

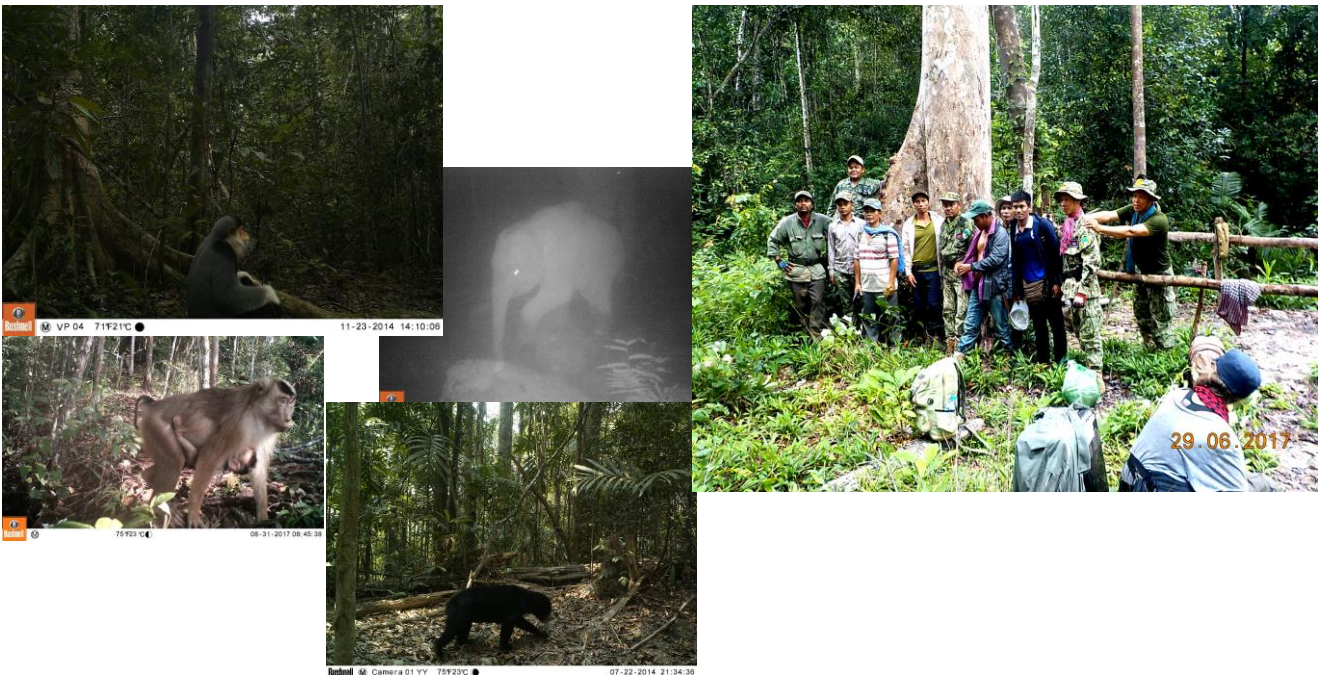


CONCEPT NOTE

For a project of :
Biodiversity Conservation

Project title

Consolidate Conservation at the Veun Sai Siem Pang National Park Through Responsible Ecotourism Development for a Sustainable Financement of Community Patrols



**Intervention country
Cambodia**

OVERVIEW (3 pages maximum, excluding cover page)

THE ORGANIZATION

Name of the organization: Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and POH KAO (Technical Advisor)

Website: www.ntfp-cambodia.org

Name of the contact person: Mr. LONG Serey (NTFP director)

Mrs Veronique Audibert-P, Technical Advisor POH KAO.

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veronique.pestel Tel: 855 17 56 37 39

Full address: Village: Ou Kontil, Sangkat: Boeung Kanseng, Municipality: Banlung, Province: Ratanakiri, Cambodia

Date the NGO was established: established in 1996 and registered with the Ministry of Interior of the Royal Government of Kingdom of Cambodia in March 2007 and received the Certificate of Compliance, Standard of Governance Professional Practice in Oct. 2009 and Dec. 2017.

Financial information over the last three years:

Amounts only in EUR or USD (please specify)	2015	2016	2017
Total budget confirmed/expected	\$227,574.00	\$336,526.00	\$345,068.00
Amount of private donations/grants confirmed/expected	0	0	0
Amount of public grants confirmed/expected	0	0	0
Number of paid employees / volunteers	30	32	32
Number of projects underway	10	10	8

THE PROJECT

Title: Consolidate Conservation at the Veun Sai Siem Pang National Park Through Responsible Ecotourism Development for a Sustainable Financement of Community Patrols.

Main sector of involvement: Biodiversity Conservation.

