

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields and respond to all questions listed below.

Organization Legal Name	Vietnam National Parks and Protected Area Association (VNPPA)
Project Title	Strengthening the Capacity of VNPPA to Coordinate and Support Conservation in Vietnam's Protected Areas
CEPF Grant or Number	CEPF-088
Date of Report	December 31, 2019

CEPF Region: Indochina

Strategic Direction: 8.1 "Support networking activities that enable collective civil society

responses to priority and emerging threats"

8.2 "Provide core support for the organizational development of

domestic civil society organizations".

Grant Amount: \$19,993

Project Dates: From January 2019 to December 2019

PART I: Overview

1. Implementation Partners for this Project N/A

2. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

The CEPF project helped to enhance VNPPA's capacity, especially for young staff. With its strengthened capacity, VNPPA has been organizing, coordinating and facilitating capacity building activities for Protected Area (PA) staff more effectively. At least two trainings and one national meeting of VNPPA and its PA members were successfully organized and led by VNPPA staff after receiving the CEFP grant. VNPPA also helped to facilitate the sharing and application of best conservation practices in Vietnam's protected area system, especially conservation education skills, community-based conservation practices and species and habitat monitoring skills. The VNPPA team was also actively involved in promoting and facilitating community-based conservation approaches for endangered species monitoring and forest patrolling.

3. Briefly describe actual progress towards the overall project goal (as stated in the small grant contract)

Description of the overall project goal

Ensuring the effectiveness of VNPPA in providing long-term technical supports and coordination for biodiversity conservation and advocacy for promotion of community-based conservation approach in Vietnam' protected area system.

Summary of actual progress towards this goal

With the support of CEPF, the coordination capacity of VNPPA staff was strengthened; this, in turn, enabled VNPPA to promote community-based conservation activities in Vietnam's PA system more effectively.

- With CEPF support, VNPPA staff had an opportunity to travel and work in different PAs and to improve their coordination skills. In 2019, VNPPA successfully led and executed two capacity building trainings for PA staff.
- The VNPPA website and Facebook pages were maintained and used to share information on PA management.
- VNPPA collected and documented best practices in nature conservation education and community-based forest protection experiences. The information was then shared among VNPPA members via workshops and trainings.
- VNPPA actively supported and facilitated community-based forest protection. The approach is now widely applied in protected area management.

4. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its overall goal

CEPF provides excellent opportunities for local CSOs and professional organizations such as VNPPA to enhance their expertise and experience in support of biodiversity conservation efforts in Vietnam. With its strengthened capacity, VNPPA has had more opportunities to contribute to and support Vietnam in strengthening its policies and regulations on biodiversity conservation and protected area management.

5. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The implementation period was short, and many indicators could not be counted sufficiently at by the date of reporting, especially those related to capacity and other long-term impact indicators. In addition, the grant was small so it could not made a robust changes in capacity.

PART II: Project Objectives and Activities/Deliverables

6. Objectives (as stated in the small grant contract)

List each objective and activity/deliverable from the small grant contract and describe the actual progress/results. Add or remove number of Objectives and Activities as required.

Objective 1: VNPPA has strengthened technical capacity for promoting community-based						
conservation approaches in Vietnam's protected area system.						
Activity description List each activity as stated in the small grant contract Activity 1.1: Work with experts to review available material and develop a methodology and roadmap for strengthening VNPPA's capacity for promoting community-based conservation approaches.	Deliverable(s) List the deliverable(s) for each activity Work-plan and methodology finalized	Summary of actual progress/results for this activity Describe actual progress/results for this activity VNPPA team met and discussed with relevant experts, then prepared a plan based on the recommended criteria and suggested methods.				
Activity 1.2: Visit and work with 5 selected PAs (Trung Khanh, Khau Ca, Du Gia, Nam Xuan Lac, and Van Long) to identify and document community-based conservation lessons learned and best practices.	Fieldwork work-plan finalized. Visits to 5 PAs conducted. Report drafted on lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations for further application.	With CEPF support, VNPPA staffs had the opportunity to travel and work in 5 proposed PAs with an additional visit to Xuan Thuy National Park to learn from the park experience while engaging local community in natural resources management; their coordination skills were much improved. In 2019, VNPPA successfully led and executed two capacity building trainings for PA staffs.				
Activity 1.3: Prepare a report including recommendations to share with other partners and among the PA system	Review report finalized	The report was prepared after the review and shared with stakeholders.				

