

Project Title: “Community Forestry and Community Patrols for Gibbons protection at the Veun Sai Siem Pang Conservation Area”

Project Rationale:

1. Conservation needs:

Key threats:

- No protection status for VSSPCA, no recognition of IP historical rights on their forest.

Despite Conservation International (CI) Cambodia has demonstrated the biological value of VSSCPA with the presence of 16 red list IUCN wildlife species and the highest densities in Indochina region, despite CI has invested considerable efforts (financial and in activities, station, patrols by FA rangers etc), the Forestry Administration has not yet registered VSSPCA as a new Protected Forest in Cambodia.

--> vulnerable to intrusion of outsiders (new migrants, loggers, patrons working for illegal logging companies and of local authorities corruption to allow logging (Veun Sai commune chief and district governor are paid by those illegal logging companies and issue letter authorizing access to trees), poaching.

--> large scale logging by the illegal company intermediaries, rampant poaching by loggers, destruction of habitat (one luxury tree logged for 50 trees destroyed, progression of 10km per month in the forest, construction of illegal paths)

Important opportunities:

The target area with three contiguous national parks (Virachey National Park, Xe Pian National Park in Laos and Chu Mom Ray National Park in Vietnam) represents the largest area of intact forest in one piece in Asia and the best chance of maintaining the iconic wildlife in South East Asia there Veun Sai Siem Pang Conservation Area is home to six species of primates which 5 are on the Red List of Threatened Species IUCN, seven large carnivore species and three threatened bird species.

16 species of wildlife red listed: the rarest on the planet

Researches have confirmed that this area has high biodiversity values. Conservation International has identified:

- 59 mammal species

- Including two new species –[Northern buffed-cheeked gibbon, *Nomascus annamensis* , Walston’s tube-nose bat, *Murina walstoni*]

- 139 species of bird

- 60 species of reptile and amphibian

- Including one new species –[Iridescent lizard, *Lygosoma veunsaiensi*]

- Many new country records

As the site has no conservation status, and that FA has not demonstrated its willing to register the site as a Protected Forest, the alternative today after 8 years, is to process the creation of Community Forestry and engage IP into concrete protection through Community Patrols. If this project is not implemented, IP, the forest and wildlife are to vulnerable to massive destruction.

Project Goal

Support to Veun Sai Siem Pang CA protection through community rights to create Community Forestry and/or ICCA and to patrol the forest to mitigate biodiversity loss with a special focus on gibbon protection.

- Community Forestry are registered and recognized by FA
- Community patrols are created and in place
- Monitoring of forest crimes and data base with quality information are created
- Veun Sai Siem Pang Network is created
- VSSPN initiate a collaboration with existing national network

Project Objective:

Component 1: Increase the protection of VSSPCA through creation of community forestry as a buffer zone for the five villages, in Veun Sai District, Rattanakiri Province and Siem Pang District, Stung Treng Province by 2017.

Rationales

- Create Community Forestry (CF)

Proceed to obtain the official registration of Community Forestry for the 5 villages recognized by the Forestry Administration with the support of RECOFT.

- Create Indigenous community conserved areas: promoted through the ICCA Consortium, as an alternative in case the FA make resistance to designating CFs

Component 2: Protection of VSSPCA and new gibbon (*Nomascus annammensis*) is enhanced through engaging the community in patrols the forest and biodiversity, raising awareness of key sub-national stakeholders by 2017.

Rationales

- Create a Community based organizations (CBO) ,
- Create a network with the 5 CBOs: VSSP Network, recognized by local authorities
- Initiate collaborative approach between VSSP Network to Prey Lang network (PLN)

Effect indicators:

- VSSPN network is perceived as a strong and relevant network on VSSPCA management
- Increase cooperation between communities, authorities through meetings, agreement on CF and Community patrols signed because of dialogue and peaceful advocacy initiatives.

Project Outputs and Activities:

Component1:

Outputs:

Increase the protection of VSSPNP through both (and advance at the same time), creation of Community Forest designation and ICCA designation as a buffer zone for the five villages, in Veun Sai District, Rattanakiri Province and Siem Pang District, Stung Treng Province by 2017.

Activities:

- 1.1.** A constructive dialogue is initiated between participants and project coordination team to mitigate conflict and promote dialogue to reach the objectives of CF/CPA and Community Patrols Network creation. Product: as demonstrated by minutes of community meetings.
- 1.2.** CF/CPA documents submitted to local authorities are approved by 2018.
- 1.3.** Approval of proposed ICCA maps by the provincial governor.

