

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Nguyen Thi Hoa
Project Title	Local community-based conservation of critically endangered gibbon (<i>Nomascus leucogenys</i>) in Vu Quang NP, Vietnam
Application ID	35059-1
Date of this Report	01 August 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
Assess the level of awareness and attitude on the gibbon of local communities at buffer zone of Vu Quang National Park (NP)				<p>Our interviews involved a total of 229 respondents living in 24 villages belonged to seven buffer zone communes in Vu Quang NP.</p> <p>After discussing with Vu Quang NP Management Board, we decided to conduct interview in seven communes instead of 13 as in proposal. The reasons of this change are: (1) two communes were combined in to one (Son Tho and Huong Dien were combined into Tho Dien); (2) Some communes like Phuong My, Phuong Dien, Phu Gia, Huong Binh are far from forest, thus the residents have no effect on forest; and (3) Huong Quang commune have no residents any more as the result of migration. Therefore, the interviewed communes were Son Kim, Son Tay, Tho Dien, Vu Quang, Huong Minh, Huong Tho and Hoa Hai.</p>
Assess the knowledge and skills on gibbon monitoring of Vu Quang NP's Forest rangers				We interviewed 31 staff at eight ranger stations and NPs departments (Science and Technology; Environment Education Departments) in order to assess their knowledge and skills on gibbon and gibbon monitoring.
Implement conservation activities and education programme for local communities at buffer zone of Vu Quang NP				<p>To achieve this objective, we organised the meetings for raising awareness and attitude of local people in seven communities of seven communes.</p> <p>We also organised the education programmes for seven primary schools in seven targeted communes.</p>
Implement trainings and technical support to design gibbon surveys for Vu Quang NP's Forest rangers				In this objective, we conducted one training program on gibbon monitoring for Vu Quang NP staffs (1 day in room and 3 days in the field). The contents of the training course were introduction of gibbon in Vietnam and northern white cheeked gibbon in Vu Quang NP and

			methods to survey and monitor gibbon in field.
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2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

The three most important outcomes of our project are:

a). The knowledge and awareness level of local community toward Northern white chequed gibbon (*Nomascus leucogenys*) (NWCG)

Our community interviews were involved by 229 local residents in seven communes (Fig.1).

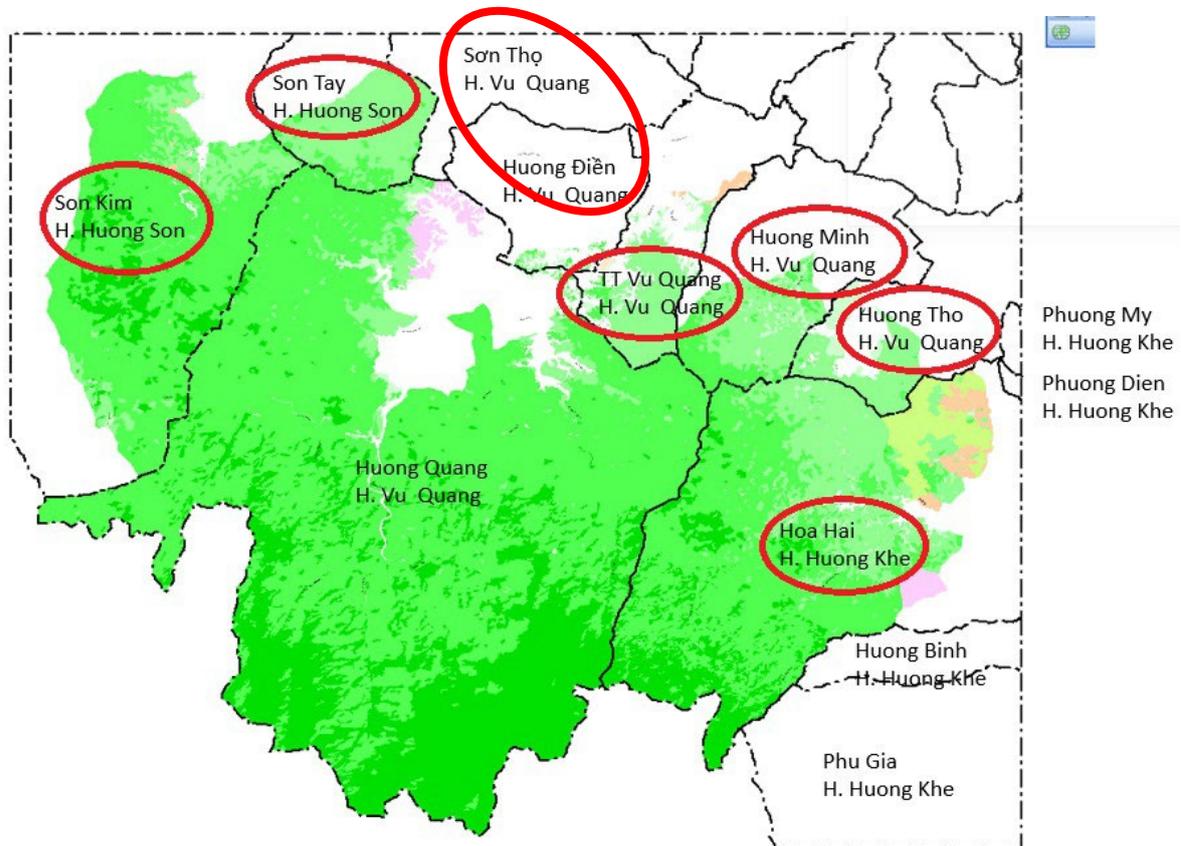


Figure 1. Project site

We tried to diverse interview objectives and the variation in respondent age, gender, ethnic and income are shown in the table below:

