



Darwin Initiative Annual Report



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	19-001
Project Title	Conservation of the newly-discovered Burmese (Myanmar) snub-nosed monkey
Host Country	Myanmar
UK contract holder institution	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Partner institutions	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) Oxford Brookes University Primate Conservation MSc programme
Darwin Grant Value	£289,458 GBP
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2012 to 31 March 2015
Reporting period	1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Dr Stephen Browne, Director of Operations, Asia-Pacific Programme, FFI
Project website	None
Report authors and date	Mark E Grindley (FFI), Ngwe Lwin (BANCA) and Saw Soe Aung (BANCA). Completed 30 April 2013

1. Project Rationale

A joint survey team lead by FFI discovered a new species of snub-nosed monkey in northern Myanmar in 2010. Its distribution range was believed to be less than 400 km², with an estimated population of 260-330 individuals. The species was initially assessed to face severe threats that would warrant the IUCN status of 'Critically Endangered'. The discovery was published in the *American Journal of Primatology* in which it was named the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey *Rhinopithecus strykeri* (Geissmann *et al.*, 2010).

The colobine monkey's range is located in Northeast Myanmar, restricted to the high altitude zone of a mountain range between the N'mai River and the Chinese border. This mountain range supports diverse forests with an altitudinal range of 300 to 5000 m, forming the watershed for the Irrawaddy basin and supporting one of the highest levels of biodiversity in the Eastern Himalayas. This part of the Northern Forest Corridor is the only area where the Yunnan and the Eastern Himalayan Endemic Bird Areas overlap, and has been highlighted as a gap in Myanmar's protected area network. It is thus considered a conservation priority in the National Biodiversity Action Plan (MoECAF 2011).

Our knowledge of the monkey is limited. There is limited in-country capacity to gather and analyse scientific information for the development of a species conservation strategy, and until the project started we could only infer ecological requirements from its closest relative, the Yunnan snub-nosed monkey *Rhinopithecus bieti*.

Threats to the monkey appear to be hunting for local consumption and trade, and forest degradation caused primarily by logging conducted by contractors from China. Root causes appear to be poverty amongst rural communities, poor border controls and a lack of management authority due to on-going political and occasional armed conflict in this remote area, itself driven by demand for resources including timber, jade, gold and other minerals. These issues are all facilitated by improved access caused by the development of Chinese-funded hydro-electric schemes and logging roads.

The project aims to address gaps in knowledge through intensive surveys into habitat, behaviour and distribution of Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey that will provide an overview of the conservation status of the species and inform the creation of a species-focused protected area. This is intended as a capacity building exercise involving a mixture of local and national civil society, state government and the national protected area authority, the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environmental

Conservation and Forestry. This approach will build a local conservation constituency for the snub-nosed monkey and its bio-diverse habitat, involving indigenous communities and township authorities, raising awareness for biodiversity conservation, endangered species and environmental services, and using the monkey as a flagship species.

Ultimately, protected area designation will reduce illegal Chinese logging and also contribute to reducing emissions from forest degradation, while a strengthened constituency will support the park and allow co-management that takes account of the needs of local communities as well as biodiversity. The project will also seek strengthened national and international protection of the species, eg, by designating it CITES Appendix 1, and by engaging with Chinese authorities on heightened border controls.

2. Project Partnerships

Our **main host country NGO partner** is the Myanmar Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA). Since the start of the project the organisation has moved out of the office space we originally shared and has also undergone two leadership changes. However all of the collaborating national scientists are BANCA members, and in late 2013 we signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with BANCA to continue collaboration on joint activities in Kachin state. BANCA has been represented in all national discussions on the protection of the species, and due to a strong bird conservation focus remains particularly committed to the protection of the site, which they originally surveyed with BirdLife International between 2005 and 2007, following which they made the first scientifically-based proposal for a protected area at the site. This is an ambition they remain committed to, and we are pleased to be able to facilitate the participation of Myanmar ornithologists and primatologists in the project.

Our **main UK partner** is Oxford Brookes University Primate Conservation MSc programme, which designed the conservation science capacity building component of this project. Due to ongoing security problems the government has made it clear that permits cannot be issued to foreigners until a peace settlement has been reached with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), which has delayed field work with UK scientists for two field seasons now. Peace negotiations are however underway at this time, and there remains the possibility that foreigners will be able to visit the proposed National Park in the coming field season (October 2014 to April 2015). In the meantime we are considering to conduct research with Oxford Brookes on the Chinese section of the species' range, and have made plans to undertake wildlife trade training and assessments with the nominated specialist, Prof. Vincent Nijman, close to but outside of the conflict zone.

Our **main host country government partner** is the Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, which has the legal mandate for species protection and protected area establishment and management. We have had a Memorandum of Understanding with the FD since 2012 and have a specific implementation agreement on this project. The FD has to date lead on the process for park designation, and requested FFI to participate in a joint survey for boundary delineation; the team is awaiting final approval to deploy at the time of writing. With FFI support, FD has also added the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey to the list of nationally protected species and has expressed strong interest in cooperating with Chinese authorities on this trans-boundary species.






3. Project Progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Overall, progress has again been delayed by a rise in conflict and insecurity in several parts of Kachin State, including the northeast where the project site is located. As a result, government and non-state army checkpoints on the main access routes, including from both Myanmar and China, have sporadically stopped access for Burmese nationals, making access at times difficult for project staff, though this situation has been somewhat fluid. This situation made it impossible for central government to grant travel permits to foreign nationals, which effectively stopped the main thrust of the research collaboration with Oxford Brookes and also forced us to postpone a wildlife trade survey by Chinese colleagues inside Myanmar. However, field work and conservation activities by our Burmese staff could be implemented.

The impact of insecurity on the project implementation has been significant, but is lessening. At the end of Year 1, 67% of all 27 Activities were assessed to be significantly behind schedule, though we have now revised this to 37% (Table 1). Although peace talks between the main protagonists were ongoing through 2013, we again had to communicate the likelihood of significant delays and associated underspend in our mid-term report to DEFRA in October 2013.