Component2:

Outputs:

- 2.1. Create five community based organizations (CBO) to patrol and monitor the gibbon conservation areas
- 2.2. Create a network with the 5 CBOs: VSSP Network, recognized by local authorities.
- 2.3. Initiate collaborative approach between VSSP Network and Prey Lang network (PLN)

Activities:

2.1. Creation of five community based organizations (CBO) to patrol and monitor the gibbon conservation areas; Minutes of meetings at commune and district levels to create two working groups.

2.2. Map of gibbon areas are produced and approved by villages, commune, district, to be submitted to provincial government, DoE and FA cantonment. Minutes and participant lists for 8 quarterly network meetings among community patrol teams to enhance communication and find solutions to problems of forest and biodiversity conservation

2.3. Five elected COBs by at least 60% of community members participated in the election.

2.4. 25 recruited community wardens will be regularly patrolling and monitoring the spirit forest and gibbon conservation areas, in joint patrols with Department of Environment rangers (4 rangers)

2.5. Six capacity training sessions to the selected community wardens and patrol groups. At least 60% of the trainees increased their knowledge on above training sessions and able to perform their tasks and producing informative community reports.

2.6. Monthly patrols conducted, contravention delivered to offenders, snares removed

2.7.10 signboards/demarcation installed on each gibbon area by CBOs, wardens, DoE, FA staff with prohibition clauses to raise awareness and re-enforce the community regulations

2.8. 24 reflection meetings with committees and forest wardens and project advisory team to increase support in enhancing the forest an gibbon monitoring methods as well as proposing new methods to deal with illegal activities and resolving conflicts.

2.9. Reduced land and resource conflict cases over the period of project implementation through collaborative work between the community members and the working groups.

2.10. Training and mentoring to better track and document the forest and gibbon crimes. Each community warden group will be provided a smartphone or GPS-tracked camera to picture offenses and share with other forest protection networks (e.g. Prey Lang Network)

2.11. The land use and forest type documented and used for future communication to draw a higher-level intervention to better protect the forest and biodiversity.

2.12. Regulation of Gibbon conservation area approved by provincial governor.

2.13. Creation of a network with the 5 CBOs: VSSP Network, recognized by local authorities. The five CBOs of the five villages will be formed with an overall objective and internal regulation to enhance their support in protecting forest and biodiversity as well as tracking down illegal activities collectively. Conduct two consultation meetings to develop overall rules and management structure of five CBOs.

2.14. Hold regular quarter network meetings to reflect patrol findings and seek solutions to better protect the forest and biodiversity within the target community areas.

2.15. Initiate collaborative approach between VSSP Network and Prey Lang network (PLN)

2.16. Strengthened organizational capacity of NTFP to plan and implement conservation projects, as demonstrated by increased civil society tracking tool scores over the project period”

Proposed Budget:

CEPF and FE Funding Request (US \$): 207,380(CEPF: 144,910; FE: 62,470)

this field represents the total grant request from CEPF and FE. This field will be automatically populated and updated once you complete the Budget Worksheet.

