



SAOLA WORKING GROUP

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**GLOBAL
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

SAOLA WORKING GROUP

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

THE SAOLA WORKING GROUP WAS FOUNDED IN 2006, AND IS PART OF THE
ASIAN WILD CATTLE SPECIALIST GROUP OF THE IUCN SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION

www.savethesaola.org



*Cover photo: SWG members Dr. Nicholas Wilkinson (center) and Dr. Hannah O'Kelly (third from right)
with Marcin Matuszak of Wrocław Zoo (second from right) on research survey with staff of
Vietnam's Pu Huong Nature Reserve (photo courtesy of Marcin Matuszak)*

FOREWORD



“Now is a time to remind ourselves of the boundless power of cooperation, creativity, inspiration, passion, compassion and transmission. These values will prevail in the long-term sustainability of this Earth and its beautiful nature . . .

“Let us reflect on the position humans occupy on Earth; let us reflect on what actions can make a better world. Let’s forget for a moment all about the human conceptions of the world, which often bring divisions. We have the opportunity to act consciously and perpetuate our actions through raising awareness of others and of the next generation. As a unified community, we can make a difference, one drop at a time.”

» Dr. Camille Coudrat
Saola Working Group member
Founder and Director of Project Anoulak
January 2017

THE SAOLA



Discovered by science only in 1992, the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) was one of the most spectacular zoological discoveries the 20th century. It is now one of the most endangered animals in the world. It is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

This solitary, elusive ungulate is endemic to forests of the Annamite Mountains of Laos and Vietnam. Due to Saola's elusiveness and a lack of investment in its conservation, precise population estimates of any confidence are not yet possible; the best we can say is that at most a couple of hundred survive in remote forests in its range. Saola ranks 44th among the world’s most Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) species on the list of the Zoological Society of London.



THE SAOLA WORKING GROUP

MISSION STATEMENT

The Saola Working Group works 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 is part of the Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. The SWG was formed in 2006 in recognition of the need for urgent, focused and coordinated action to save Saola from extinction. We held our first in-person meeting in 2009.

As of the end of 2016, the SWG has 35 members. They are among the most experienced conservation biologists in Southeast Asia and some of the world's most knowledgeable specialists in the captive breeding of hoofed mammals. The SWG's members belong to more than 20 institutions, and this deep collaboration is a cornerstone of our work.

MEMBERS OF THE SAOLA WORKING GROUP

(alphabetical order by surname)

Crispian Barlow	WWF Greater Mekong Programme
Eric Bairrão-Ruivo	ZooParc de Beauval (France)
Andy Blue	San Diego Safari Park
Dr. Cao Tien Trung	Vinh University (Viet Nam)
Dr. Pierre Comizzoli	Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
Dr. Camille Coudrat	Project Anoulak, Laos
Dr. Tom Gray	WWF Greater Mekong Programme
Dr. Simon Hedges	WCS Asia
Khamseng Homdouangxay	WWF Lao Programme
Jeff Holland	Center for the Conservation of Tropical Ungulates
Terry Hornsey	Africa Alive! / Banham Zoo (UK)
Le Trong Trai	Viet Nature
Nick Lindsay	Whipsnade Zoo / Zoological Society of London
Dr. Barney Long	Global Wildlife Conservation
Luong Viet Hung	WWF Vietnam Programme
Nguyen Duc Tu	IUCN Vietnam Programme
Dr. Nguyen Xuan Dang	Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (Vietnam)
Dr. Hannah O'Kelly	Independent researcher
Bouaphanh Phanthavong	Division of Forest Resources Management (Laos)
Chanthasone Phommachanh	King Mongkut's University of Technology- Thonburi (Thailand)



