

Final Evaluation Report

We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF format**. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please DO NOT fill in and submit this form until the project has been completed.

Complete the form in English. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to jane@rufford.org.

Your Details	
Full Name	Pham Thi Hoa
Project Title	Discovering forest musk deer populations from the karst mountains in northern Vietnam
Application ID	44348-1
Date of this Report	7 th August 2025

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
Assessing the population status of forest musk deer in the northern Vietnam.				<p>The project installed 13 camera traps at 8 station with 1110 camera trap nights (1 camera trap was missing) in Kim Hy NR (Bac Kan province) from October 2024 to January 2025. We also installed 12 camera traps in 6 stations, with 917 camera trap nights (3 camera traps were missing) in Than Sa – Phuong Hoang NR (Thai Nguyen province) from February – to May 2025.</p> <p>The project confirmed two new populations of forest musk deer in Bac Kan (seven captureed events) and Thai Nguyen provinces (2 captured events), in addition to another population previously confirmed in Lang Son (Huu Lien Nature Reserve). However, the population of musk deer in northern Vietnam has not yet been fully assessed.</p>
Identifying the main threats to the forest musk deer population and its habitat in northern Vietnam.				<p>Through interviews with 190 local people across Lang Son, Cao Bang, Bac Kan, Thai Nguyen, Tuyen Quang provinces, 73 reported know the existence of musk deer, 21 people demonstrated very detailed knowledge, 9 hunters were able to guide the team to locate musk</p>

				deer latrine sites. We identified two main threats to the forest musk deer in northern Vietnam: hunting and habitat destruction.
Proposing a conservation action plan for the forest musk deer in northern Vietnam.				<p>We proposed a conservation action plan for the forest musk deer in the two newly confirmed populations in Bac Kan and Thai Nguyen provinces to Kim Hy and Than Sa – Phuong Hoang NR. The plan focuses on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening law enforcement and anti-poaching patrols. 2. Engaging local communities in conservation and awareness programs. 3. Establishing long-term ecological monitoring of musk deer using camera traps and DNA surveys. 4. Collaborating with provincial authorities to integrate musk deer protection into biodiversity action plans.

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

a) The project confirmed the existence of a new population in Kim Hy Nature Reserve, Bac Kan Province.

Our camera traps recorded the presence of a male forest musk deer in Kim Hy Nature Reserve on seven occasions: 26/10/2024, 13/11/2024, 24/11/2024, 8/12/2024 and 13/12/2024; and a female on 28/12/2024 and 10/01/2025. This new population is located about 100 km northwest of the most recent known record of the musk deer in Huu Lien Nature Reserve.



A male forest musk deer was detected in Kim Hy NR on 24/11/2024



A female forest musk deer was detected in Kim Hy NR on 10/01/2025

b) We also detected a second new population of forest musk deer in Than Sa – Phuong Hoang Nature Reserve, Thai Nguyen Province.

