

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Luong Thi Khanh Linh
Project Title	Improving the conservation and enhance knowledge of endangered turtles in Xuan Lien Nature Reserve, Vietnam
Application ID	31816-1
Date of this Report	October 2022

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
<p>Interview to get preliminary information about the population size of turtles, tortoises and terrapins from local communities and stakeholders in the key surveyed area.</p>				<p>Seven field surveys have been conducted in Xuan Lien during 2021 and 2022. Through these surveys, we recorded two individuals of <i>Platysternon megacephalum</i>, one individual of <i>Geoemyda spengleri</i>, one individual of <i>Sacalia quadriocellata</i>, one individual of <i>Manouria impressa</i>, four individuals of <i>C. galbinifrons</i>, two individuals of <i>Cuora mouhotii</i> and one individual of <i>Tryonyx steinachderi</i> have been recorded by forest ranger before. Besides, through interview local people house, we also recorded 18 shell samples of <i>Manouria impressa</i>. We also determined the threats to <i>C. galbinifrons</i> and its sympatric species.</p>
<p>Raising the awareness of local communities regarding turtle and wildlife conservation to mitigate threats of endangered wildlife, especially turtles in this important reserve.</p>				<p>Communication events were carried out within five buffer zone villages of Xuan Lien Nature Reserve. The chain events provided information on turtles and tortoise that found in Xuan Lien. In the sessions, we shared conservation status, level of protection and legislation to handle wildlife crime. In the end, local people/ students and Xuan Lien 's staff openly discussed historical – current status and practical solutions to assist the conservation of corresponding threatened species</p>

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). Update the checklist of turtle species in Xuan Lien

Table 1. Th2 checklist of turtle species have been recorded during field trips in Xuan Lien up to now

Date	Time	Species name	Long	Lat	Alt (m)	Weigh
01/11/20	8.10	<i>Platysternon megacephalum</i>	19.97675	104.999	1114	505
05/11/20	11.20	<i>Geoemyda spengleri</i>	19.97993	104.9962	1126	144
22/03/19	11.25	<i>Cuora galbinifrons</i>	19.95967	104.9956	1295	-
05/04/21		<i>Cuora galbinifrons</i>	19.89869	105.23725	680	746
13/03/21		<i>Cuora galbinifrons</i>	19.88342	105.21150	563	403
09/04/21	15.03	<i>Sacalia quadriocellata</i>	19.89255	105.21371	130	219
25/12/20		<i>Cuora mouhotii</i>	19.88342	105.21150	185	807
30/09/21	14.15	<i>Manouria impressa</i>	19.8623	105.2109	680	
10/07/21	13.45	<i>Cuora galbinifrons</i>	19.8626	105.2183	498	540
23/01/22		<i>Manouria impressa</i>	19.8919	105.2131	730	
29/04/22	8.30	<i>Platysternon megacephalum</i>	19.9726	105.0709	1020	450
22/01/22		<i>Tryonix steinachderi</i>	19.8625	105.6987		500

b). Interview and recorded the price and demand for buying turtle in Xuan Lien

Table 2: The turtle samples recorded through interview local people

Species name	IUCN	Appendix	Number	Live	Dead	Price (VND/Kg)
<i>Cuora galbinifrons</i>	CR	IIB, 06* vá 64**	2	1	1	1500000
<i>Manouria impressa</i>	VU	IIB, 06	18	0	18	200000
<i>Platysternon megacephalum</i>	EN	IIB, 06 vá 64	5	1	4	4000000
TOTAL			25	2	23	

c). The conservation awareness raising activities were held in five villages, reached almost 200 people included local people and student. Besides, NR technical officer got trained on the turtle field survey and monitor.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

In early 2021, the Covid pandemic was made the processing of the field in delaying due to restricting regulations and the social isolation of the Vietnamese Government, so it took 2 years to complete the field survey. Luckily, after that we can make the field trip done properly. A sad reality is that the turtle population at Xuan Lien NP is decreasing significantly, that why it is very difficult to encounter them in the wild.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

Local people were involved with the survey team. Thanks to the community-based conservation programme that created in Xuan Lien NR, most of the local people are working as ranger assistants at conservation community. They can also earn stipends from that work. Besides, the time working with survey team, they got knowledge and attention on the turtle. They are aware that the turtle is fully protected by national law.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we plan to release 10 individuals of *Cuora galbinifrons* and using radio tracking to monitor them. These activities will help us to collect information to assess survival rate after release, provide the species ecology for better understand on *C. galbinifrons*.

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

We published one paper on the work to share the finding from my work to others.

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

The important step is conduct new surveys and use radio telemetry in the future in Xuan Lien NP and planning to build the herpetology rescue centre at Xuan Lien NP to save turtle and other species.

8. 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?

Yes, all the materials produced and publish communication have the Rufford Foundation logo.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Ms. Luong Thi Khanh Linh. Ms. Linh is a young conservationist who is highly motivated in nature and wildlife conservation. Ms. Link is now working as a research associate at the Center for Nature Conservation and Development (CCD). Linh has been actively involving in wildlife research and conservation in general and reptile specifically. Linh will lead the project implementation and coordinate other team members to implement the turtle field survey, data analysis, report writing and dissemination.

Ms. Tran Thi Ngoc Lan. Ms Lihn implemented awareness raising activity for the local community. Ms. Linh is an M.Sc. Student at Vietnam National University of Forestry. 2. Ms. Tran Thi Ngoc Lan Ms. Lan graduated with a bachelor's degree in "Natural Resources Management" at Vietnam National University of Forestry. Ms. Lan has

more than 04 years of experience in researching the application of remote sensing in natural resource management and climate change mitigation, conducting environmental education, and raising awareness for local community on wildlife conservation. Currently, Lan is the communication officer of the Center for Nature Conservation and Development (CCD). Lan will lead the community-based activities includes local people interviewing coordinate awareness-raising campaigns.

Mr. Le Thanh An. Mr. An is a young conservationist working as a field biologist at the Center for Nature Conservation and Development (CCD). Before working for CCD Mr. An was project assistant and volunteer coordinator at the Vietnam Endangered Primate Rescue Center. Mr. An has good fieldwork and experience in study design, especially on species population monitoring and PHVA study. As a team member, Mr. An will work with team leader and other members to plan and implement the field survey and implement community and raising local community awareness.

10. Any other comments?



Platysternon megacephalum.