Radoslaw Ratajszczak	<i>Wroclaw Zoo (Poland)</i>
Dr. Ben Rawson	<i>WWF Vietnam Programme</i>
Douglas Richardson	<i>Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Highland Wildlife Park</i>
Dr. Scott Robertson	<i>Wildlife Conservation Society Vietnam Program</i>
William Robichaud	<i>Global Wildlife Conservation (USA)</i>
Xaysompheng Sengkhomyong	<i>Integrated Ecosystem and Wildlife Management Project (Laos)</i>
Steve Shurter	<i>White Oak Conservation Center (USA)</i>
Ben Swanepoel	<i>Wildlife Conservation Society Lao Program</i>
Dr. Pat Thomas	<i>Bronx Zoo / Wildlife Conservation Society</i>
Andrew Tilker	<i>Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research</i>
Rob Timmins	<i>Independent Researcher</i>
Dr. Sam Turvey	<i>Zoological Society of London</i>
Dr. Chanthavy Vongkhamheng	<i>Lao Wildlife Conservation Association</i>
Outhai Vongsa	<i>Division of Forest Resources Management (Laos)</i>
Nicholas Wilkinson	<i>Cambridge University — Darwin Initiative Project</i>

OUR SUPPORTERS

The SWG is a deeply collaborative technical body, but it will take more than science and research, and the contributions of our members, to save Saola from extinction. Of equal importance to our success are our donors, as are the many creative and passionate contributions of a number of individuals around the globe. Together, we form an inspired consortium to save this remarkable animal.

DONORS

Although Saola is one of the most endangered large mammals in the world, and a conservation flagship for a globally significant ecosystem, the Annamite Mountains, cultivating supporters for Saola conservation can be challenging, since “Saola” is far from a household word. Thus we are particularly grateful to our enlightened donors for their support.

Our 2016 institutional donors, in alphabetical order, were:

American Association of Zoo Keepers – Toronto Zoo
*American Association of Zoo Keepers –
Greater Kansas City*
Beauval Nature
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Denver Zoo Explorer Post
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
Fota Wildlife Park (Ireland)



Friends of Zoo Boise
Givskud Zoo (Denmark)
Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association
Henry Vilas Zoo
Houston Zoo
Icon Films Ltd.
International Hoofstock Awareness Association
Jacksonville Zoological Society
Leipzig Zoo
MacArthur Foundation
The Maue Kay Foundation
Prague Zoo
Waltermire Family Charitable Fund
Wildlife Conservation Network
Wrocław Zoo
Zoo Zlin
Zoological Society of East Anglia
Zoological Society of London
Zoological Society of San Diego

AND OUR GENEROUS INDIVIDUAL DONORS:

anonymous (five gifts)
Mathew Ardaiole
Jordan Baur
Birgit Bach
Ann Beutel
Carol Cassidy

Steven and Karin Chase
Dina DiCenso
Sandra Farkas
Leonard Gantley
Donald Gilchrist
Stephen and Florence Goldby
Troy Hansel
Liz Hendry
Andrew Holman
Brent Huffman
Kenji Ishiwada
K. Karnos
Margaret McCarthy and Bob Worth
Bill Odle
Howard Olson
Andrew Reeve
Maryeli Rodriguez
Harald Roesch
Elias Sadallo Filho
Linda Tabor-Beck
Lee and Marty Talbot
Pat Thomas
Christina Seely
Gary Walker
Phoebe Weseley
Clayton Williams
Zoe Williams



OTHER SUPPORTERS

The following individuals generously gave, in various ways, their talents, time and energy to the SWG in 2016:

James Burton, Chair of our home institution, the Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), guided us with an always supportive and encouraging hand.

Tuan Bendixen, Vietnam Director for Animals Asia, has been a key advisor and ally for our work in Vietnam.

Jake Brunner, Programme Coordinator of IUCN Vietnam, was always generously available with his time and insights, and made the IUCN office in Hanoi available for meetings.

David Field, Director of the Zoological Society of London, continued his efforts on behalf of the SWG to garner international financial support for Saola conservation.

Julia Hanuliakova, CEO of Zoo Design, Inc., donated revised architectural designs for a Saola conservation breeding center.

Ann-Marie Holmes ably and patiently managed the “Saola Update” newsletter.

Eric Losh once again contributed his talents and inspiration to produce the SWG’s gorgeous holiday card.

Nguyen Manh Hiep, of Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, has given strong support and assistance in many ways for application of the One Plan approach to conservation of Saola in Vietnam.

Jon Paul Rodriguez, New Chair of the IUCN SSC, jumped in quickly, meeting on behalf of the SWG with government officials in Vietnam within a couple of months of his new appointment.

Dominique le Roux, owner of Moonshine Media, Inc., gave us prompt and astutely creative assistance with our website.