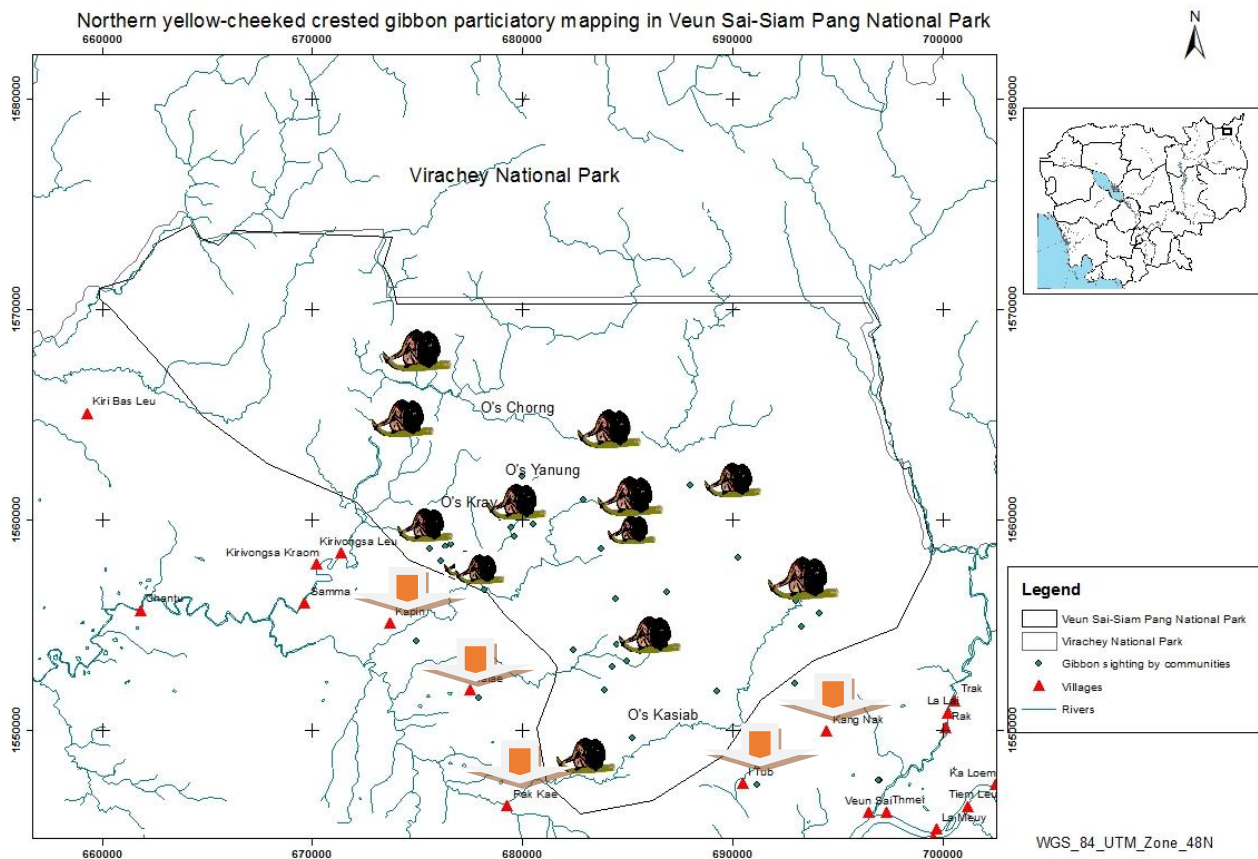
Summary of the issue to address and of the planned intervention strategy (4-5 lines): The present project undertakes to continue biodiversity conservation at the hotspot of Veun Sai Siem Pang National Park with full participation of local stakeholders (communities and authorities) through patrolling activities, ecotourism development for income generation for community wardens to autofinance patrolling activities.

Precise location (country, region/province, town/villages):

Indo-Burma, Lower Mekong, Cambodia. North East Cambodia border Vietnam and Laos.

Target area: **Veun Sai Siem Pang National Park** : 57,469 hectares of evergreen forest and deciduous forest, buffering Virachey National Park and Western Siempang Wildlife Sanctuary and 2 National Parks in Laos and Vietnam. In total the largest block of rain forests in S.E. Asia.

Target villages 5 Villages: villages of Backae, I Tub, Kang Nuok (District of Veun Sai, Ratanakiri province) villages of Kapin, Talae (District of Siam Pang, Stung Treng province).



Main contextual information:

Historical presence of the project holder in the area

Poh Kao and NTFP in collaboration with Ministry of Environment (MoE) and local communities has been working to protect VSSP NP and its biodiversity for nearly 12 years. Those conservation activities include law enforcement, local communities and authorities' awareness, capacity building, indigenous Community Protected Areas titling, and local livelihood improvements.

Significant results were reached: the site was registered as a National Park; rampant illegal logging was tackled, communities and authorities are fully working every month together to protect the site ; 2 Community Protected Areas were demarcated and recognized by provincial authorities ; dense forests recovery for 3,300 ha totalising 83.30% of the site, 160 patrols (1 332 km) conducted by community wardens jointly with rangers have secured the site from loggers and poachers, as results, densities of endangered wildlife have visibly increased.