Table 1. Summary of progress against Activities

State of Progress of Activity	Colour coding employed in Table 2	Number of Activities (% of Total), by end Year 1	Number of Activities (% of Total), by end Year 2
Ahead of schedule		1 Activity (4%)	1 Activity (4%)
On schedule		6 Activities (22%)	11 Activities (41%)
Slightly delayed		1 Activity (4%)	5 Activities (19%)
Behind schedule		18 Activities (67%)	10 Activities (37%)
Not scheduled		1 Activity (4%)	0 Activities (0%)
Total		27 Activities	27 Activities

Despite these constraints, by the end of Year 2 we have still been able to move ahead to some degree with almost all of the planned Activities, primarily due to fewer restrictions on the movement of national and particularly local staff, and the dedication of the project team. Overall more than 50% of activities are completed, on schedule or only slightly delayed, and none have been cancelled. The details of this progress are provided in Table 2 and below.

Output 1: Improved knowledge of snub-nosed monkey abundance, distribution and ecological needs across its range.

This Output comprises eight activities aimed at improving the capacity of local partner the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) to conduct and publish scientific research on snub-nosed monkey abundance, distribution and ecological needs. Two main activities were undertaken during the reporting period.

Firstly, two trainings were conducted on primate survey methods and non-invasive sample collection, with both theoretical and practical modules. These were delivered from 25 to 31 May in Mount Popa (Mandalay Region) and from 1 to 10 June Tanintharyi Nature Reserve (Tanintharyi Region), since access to the project areas was not permitted at the time of the trainings. Thirteen participants from BANCA and the Forest Department joined each, with BANCA participants funded under this project. An additional 22 Forest department staff joined the theoretical component in Tanintharyi Nature Reserve. The trainings were provided by the German Primate Centre, DPZ. In all, 29 genetic samples were collected from ten species of mammal, seven of them primates. Training reports have been produced for submission to the Forest Department (see supporting documents).

Secondly, camera traps were set in five locations by BANCA during the reporting period to seek to confirm interview reports of an extension of the known eastern extent of the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey group in "Range 3". The traps were collected in late September 2013, when security conditions improved sufficiently. The most significant result was a confirmation of the species in the new area, with a group of about 80 individuals observed and filmed by our local Village Facilitator during camera collection. Combined with the interview and trap results, there is now strong evidence for a new sub-population in this area, tentatively named "Range 4", which appears to be contiguous with the population originally discovered on the China side of the border in October 2011. Follow-up surveys are planned to confirm this possibility and get a more concrete population estimate in the 2014/15 field season, provided the political situation is favourable in this area. A report is in preparation.

Other notable activities include:

- A biodiversity survey was conducted in the range of Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey from February to March 2013.
- A rapid floral survey was conducted in the same area at roughly the same time.
- Eight camera traps remain in the forest while the remaining traps are serviced.

Output 2: Snub-nosed monkey conservation strategy designed and implemented

This Output comprises eight activities aimed at formalising conservation and protection action for the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey, including designation of new protected area and development and implementation of multi-stakeholder collaboration for the species as defined within an Action Plan or similar strategy. Three main activities were undertaken during the reporting period.

Firstly, as a follow up to a stakeholder consultation in February, the project held a meeting with the Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry on the preliminary survey for the establishment of the park. Consequently a letter was issued to Kachin State and Saw Law Township forest offices to conduct a field assessment of land use and ownership in preparation for protected area notification. An Activity Plan for the trip was subsequently drafted, for a three-month survey to include a mixed team of scientists, forestry staff and local government representatives. The project now has an expanded legal mandate for field season research, as the security situation allows.

Secondly, a GIS-based land classification was conducted for the proposed protected area pro-bono by Berlin-based Remote Sensing Solutions, a GIS consultant. Remote sensing data was 'trained' (ie, ground-truthed) using data collected during project surveys. The final classification and map production was conducted as a capacity building exercise for the Project Manager. The result is a landcover map that will be used as the basis for field verification and boundary definition currently planned for the next six months, and is documented in a separate consultant report. The training was co-funded by the European Union under a separate FFI project.

A preliminary survey for the gazettelement of Imawbum national park was undertaken by the Forest Department and FFI/BANCA team in February and March. This involved village interviews and a site inspection – the first undertaken by the legal protected area management authority in over twenty years due to the area being under the control of an ethnic 'ceasefire' group since the early 1990s. The Forest department produced an internal report. As with all field surveys, the designated team leader from FFI submitted an Activity Report. Technical results are intended to be incorporated into a full boundary justification report following a full boundary assessment originally planned for April but currently on hold.

Output 3: Community-based constituency for snub-nosed monkey conservation programme developed

This Output comprises 11 activities aimed at raising awareness and motivation, and providing the material and technical support, for local communities to undertake protection activities aimed at the target species. Four main activities were undertaken during the reporting period.

Firstly, at the request of the Kachin Forest Department, the project made poster and verbal presentations on the conservation of the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey at an open day held on the International Environment Day on 5 June 2013. The event was held in Waimaw Township, in the lowland area that lies on the main route from the state capital, Myitkyina, to the project site. Approximately 120 people from local communities and organisations attended.

Secondly, the project finalised an information leaflet and poster on the biodiversity values of Mount Imawbum National Park, particularly the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey. These were printed in December 2013 and have been distributed as necessary ever since, including to national level stakeholders, and the media, plus during awareness activities in the project area and at other key locations during field research.

Thirdly, in-service capacity building for local counterparts has been ongoing since the start of the project, through a mixture of formal training and participation in field research design and implementation. The success of this approach was indicated by the recording in late September 2013 of the first video footage of a group of Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkeys in the wild, made by an unsupported local Village Facilitator while he was retrieving camera traps in the new "Range 4". This footage was the subject of a global and national media campaign that resulted in a large number of favourable articles reflecting the message that a protected area is urgently needed, and that China needs to take the initiative to control illegal logging that is the major threat to the species.