Joel Sartore and **Robin Moore**, National Geographic photographers, generously donated photographs to raise funds for Saola conservation in 2016.

Christine Seely, **Jordan Schimming** and **Stacey Paisner** of the International Hoofstock Awareness Association enthusiastically lent their time and talents to raise support for Saola conservation and the work of the SWG.



Simon Stuart, Outgoing Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, continued to amaze us with the way it seemed as if he had nothing else to do among his busy days than to help the SWG.

Van Ngoc Thinh, of the WWF Vietnam Program, continues to be a keen ally for Saola conservation and a friend to the SWG in Vietnam.

New York-based artist **Zoe Williams** once again applied her formidable creativity to the effort to save the Saola.

Nick Allez, surly octogenarian, provided design, layout and typesetting of this report and the 2014 report, using QuarkXPress, coffee, and box wine.

Finally, we are indebted to the SWG's financial and administrative host and partner, **Global Wildlife Conservation** (GWC). Thanks in particular are due to GWC's founder and CEO **Wes Sechrest**, Financial Manager **Samantha Reza** and Associate Director of Communications **Lindsay Renick Mayer**.



OUR APPROACH

With Saola now one of the world's most endangered large mammals, with no captive population, and threats to the remaining animals in the wild still not under control, the SWG and our partners in the governments of Vietnam and Laos recognize the necessity and the urgency of establishing a captive Saola population. At the same time, parallel improvements in the protection of forests important to Saola are a high priority, and for several reasons:

- first, to protect remaining Saolas until captures for the conservation breeding program can begin;
- next, to ensure that priority areas achieve a state of sufficient protection to allow reintroductions of captive-bred or rescued Saolas in the future;
- finally, to continue to leverage Saola as flagship for the conservation of other threatened species in the Annamite Mountains of Laos and Vietnam.

Integration of conservation breeding with vigorous protection in the wild into one coordinated program is an approach called the One Plan by the IUCN Species Survival Commission:

The One Plan approach to species conservation is the development of management strategies and conservation actions by all responsible parties for all populations of a species, whether inside or outside their natural range. (Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, <http://www.cbsg.org/our-approach/one-plan-approach-conservation>)



This is the approach taken by the SWG, and we implement it across four programs:

- Protection of Saola in nature
- Conservation breeding
- Mentoring and capacity building
- Partnership building

The year 2016 saw continued progress in all four areas. This is summarized in the sections that follow.

PROTECTION OF SAOLA IN NATURE

An urgent, short-term priority to save Saola from extinction is improved protection against poaching in areas where it is likely the species still survives.

Priority Areas

Since 2011, the SWG and its partners have focused protection efforts for Saola on five key protected areas, three in Laos and two in Vietnam. At each site, in cooperation with local government, SWG partners have developed teams of well-trained and supervised patrol rangers (*aka* forest guards) recruited from local villages. One focus of the teams is the removal of snares from these areas, and in 2016 the total of snares collected since the program began neared 150,000.

Every snare collected not only reduces risk to Saola, but to many other species of threatened wildlife that share the same forests as well.

Additional detail of the results from these areas follows:

Hue Saola Nature Reserve and Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserve, Vietnam, and Xe Sap National Protected Area, Laos.

These three protected areas along the border of central Vietnam and central Laos comprise one interconnected “Saola landscape.” Protection efforts there are supported by the WWF Greater Mekong Programme, under its Carbon and Biodiversity Project (“CarBi”). Table 1 summarizes the patrol results from these three key areas in 2016.

Activity	<i>Hue SNR</i>		<i>Quang Nam SNR</i>		<i>Xe Sap NPA*</i>	
	Annual totals	Monthly averages	Annual totals	Monthly averages	Annual totals	Monthly averages
Patrols	125	10	126	11	7	1
Petrol days	3,810	318	4,422	369	180	26
Snares removed	14,243	1,187	3,035	253	477	68
Poachers' camps destroyed	85	7	40	3	22	3

* In 2016, due to limited funding, patrolling in Xe Sap NPA took place during seven months only.