Project Period

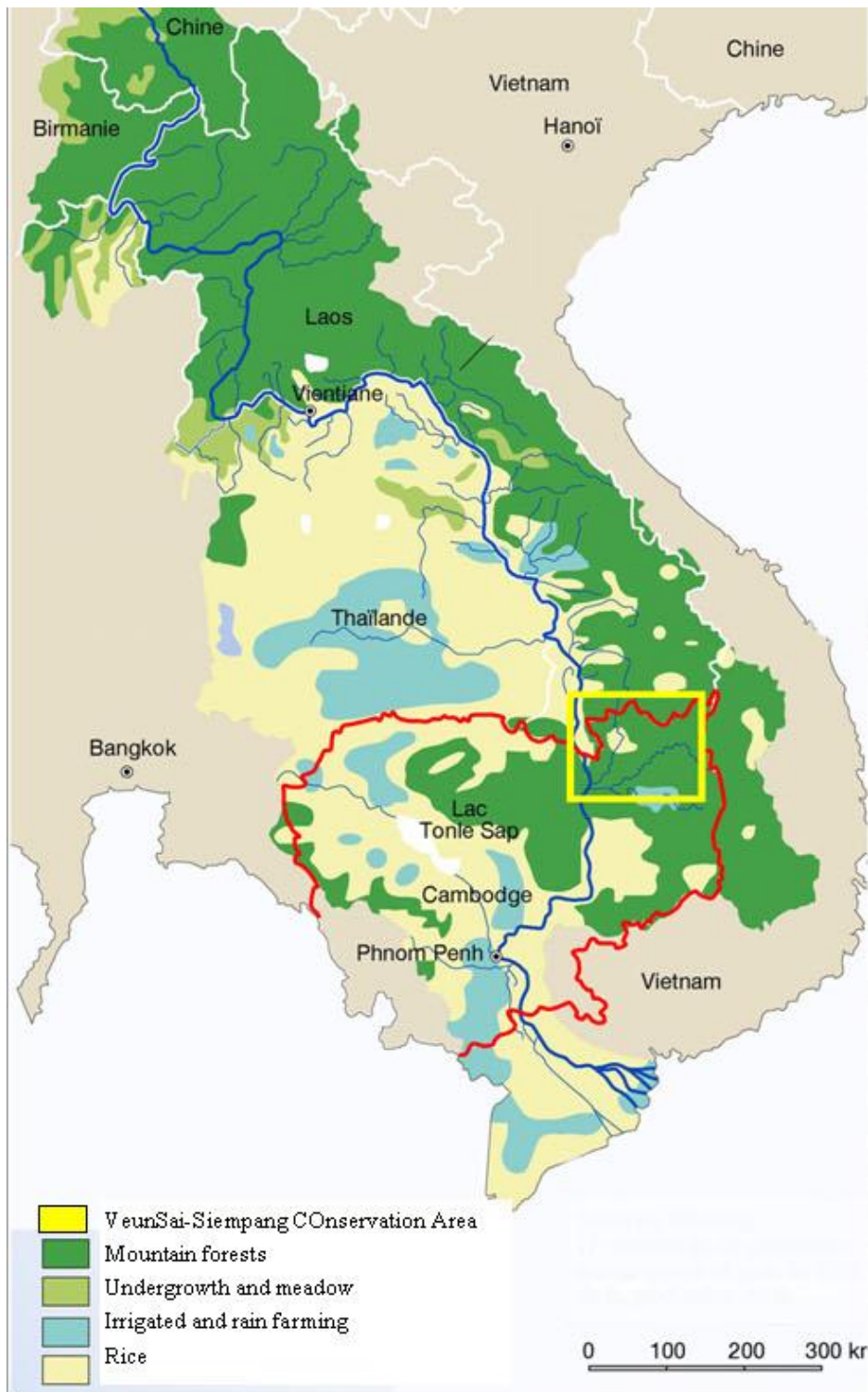
Start Date: Grants must begin on the first day of the month 2016/3/1

End Date: Grants must end on the last day of the month 2019/2/28

Project Location/Beneficiaries:

Village	Total Households	Total population	Total children
Kang Nuok	93	402	203
Itub	96	440	127
Backae	98	402	113
Talae	135	885	139
Kapin	99	637	130
Total	521	2,766	712



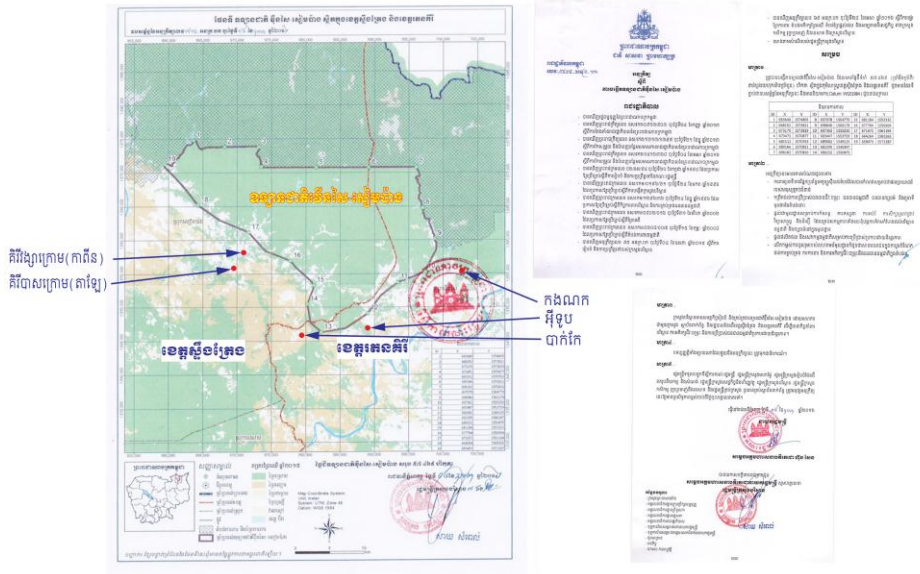


Supported by CEPF and FE

- . CEPF (Critical -Ecology Partnership Fund), please see website; www.cepf.net.
- . FE (Foundation Ensemble)



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