Fourthly, small grants were provided to local communities following a well-tested process. These are intended to incentivise conservation agreements signed with local communities, and if possible to focus on livelihood development activities that also reduce threats, in this case hunting pressure. The process starts with awareness raising and livelihood opportunities assessments, conducted in 17 more villages in the proposed national park buffer zone in January 2014. Village conservation groups were then formed, and conservation stewardship agreements signed before grant proposals submitted. Since the project start, agreements have been signed with 16 community groups (Table 2), and grants were provided to 14 village clusters in this reporting period. Projects that received funding this round included mythun raising, walnut and cardamom plantation, and construction of a structure to be used as a pre-school. All these activities were lead by the local conservation awareness officer, with some technical support provided by external consultants.

Table 2. Summary of participating villages and project interventions

Sr.	Village name	Awareness activity	Village Conservation group
1	Hpaung ja	X	X
2	Gya rang	X	
3	Htaw lang	X	X
4	Nga ya	X	
5	Chawng dam	X	X
6	La kin	X	X
7	Htam tang	X	X
8	Chitchittago	X	
9	Chha chhu	X	X
10	Ta bang hka	X	X
11	Chhi ving	X	
12	Mo re	X	X
13	Wa rup	X	X
14	Pa she	X	X
15	Wa sok	X	X
16	Lauk naw dam	X	X
17	Pa Kaw	X	X
18	Tsam buk	X	X
19	Htan paung ku	X	X
20	Wa yaw buk	X	X
Totals		20	16

Additional outputs include:

- Awareness materials: Conservation of Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey leaflets in local Lisu and Burmese languages; Myanmar Snub-nosed monkey T-shirts produced in January and distributed in the project site in Feb and March 2014.
- Regular awareness program: conducted in 21 villages in January and Feb by the project conservation awareness officer together with local staff.

3.2 Progress towards project outputs

The project team feels it has made good progress towards the expected Outputs given the constraints imposed by the ongoing security problems in the area. These lead to a lack of technical support from foreign staff or collaborating scientists in the field, and the necessary delays to preparation of the National Park proposal. However in most cases we have found ways around the constraints, eg, by conducting training in other areas not subject to the same travel permit restrictions for foreigners.

Output indicators remain relevant and largely measurable, or at least quantifiable. These are described in detail in Annex 1. Although we have clearly experienced delays in some areas, the view of the project team is that we should still be able to achieve most of the substantive output targets by the end of Year 3, or have made significant progress towards them. We see no need to revise the indicators at this time.

Output level assumptions are all related to government and local support, and as described elsewhere in this report we feel that this support has been exceptional. Where the assumptions fail is at the level of political stability and the ongoing conflicts in the area fuelled by resource extraction revenues. However, those assumptions were based on the experience of over twenty years of a successful ceasefire between the local armed group and the Myanmar army, which at the time of project preparation did not seem unrealistic.

Table 3. Details of progress against Activities (as pre colour coding in Table 1)

Activity	Original Timetable, 2012-2014				Progress
	S1	S2	S3	S4	
1.1 Capacity/ trainings need assessment for primatological/ biodiversity assessments					Completed in 2013.
1.2 Training in primatological, biodiversity research, threats assessment methods					Organized in May and June 2013.
1.3 Conduct biodiversity surveys/ primate distribution surveys and threat assessments					Field survey was conducted in the project area in Feb and March.
1.4 Conduct camera trapping program to survey and monitor snub-nosed monkeys and other threatened mammals (e.g. bears)					Nine camera traps were set up in the project area.
1.5 Conduct primate research programs (semi-habituation & ecological research)					Delay due to the insecurity in the project site.
1.6 Assess threats to snub-nosed monkeys, their habitat and associated threatened species					Threats assessments included within the field survey.
1.7 Prepare species conservation status review report					Report in draft format; requires peer review and editing
1.8 Prepare regular research reports and publish findings in peer-reviewed journal articles					Only internal reporting this period due to delayed collaboration with Oxford Brookes University.
2.1 Prepare biodiversity surveys report for protected area gazettement					Completed in Burmese language, English version is in draft.
2.2 Train BANCA staff in protected area management design and planning					Postponed .
2.3 Prepare protected area gazettement justification and protected area management recommendations, revise based on feedback from government/ stakeholders					Conducted prior to the biodiversity surveys for the forest department.
2.4 Facilitate multi-stakeholder species conservation action planning workshop					Done in 1 st year.
2.5 Facilitate IUCN Red List/ CITES listing/ inclusion in the national protected species list					Done in 1 st year.
2.6 Train BANCA staff in wildlife trade survey and investigation techniques					Delay due to the insecurity in the project site. Planned with Oxford Brookes in Q3/4 2014.
2.7 Conduct regular wildlife trade investigations/ submit reports to Customs/ CITES authorities in Myanmar and China					Delay due to the insecurity in the project site.
2.8 Design awareness programme/ materials and implement awareness campaign for dam/ road/ logging workers (see also activities 3.1-3.3)					Delay due to the lack of the Chinese staffs.
3.1 Conduct Conservation awareness baseline survey (Knowledge, attitude and behaviour) and repeat survey at the end of the project					Conducted in 2011 and 2012.
3.2 Design conservation awareness campaign and materials					A number of materials had been produced by the time of writing (April 2014).
3.3 Implement regular awareness programme in buffer zone villages					Conducted in 2012, with further meetings in January and February 2013.
3.4 Conduct special conservation awareness events during Christmas in collaboration with local church groups					Conducted Christmas 2012, but not possible in 2013 due to travel restrictions.
3.5 Assess socio-economic conditions and livelihood opportunities in villages surrounding the Snub-nosed monkey range					Conducted in west of the sites in 2011. Some more villages in project area in Jan 2013.
3.6 Establish and train village conservation support groups (responsible for village development planning, SGS management/ village conservation stewardship agreements)					8 more village conservation groups were established in Jan 2013.
3.7 Facilitate village development planning and preparation of conservation stewardship agreement					Conservation stewardship agreement was conducted with 12 village conservation groups; incomplete village development planning conducted with selected communities.
3.8 Provide livelihood incentives through a small grants programme to local communities in return for conservation stewardship agreements					Small grants were provided to 12 villages over the two project years.
3.9 Provide technical support for sustainable livelihood development (e.g. agro-forestry, paddy field development to replace shifting cultivation)					Provided alongside community small grants.
3.10 Establish and train two community patrol groups					Delayed due to travel restrictions, and potential for conflict with ethnic army
3.11 Facilitate monthly community patrols					Delayed due to insecurity in the project site.