Table 1. General information of respondents

Commune			Age		
Commune	Frequency	Percent	Age group	Frequency	Percent
Huong Tho	39	17	<20	2	0.9
Son Tay	32	14	21-30	13	5.7
Vu Quang	31	13.5	31-40	56	24.5
Huong	31	13.5	41-50	50	21.8

Minh					
Tho Dien	33	14.4	51-60	46	20.1
Hoa Hai	32	14	>60	62	27.1
Son Kim	31	13.5			
Total	229	100	Total	229	100
Gender			Ethnic		
Gender	Frequency	Percent	Ethnic	Frequency	Percent
Male	156	68.1	Kinh	224	97.8
Female	73	31.9	Lao	4	1.7
			Other	1	0.4
Total	229	100	Total	229	100
Total family income/month			Highest income/person/moth		
Total income	Frequency	Percent	Income/pers/m	Frequency	Percent
< 1 million	1	0.4	<1 million /person	72	31.4
1-2 million	2	0.9	>1million/person	156	68.1
2-5 million	88	38.4	No answer	1	0.4
>5 millions	137	59.8			
No answer	1	0.4			
Total	229	100	Total	229	100

Among 229 respondents, 112 realised NWCG and knew exact its Vietnamese name through supported photos and videos, 70 realised but did not know the name, and the remainder had no idea about NWCG (Table 2).

With 182 respondents who knew NWCG, we continued to ask the questions that were related to the gibbon morphology, ecology, distribution and population status in order to assess their knowledge and attitude on gibbon status.

Table 2: NWCG recognition ability of local people in Vu Quang NP

Answers	Frequency	Percent
Yes	112	48.9
No	47	20.5
Yes, but do not know exact name	70	30.6
Total	229	100.0

The results showed that 96/182 (53%) respondents knew clearly about NWCG (Fig. 2).

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF LOCAL PEOPLE ON NWCG

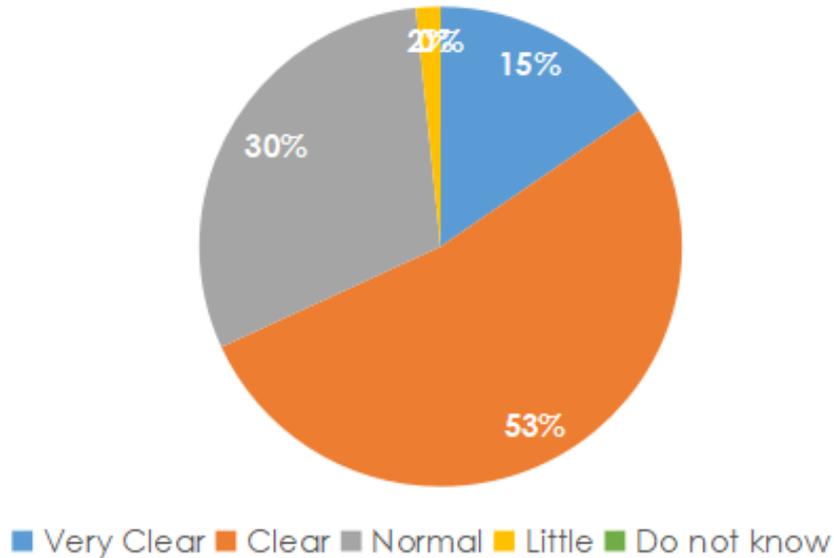


Figure 2. Knowledge level of local people on NWCG status in Vu Quang NP

Almost all respondents did not know the current status of gibbon population. There were 45% of 182 respondents believed that NWCG was extinct, the others did not know the number of gibbon individuals/groups left in Vu Quang NP. It reinforced the need to update the latest information on NWCG for local communities.

We also designed interview questions focusing on the knowledge of local people toward gibbon threats including name of main threats and the effect levels to gibbon; hunting methods (using gun, trap or chasing); the purpose of hunting (food, trading, or pet). From the interviews and analysis results, the knowledge of almost local people is ranked at normal level (Fig. 3).

