



2020 STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR SAOLA CONSERVATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Saola Working Group's (SWG) Strategy and Action Plan for 2020 is a plan of work of the SWG and partners to progress conservation of Saola over the next 12 months. The purpose of this document is to spotlight our highest priority actions. In so doing, we are committing to focus our efforts on these activities and to report on progress in their delivery through the year.

The Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) is one of the most threatened large mammals in the world and is listed on the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered. Current best estimates are that fewer than 100 survive in the wild in Vietnam and Lao PDR, and none are held in captivity. The Saola Working Group has been working since 2006 to preserve this globally important species. The SWG's mission is to work *'collaboratively to conserve Saola in nature, and to leverage Saola as a flagship for conservation of the bio-cultural diversity of the Annamite Mountains as a whole'*.

The Saola Working Group has embraced the One Plan Approach to species conservation, a directive of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which recognizes that for effective conservation of a highly endangered species like the Saola, captive breeding and protection in the wild must be combined into one coordinated program.

The Saola Working Group is in a phase of transition, with a newly formed Governance Body and undergoing adaptive revision of our long-term strategy. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to produce a one-year plan for 2020, during which time a workshop(s) will be held to assist in the development of a multi-year plan, including input from a wide variety of supporters/ potential partners.

This Strategy and Action Plan focuses on a number of priority actions for the year. One of the highest priorities is the continuation targeted Saola detection work and this will use new methods not previously attempted. Another priority is the development of capacity for the capture of Saola. While an additional priority is ensuring the Captive Breeding Centre is functional. The final of these is securing permissions in both Lao PDR and Vietnam for the new and evolving activities. This preparatory work will put us in a strong position to go on to capture Saola.



Conserving the Saola needs all partners to work together to achieve success. We are grateful to the past and future hard work that many organisations and individuals are conducting to protect Saola. We are especially appreciative of the Governments of Vietnam and Lao PDR for their support in conserving Saola and collaboration in our efforts.

This Strategy was produced through a discussion process led by the SWG Director of Operations, Olivia Petre, and facilitated by Jamie Copsey of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group. The first draft was produced by a small group of members of the SWG that act as Task Team Leaders and technical expert consultants (Dr Nicholas Wilkinson, Andrew Tilker, Terry Hornsey, Jeff Holland, Rob Timmins and Dr Lorraine Scotson). This draft was then subject to review and comment by the SWG Governance Body and the wider SWG membership. This annual strategy was developed at a scale that is estimated to be realistic and achievable within the year, based on resources likely to be available. As such, it should not be construed to be sufficient to save the Saola, and larger scale efforts and budget are required to save Saola in the longer-term.

RATIONALE

Saola has not been detected in the wild since it was captured on a camera trap in 2013. This is even considering significant efforts by many organisations to detect the species. This challenging task of detecting and capturing Saola means that an effectively planned Strategy and Action Plan is essential. This is the rationale for producing this document. This plan will allow for effective coordination of activities, from SWG and partners, as well as reporting on progress to all stakeholders. SWG recognizes the importance of building trust with supporters by clearly outlining the measurable steps we will take to make significant progress in the year ahead.

The status of knowledge about Saola (Timmins, R.J., Hedges, S. & Robichaud, W. 2016. *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2016; Phommachanh, C., Ngoprasert, D., Steinmetz, R., Savini, T., Gale, G.A. 2017. "Habitat Use of the Saola *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis* (Mammalia; Bovidae) Based on Local Sightings in the Northern Annamite Mountains of Lao PDR." *Tropical Conservation Science*, 10:1-15), and the difficulty to increase this knowledge has been the basis for developing this strategy. This means that the prioritization of methods and locations for detecting Saola are done with a lack of data. Also, one of the main objectives is to increase the data available by scaling up work with partners and applying new methods that are likely to increase chances of success. New methodologies may also bring new risks, which will be assessed and mitigated as appropriate.