Objective 2: VNPPA has the capacity to function as an information hub for sharing conservation							
best practices and supporting Vietnam's protected areas for more effective PA management.							
Activity description	Deliverable(s)	Summary of actual progress/results for this					
List each activity as stated in the small	List the deliverable(s) for each	activity					
grant contract	activity	Describe actual progress/results for this activity					
Activity 2.1: Convene a	Technical workshop	A technical meeting was organised on					
technical workshop for VNPPA	convened, with at least	November 22, 2018 in Phong Nha-Ke					
staff, experts, other CSOs, state 40 participants. Outputs Bang National Park (as post Annual							
agencies, and representatives	and representatives documented in meeting meeting event of VNPPA) to share the						
from PAs, to discuss	notes; Consolidated	review report's findings and to advocate					
community-based conservation	liotes, consolidated	review report's infumes and to advocate					

best practices, and opportunities for its expansion in Vietnam's PA system.	Review report prepared on community-based conservation models.	for alternative approaches to PA management and biodiversity conservation. There were 42 participant from VNPPA, VNForest, GIZ, and
		protected areas include Trung Khanh, Khau Ca, Du Gia, Nam Xuan Lac, and Van Long, Cuc Phong, Xuân Thuy, Phong Na- Ke Bang, Dakrong, Huong Hoa, Phong Dien and others join the meeting and discussion.
Activity 2.2: Share consolidated technical report and recommendations with a wider audience	Report shared with state conservation agencies (print copy) and shared electronically via email with other NGOs and Vietnam's PA system	The report was sent to relevant agencies, including VNforest, Department of Special Use and Protection Forests Management, Forest Protection Department In addition, VNPPA maintained its website and Facebook pages, and used these to share information regularly on PA management issues.

Objective 3: VNPPA staff have greater capacity in advocating for community-based conservation approaches					
Activity description List each activity as stated in the small grant contract Activity 3.1: Work with an expert to produce a policy brief about community-based conservation and protected area management in Vietnam	Deliverable(s) List the deliverable(s) for each activity Recommendation prepared and shared.	Summary of actual progress/results for this activity Describe actual progress/results for this activity Best practices and recommendations on nature conservation education and community-based forest protection were collected and documented in a brief report with key fact and recommendations.			
Activity 3.2: Promote community-based conservation in Vietnam by discussing it with relevant government agencies.	Meetings organized with the Forestry Administration (MARD) and Biodiversity Conservation Agency (MONRE). Outputs documented in meeting minutes; Policy brief sent to State conservation	The information was then shared among VNPPA members via workshops and trainings and sent to national conservation agencies, including VNforest, Department of Special Use and Protection Forests, Forest Protection Department			

agencies and PA	
system	

Objective 4: VNPPA has the capacity to provide technical support and advocate for the promotion of community-based conservation.					
Activity description List each activity as stated in the small grant contract Activity 4.1: Finalize reports, recommendations, and policy brief for sharing with VNPPA network and broader audiences.	Deliverable(s) Describe the deliverable(s) for each activity Project deliverables shared on VNPPA website	Summary of actual progress/results for this activity Describe actual progress/results for this activity VNPPA actively supported and facilitated community-based forest protection. The approach is now widely applied in protected area management.			
Activity 4.2: Provide technical support and facilitate information sharing between PAs about community-based conservation	VNPPA staff available to share information, including lessons learned on community-based conservation with PA staff; Support PAs (if requested) to develop and advance their community-based conservation models.	The VNPPA team helped at least five protected areas to prepare their community-based forest patrol programmes and supported two protected areas to prepare and execute their community-based species monitoring programmes.			
Activity 4.3: Participate and share project lessons learned with others, to raise national awareness about community-based conservation	VNPPA staff share information and lessons learned on community-based conservation at VNPPA annual PA meeting and other workshops on PA management	The report was sent to relevant agencies. The VNPPA website and Facebook pages were updated regularly with information on PA management. VNPPA also shared the recommendations resulting from the project at the annual PA meeting and other meetings in which we had the opportunity to participate.			

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

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives and deliverables, the project:

1. Documented lessons learned from community-based conservation models

In cooperation with other organizations that were working on community-based conservation (such as FFI, WWF and PRCF), VNPPA reviewed and documented lessons learned from existing

community-based models in Vietnam. Participatory discussions were held to formulate a suitable model that could be applied at a broader scale. A lesson learn report on community-based conservation lessons learned and best practices was prepared (in Vietnamese).

2. Shared information via a workshop on community-based conservation and its potential application for protected area management in Vietnam

<u>A</u> technical workshop on community-based conservation for protected areas was organized; the resulting report and recommendations were shared with relevant protected area staff, experts, community representatives and NGOs. VNPPA cooperated with national conservation agencies such as Department of Special Use and Protection Forest Management, Forest Protection Department and Biodiversity Conservation Agency, the Forest Protection Department, and other organizations to hold a technical meeting and facilitate the dicussion.