Table 1. Patrol results from the Hue and Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserves, Vietnam, and the Xe Sap National Protected Area, Laos.
January – December 2016
(data courtesy of the WWF Greater Mekong Programme)



*Phou Si Thone Endangered Species
Conservation Area, Laos*

In 2010, villagers in Bolikhamxay Province, Laos, removed from a snare a live adult male Saola. Unfortunately, the animal was already weakened from the ordeal of its capture, and died a few days later in their care. The Lao government then moved quickly to protect the area, and established Phou Si Thone (PST) Endangered Species Conservation Area.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) works with Bolikhamxay Province on various conservation activities there, through their joint Integrated Ecosystem and Wildlife Management Project (with funding from Save Our Species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and CEPF). A key component is vigorous patrolling and snare collection, with teams of locally recruited rangers. Table 2 shows the results of patrolling in PST in 2016 and preceding years.

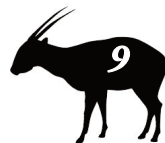
Table 2. Monthly and annual totals of snares collected in Phou Si Thone Endangered Species Conservation Area.
(data courtesy of the WCS Lao Program)

Year	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	2,977	664	3,891
2012	811	0	0	0	0	0	216	1560	850	0	0	0	3,437
2013	0	55	0	0	0	0	275	136	2	8	0	0	476
2014	7	0	0	0	30	0	0	64	464	127	186	338	1,216
2015	22	21	150	0	0	45	60	178	299	83	28	46	932
2016	0	25	67	0	0	14	103	425	241	231	0	11	1,117



Figure 1. Phou Si Thone patrol team.
(photo courtesy of the WCS Lao program)

Figure 2. Phou Si Thone patrol ranger investigates a poacher's camp.
(photo courtesy of the WCS Lao program)



Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, Laos

At 4,000 km² (with corridors), Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area (NNT NPA) in central Laos is the largest protected area in the Saola's range. In addition to being a key area for Saola, NNT undoubtedly holds the largest nominally protected populations of some other endangered species, such as Large-antlered Muntjac, Red-shanked Douc and Owston's Civet.

Under an arrangement brokered by the World Bank, funding for NNT's management is drawn from the revenues of a nearby hydroelectric dam, Nam Theun 2 (NNT comprises most of the catchment of the dam's reservoir). Since 2005, an average of more than US\$ 1 million per year has been invested in the protection of NNT's forests and biodiversity, and the development and services to more than 30 villages inside the protected area.

Unfortunately, in recent years, external monitors to the project have consistently noted the failure of this funding and the current management arrangements to effectively protect the threatened wildlife and other biodiversity of NNT. The issue finally came to a head in 2016, when the Government of Laos (GoL) initiated a complete overhaul of NNT's management. This has put protection activities largely on hold temporarily, until the reorganization is completed and better arrangements established. Some of the patrolling gap was filled by rangers fielded by Project Anoulak, under the direction of SWG member Dr. Camille Coudrat.

Indications from the restructuring of NNT's management are encouraging, and NNT might soon be under the best management it has seen since the protected area was established almost a quarter century ago.

Members of the SWG have been instrumental in the long process of improving the management of NNT. Dr. Chanthavy Vongkhamhaeng has served as an advisor to GoL and the World Bank on NNT, and played a key role in the management overhaul.

In April 2016, Camille Coudrat and Project Anoulak partnered with the SWG and NNT's management body, the Watershed Management and Protection Authority, to convene a "Law Enforcement Strategic Planning Meeting for Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area." The workshop was made possible by funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Henry Vilas Zoo.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Review long-term strategy and involvement of the SWG at priority sites (including NNT NPA);
- Discuss priority zones on which to focus law enforcement efforts;
- Review past and current law enforcement strategies for NNT NPA;
- Assess current law enforcement strategy in NNT NPA, identify potential gaps and provide advice for effective, long-term law enforcement.



A key part of the workshop was a presentation by SWG member Rob Timmins on the results of his enforcement effectiveness assessment survey in NNT the previous autumn, which was also funded by CEPF. Also participating in the workshop were SWG members Dr. Chanthavy and Ben Swanepoel.

The workshop conclusions, and the recommendations in its report, are a sound foundation for improved protection of NNT NPA.



Figure 3. Participants at the Nakai-Nam Theun Enforcement Workshop, Oudomsouk, Laos, April 2016.

