

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Vu Van Thai
Project Title	Survey and assessment of the current status of Southern white-cheeked gibbon (<i>Nomascus siki</i>) in Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park, Quang Binh province
Application ID	34311-1
Date of this Report	17/06/2023

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
To implement a survey and assess the current status aim to ensure the survival and recovery of the critically endangered Southern white-cheeked gibbon (<i>Nomascus siki</i>) in Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The team was surveyed and investigated at six routes in proportion to six locations. - Total listening points: 18. - Total population of gibbons discovered: 31 groups.
To assess the conservation status of <i>Nomascus siki</i> and threats to the biodiversity of the study sites				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The results of interviews with people in the buffer zone show that there is still illegal hunting of forest animals in general, including <i>Nomascus siki</i>. Most of the hunters were people from elsewhere, not locals. - Human activities such as agricultural production, illegal logging in the forest / illegal deforestation impacts the habitat of <i>Nomascus siki</i>. They often have to move a lot to other safe places to live and feed.
To improve capacity building of the staff and raise awareness of local communities on the conservation of gibbon general and <i>Nomascus siki</i> in particular				<p>A capacity-building training course for staff and local people in gibbon conservation, in general, was organised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three training classes were held in Tan Trach commune, Bo Trach district. - 90 local people were trained in capacity building on conservation; of which 29 were female (accounting for 48%, 80% ethnic minorities). - Nine national park staff from the science - technology departments and ranger stations have improved their capacity in the process of participating in survey and training activities.

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

- a). A total of 31 groups of *Nomascus siki* have been identified in distinct locations within Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park, separate from those surveyed in previous studies.
- b). The project facilitated a capacity-building training course in gibbon conservation at the buffer zone of Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park. This course saw the participation of nine forest rangers and 90 locals, with women representing 48% of the attendees, and a significant majority of over 80% being from ethnic minorities.
- c). Through interviews with local people, the project has assessed the threat from human activities affecting the habitat and life of animals in general and for *Nomascus siki* in particular. Thereby giving recommendations on the need to regularly conduct surveys, and monitor the development, distribution, and threats to the species to take measures to preserve and develop the *Nomascus siki*. Further strengthen the role of buffer zone communities in conservation through models of community participation in coordination with the national park in patrolling, forest protection, and biodiversity conservation.

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

The terrain in Phong Nha - Ke Bang area is very complicated and difficult to access, so the deployment in the field faces many difficulties. In addition, in 2021 and early 2022, the field deployment activities faced many difficulties due to the complicated situation of the Covid-19 epidemic. However, the team still tries to carry out the investigation by dividing it into 2 investigations and choosing the right time to organise training for people without getting caught up in the Covid-19 epidemic issues.

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

Local people have been involved in the field investigation and survey process. During that process, the local people were informed by the staff on how to preserve the habitat of the gibbons. In addition, local people are also informed that hunting animals in general and *Nomascus siki* in particular in any form is illegal.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Because of the limited time to carry out the survey, the survey has only been carried out in a small area in the national park. To comprehensively assess the status of *Nomascus siki* species in Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park, a long-term plan is needed. Especially after the investigation and survey, it is necessary to systematically monitor and monitor species for effective species conservation. Therefore, we plan to continue with large-scale investigative action on *Nomascus siki*, raise awareness among local people, and build the capacity of grassroots staff on species

conservation and monitoring. In addition, we also aim to use specialised equipment in species monitoring to improve conservation efficiency.

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

We share the study results of the workshop about primate conservation, on the website of the national park.

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

Continue to research, investigate and monitor the status of species and populations of *Nomascus siki* to have long-term conservation plans for the species. The participation of local people in the monitoring and conservation of *Nomascus siki* is extremely important.

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?

All materials produced and banners in seminars, workshops, and training use the logo of The Rufford Foundation.

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

Vu Van Thai - Team leader: - Mr. Thai is interested in research, conservation education, and community development. He has trained in the conservation of the *Pygathrix nemaeus* species in Quang Tri province and in the conservation of the Crested argus species in Thua Thien Hue province. Currently, he is working as a collaborator in research and conservation communication for the Center for Highland Natural Resource Governance Research (CEGORN).

Ha Van Ngoan – Team member. Mr. Ngoan is a Thai ethnic minority from Thanh Hoa province. He holds a master's degree in biodiversity conservation. He has eight years of experience in zoology study and monitoring. Currently, he is a collaborator as a researcher at the Wildlife Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Management Faculty.

Nguyen Huyen Thuong – Team member. Ms. Thuong is interested in researching reptiles and primates. She also participated in many primate conservation projects or programs. Currently, she is working as a collaborator in research and conservation communication for Institute for Tropical Biodiversity and Forestry (IBF).

Le Phuong Nam – Forest ranger - National Park staff. Mr. Nam is interested in biodiversity conservation. He often participates in forest investigation and surveys to develop a biodiversity conservation plan in Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park.

Ha Thi Hien – Forest ranger. Ms. Hien is a very interested person in conservation education and research activities in the buffer zone of the National Park. Every year, she organizes training courses and propagates to raise awareness for communities in

the buffer zone about forest protection and development, biodiversity conservation in villages and schools in the buffer zone of National Park.

In addition, because the investigation area is quite large, the terrain is difficult and complicated, the group needed the support of members from the forest rangers for the investigation to be highly effective.

10. Any other comments?

We really look forward to working with you on future potential projects.

I would like to share some photos during the project implementation.



Training course for local people on capacity building on *Nomascus siki* conservation.



Habitat of *Nomascus siki* in natural forest.



Habitat of *Nomascus siki* near the village of local people.



Training for locals in buffer zone Phong Nha Ke Bang NP.