Both Lao PDR and Vietnam offer unique advantages and strengths for Saola conservation. Work in both countries will pave the way for future transboundary movement of animals and protection of habitat. SWG will collaborate with partners in both countries, maintaining current relationships and developing new ones, to expand the breadth of work possible to maximise efforts to protect the remaining Saola. With a focus on Saola, the SWG will also work closely with representatives of other species group, such as the IUCN Deer Specialist Group, to coordinate capture work where possible for other Annamite endemic species and for work related to the Breeding Centre (through the Annamite Alliance).



SWG is in a new phase in which we will evolve and adapt the way we work, focusing on piloting a new detection technique and also strengthening our relationships with current partners, clearly defining the roles of each partner to work more effectively to best support Saola conservation. The group will work towards achieving all tasks needed to prepare for capture so that it will be feasible to capture in 2021, but it may be possible sooner. SWG appreciates that we may need to take more risk in order to save the Saola and this is being addressed in our strategy. Although the risks are high, we will work hard to mitigate them, ensuring that we have clear processes in place and that thorough preparation has been done, including having permissions in place in both countries. We recognise that not increasing efforts and taking more direct approaches also has risks, such as Saola being hunted out of sites.

The 2020 strategy will focus on a few key areas:

- 1. Targeted searches for wild Saola.** In order to know where to focus Saola capture, we will implement targeted detection efforts to locate remaining Saola in the wild. Methods so far have focused on camera trapping, DNA analysis of potential Saola dung samples and village interviews/ local knowledge-led activities. We have also tested the use of environmental DNA. In 2020, our detection efforts will focus on a particular approach which can be trialed with the level of funding available, further exploring the merits of hunter-led searches for Saola dung and sign. We have to trial new approaches that our experiences inform us may be more likely to successfully detect Saola. Following completion of a pilot field trial in early 2020, which is hoped will provide evidence that more extensive trials are of value, we will extend this work during the course of the year. Camera trapping efforts will be expanded in Khoun Xe Nong Ma (KXNM) Provincial Protected Area, Lao PDR, supported by a National Geographic Society grant. Camera trapping will be focused here as expert opinion rates it as the best site in Lao PDR to find Saola (Rob Timmins has said that it is the best Saola site he has surveyed in the past 10 years) and additionally we have partners carrying out complementary work in the area (law enforcement etc). Furthermore, we will continue to train and equip partners with dung collection kits, so that dung samples can be collected opportunistically for DNA analysis.
- 2. Preparing to capture Saola.** Capturing Saola requires careful preparation in order to be ready and capable to respond to a detection of a wild individual (or an incidental capture by someone else). Fast deployment of a capture team greatly increases the chances of saving the animal. Essential preparation includes training a field team in ungulate handling and veterinary protocols, training capture dogs and dog handlers, establishing transport protocols, and procuring all necessary drugs and equipment.
- 3. Building of the Breeding Centre in Vietnam.** The centre must be ready with the necessary facilities in place to provide an optimal environment for captured individuals to survive and thrive. Through an Annamites Alliance, the Centre will support a variety of endemic species. It is likely that other species will be in the Centre prior to Saola, and their capture and transport to the Centre, for example Large-antlered Muntjac, can act as a trial for Saola.
- 4. Securing Government permissions in Lao PDR and Vietnam.** In Lao PDR, completion and signing of an MoU with the Lao Government is essential to enable us to carry out detection and capture work that is necessary to save Saola. Ensuring work can continue in Lao PDR is critical to saving Saola from extinction because a) Lao PDR is assumed to hold the highest proportion of the world's remaining

population of wild Saola, based on habitat availability, habitat condition and expert opinion, b) there is already an established, high-capacity SWG field team in place (which will be lost without adequate funding), c) SWG has a strong and well-defined relationship with partners working in key areas, and d) the current Government of Lao PDR is displaying unprecedented support of conservation initiatives, and are pushing SWG to move forward quickly and submit the MoU.

In Vietnam, and MoU between the IUCN on behalf of the SWG, and the government of Vietnam was signed in late 2018. Before activities can be fully implemented, the Vietnam Government requires completion of a Project Document (PD). The Project Document will allow for full construction of the Captive Breeding Centre in Bach Ma National Park, and ensure smooth permissions for the capture and translocation of Saola to the centre (pre-PD permissions have already been secured for the initial phase of building).