3.3 Progress towards the project Purpose/Outcome

The project purpose is the conservation of the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey and its bio-diverse habitat. Progress has been less than planned, but has nonetheless been achieved against all four Progress level indicators, which therefore appear adequate for measuring outcomes.

A contribution has been made to conservation of the species primarily through expanded knowledge on the distribution of the species, and the process of defining and gazettement a protected area for the species is well underway, involving both the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and local stakeholders, including Kachin State-level parliamentarians. In addition, awareness has been increased at the site-level through consultations and dissemination to over 300 residents, which we feel would have had some effect at reducing hunting pressure. This will be tested in Year 3.

Some Purpose level assumptions related to political support for conservation and political stability in the project area. The former seems to have held true, with a Kachin State workshop on protection of the species in early 2013 being jointly hosted by MoECAF and FFI, with support from the Kachin State Chief Minister, among others. The latter assumption has proved unrealistic, despite the inclusion of the project site within the national reconciliation process, and its longstanding status as a Special Region with no armed conflict from the early 1990s until very recently. While there has been no immediate armed conflict at the project site, access has been hampered. We remain cautiously optimistic that full field access will be again possible, but as this cannot be guaranteed we **now have a contingency plan to focus some activities more on trans-border collaboration and field conservation activities on the Chinese side of the border.**

3.4 Goal/ Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

We are unable currently to indicate a positive change in the status of the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey, although the range has been tentatively extended from the original 270 km² based on the results of surveys under this project, and on FFI collaboration in China that lead to discovery of the species along the China side of the border (Yongcheng Long *et al.* 2012). We cannot currently provide an updated population estimate; although monitoring data should be available later in the project and we have an initial population assessment of 260 - 330 individuals that provides a baseline (Geissmann *et al.* 2010).

There is no possibility of sustainable hunting of the species, so our target under this final goal component is a total reduction in hunting with guns and traps, and removal of existing traps in the target area. Indication will be provided from patrol records, though patrols have yet to be launched.

We could reasonably expect a reduction in the threat from logging and land grabbing as a result of projected area designation or potentially from the political dialogue that is part of the notification, consultation and gazettement process.

4. Project support to the Conventions (CBD, CMS and/or CITES)

FFI's main partner in Myanmar is the Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, which is the CBD focal point for Myanmar. The FD recently adopted the Aichi target and is currently in the process of incorporating them into a revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, although at this point the original NBSAP (MoECAF 2011) is the main articulation of national ambitions and targets for biodiversity.

The Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey was not described at the time of preparation of the NBSAP and does not get a specific mention in the NBSAP. However, all Critically Endangered mammals are considered highest priority in that document, as are Key Biodiversity Areas that are known to support CR species. The Northern Forest Complex is considered a "priority site for conservation investment" (MoECAF 2011, p.63), and Imawbum Mountain would presumably have been named in that landscape had its existence been known at the time of the NBSAP preparation.

We therefore consider that this project is making a substantive contribution to national CBD obligations for species and sites as defined in the NBSAP.

5. Project support to poverty alleviation

The Imawbum Proposed National Park is one of the poorest parts of the country, with a largely cashless economy and poor access to government goods or services, or markets. The project has engaged in activities that have a poverty alleviation component primarily under Output 3, with the goal of increasing support for conservation of the species (as defined through signed agreements) and reducing incentives

for hunting. As noted above, grants were provided to 14 village clusters in this reporting period for raising mythun (a domesticated wild bovid adapted to the high mountains), and walnut and cardamom plantation, both of which are high-value cash crops which can be easily transported from remote areas.

Due to the young nature of these interventions, tangible results are yet to be seen, although the potential number of beneficiaries now extends to over 50% of the population around the proposed park. Thus while direct impacts on poverty are not expected during the project, we do expect to see reduced hunting and. This will be monitored through interviews and through community patrols, although those have been delayed so far due to security problems. Due to the fact that these interventions are already proved in the project area, we are also fairly confident that poverty impacts will be felt within a realistic time-frame of three to five years for mythun and cardamom, and seven years onwards for walnut.

6. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Project monitoring comprises three procedures:

- Regular reporting on results of field trips provided verbally but field staff, and through trip reports and technical reports
- Six-monthly project progress review by all relevant staff, and completion of annual financial and technical reports (this report)
- Regular financial reporting through accounts from activity budgets

The results of monitoring and lessons learned are documented elsewhere in this report.

7. Actions taken in response to previous reviews

The review of the first year report was favourable and acknowledged the political and security constraints faced by the project, and our plans to address them.

8. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

None.

9. Sustainability

Both national and state-level authorities have taken a strong interest in the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey and the proposed national park. This is evidenced by Forest Department launching the gazettelement process with little prompting in 2012, following the first national workshop on the conservation status and needs of the species, and the enthusiasm of the state authorities for moving ahead.

By the end of the project we still expect that the national park would be well advanced, that the local conservation constituency would be well motivated to protect the species, and that national scientific capacity would be sufficient to meet the needs of the species' protection. However, it is now clear that park designation is not a technical issue but a political one, and involves state and non-state armed groups. Even following designation the site will need additional support to establish the necessary infrastructure and processes for management.