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF LOCAL PEOPLE ON NWCG'S THREATS

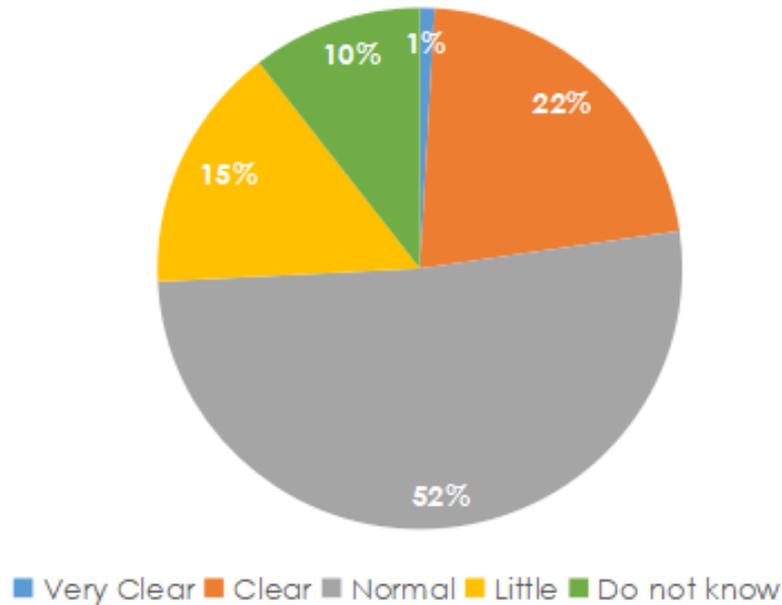


Figure 3. Knowledge level of local people on NWCG's threats in Vu Quang NP

Lastly, we assessed the awareness on gibbon and other wildlife conservation as well. A list of questions was used to extract the concern of local residents on the conservation activities including gibbon information sources; protection laws; protection solutions and the willing to participate in conservation activities in future.

NWCG'S INFORMATION SOURCES

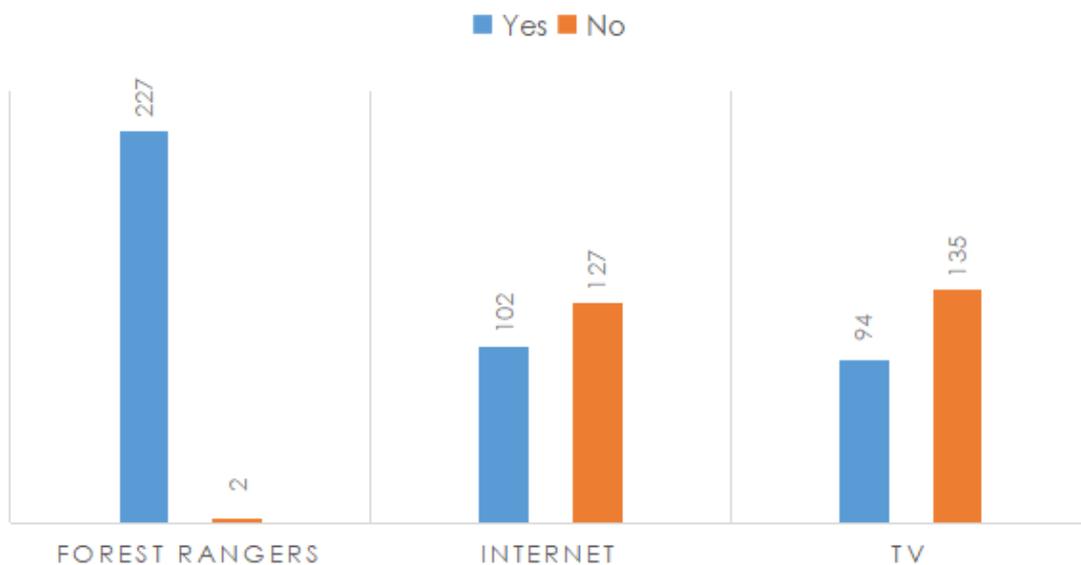


Figure 4. NWCG's information sources

Most of respondents answered that they access information about gibbons and other wildlife through forest rangers (Fig. 4). That proved the remarkable efforts of the Vu Quang NP staffs.

Analysis results showed that the majority respondents had clear and normal knowledge level on gibbon conservation (Fig. 5).

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF LOCAL PEOPLE ON NWCG CONSERVATION