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Likelihood (1-5; 5 High)	Severity (1-5)	Risk score (L x S)	Mitigation	Contingency
Lack of support of government officials to sign MoU in Laos	2	5	10	Local team member (Olay) employed 60% time to lead the process and secure meetings with relevant officials to achieve buy-in.	Delay signing to 2021
Lack of support of government officials to sign Project Document in Vietnam	4	5	20	Investigate other options to get permission to capture Saola	Delay signing until 2021
There are no Saola to house in the Breeding Centre and the Centre is empty	4	4	16	Expand the species which will be in the Centre through an Annamite Alliance.	Delay opening of the Centre
Reputational risk and trust in the SWG	1	4	4	Demonstrate progress and get permissions in place to capture Saola, ensure information sharing and have	Invest more time in building trust with donors and government.

				transparency in how decisions are made	
Significant funding is not raised to cover activities in this annual strategy	2	5	10	Activities are ordered in priority to be completed as funding becomes available, with additional 'packages' prepared for additional fundraising efforts	Delay less high priority work until funds become available
Lack of support of partners to collaborate in key sites	1	5	5	Close collaboration, regular meetings and updates and transparency with partners	Work is delayed and reduced in scale as we need to have funding and permissions independently from partners
Lack of expertise as a consequence of working with partners who are not specialists	3	2	5	Provide detailed training	Work is delayed to allow for additional training if needed

DESIRED OUTCOME

By the end of 2020, the SWG aims to have improved field detection efforts to search for wild Saola in Lao PDR and Vietnam, developed the basic field capacity necessary for Saola capture, built on in-country network of partners to facilitate smooth implementation of all field work, have the Breeding Centre in Bach Ma operational and ready to receive animals and to have secured country-level Government agreements for Saola conservation efforts in Lao PDR and Vietnam.

KEY OBJECTIVES

There are 7 key objectives for 2020:

1. Validation of local/ traditional methods for detection of Saola in Vietnam and Lao PDR by December 2020
2. Build a strong foundation for Saola capture with local stakeholders at potential capture landscapes in Lao PDR through collaboration with partner conservation projects by December 2020
3. Build capacity necessary for the capture of Saola through initial training of a capture team by December 2020
4. Breeding Centre built and ready to receive animals by December 2020
5. Lao MoU signed between IUCN, on behalf of the SWG, and the government of Lao PDR by December 2020
6. Permissions in place to capture Saola in Vietnam by December 2020
7. Multi-year strategic plan developed and finalised by December 2020

ACTIONS

Objective 1: Validation of local/traditional methods of detection in Vietnam and Lao PDR by December 2020					
Actions	Approximate completion dates	Individual lead	Collaborators	Means of verification	Dependencies
1.1 Complete field trial of local detection technique	End Jan 2020	Nicholas	Vinh University	Report of study completed and circulated to SWG, including recommendations for extension of the study	Whilst there may be no dependencies linked to the production of the report, it is assumed that this pilot study provides evidence that more extensive trials are of value.
1.2 Arrangements, planning and options for follow-up in event of Saola detection (different scenarios)	End Feb 2020	Olivia	TBD	Funds available, contracts signed with people who will follow up.	Level of FU needed eg FU with Olay/ donors pledge funds in the event of a detection/ agreement with another Annamite initiative who might have staff available