3. Built capacity via training on community-based conservation and co-management for selected PA and VNPPA staff

The training enabled VNPPA staff to share their knowledge and skills. It also enabled them to gain valuable information from PA staff about specific examples of community-based conservation in their areas.

4. Advocated for the broader institutionalization of community-based and participatory conservation models for biodiversity conservation in Vietnam's protected areas

The VNPPA team engaged in all relevant meetings related to Protected Area management and the roles/responsibilities of state conservation agencies. VNPPA staff shared information about community-based models that could help to improve PA governance and urged the government to make the necessary changes in the national laws to enable the participation of local communities in PA management. A Brief summary report include recommendations was sent to relevant agencies to advocate for expanding the piloting of the community based conservation in Vietnam's PA system.

PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

<u>Lessons Learned</u>

- 8. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.
 - CEPF support enabled our young staff to learn and advance their research and facilitation skills. For instance, under this grant, VNPPA assigned young staff to lead the planning and implementation processes. These were accomplished with great success, and all the work was planned and implemented with high efficiency. In addition, the young staff proved to be enthusiastic and devoted to their work, and the experiences they gained will support them in their future careers.

- The fact that CEPF support did not require much paperwork was greatly appreciated by VNPPA. VNPPA has only a small operational team and staff are often required to undertake multiple tasks. However, the CEPF grant did not require complicated communication and approval procedures; as a result, the team could focus more on the technical aspects of the project rather than financial and administrative processes.
- It would be useful if CEPF could organize an annual meeting of CEPF grantees, in order to provide grantees with an opportunity to update, share and learn from each other. In addition, such meetings would provide opportunities to build networks and to seek possibilities for collaborating and partnering with others.
- CEPF should organize trainings to build capacity in specific project development and management skills, such as project proposal writing. Such trainings would be very helpful for small local NGOs and young conservationists.

Sustainability / Replication

- 9. Summarize the success 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.
 - There are many good conservation practices in Vietnam's PAs that could be documented and shared to improve PA management in other areas, e.g., the community-based approaches in Khau Ca and Trung Khanh PAs are good examples of how community-based models work in practice and how they can be sustained. Our project successfully documented and shared these practices, and encouraged their replication in other PAs.
 - Under this project, we were also able to build the capacity of young staff, by giving them an opportunity to learn and document good practices. This opportunity helped to strengthen their capacity dramatically. This is a lesson that should be replicated in other CEPF projects.

Safeguards

10.If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.

Our project did not have any actual activities on the ground, except for visiting the PAs for consultation meetings. Hence, the project did not trigger any social or environmental safeguards.

Additional Funding

N/A

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

a. Total additional funding (US\$)

N/A

b. Type of funding

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
N/A			
N/A			

^{*} Categorize the type of funding as:

- 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)

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

- CEPF grants enable good connections to be made among grantees. They also give newly established NGOs/CSOs a chance to improve their capacity.
- CEPF grants enable local CSOs to contribute to biodiversity conservation.

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

CEPF requires that each grantee report on impact at the end of the project. The purpose of this report is to collect data that will contribute to CEPF's portfolio and global indicators. CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. CEPF's aggregated results will be reported on in our annual report and other communications materials.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

13.If CEPF assigned one or more Portfolio Indicators to your project during the full proposal preparation phase, please list these below and report on the project's contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Narrative
Community forests, community fisheries	This project helped to improve and sustain
and/or community-managed protected areas	the pilot community-based forest protection
piloted or replicated within at least 15	schemes in the Sino-Vietnam Limestone
priority sites.	landscape.
Co-management mechanisms that enable	This project helped to advance and enable
community participation in management of	the participation of communities in managing
formal protected areas developed for at least	Vietnam's Protected Areas, including sites in
10 priority sites	the Sino-Vietnam limestone landscape
At least 20 domestic civil society	This project helped to improve the capacity
organizations demonstrate improvements in	of VNPPA, a Vietnamese CSO.
organizational capacity.	

Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators (sections 14 to 21 below) that pertain to your project.

14.Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Please report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, as a result of CEPF investment. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled "protected areas" (section 17 below), and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the "protected areas" indicator.

Name of KBA	# of Hectares with strengthened management *	Is the KBA Not protected, Partially protected or Fully protected? Please select one: NP/PP/FP
Cao Vit Species and Habitat Conservation site	3,000	FP
Khau Ca Species and Habitat Conservation site	1,500	FP
Van Long Nature Reserve	3,000	FP
Xuan Lien Nature Reserve	11,000	FP
Kim Bảng forest	3,000	NP

^{*} Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.