For these reasons, FFI Myanmar has taken a long-term view of its engagement for Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey, with five-year objectives that include:

- Leveraging increased support from Chin a to help address threats from the demand side
- Ongoing livelihood development to reduce incentives for hunting and to strengthen local ownership of this conservation landscape
- Support for ranger training and equipment, sub-station construction, patrol data management and other protected area management activities
- Increased civil society monitoring of illegal logging

10. Darwin Identity

Darwin Initiative funding is acknowledged on all project communications outputs, publications and internal reports (eg, those submitted to local or national government). In most cases the logo is used as part of the project identify, along with that of FFI, BANCA and the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, plus other collaborators as necessary. The project is geographically distinct from other FFI projects and is focused on one only species and one main outcome (creation of a national park to control logging and hunting), so the project has a strong identity and is likely to be well known in the project site and Kachin state more generally, particularly among state Forest Department and state parliamentarians. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is good awareness generally about the species, the discovery of which was widely reported in 2010 (ie, prior to the current Darwin support), but knowledge of threats and the specific project interventions is unlikely to be well known nationally outside of specialist interest groups such as the conservation community and perhaps the Kachin diaspora.

11. Project Expenditure

Expenditure is summarised in Table 4 and detailed in the separate Excel spreadsheet accompanying this narrative report. A proportion of the Year 1 budget was reallocated to Years Two and Three, so the figures here do not match with the original project proposal.

Table 4. Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014), GBP

Project spend since last annual report	2013/14 Grant (£)	2013/14 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)			-40.95%	Since we underspent on the salaries in year 1. Therefore we increased the salaries in year 2.
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs			98.62%	Overhead as proportion of expenditure
Travel and subsistence			27.52%	Reduced due to security concerns
Operating Costs			46.12%	Limited purchased
Capital items (see below)			-3.89%	
Others (see below)			14.04%	
TOTAL				

12. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section.

Outstanding achievements during the reporting period:

- 1) Launch of surveys for the creation of the Imawbum National Park, with representatives from government, civil society and the international conservation community

- 2) Further knowledge of the range of the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey to the east of the proposed park, and the first video footage of the species in the wild recorded by a local villager working at a project ranger.
- 3) Expanded conservation constituency, with awareness raising in 17 villages in the proposed national park buffer zone leading to the establishment of 14 conservation groups, all of which signed conservation stewardship agreements and received small grants for livelihood activities (co-funded by other donors).

Important images are provided in accompanying technical reports and good quality versions are available on request to the authors or to FFI Cambridge, Communications department.

13. References

- Geissmann T, Lwin N, Aung SS, Aung TN, Aung ZM, Hla TH, Grindley M, Momberg F (2011).** *A new species of snub-nosed monkey, genus Rhinopithecus Milne-Edwards, 1872 (Primates, Colobinae), from northern Kachin State, north-eastern Myanmar.* Am J Primatol 73: 96–107
- Yongcheng Long, Momberg F, Jian Ma, Yue Wang, Yongmei Luo, Haishu Li, Guiliang Yang and Ming Li (2012).** *Commentary: Rhinopithecus strykeri found in China!* Am J Primatol 00:1–3
- MoECAF (2011).** Myanmar Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Naypyidaw

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2013-2014

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2013 - March 2014	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p>⇒ The conservation of biological diversity, ⇒ The sustainable use of its components, and ⇒ The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</p>		<p>No positive impact on biodiversity or in the conditions of human communities in the project area can be identified at this stage. However, the need to recognise traditional resource rights is now part of the discourse on protection of the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey and its habitat, and local communities have been clearly identified and engaged as key stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government-lead survey team for the proposed park will clarify an absence of customary land claims while defining the boundary • Monitoring of the impact of conservation agreements, poverty alleviation and awareness activities
<p>Purpose Conservation of the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey and its bio-diverse habitat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of the distribution, ecology and behaviour of the Burmese snub-nosed monkey • Increased awareness and concern among the local Kachin communities • Reduced hunting of snub-nosed monkeys • Local multi-stakeholder conservation constituency established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further field surveys have expanded the species' range to the east and increased knowledge on the overall biodiversity of the project site • Awareness activities were conducted in 17 villages surrounding the project site, and the associated Knowledge, Behaviour and Awareness baseline assessments have been expanded • Reduced hunting is expected but cannot be proved • 16 village conservation groups established • Kachin forest minister and assorted parliamentarians, plus the competent ministry, backing the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final reporting on the technical (ie, biological) justification for the park • Final project workshop with stakeholders from Myanmar and China; to incorporate planning for next steps • Support for government submission of National Park proposal, management objectives etc • Further national coverage of the species and the proposed park in national and international media • Delayed community patrols finally launched • Wildlife trade surveys conducted. Plans and dates already agreed with Prof. Vincent Nijman of Oxford Brookes Uni.
<p>Output 1 Improved knowledge of Myanmar snub-nosed monkey abundance, distribution and ecological needs across its range</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity of BANCA to undertake primate-conservation focussed research • Scientific information is available: Species distribution; ecological knowledge (seasonal migration, feeding ecology, behaviour); threats 	<p>The project has confirmed an extension to the northeast of the formerly known range, and camera traps have confirm the species' presence in a further new area to the south. One team member made the first video recording of the species. We have now prepared improved survey methodologies, and plan to conduct habitat modelling using newly-acquired remote sensing data, to be tested with the current distribution data. This will help identify locations for future surveys and inform boundary negotiations and habitat protection/restoration planning.</p> <p>It has not been possible to implement a formal capacity building programme, so we can only provide qualitative indication of improvement against this indicator. However, all field work has to date been conducted by a team of three BANCA members and two local counterparts, with no direct supervision in the field; these individuals are now the world's experts on the species.</p>	