1.3 3 months of search for Saola sign in Vietnam	Jan-Apr 2020	Trung/Olay	Nicholas	Reports showing GPS tracklogs and reports of debrief with hunters, written by junior staff at Vinh, translated	Field trial successful. Search mode in field trial appropriate. Hunters already identified willing to continue. Lack of opposition from key stakeholders at priority sites
1.4 5 months of search for Saola sign in Lao PDR	April-June 2020	Olay	Rob	Reports showing GPS tracklogs and reports of debrief with hunters, written by junior staff at Vinh, translated	As above
1.5 Analysis of dung samples	As detected	Trung	Nicholas	Sequence data and short report	Dung samples are found. Lab at Vinh continues to be able to offer support. Would be greatly improved if can develop links with external geneticists.
1.6 Follow-up in the event of Saola detection	As detected	Olivia	Potential funders for pledged donations to cover follow up	Report	See 'arrangements for follow up' above
1.7 Decision made by SWG GB in regards to offering rewards	April 2020	GB	Olivia	Meeting minutes	
1.8 Detection work with 'hunters' to locate Saola in partner	December 2020	Rob	Local partners	Report	

project areas in Lao PDR					
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Objective 2: Build a strong foundation for Saola capture with local stakeholders at potential capture landscapes in Lao PDR through collaboration with partner conservation projects by December 2020

Actions	Approximate completion dates	Individual lead	Collaborators	Means of verification	Dependencies
<p>2.1 Maintaining conservation partner relationships to leverage in kind support for Saola conservation through monthly co-ordination and engagement with partners to look for opportunities for zero cost initiatives to further Saola conservation aims</p>	End of Dec 2020	Olay, Olivia	WSC/LENS2/NUoL PES project/NNPHP	Monthly activity reports	Willingness of partners to co-operate and mutually beneficial schedules
<p>2.2 Build stakeholder support at potential Saola capture landscapes (especially local communities and local government) by taking all opportunities (provided by partner activities and Objective 4) to visit and meet with key stakeholders, explain strategy, update plans and</p>	End of Dec 2020	Olay, Olivia	WSC/LENS2/NUoL PES project/NNPHP	Monthly activity reports	Willingness of partners to co-operate and mutually beneficial schedules

seek their involvement and ideas					
2.3 Identification of key local people for support of fieldwork to find and capture Saola, (e.g. animal trackers, capture dog handlers, team support staff)	End of Dec 2020	Olay, Olivia	Partners in BKK Province	Monthly activity reports; list of candidates	Willingness of partners to cooperate and mutually beneficial schedules

Objective 3: To develop the capacity necessary for the capture of Saola through initial training of capture team in dog handling

Actions	Approximate completion dates	Individual lead	Collaborators	Means of verification	Dependencies
3.1 Source international consultant or pro-bono expert for oversight of training and field activities	Dec 2020	TBD	International Zoo community	Training and field activities take place as planned	Individual demonstrates prior experience in this type of work
3.2 Source pro-bono international dog trainer	Dec 2020	TBD	International Zoo community	Training and field activities take place as planned	Individual demonstrates prior experience in this type of work
3.3 Source pro-bono expert in vet and ungulate handling	Dec 2020	TBD	International Zoo community	Dog handler and Capture Team leader trained in first response skills	Must be willing to pay own travel costs or else be sourced in-country
3.4 3-week workshop in Lao PDR, training of dog and dog handlers, led by	Dec 2020	TBD	Association Anoulak	Dogs given basic recall and stop command training and dog handlers capable to	Requires capacity to provide ongoing maintenance training

international dog trainer				maintain training	
3.5 Incorporate first response vet and ungulate handling training in dog training workshop	Dec 2020	TBD	International Zoo community and local contacts	Dog handler and Capture Team leader trained in first response skills	Must be able to piggy back this activity in the dog training workshop to avoid additional costs.
3.6 1-week field trial of capture team (attempted Serow capture)	Dec 2020	TBD	Association Anoulak	Attempted or successful serow capture completed	Need field permissions High likelihood Serow capture will be unsuccessful
3.7 Procure funding for capture equipment and drugs	Dec 2020	Jeff	International Zoo community	Funding procured	
3.8 Procure capture equipment and drugs	Dec 2020	TBD	Animals Asia Foundation, Ban Keun Zoo	Equipment and drugs procured	Import permits required for restricted drugs
3.9 Secure in kind loan commitments for some equipment	Dec 2020	Jeff	International Zoo community	In-kind loans procured	That this equipment will be available when it is needed
3.10 Procure funding (or funding commitments) for capture attempts	Dec 2020	TBD	International Zoo community/Donors	Funding or commitment of funding procured	Ability to clearly define at what point to mobilize those funds