Initiation of new protection

In 2016, SWG members Chanthasone Phommachanh and Rob Timmins led the first biological survey ever of a large (78,000 ha) block of uninhabited forest in eastern Bolikhamxay Province, Laos, adjacent to Vietnam's Pu Mat National Park. The area, known as Nam Chouane-Nam Xang, is one of the largest blocks of high quality forest outside of a protected area in the Annamite Mountains of Laos or Vietnam. Initial conclusions are that the area at least formerly held Saola, but survey effort has not yet been intense enough to know if any Saola remain. In 2016, based in part on the results of the survey, the Lao government gave full endorsement to protecting the site as a biodiversity offset for a hydropower project being constructed elsewhere in Laos. The surveys were conducted under the ægis and support of the Asian Development Bank and the Nam Ngiep 1 Power Company. These two institutions are currently working with GoL to design effective protection and management of the area.

Protected area research

In early 2016, the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, in collaboration with WWF, completed systematic camera trapping and leech surveys in the Hue and Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserves. All work was carried out in close collaboration with the WWF forest guards and patrol rangers from Hue and Quang Nam provinces. SWG member (and Ph.D. student) Andrew Tilker led the research.

The research objective was not to search for Saola, and camera traps were spaced across both protected areas, giving the first broad overview of the mammal and ground-dwelling bird communities in this key landscape. Although the results indicate that the area's wildlife populations have been heavily affected by poaching (as with most areas in central Vietnam), there were some surprises, including numerous detections of the little-known Annamite Striped Rabbit, another Annamite endemic discovered after the Saola (the rabbit's scientific name, *Nesolagus timminsi*, honors the discoverer of the species, SWG member Rob Timmins). The results highlight again how protecting Saola also protects other Annamite endemic species.

In the second half of the year the research shifted to Laos. The team deployed camera traps in Xe Sap National Protected Area (NPA), and a promising area adjacent to the southern boundary of the NPA. All work was carried out in collaboration with local Lao government agencies. Although results showed that the mammal community in this area was similar to that in central Vietnam, there were some notable exceptions, including the first photographs from this project of the rare Owston's Civet (IUCN Red List Endangered). Detections of species of conservation significance and overall species richness were both higher in the southern area than inside the Xe Sap NPA protected area boundary. The Leibniz team, SWG, WWF and GoL will convene in early 2017 to identify a collaborative strategy to extend protection to this important area.

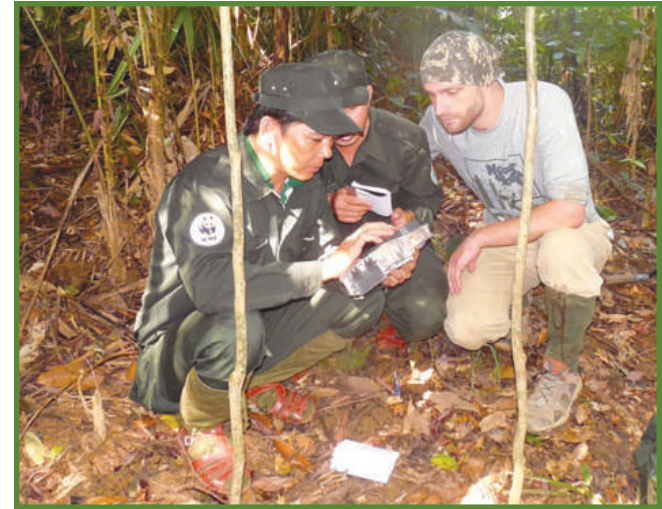


Figure 4. SWG member Andrew Tilker (right) and WWF-supported forest guards set a camera trap in Vietnam's Quang Nam Saola Nature Reserve.



Figure 5. Annamite Striped Rabbit in the Hue Saola Nature Reserve, Vietnam, and Owston's Civet south of Xe Sap NPA, Laos, photographed by camera trap. (courtesy of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research)

“Catching Hope” Campaign

In 2016, Henry Vilas Zoo of Madison, Wisconsin, continued to partner with the SWG to raise funds for protection of Saola in the wild. Using snares collected by forest guards in the Saola priority sites, the zoo’s Education Department organized volunteers to shape and adorn them into various species of bling: key chains, dream catchers, and ornamental wall hangings. The zoo sells the handicrafts to zoo visitors and through the mail, and returns the profits to the SWG to invest in additional protection. The partnership has now raised several thousand dollars for Saola conservation. The driving force behind this initiative is the dynamic Director of Education at Henry Vilas Zoo, Erin Flynn, to whom we are most grateful.