1.1 Capacity/ trainings need assessment for primatological/ biodiversity assessments	Originally to be lead by Oxford Brooks, but delayed due to insecurity in the project site. However, needs assessments have been conducted on an ad hoc basis by the country team.
1.2 Training in primatological, biodiversity research, threats assessment methods	Originally to be lead by Oxford Brooks, but delayed due to insecurity in the project site. However, some trainings have been delivered using current capacity, and in cooperation with external agencies and individuals.
1.3 Conduct biodiversity surveys/ primate distribution surveys and threat assessments	Two field surveys conducted in the east of the project site; new group discovered in the northeast of the project site. Further surveys planned for 2014/15 to complete range assessment, population estimate and monitoring.
1.4 Conduct camera trapping program to survey and monitor snub-nosed monkeys and other threatened mammals (e.g. bears)	Over 30 traps have been deployed across the proposed national park over the past year; nine are still in the field at the time of writing, while the others are serviced.
1.5 Conduct primate research programs (semi-habituation & ecological research)	Delayed due to insecurity in the project site. Hope to launch this in Year 3 under the supervision of Oxford Brookes, but will possibly be augmented by computer distribution modelling since we now have sufficient data. This will reduce the risk that the security situation does not improve sufficiently to allow foreign scientists into the area.
1.6 Assess threats to snub-nosed monkeys, their habitat and associated threatened species	Threats assessments included in two field surveys (see internal trip reports). Results are being constantly reassessed based on new information for presentation in a species status review.
1.7 Prepare species conservation status review report	Not scheduled this reporting period.
1.8 Prepare regular research reports and publish findings in peer-reviewed journal articles	Only internal reports produced this reporting period due to delayed collaboration with Oxford Brookes. Outlines for two articles being discussed with FFI regional science advisor.
Output 2 Snub-nosed monkey conservation strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species Action Plan • Biodiversity report • Justification for Imawbum National Park gazettelement • Recommendation for National Park gazettelement and management • Recommendations for N'Mai Hka watershed management plan • IUCN Red Listing of the snub-nosed monkey at the appropriate level • CITES listing of the snub-nosed monkey and recommendations for Myanmar-China border enforcement • Increased capacity of BANCA to develop species action plans and engage in protected area gazettelement <p>The biodiversity justification for the proposed National Park is now accepted by the government. With project support they have initiated landuse surveys to define boundaries that do not create conflicts with local communities; survey results should be available in the first half of Year 3.</p> <p>Further species distribution data has been obtained that will help ensure National Park boundaries encompass as much of the species habitat as possible. They will also potentially be used to test a habitat/distribution model.</p> <p>The species has been proposed for CITES Appendix 1 listing, which should be accepted shortly.</p> <p>On-the-job training in protected area gazettelement was provided through the conduct of joint surveys in the area of the proposed park by national Forest Department staff and BANCA members employed by the project.</p>

2.1 Prepare biodiversity surveys report for protected area gazettement	Completed in Burmese language; English version remains in draft, with further data being added based on additional surveys.
2.2 Train BANCA staff in protected area management design and planning	Now being conducted as field-based practical training. We will consider the need for more theoretical training following the current field assessment.
2.3 Prepare protected area gazettement justification and protected area management recommendations, revise based on feedback from government/ stakeholders	Conducted prior to the protected area workshop in Kachin state, 29 Jan 2013. Final recommendations will be prepared in early 2015.
2.4 Facilitate multi-stakeholder species conservation action planning workshop	Protected area workshop joint hosted with the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in Kachin state, 29 Jan 2013. State-level workshop on the newly-defined boundaries, to be co-sponsored by the project, is expected in Year 3.
2.5 Facilitate IUCN Red List/ CITES listing/ inclusion in the national protected species list	The Myanmar snub-nosed monkey was afforded Critically Endangered status under criteria A4cd Red list status in 2012. CITES listing has been requested.
2.6 Train BANCA staff in wildlife trade survey and investigation techniques	Delayed due to insecurity in the project site. Scheduled and budgeted for Year 3 under the agreement with Oxford Brookes.
2.7 Conduct regular wildlife trade investigations/ submit reports to Customs/ CITES authorities in Myanmar and China	Delayed due to insecurity in the project site. Planned for Year 3.
2.8 Design awareness programme/ materials and implement awareness campaign for dam/ road/ logging workers (see also activities 3.1-3.3)	Delayed due to lack of Chinese speaking staff and poor security situation.
Output 3. Community-based constituency for snub-nosed monkey conservation programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of local communities for snub-nosed monkey conservation • Reduced hunting of snub-nosed monkeys • Alternative livelihood interventions provide incentives for conservation • Increased capacity of BANCA staff to develop and implement a comprehensive conservation awareness programme <p>Despite the poor security and access situation affecting the site, we were able in Year Two to make substantive progress on building a conservation constituency for the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey and the proposed Imawbum National Park.</p> <p>In particular, eight new community conservation groups have been formed, new conservation commitments signed, and small grants for projects to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty in support of the commitments have been awarded.</p> <p>Awareness raising included further interview surveys in the north, east and south of the site being used to raise awareness of the species, its conservation status and needs, and the role of various stakeholders in its conservation.</p>
3.1 Conduct Conservation awareness baseline survey (Knowledge, attitude and behaviour) and repeat survey at the end of the project	Conducted in west of the site in 2011. Conducted in the east during the reporting period.
3.2 Design conservation awareness campaign and materials	Materials and messages for village-based awareness prepared by the awareness officer.
3.3 Implement regular awareness programme in buffer zone villages	Village-based awareness activities conducted in 17 villages in Year 2.
3.4 Conduct special conservation awareness events during Christmas in collaboration with	Initial Christmas campaign conducted in Tha Bang Ker village in December 2012. Not possible

local church groups	in 2013 due to the security situation.
3.5 Assess socio-economic conditions and livelihood opportunities in villages surrounding the Snub-nosed monkey range	Conducted in west of the site in 2011. Conducted in the east during the reporting period.
3.6 Establish and train village conservation support groups (responsible for village development planning, small grants management/ village conservation stewardship agreements)	Provided to 14 groups during the reporting period.
3.7 Facilitate village development planning and preparation of conservation stewardship agreement	Conducted in 20 villages during the reporting period.
3.8 Provide livelihood incentives through a small grants programme to local communities in return for conservation stewardship agreements	Provided to 14 groups during the reporting period.
3.9 Provide technical support for sustainable livelihood development (e.g. agro-forestry, paddy field development to replace shifting cultivation)	Limited technical report could be provided due to difficulty of gaining access to technical specialists; focused instead on established activities and peer-to-peer support
3.10 Establish and train two community patrol groups	Project staff trained in "SMART" patrolling and a patrol protocol has been developed; start of patrols has been delayed due to insecurity in the project site
3.11 Facilitate monthly community patrols	Delayed due to insecurity in the project site