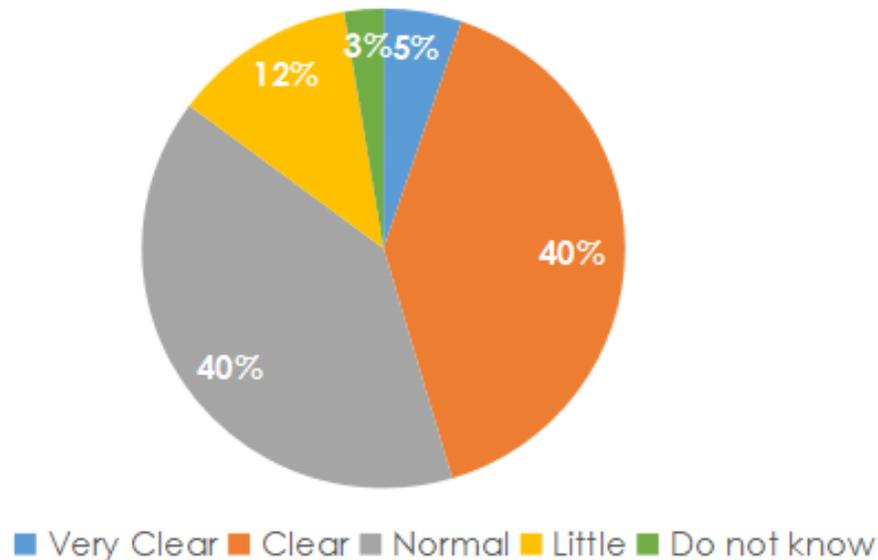
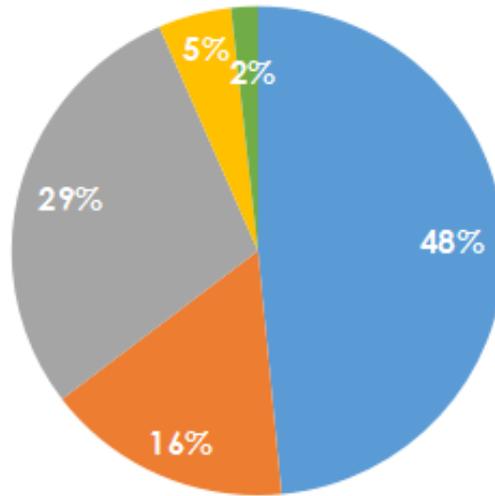


Figure 5. Knowledge level of local people on NWCG conservation in Vu Quang NP

In general, communities in Vu Quang NP had basic knowledge about gibbons, their threats and conservation status, but only in a limited extent. The good signals were that almost respondents showed their willingness to participate conservation activities in future if they have chance (Fig. 6).

From the interview data, we also made the comparisons on the knowledge level among respondent characteristics, and we found that local people’s knowledge level was different in each commune, age group and average income. The charts below are the examples of the variations in respondents’ knowledge among seven communes.

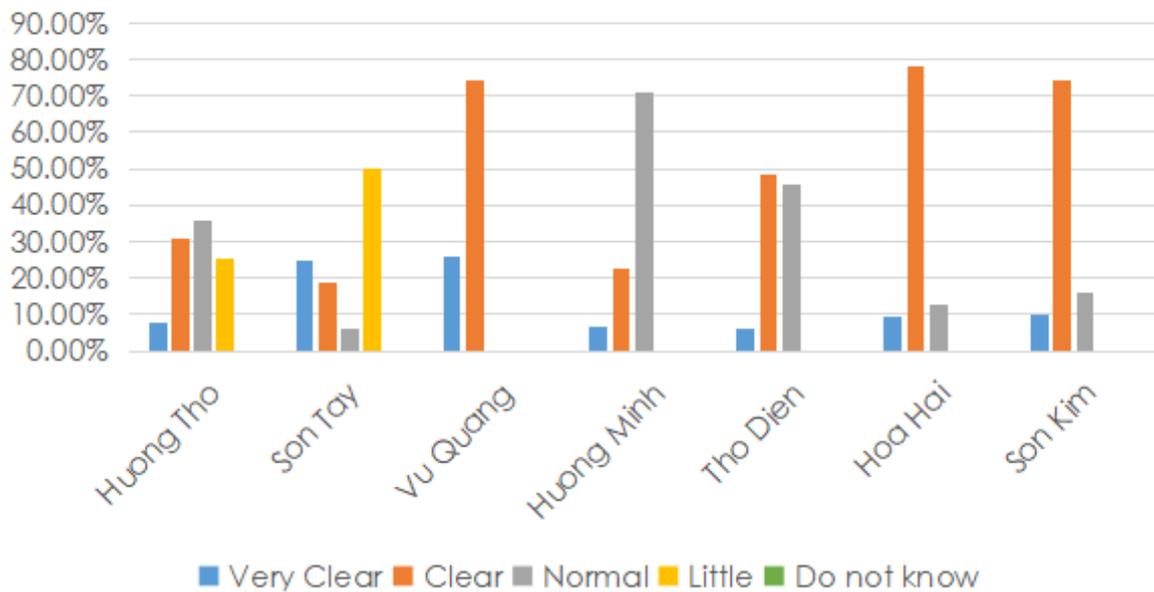
THE RESIDENTS' WILLING LEVEL TO PARTICIPATE IN GIBBON CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES



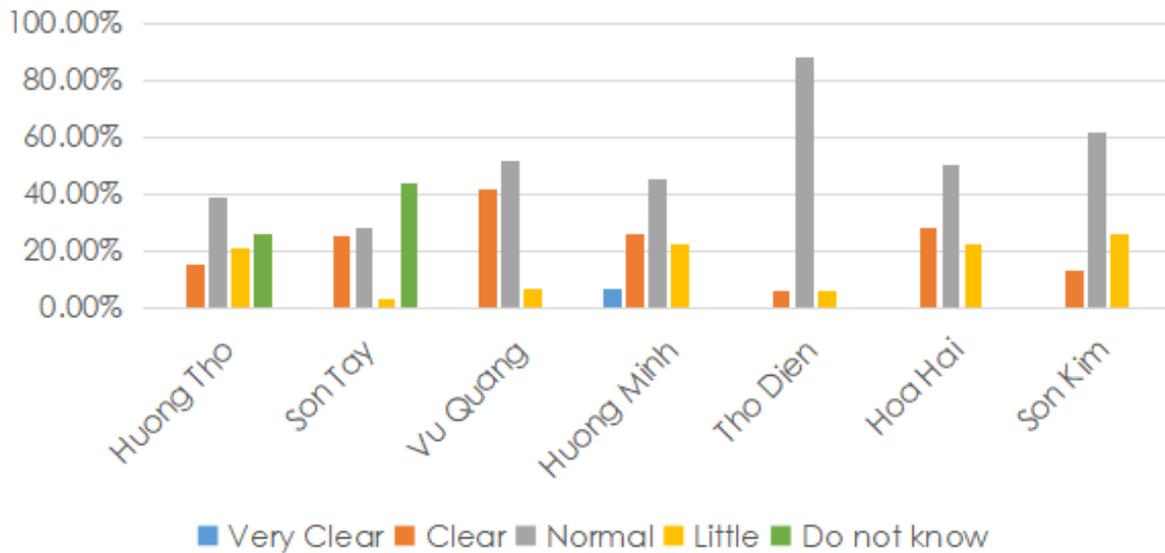
■ Very willing ■ Willing ■ Normal ■ Little ■ Do not want

Figure 6. The residents' willingness level to participate in gibbon conservation activities

Variation of local communities knowledge on NWCG status among communes



Variation of local communities knowledge on NWCG's threats among communes



Variation of local communities knowledge on NWCG conservation activities among communes

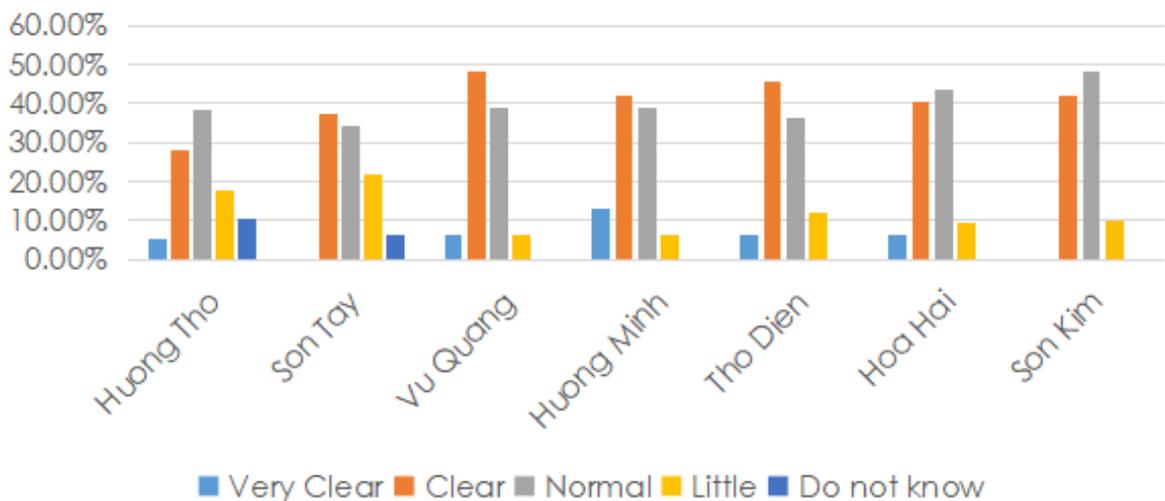


Figure 7-9. The different of knowledge level among communes

The charts indicate that there were the differences in knowledge level of local people among communes in each issue. These differences could be explained by the distance of each interviewed commune to the forest which lead to the variation in the interaction with natural resources. This result directed us in designing and implementing the conservation activities, such as emphasising information on gibbon status and threats in Son Tay, Tho Dien, Huong Minh commune or conservation activities in all communes.

The analysis results also pointed the variation among age groups. With the rich life experience and long time in interact with the forest, the respondents in group age above 40 were more knowledgeable. They could answer exactly NWCG's Vietnamese name, gibbon morphology, ecology traits and their threats.

The knowledge levels also changed in different income levels. Fig. 10 presents that the respondents who have average income above 2 million (VND) are more knowledgeable than others. It might be explained that the higher income could bring more opportunities to approach update information through TV or internet.