Objective 4: Breeding Centre build and ready to receive animals by December 2020					
Actions	Approximate completion dates	Individual lead	Collaborators	Means of verification	Dependencies
4.1 Contract in place with construction company	Feb 2020	Terry	Radoslaw, Tu, Lorraine	Signed contract	Availability of construction company

4.2 Construction start date	April/May 2020	Terry	Radoslaw, Tu, Lorraine	Work started on site	Availability of construction company
4.3 Construction monitoring	From April/May to August/September	Terry	Radoslaw, Tuan, Tu, Lorraine	Quality of build/Plans adhered to	Start & completion dates
4.4 Centre functional	August/September 2020	Terry	Radoslaw, Tu, Lorraine	Work completed and Centre ready for use	Construction company, weather, political changes

Objective 5: MoU signed between IUCN, on behalf of the SWG, and the government of Lao PDR signed by December 2020					
Actions	Approximate completion dates	Individual lead	Collaborators	Means of verification	Dependencies
5.1 Final draft of the MoU prepared	February 2020	Olivia	SWG Strategy Group, GB and wider member group, IUCN	Final MoU version	Sign off on the budget for the MoU from the SWG GB and IUCN
5.2 Submit MoU	February 2020	Olivia	DoF		
5.3 Initial MoU concept meeting	May 2020	Olivia	DoF, provincial government partners, MoFA	Meeting minutes, including initial comments on MoU draft	Availability of government officials for the meeting. Availability of SWG budget.
5.4 Provincial and central level (MoFA) letters of support signed	September 2020	Olivia	Provincial government partners, MoFA	Signed letters	Willingness of government representatives to sign the letters
5.5 MoU signed and ceremony	December 2020	Olivia	SWG Lao staff, IUCN, government	MoU signed	
5.6 Annual WP for 2021 signed off	December 2020	Olivia	SWG GB, SWG TTLs	Annual WP 2021 signed	

Objective 6: Permission in place to capture a Saola in Vietnam by December 2020					
Actions	Approximate completion dates	Individual lead	Collaborators	Means of verification	Dependencies
6.1 Capture plan reviewed by SWG	Feb 2020	Jeff	SWG external advisors (vet and ungulate experts)	Revise and complete document	
6.2 Hire consultant SWG-WWF 50/50 to lead on PD	July 2020	Olivia	WWF	Drafting ToR, Contract, Agreement with WWF and hiring of consultant	Funding dependant – 20K/year for two years (40K)
6.3 Capture plan reviewed by VNForest	June 2020	WWF/ SWG hire	VNForest	Reviewed by VNForest and updated as needed	Awaiting VNForest/MARD re-organisation
6.4 ID steps for pre-PD capture permission	June 2020	WWF/ SWG hire	IUCN/ VNForest	Report	Awaiting VNForest/MARD re-organisation
6.5 Complete as many steps for pre-PD capture as possible	Sept 2020	WWF/ SWG Hire	IUCN/ VNForest		Awaiting VNForest/MARD re-organisation
6.6 Meetings with local authorities/partners to get buy in to capture plan	June 2020		IUCN, SVW, WWF, Park management authorities of all potential capture sites, District and Provincial authorities in all Saola range	Meetings with partners completed	Need capable SWG hire to lead meetings/ Funding to hold meeting with local stakeholders
6.7 Project Document Completion	Dec 2020	WWF/ SWG hire	IUCN/ VNForest	Project Document	Dependant on SWG-WWF hire and awaiting VNForest/MARD re-organisation

6.8 Secure military permission to use helicopters for transport	Sept 2020	WWF/ SWG hire	IUCN/ VNForest	Permissions granted	Dependant on prior approval from VNForest
6.9 Permission requirements secured for transport of animals (across provincial borders)	Dec 2020	WWF/ SWG hire	IUCN/ VNForest	Permission process outlined and permission secured	Awaiting VNForest/MARD re-organisation

Objective 7: Multi-year strategic plan developed and finalised by December 2020					
Actions	Approximate completion dates	Individual lead	Collaborators	Means of verification	Dependencies
7.1 Finances secured for the meeting	Jan-June 2020	Olivia	SWG Fundraising team	Funds available (with GWC)	Willingness of funders to support the meeting
7.2 Discuss GB and agree framework of LT strategy	June 2020	GB		Meeting minutes	
7.3 Budget, list of attendees, venue etc planned and confirmed	Aug 2020	Olivia	TBD	Meeting plan document	
7.4 Species knowledge review	July 2020	Olivia	SWG TTLs and TAs	Final document	Time available of contributors
7.5 Write up of relevant documents and publications from the past 3 years to inform decisions	March 2020	Olivia	Nicholas, Rob	Reports	Time available of authors
7.6 Full review of risk and	March 2020	Olivia	SWG strategy group, SWG GB,	Final document	Time available of contributors

more direct methods to capture Saola			SWG fundraising team		
7.7 Meeting(s) held and LT strategy drafted	July-Dec 2020	Olivia	TBD	Meeting minutes and strategy document	Budget and availability of key participants
7.8 Meeting summary circulated for follow up and finalisation of the strategy	Dec 2020	Olivia	SWG GB	Final strategy document	

PARTNERSHIPS

Organisation & person of contact	Complementary role	SWG link person	Support required	Means of checking if partnership delivering results
WCS Lao PDR; David Lety (dlety@wcs.org)	Has field teams who will operate in Bolikhamxai Province and can support detection efforts through camera trapping and dung collection.	Rob/ Olivia	Technical oversight and training	Field reports to be shared with SWG as and when reports in
Integrated Conservation of Biodiversity and Forests (ICBF); Dietmar Bräutigam (Dietmar.braeutigam@gfa-group.de)	Support detection work in KXNM.	Rob/ Olivia	Technical oversight and training	Field reports to be shared
Asian Arks; Simon Hedges (simonhedges@asianarks.org)	Sharing an office in Vientiane. Support detection work in KXNM.	Rob/ Olivia	Technical oversight and training	Field reports to be shared

WWF Lao PDR; Francois Guegan (francois.guegan@w wf.org.la)	Has patrol teams in XeKong province and can support detection efforts.	Rob/ Olivia	Technical oversight and training	Field reports to be shared
LENS 3 project; Xaysompheng Sengkhamyong	Biomonitoring work in Bolikhambxai Province.	Rob/ Olivia	Technical oversight and training	Field reports to be shared
WMPA/Project Anoulak; Camille Coudrat (camillecoudrat@gm ail.com)	Support detection work in Nakai-Nam Theun (NNT) National Protected Area.	Rob/ Olivia	Technical oversight and training	Field reports to be shared
National University of Lao PDR; Dr Phouphent Kiewphilavong (Director), Somphon Ounmany (Project Coordinator)	Support detection work in Bolikhambxai Province.	Rob/ Olivia	Technical oversight and training	Field reports to be shared
IUCN Lao PDR; Phoutsakhone Ounchith (Phoutsakhone.OUNC HITH@iucn.org)	MoU signed by IUCN on behalf of SWG.	Rob/ Olivia		Field reports to be shared
Lao WCA; Dr Chanthavy Vongkhamheng (cvongkhamheng@g mail.com)	Ongoing detection work in KXNM is support under their MoU with DoF. Can also support detection work in Laving Lavern NPA.	Rob/ Olivia		Field reports to be shared
Lao Conservation Trust for Wildlife; Eve Mansfield and George (eve.george@lctwildli fe.org)	Support a temporary holding facility for Saola in Ban Keun	Olivia		Field reports to be shared
The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry represented by the Department of Forestry, Lao PDR	Signing the MoU and approving annual work plans	Olivia	Technical oversight and training	Field reports to be shared
Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW); Thai (thai@savevietnams wildlife.org)	Has field teams camera- trapping in Pu Mat NP. Ongoing anti-poaching teams also operational there.	Barney	Training and potentially resources for detection work / strengthening	Regular reports to be communicat ed back to SWG.