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe (unchanged)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><i>Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</i></p>			
<p>Sub-Goal: Conservation of the Himalayan Ecosystems in Northern Forest Corridor of Myanmar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected area gazettement of the Imawbum Mountain Range to fill the protected area gap in the Northern Forest Corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gazettement decree by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry 	
<p>Purpose Conservation of the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey and its bio-diverse habitat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced hunting of snub-nosed monkeys Legal protection provided for the snub-nosed monkeys Protected area formally established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity monitoring & patrol reports (encounter rate of snub-nosed monkeys and hunters) Conservation awareness reports (Knowledge, attitude and behaviour surveys baseline & repeat surveys) Village conservation stewardship agreements (10 villages) Myanmar snub-nosed monkey included in the national protected species list/ CITES list by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MoECAAF) Protected area gazettement decree by MoECAAF 	<p>Local governance (conservation stewardship agreements) and respect for conservation laws allows that national legal protection and protected area gazettement translates to effective conservation on the ground</p> <p>Political stability in the snub-nosed monkey range. (Risks are low as this <i>Special Region 1</i> in Northeast Kachin State. The National Democratic Kachin Army has a stable peace/autonomy agreement and participated in the recent national election. FFI has not experienced any problems in getting permits for foreigners visiting this area)</p>
<p>Outputs 1. Improved knowledge of snub-nosed monkey abundance, distribution and ecological needs across its range</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific results on snub-nosed monkey abundance, distribution and ecological needs published Increased capacity of BANCA to undertake conservation-focussed research focussed on primates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer reviewed field research reports Peer reviewed Myanmar snub-nosed monkey conservation status report Publications in peer reviewed journals (at least 3 articles) Capacity needs assessment report, training reports, training participant evaluation 	<p>Support by Myanmar authorities for field surveys</p> <p>(The government has consistently issued permits for foreigners conducting field surveys for the past 3 years)</p>

<p>2. Snub-nosed monkey conservation strategy designed and implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species Conservation Action Plan • Legal protection for the snub-nosed monkey and its habitat • Trans-border collaboration on CITES enforcement • Increased capacity of BANCA to develop species action plans and engage stakeholders in planning processes for protected area gazettement • Increased awareness among the local communities, dam/ logging/ road construction workers • Reduced wildlife trade in project area (especially for primates) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species Conservation Action plan adopted by government • Myanmar snub-nosed monkey included in national protected species list • CITES (appendix I) / IUCN RED listing • Justification for Imau Bun National Park gazettement/ recommendations for protected area gazettement submitted to government/ government gazettement decree • BANCA training and capacity building reports/ tests at the end of training • Pre-post knowledge, awareness, and attitude surveys, participant evaluation during conservation awareness events • Wildlife trade investigation reports submitted to Myanmar/ Chinese customs and CITES authorities 	<p>Government and local stakeholder support for protected area gazettement</p> <p>Myanmar and Chinese CITES and customs authorities have the political will for law enforcement along the Myanmar – China border line</p>
<p>3. Community-based constituency for snub-nosed monkey conservation programme developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of local communities for snub-nosed monkey conservation • Reduced hunting of snub-nosed monkeys • Two community patrol/ monitoring groups are trained and actively patrol and protect snub-nosed monkeys and their habitat • Alternative livelihood interventions provide incentives for conservation in at least four villages that were actively hunting snub-nosed monkeys • Increased capacity of BANCA staff to develop and implement a comprehensive conservation awareness and community based conservation programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-post knowledge, awareness, and attitude surveys, participant evaluation during conservation awareness events • Pre-post threat assessment report • Patrol and monitoring reports (hunter/trap encounter; snub-nosed monkey encounter rate) • Conservation stewardship agreements • PRA/RRA socio-economic baseline and repeat survey in 10 villages • Training and capacity building reports/ tests at the end of training modules 	<p>Local stakeholder support for Snub-nosed monkey conservation</p>

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 5. Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Total to date	Number planned for reporting period ⁽¹⁾	Total planned during the project
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc)	0	0	0	0	2
4A	Number of undergraduate students to receive training	0	0	0	3	6
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	0	3	3	3	12
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	0	0	0	1	2
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	0	0	0	2	8
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	>300	100	>400	100	500
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	0	2	2	4	12
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	0	0	0	0	2
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	0	0	0	0	1
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	0	0	0	0	4
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	0	0	0	0	4
12A	Number of computer based databases to be established and handed over to host country	0	0	0	0	2
12B	Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to host country	0	0	0	0	1
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/disseminate findings	1	0	1	1	3
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	1	0	1	1	8
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	1	1	2	1	6
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	1	1	2	1	6
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	0	0	0	1	6
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	0	0	0	100	500
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	0	0	0	1000	5000
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be established	0	0	0	0	2
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be enhanced/ extended	0	0	0	0	4
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	0	0	0	0	1
18B	Number of national TV programmes/features in UK	0	0	0	0	1
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	0	0	0	0	2
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	0	0	0	0	2
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	0	0	0	0	12000
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	0	0	0	0	1
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	0	0	0	0	6 plots
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	0	0	0	0	£220,960

⁽¹⁾ Based on internal annual workplans, not specified in the project proposal.