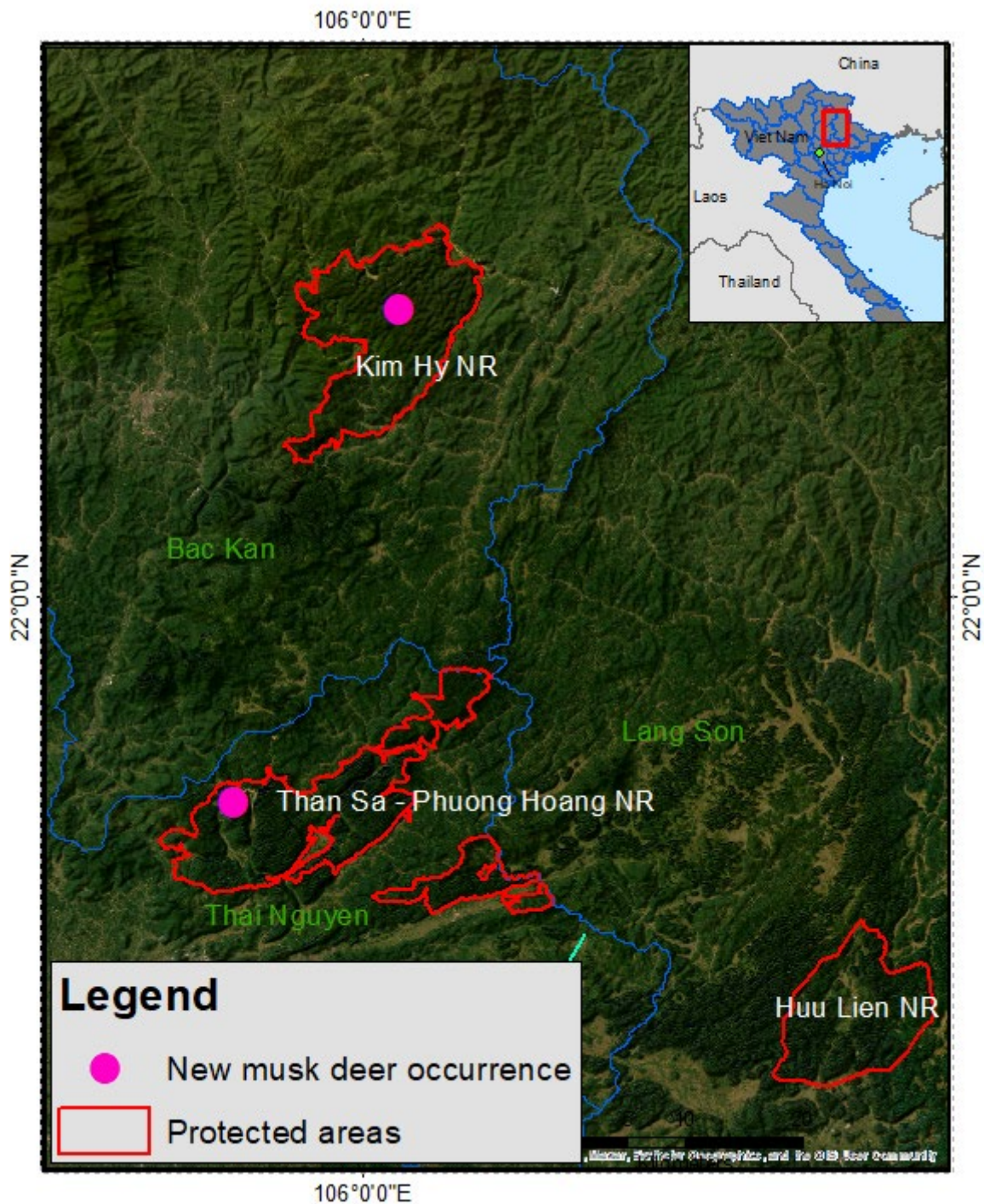
Our camera traps recorded two detections of a female forest musk deer in Than Sa – Phuong Hoang Nature Reserve on 31/01/2025 and 16/02/2025. This location is approximately 50 km northwest of the Huu Lien Nature Reserve population and 40 km south of the Kim Hy Nature Reserve population.



A female of forest musk deer was detected in Than Sa – Phuong Hoang NR, Thai Nguyen province on 31/1/2025



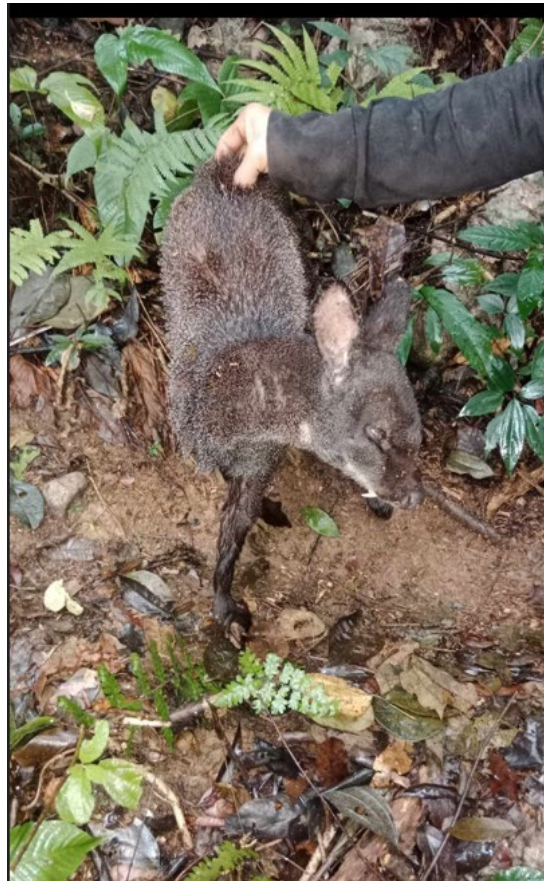
A latrine site of forest musk deer in Than Sa – Phuong Hoang NR, Thai Nguyen province.