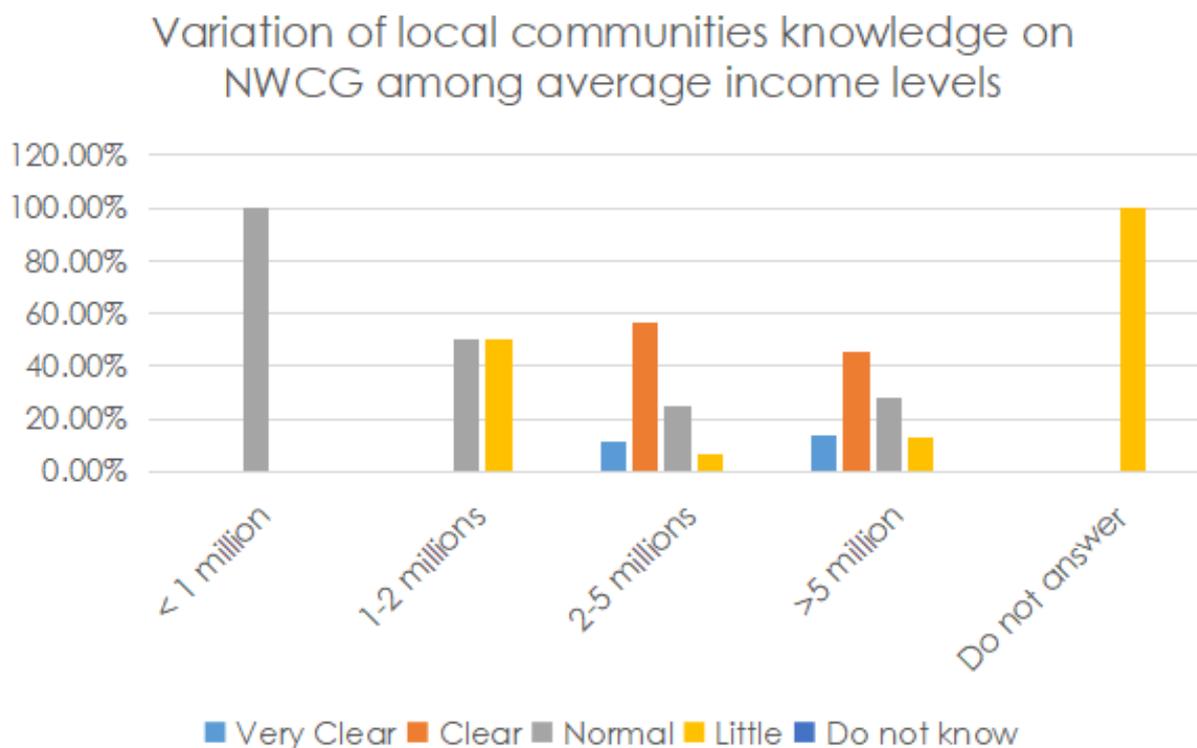


Figure 10. The different of knowledge level among income levels

There was no significant difference in the perception ratio of gibbon between males and females (Fig. 11).