Table 6. Publications

Type (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
IUCN Red List species entry	"Rhinopithecus strykeri", Geissmann, T., Mombert, F. & Whitten, T. 2012	IUCN, Gland	www.iucnredlist.org	Free
Primate Conservation Program Report No. 21	"Results of biodiversity and camera trap surveys in Imawbum Proposed Protected Area, 2010-2012", Ngwe Lwin, Saw Soe Aung, 2012	FFI Myanmar, Yangon	FFI Myanmar	Free
Internal report	Proceedings of the Workshop on the Establishment of the Imawbum Mountain Protected Area for Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey (MYN)	Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Naypyidaw	FFI Myanmar	Free
Primate Conservation Program Report No. 22	Proceedings of the Workshop on the Establishment of the Imawbum Mountain Protected Area for Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey (EN)	FFI Myanmar, Yangon	FFI Myanmar	Free

Annex 4: Supplementary materials

Table 7. Other project documentation and internal reports

Year	Title/Subject	Lang.	Status
2013	Internal Trip report, Dec '12 to Jan '13 field survey	EN	Finished
2013	Internal Trip report, Feb-Mar '13 field survey	EN	Finished
2013	Internal Camera trap report, Apr to Jun '12	EN	Finished
2013	Internal Camera trap report, Jan to Feb '13	EN	Finished
2013	Internal Trip report, Mar '13 SMART patrolling training, Aceh	EN	Finished
2014	Internal training report, primate assessments methods	EN	Finished
2014	Internal Field survey report, Feb to March'14	EN	Finished
2014	Internal Mammal Survey report, Feb to March '14	Myan mar	Finished
2014	Internal Bird Survey report, Feb to March'14	Myan mar	Finished
2014	Internal Flora Survey Report, Feb to March'14	EN	Finished

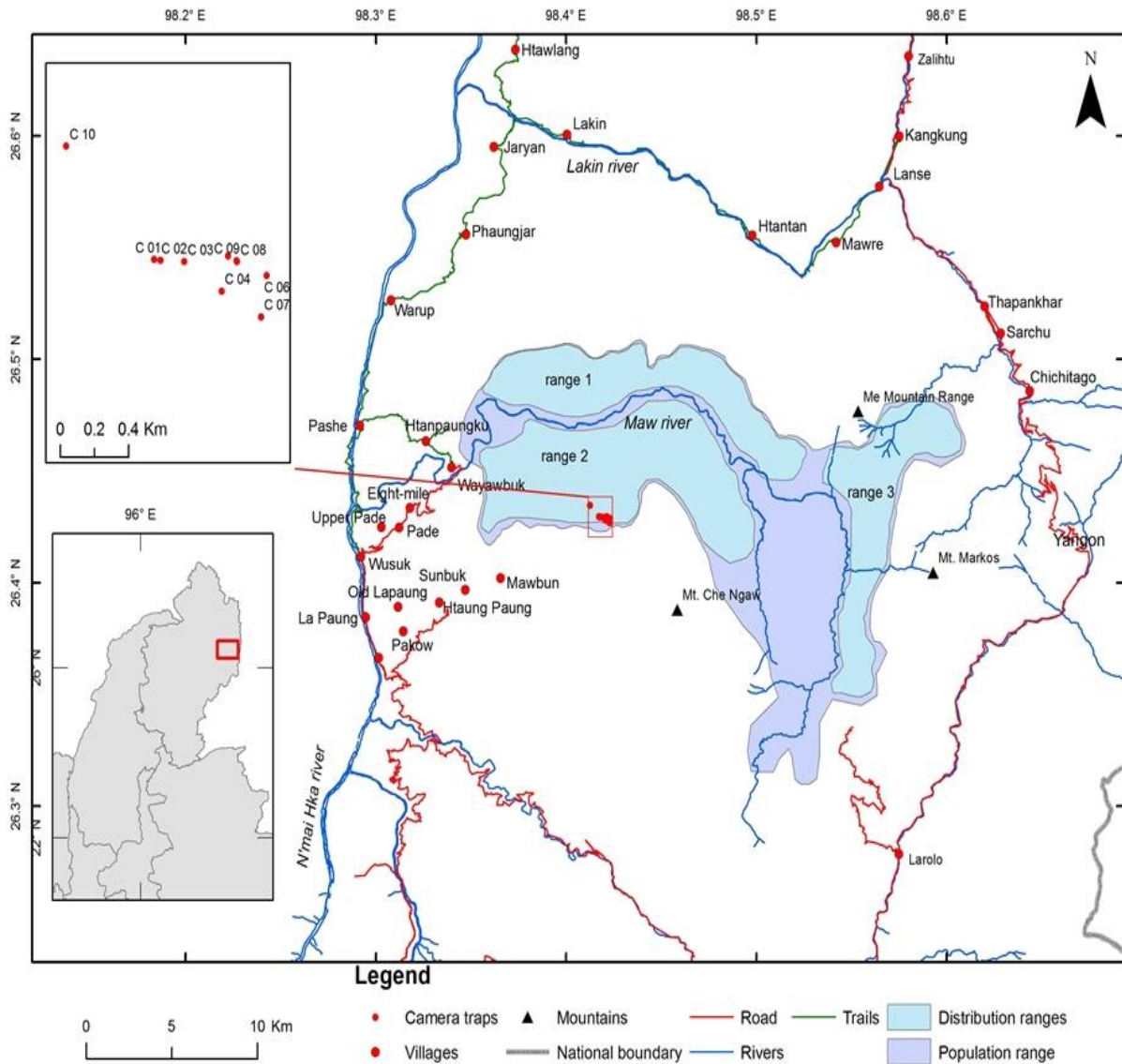


Fig 8. Map of study area showing the location of the camera traps and estimated population range of Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey. All indicated villages are involved in the small grants scheme and have signed conservation commitments.