			capacity for in-situ protection.	
Fauna & Flora International (FFI); Josh Kempinski (Josh.Kempinski@fauna-flora.org)	Doing camera-trapping in Pu Mat NP (different area than SVW). Has community-based conservation teams regularly patrolling.	Barney	Training and potentially resources for detection work / strengthening capacity for in-situ protection.	Regular reports to be communicated back to SWG.
WWF Vietnam; Van Ngoc Thinh (thin.vanngoc@wwf.org.vn)	Ongoing camera-trapping and anti-poaching patrols in the Hue and Quang Nam SNRs.	Barney / Andrew / Lorraine.	Training and potentially resources for detection work / strengthening capacity for in-situ protection.	Regular reports to be communicated back to SWG.
VietNature; Le Trong Trai (Trai.LeTrong@thienhienviet.org.vn)	Ongoing camera-trapping and anti-poaching patrols in Khe Nuoc Truong (Quang Binh province).	Barney	Training and potentially resources for detection work / strengthening capacity for in-situ protection.	Regular reports to be communicated back to SWG.
Vinh University; Tien Trung Cao (trungct@vinhuni.edu.vn)	Saola dung DNA analysis. Set and maintain camera traps. Involved in implementation of community-led detection work.	Nicholas		Regular reports to be communicated back to SWG.
IUCN Vietnam; Tu Nguyenduc (Tu.NGUYENDUC@iucn.org)	MoU signed by IUCN on behalf of SWG. Oversee the Project Document process.	Tu		Regular reports to be communicated back to SWG.
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam				Regular reports to be communicated back to SWG.

We hope to develop these collaborations into an alliance of partners in the coming year, where appropriate.

INTERNAL ROLES & COMMUNICATIONS

The roles of individual Task Team Leaders will be organised against the main objectives and associated activities.

When a decision involving input from the wider SWG members is needed, the whole group will be emailed by the Director of Operations, naming the focal person to contact if interested in being involved in that particular decision. All SWG members will be updated on the outcome of decisions by the Director of Operations.

Internal communications				
Group	Means of communication	Record of meetings/ decisions	Person of contact	Regularity of meeting
SWG Strategy Group	Skype meetings- need quorum of four individuals for decisions to be made	All recorded in shared google folder	Olivia	Monthly
SWG Fundraising Group	Skype meetings	Meeting minutes in shared google folder	Barney	Monthly
Governance Body	Skype meetings	Meeting minutes	James	Monthly
SWG members: decision making	Email to group from Director of Operations	Emails	Olivia	Emails sent with contact detail of focal person when decisions/ protocols etc to be made/ drafted
SWG members: general information	Monthly email updates on key activities, 6 month and annual reports	Emails	Olivia	Monthly
Financial management subgroup	Skype meetings	Meeting minutes	Olivia	Monthly

The process of decision making within the SWG during the year will depend on the degree of deviation from the agreed strategy and work plans. If small amendments to the agreed plan are needed, this can be signed off by Director of Operations and discussed within the Strategy group if necessary. The SWG Governance Body and SWG members will be informed of such changes. If the changes involve significant variance from the agreed plan then will need to be opened up to the SWG members for input and approved by the SWG Governance Body.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Document	Location
Map of likely Saola locations	In shared SWG google folder
Communication strategy in case of a detection	In shared SWG google folder
Capture protocol	In shared SWG google folder
Response guidelines following a Saola detection in the forest (version April 2019)	In shared SWG google folder
Rapid Response Plan for the Incidental Capture of a Saola (Version April 2019)	In shared SWG google folder
Drugs/equipment needed for capture	In shared SWG google folder
Muntjac handling protocol (version April 2019)	In shared SWG google folder
Dog Research in Nakai Nam Theun National Protected Area, Lao PDR: trip summary and capture dog recommendations'	In shared SWG google folder
Bach Ma Breeding Centre, Vietnam documents	In shared SWG google folder
Ban Keun, Lao PDR holding facility plans	In shared SWG google folder
Summary village surveys in Vietnam	