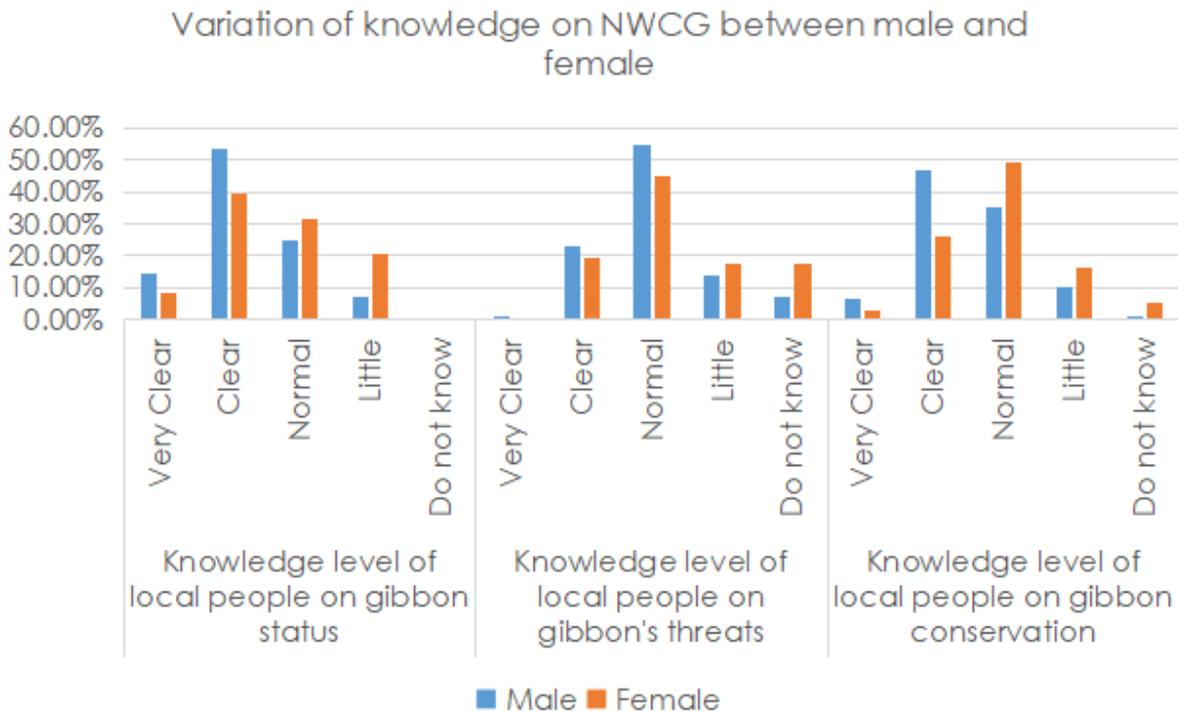


Figure 11. Variation of knowledge on NWCG between males and females

b). The knowledge of forest ranger toward NWCG

In order to assess the knowledge on gibbon and gibbon monitoring ability of Vu Quang NP staff, we conducted the interview with 31 staff members and forest rangers in eight ranger stations and Vu Quang NP departments.

The interview question focused on four categories including: NWCG status (same with community); methods to monitor gibbon; threats (same with community) and activities to conserve gibbon (same with community).

The interview results indicated that almost staff were clearly knowing the main threats to gibbon, conservation activities and solutions. However, their knowledge and skills on monitoring were still limited. Most of the staffs were only engaged in forest patrols in general, not specific monitoring for gibbon species. Therefore, they had no experience on suitable and effective methods to survey and monitor NWCG. It reflects the necessary to strengthen knowledge and capacity on gibbon and monitor activities for staffs, especially forest rangers.

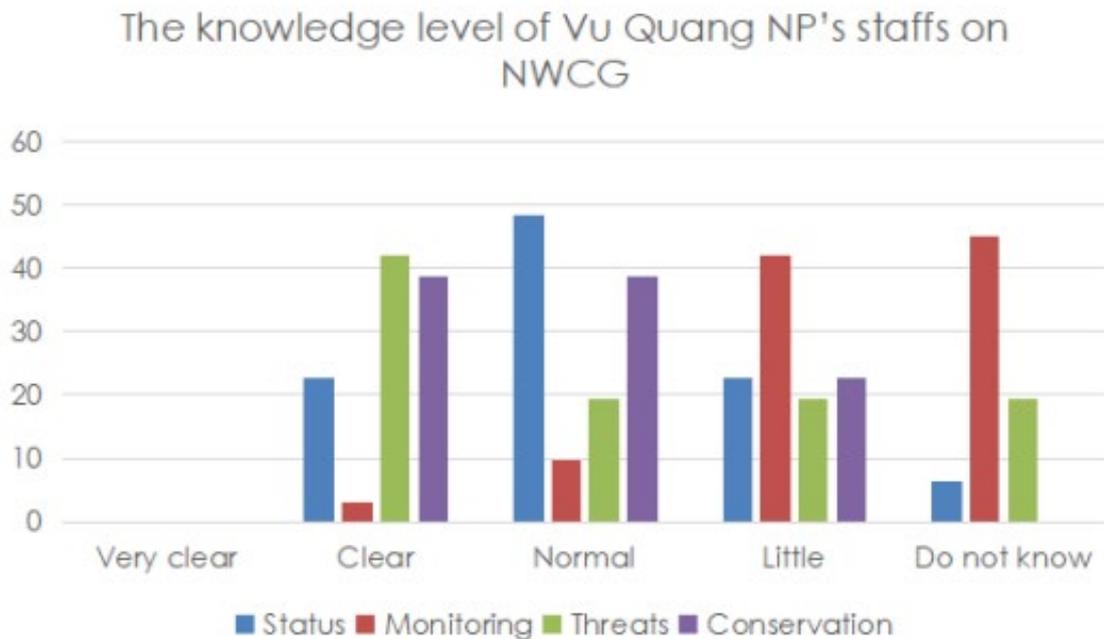


Figure 12. The knowledge level of Vu Quang NP's staffs on NWCG

c). Conservation activities

From the interview results and the suggestion of Vu Quang NP's Management Board, we designed and implemented the conservation activities including local community meetings, school education programme and staff training.

We conducted community meetings in seven communes where interview activities had been taken. Each meeting was involved by representatives of Vu Quang NP Management Board, local authority and 50-60 local residents. The contents of meetings were introduction of gibbon information such as morphology, sound, ecology, population distribution and status, and law enforcement. We also consulted with local people and authorities on wildlife conservation solutions.

At school level, we implemented education programmes in the primary schools (3-5 grade) of each commune. The contents of programme included simple, easy to understand information on NWCG. Games were also organised to keep students excited and receptive to the conveyed information. The programmes were received the kindly support of school management boards and teachers, as well the excitement of all students.

We also provided mini tests with 10 multiple-choice questions before and after meeting and education programmes. All participants showed the improvement in knowledge, as well awareness toward NWCG conservation.

Moreover, we trained for 15 staff on gibbon conservation. The training course lasted for 4 days with the aims were strengthened the knowledge and monitoring skills of staffs on NWCG. Beside of traditional methods, we specially focused on using

bioacoustics method for surveying and monitoring gibbon. Participants were introduced and practiced in field with this new and effective method.