Finally, the transfer of technical capacities to a local based NGO (NTFP) was fully accomplished. NTFP is the only one local conservation NGO based in Ratanakiri Province.

Main problem identified

Delay in assessing ecotourism opportunities to set up a sustainable system to finance community patrols. During the past 24 months, we had to adapt to changes (The national park authorities was shifted to Ministry of Environment from Ministry of Agriculture in 2017), which resulted in delays cooperation agreement with MoE, DoE and increased work tasks for the team. The schedule was very busy and the team had to visit the site and the districts and provinces several times a month to coordinate work with authorities. There was no time slot to conduct the assessment for ecotourism opportunity as scheduled in early 2017. However all the tools to conduct this study were prepared. This year 2018, we would be able to lead it with confidence to communities, authorities and private partners.

Veun Sai Siem Pang Holds a high Potential for Responsible Ecotourism Development and we are operational to implement it.

At this stage of the conservation actions ran at the site, Responsible Ecotourism is the most relevant activity to find a sustainable system to continue conservation action at VSSP national park over the end of the project. VSSP has great potential for ecotourism development that will generate funding to support conservation and local livelihoods in the future:

- The site is home to more than 60 species of animal and plants on the global Red List that are threatened with extinction, according to the criteria of IUCN. The area is of international importance for the conservation of primates (including the world's largest known populations of black-shanked douc and southern yellow-cheeked crested gibbons), wild cats, Asian elephants, wild cattle and several species of birds.
- More than 5 million of tourists are visiting Cambodia every year, 66 000 visiting ecotourism areas. Among them, 4,000 are visiting the province where the area is located. All to looking for jungle trekking and sharing experience with Indigenous people. Currently, only 2 options are available; both are selective and expensive (>200 dollars per person). Majority of visitors cannot afford these expenses, and are disappointed because the main purpose of their visit to Ratanakiri was to see the jungle.
- Ecotourism development is a long lasting demand of the 5 communities.

The proposed project will link these 2 groups to set up a system (i) to generate income for communities and a sustainable system to finance the community patrols and (ii) to respond to the high demand of tourists to actively participate into conservation actions in an hotspot of biodiversity.

Beneficiaries of the project:

- Ecosystem of the VSSPCA : **57,469 ha of evergreen forest** (including Spirit Forest) & deciduous forest; Red list wildlife species (5 primates species; 7 large carnivores, 3 species of birds, elephant and siamese crocodile. Northern buffed-cheeked **gibbon**, *Nomascus annamensis* – new taxon recently discovered.
- 2,820 indigenous people (5 villages), income < \$1/day
- 5 CBOs (in total 45 members elected)
- 5 community wardens group (30 community rangers 30% of women)
- 30 officials actively involved in conservation and recognition of IP forest management (Ministry of Environment, 2 Provincial Departments of environment, District Governors, Communes chief, 5 villages chief, police and gendarmerie).

Project Main objective:

Support to Veun Sai Siem Pang National Park protection through Responsible Entrepreneurship Ecotourism to generate income to finance community patrols to mitigate biodiversity loss with a special focus on gibbon protection.

Project Secondary objective(s):

Component 1: Protection of VSSPCA and new gibbon (*Nomascus annamensis*) is enhanced through engaging the community in patrolling the forest and biodiversity

Component 2: Sustainable support to conservation, community patrols and local livelihoods through income generated by Responsible Ecotourism development.

Summary of planned activities according to objectives to be reached

Component 1:

- Capacity building through coaching to CW by NTFP staffs.
- Conduct the community wardens patrol on gibbon protection and forest patrols.
- Conduct the quarterly reflection meeting with community wardens (working groups meeting).

Component 2:

- Conduct an assessement of the opportunities for ecotourism through FPIC (define tours, trekking routes, home stay, fees, etc) with CBOS, rangers groups, villages chief, and local authorities.

- Create a Community Based Organisation for Ecotourism, elected by villagers.
- Participatory making rules and regulations agreements.
- Establish ecotourism strategy and business plan which participated by CBOs.
- Conduct consultation meeting between NTFP and private tour companies to present business strategy.
- Identify potential private tour in Banlung to link with CBO Ecotourism.
- Create a private structure in Banlung town (headoffice) to link with CBOs and conduct tourists to villages for trekking tour or participatory community patrol.

Partners on the ground: Ministry of Environment, 2 Provincial Departements of Environment.

Total project estimated budget and funding plan (in Euro only, rounded figures without decimal) :

Budget in Euro Rate: 1.224	TOTAL	Fondation Ensemble
Envisaged/Acquired/Confirmed		
Human resources	6,107.22	6,107.22
Cost of activities	13,433.82	13,433.82
Logistics	490.20	490.20
Evaluations		
Total project budget	20,031.24	20,031.24

100% of the budget requested from Fondation Ensemble: USD 20,031.24

Requested project start date²: 01.02.2018

Expected completion date:28.02.2019

Duration: 1 year