The map of new occurrence of musk deer in Kim Hy NR and Than Sa – Phuong Hoang NR, northern Vietnam

c) **The main threats to forest musk deer**

During our interviews and field surveys, we identified illegal hunting as the main threat to forest musk deer in northern Vietnam, followed by habitat destruction. In particular, several local villagers confirmed that some individuals of forest musk deer were hunted in 2024. Additionally, illegal logging was recorded in several locations near the areas where the presence of forest musk deer was confirmed in Bac Kan and Thai Nguyen provinces.



A male forest musk deer was hunted in Thai Nguyen province in 2024 (the photo was provided by local people)



Several discarded metal animal traps were detected in the forest.



Illegal logging

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

The project has been implemented in alignment with the proposed plan.

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

Our project included two main activities: interviewing local communities and setting up camera traps to confirm the presence of forest musk deer. For the interview activity, our team received support from local people who guided us to 190 households, where we interviewed residents—especially community leaders—about the population status of forest musk deer in Thai Nguyen, Lang Son, Bac Kan, and Cao Bang provinces. During the camera trap setup, we received support from 23 nature reserve staff and local guides. We provided training for the local guides on how to use camera traps and GPS, both in the classroom and in the field. After training, 12 participants directly joined and support for our field work.



Training on setting up camera traps for the staff of Phia Oac – Phia Den National Park.



Staff of Kim Hy Nature Reserve used camera traps during the survey of forest musk deer.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we will continue the work by focusing on assessing the population status of the two newly confirmed populations of forest musk deer in Kim Hy and Than Sa – Phuong Hoang Nature Reserves. We also plan to implement several programs to raise awareness among local communities about protecting this threatened species.

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

Our results have been shared with Kim Hy and Than Sa – Phuong Hoang Nature Reserves, where two new populations of forest musk deer were confirmed. We also plan to write a short communication to publish in a scientific journal about these new findings.

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

Hunting is the most severe threat to forest musk deer in northern Vietnam. Therefore, a program to cooperate with Kim Hy and Than Sa – Phuong Hoang Nature Reserves to conduct monitoring and raise local community awareness is both necessary and urgent.

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 have used The Rufford Foundation logo in our project. We also introduced the Rufford Small Grant and explained how to apply for it to the staff of protected areas.

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

Pham Thi Hoa (Principal Investigator): Responsible for all project activities, including planning, liaising with local authorities, conducting interviews, field surveys, data analysis, and report writing.

Mr. Phan Viet Dai (Team Member): Participated in the project as a technical member, involved in all field surveys.

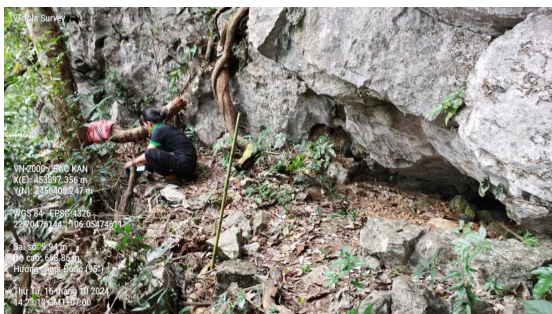
Ms. Pham Thi Nhung: Supported the project by participating in interviews and field surveys.

Mrs. Be Thi Cuc: Supported the project as a local coordinator in Phia Oac – Phia Den Nature Reserve. She also took part in the interview activities.

Dr. Tran Van Dung: Supported the project as a supervisor.

10. Any other comments?

We would like to thank the Rufford Foundation for providing funding for this project. Below are some additional photos from our work



Setting up camera traps



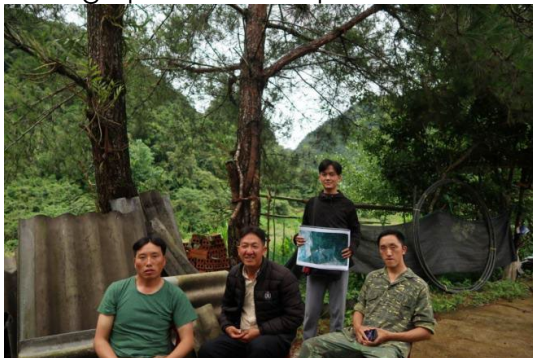
Checking latrine sites to set up camera trap



Setting up camera trap



Latrine site of forest musk deer



Interviewing local people



Interviewing local people

ANNEX – Financial Report

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