CONSERVATION BREEDING

Progress continued toward establishment, in Vietnam of the world’s first captive breeding center for Saola. These are among the main points of progress from 2016:

- Poland’s Wroclaw Zoo has agreed to be the institution that will oversee longterm, day-to-day management of the captive breeding center. Wroclaw Zoo’s Director, Radoslaw Ratajszczak, has long experience with captive wild ungulates, long experience in Vietnam specifically, and very good relationships with key partners in the government. This is a great match for us.
- In March, a joint team of the SWG, Wroclaw Zoo and Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) toured six potential

sites in Vietnam for construction of the center. After consultation within the SWG and MARD, Bach Ma National Park was selected as the site for the center’s construction.

- The SWG’s Conservation Breeding Task Team, working with MARD, completed final drafts of a Memorandum of Agreement for implementation of the conservation breeding program, and a draft of the more detailed Project Document.
- In September, members of the Conservation Breeding Task Team, and some of our key supporters, met to discuss strategy and next steps during the annual meeting of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- In November, the new Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Jon Paul Rodriguez, visited Vietnam, and in meetings with government officials in Hanoi, pledged support for the conservation breeding effort.
- In November and December, SWG members Dr. Cao Tien Trung, Nicholas Wilkinson and Dr. Hannah O’Kelly, accompanied by professional dog trainer Marcin Matuszak of Wroclaw Zoo, completed the first phase of a field research program in Vietnam’s Pu Huong Nature Reserve. The objective of this research is to identify a method to safely and effectively capture Saola in the wild. The initial phase, conducted over a one-month period, focused on the feasibility of using local hunting dogs to both detect and capture wild ungulates in Saola habitat.





Figure 6. SWG member and Director of Wroclaw Zoo, Radoslaw Ratajszczak (3rd from left); Nguyen Manh Hiep of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (2nd from right); and SWG advisor Tuan Bendixen of Animals Asia (far right) with staff of Bach Ma National Park, at the park's headquarters. *(photo courtesy of Radoslaw Ratajszczak)*



Figure 7. SWG members Dr. Cao Tien Trung (right) and Dr. Hannah O'Kelly (center foreground) conducting (very) social research in Pu Huong Nature Reserve, Vietnam. *(photo courtesy of Marcin Matuszak)*



Figure 8. Saola horns in a village near Pu Huong Nature Reserve, Vietnam. *(photo courtesy of Marcin Matuszak)*

MENTORING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

One of the SWG's core missions for long-term conservation of Saola is encouraging and mentoring the young generation of Lao and Vietnamese conservation scientists. In this effort, we have received outstanding support from the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN). Some of the highlights in 2016 were:

Santi Sayphanya completed requirements for his Ph.D. in wildlife conservation awareness at Cornell University, U.S.A., and was named Deputy Director of the WCS Lao Program. His studies were supported by a WCN scholarship.

SWG member **Chanthasone Phommachanh** worked on writing up the results of his field research for his M.Sc. degree from King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thonburi, Thailand. Again, WCN generously provided him with funding support.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

Conferences and presentations:

To cultivate support for Saola conservation (both financial and technical) SWG Coordinator Bill Robichaud gave presentations at the following conferences and institutions in 2016:

- Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Mid-Year Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A.
- Conservation Forum of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), in Malaga, Spain.
- EAZA annual conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland (plenary talk).
- Fota Wildlife Park, Ireland.
- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, U.S.A.
- Denver Zoo, U.S.A.
- Omaha Zoo, U.S.A.
- Zoo Boise, U.S.A.

SWG member Barney Long represented the SWG at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i in September.

Events

In June, the International Hoofstock Awareness Association organized and hosted an evening fund-raising event for the SWG in Denver, Colorado. The highlight of the evening was a live auction, including sales of signed wildlife prints by National Geographic photographers Joel Sartore and Robin Moore. