.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

There was unexpected accident and illness such as one official of CECARD infected by malaria during survey at Dakrong Natural Reserve. It took him for 25 days for treatment in the hospital.

Based on our experiences, relationship with Vietnam state agencies is a strategic long – term partnership and result of this survey will become essential guide for conservation actions by local partner this also makes natural conservation more effective in local area.

Within this project, we had approached to Quang Tri and Quang Binh Forest Protection Departments, Management Board of Dakrong Nature Reserve, Management Board of Dong Chau Watershed Protection Forest to present our research methods and then we made consultations with community rangers, hunters and villagers to get best ideas for the field work.

We also attended meetings with local people to get information and propagandize about Edwards's Pheasant as well as other natural conservations.

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
CEPF		\$19.825	

****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.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The sustainability of the project has been ensured by the continued commitment of WPA and BLI to determining the status of Edwards’s pheasant. We have developed a robust survey methodology that will allow us to determine the presence or absence of the species in lowland forest sites. We are continuing to source funding streams to continue the development of this project. Obviously the outcome of the surveys will determine the future of the galliformes conservation in Vietnam. If the species is found it will need urgent conservation action, if the species is not found and therefore assumed extinct, Galliformes conservation in Vietnam will need to be supported further to ensure that other species are not extirpated from the country’s forest.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Not applicable

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.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of

				hectares strengthened for each one.
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			

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Continue implementing project to get information about Vietnamese Pheasant *Lophura hatinhensis* at Central of Vietnam. WPA, Birdlife and CECARD need to collaborate more to commit to searching for funding and technical measures used for projects in the future.

Conduct survey in potential locations (previously discovered) such as headwater of My Chanh river, Mieu slope, Cup village Dakrong natural reserve, Truong Son state forest enterprises in Quang Binh, Phong Dien natural reserve in Thua Thien Hue.

Expand scope for searching to height of 500m from sea level and in all seasons of year.

Continue training to improve awareness, real skill to inspect for officials in charge of natural conservation.

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, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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