15.Protected Areas

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of CEPF investment.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	# of Hectares	Year of legal declaration or expansion	Longitude**	Latitude**
VNPPA involve in recommending for the establishment of new Kim Bang Nature	Vietnam	<i>3,000</i> (proposed)	2020 (proposed)	20.515626	105.838632
Reserve					

^{*} If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.

16.Production landscape

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened biodiversity management, as a result of CEPF investment. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs. Production landscapes may include KBAs, and therefore hectares counted under the indicator entitled "KBA Management" may also be counted here. Examples of interventions include: best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

^{**} Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened biodiversity management.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention
N/A				
N/A				

^{*} If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.

17. Beneficiaries

CEPF wants to record two types of benefits that are likely to be received by individuals: formal training and increased income. Please report on the number of men and women that have benefited from formal training (such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture) and/or increased income (such as tourism, agriculture, medicinal plant harvest/production, fisheries, handicraft production) as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide results since the start of your project to project completion.

17a. Number of men and women benefitting from formal training.

# of men benefiting from formal training*	# of women benefiting from formal training*
10	4

^{*}Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men benefited from training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also benefited from training in project management, the total number of men who benefited should be 5.

17b. Number of men and women benefitting from increased income.

# of men benefiting from	# of women benefiting from
increased income*	increased income*
N/A	N/A

^{*}Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men benefited from increased income due to tourism, and 3 of these also benefited from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who benefited should be 5.

^{**}Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.

^{***} Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

17c. Total number of beneficiaries - Combined

Report on the total number of women and the number of men that have benefited from formal training and increased income since the start of your project to project completion.

Total # of men benefiting*	Total # of women benefiting*							
10	4							

^{*}Do not count the same person more than once. For example, if Paul was trained in financial management and he also benefited from tourism income, the total number of people benefiting from the project should be 1 = Paul.

18. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of CEPF investment. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

18a. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics					Type of Benefit									# of			
	(mark with x)				(mark with x)									Beneficiaries				
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefitting	# of women and girls benefitting
N/A																-		
N/A																		

^{*}If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

18b. Geolocation of each community

Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the community, to the extent possible, or upload a map or shapefile. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

Name of Community	Latitude	Longitude
N/A		
N/A N/A		
N/A		

19. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Please report on change in the number of legally binding laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of CEPF investment. "Laws and regulations" pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included. "Policies" that are adopted or pursued by a government, including a sector or faction of government, are eligible.

19a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation

No.	No.		Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)													
	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation		National	Regional/International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade
1	National Decree on protection and management of forest animals and plants and implementation of CITES (no. 06/2018/NĐ-CP)		х				х			х	x		x		х	x			х
2	National Decree on penalties for administrative violations against regulations on forestry (no. 03/2019/NĐ-CP)		Х				х				x				Х	х			х

19b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change			
1	Vietnam	22/01/2019)	Improve species protection and				
			implementation of CITES in	Contributed to the development of the			
			Vietnam	decree and commented on its finalization.			

2	Vietnam	4/25/2019	Improve enforcement of national	And coordinate discussion among VNPPA
			laws and regulations on forest	members to send letter of
			protection, species management	recommendation to Government with
			and protected area management	proposed changes and more attention on
				key issue such as PA management

20. Best Management Practices

Please describe any new management practices that your project has developed and tested as a result of CEPF investment, that have been proven to be successful. A best practice is a method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means.

No.	Short title/ topic of the best	Description of best management practice and its use
	management practice	during the project
1	Community-based forest protection	This practice had already started in Khau Ca and Trung Khanh Reserve. Our project helped to share information about the model and promote its replication in other PAs.
2	Community-based endangered species monitoring and protection	This practice had already started in Khau Ca and Trung Khanh Reserve. Our project helped to share information about the model and promote its replication in other PAs.

21. Networks & Partnerships

Please report on any new networks or partnerships between civil society groups and across to other sectors that you have established as a result of CEPF investment. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable even if they do not have a Memorandum of Understanding or other type of validation. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, a working group focusing on reptile conservation. Please do not use this tab to list the partners in your project, unless some or all of them are part of such a network / partnership described above.

No.	Name of Network/	Name of Network/ Year		Purpose
	Partnership	established	covered	
1	Cooperation with Center for Nature Conservation and Development to replicate the	2018-2019	Vietnam	To promote community-based approaches and engage local communities more effectively in
	lessons learnt in other PAs in Vietnam			PA management.

Part V. 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.

Please include your full contact details below:

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