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

During our project implementation, the biggest difficulty was Covid-19. Under this unpredicted pandemic, we had to delay the interview schedule for 3 months. In the lockdown context, the registration and obtaining permission from the local authority for the interview activity were more complicated, we were even quarantined for 7 days. Because of the obsession with Covid-19, it became more difficult to reach local people for interviewing. Therefore, although the number of communes were reduced from 13 to 7, we still had to spend 28 days for the interview activity.

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

Because our project is geared towards the local communities, therefore local community involvement is at the heart of this project. The residents who live in Vu Quang NP area were involved in the interview and conservation activities. By the conservation activities, we tried to raise the knowledge and awareness of local communities toward forest nature resources conservation, especially northern white cheeked gibbon. For the northern white cheeked gibbon conservation content, we provided information of gibbon identification, biology, ecology, threats and protection laws.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we are. We are planning to investigate deeply the population status, distribution of NWCG in Vu Quang NP to update the newest information of this species.

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

We shared our collected data, analysis results with Vu Quang NP Management Board. It is considered as background information for community conservation and training courses in the future. Now, we are also preparing a manuscript to publish our results in a scientific journal.

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

After interview process, we realized that the knowledge on gibbon and ability to survey and monitor gibbon of Vu Quang NP's staffs, especially forest rangers are quite low. Our project was limited in time for the training activities. So, our idea is enhancing the knowledge and capacity on gibbon conservation for forest rangers should be the most important next step.

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, we did. We put the Rufford Foundation logo on t-shirts, face masks, all PowerPoint presentation and posters. We also published and introduced the opportunity to receive the grant funding for conservation from the Rufford Small Grant to the staff of Vu Quang NP.

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

Our team includes:

Ms. Nguyen Thi Hoa (Principal investigator): She directly took part in all activities of the project including: planning, contacting with Vu Quang NP Management Board and other authorities, designing questionnaires sets, interview, data analysis, and conservation activities and writing report.

Mr. Tran Van Dung (team member): He was a key member to support investigator in conducting field survey, conservation education programme and gibbon survey training.

Mr. Giang Trong Toan (team member): He conducted interview survey and conservation activities for local communities

Mr. Bui Thanh Tung (team member): He participated in interview and conservation activities for local communities.

Vietnam National University of Forestry students: They participated in interview and conservation activities as volunteers with the aim are earning knowledge and experience.

10. Any other comments?

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, our project process was slower than expected.

Appendix

We would like to share some pictures taken during the project:



Left: The cover page of presentation PowerPoints which were used in local communities, schools and staff meetings. Right: The T-shirt and facemask which were used in conservation activities.



The posters which were used in conservation activities.



BẢO TỒN LOÀI VƯỜN ĐEN MÁ TRẮNG (*Nomascus leucogenys*) DỰA VÀO CỘNG ĐỒNG ĐỊA PHƯƠNG TẠI VQG VŨ QUANG



Vườn đen má trắng là loài linh trưởng được bảo vệ bởi Pháp luật Việt Nam

❖ Đặc điểm nhận dạng:

- Con đực trưởng thành có màu đen tuyền, hai má có đám lông trắng từ gần mép tới vành tai.
- Con cái trưởng thành có màu vàng và đốm đen trên đỉnh đầu.
- Con non màu vàng nhạt.



❖ Sinh thái, tập tính:

- Sống ở các khu rừng nguyên sinh, ít bị tác động.
- Thức ăn: chủ yếu là thực vật (lá, chồi non, quả) côn trùng.
- Thường hét to vào buổi sáng sớm.



❖ Tình trạng bảo tồn

Sách đỏ IUCN: Cực kỳ nguy cấp (CR)
Sách đỏ Việt Nam (2007): Nguy cấp (EN)



❖ Phân bố:

- Thế giới: Việt Nam, Lào
- Việt Nam: từ phía Tây Nam sông Đà (tỉnh Điện Biên) đến phía Bắc sông Rào Nay (tỉnh Hà Tĩnh).
- VQG Vũ Quang là nơi sinh sống của một trong các quần thể Vườn lớn nhất tại Việt Nam.

BẢN ĐỒ ĐIỂM PHÂN BỐ VƯỜN TẠI VQG VŨ QUANG





@Trần Văn Dũng

❖ Hiện trạng: Quần thể Vườn đen má trắng đang bị suy giảm mạnh do săn bắn trái phép và mất sinh cảnh sống. Vườn đen má trắng là loài linh trưởng được bảo vệ bởi Pháp luật Việt Nam



The leaflet which was used in conservation activities.



Local communities interviewing.



Forest rangers interviewing.



Vu Quang NP's staffs and Forest rangers were giving information and comment in community meetings.



Project's members were presenting on gibbon conservation in community meetings.





Giving T-shirt for local people.





Some other pictures taken in community meetings.







Conservation activities in primary schools.



Project members present in education training programs on gibbon monitoring for Vu Quang NP's staff.



Discuss with Vu Quang NP's Management Board.