

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Dinh Thi Kim Van
Project Title	Conservation of the endangered rosewoods <i>Dalbergia oliveri</i> and <i>D. cochinchinensis</i> in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam
Application ID	31132-1
Grant Amount	£6,000
Email Address	van.dinh@ccd.org.vn
Date of this Report	June 04, 2021

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
1. To implement study to document population and regeneration status for Siamese and Vietnamese rosewoods in Cat Tien national park				Our survey efforts focussed on study population of Vietnamese rosewood in Cat Tien National Park, which is mostly distributed in southern of the park with an average density of trees whose DBH from 6 cm and above is approximately 6.8 trees/ha, average density of seedlings is 12.3 seedlings/ha. Regenerated seedlings are mostly from seed accounting for 88.34%. There was no record of Siamese rosewood there.
2. To identify threats and conservation opportunities to improve the protection and recovery of the rosewood's population in Cat Tien and its adjacent areas.				Key threats to rosewood populations are illegal logging and bushfire in some parts of the park. The mature trees of Vietnamese rosewood are under good protection and the high regenerated rate from seed are potential for long-term conservation.
3. To strengthen the park's research capacity and assist the park to prepare and implement a long-term rosewood conservation plan includes replanting and facilitate natural regeneration				In total, 14 forest rangers took part in our research and trained with survey techniques. The long-term conservation of rosewood including in-situ and ex-situ were prepared and handed over to the park management board. We are also working closely with them to gradually implement the plan.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

We received enthusiastic support of Cat Tien management board and forest rangers during fieldwork. Although the Covid-19 pandemic affected our activities especially field survey, which need to travel between provinces, and indoor meeting/workshop, our activities were completed with good results.

There is only one thing which is different from our proposal. We intended to set up sample plots of 100 x 100m to study vegetation composition of the forest where

rosewoods standing based on the scale of Cat Tien. However, *Dalbergia oliveri* was mostly found in southern of the park in three different forest types: broadleaved evergreen forest, semi-deciduous forest and broadleaved evergreen forest mixed bamboo. The forest blocks in each forest types are relatively homologous. Therefore, our team set up sample plots of 50 x 20m and the field study was focusing on transect survey.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- Determined the distribution of *Dalbergia oliveri* in Cat Tien National Park including distribution area, density, regeneration status.
- Identified threats to current population and proposed solutions.
- Developed a conservation plan which agreed by Cat Tien management board.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

Dalbergia oliveri is a common target for illegal logging. Therefore, the information on population location is significantly important and the less people know, the safer population. We did not involve any local communities during conducting field survey.

However, we are planning to engage local communities in the next steps of conservation plan including developing and maintaining local nursery and replanting *D. oliveri* in their habitat.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Cat Tien management board was financed by state budget to establish a local nursery. They are conducting experiment on propagation of *D. oliveri*.

My host organisation, the Center for Nature Conservation and Development, is seeking for and fundraising to continue the work by implementing assisted natural regeneration and re-establishing *D. oliveri* population in the wild.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

My research results were shared to the park management board to support their protection and conservation activity as well as being references for further research and conservation efforts.

We organised a technical workshop to share our findings and raise people concerned about rosewood conservation. We also presented proposed conservation plan for *Dalbergia oliveri* and *D. cochinchinensis* in Vietnam. We are planning to publish these findings in conservation journal for broader audience.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, project activities were taking place in different period of time to the anticipated and the actual length of the project was extended compared to the proposal.

8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Round-trip fare Hanoi-Cat Tien	1200	1030	-170	
Vehicle, motorcycle rental for field work	320	360	+40	
Accommodation in Cat Tien for the team	480	505	+25	
Food for the team in the field	1500	1607	+107	
Stipend for Local assistant to assist field survey	1200	1170	-30	
Callipers and measuring tape for measuring trees	200	206	+6	
GPS	300	302	+2	
Maps	100	117	+117	
Field gear (camping, cooking ware, raincoat)	200	213	+13	
Consumable Supplies (Pens, pencils, markers, folders, glue, notebooks, 30 files, writing paper, batteries, tape etc.)	300	285	-15	
Medical kit and insurance for field work	200	206	+6	
Total	6000	6000		

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

The important next steps are an urgent to strengthen in-situ conservation as well as having an intense recovery plan for the rosewoods based on scientific research. There are some specific activities:

- Carrying out more field surveys to identify ecology, soil characteristics where these species are found.
- Extending the survey to other areas where are considered as the most important areas for the existence of species.
- Implementing a propagation experiment and develop rosewood seedlings in nursery.
- Re-planting seedling to recover rosewood populations and establish new population in suitable habitat.
- Conducting assisted natural regeneration to protect and improve natural population.
- Strengthening stakeholder's capacity in conservation.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The Rufford Foundation was acknowledged as sponsor for our project in our website (<https://ccd.org.vn/en>). We have not used The Rufford Foundation logo in any other materials.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Team member	Responsibility
Dinh Thi Kim Van	Team leader – coordinating and participating in all project activities; conducting field survey; analysing collected data and reporting.
Hoang Thanh Son	Technical advisor – supporting field survey and plant identification
La Quang Trung	Technical advisor – training forest rangers on field techniques; supporting field survey and developing conservation plan
Ta Quoc Truong	Field member – training forest rangers on field techniques; conducting field survey and reporting
Nguyen Thi Ngoc Thin	Cat Tien technical staff – supporting field survey; identifying survey areas
Luong Thi Khanh Linh	Team member – organising technical workshop; being in charge of logistics

12. Any other comments?

I am grateful to The Rufford Foundation for their support rosewood conservation work in Vietnam.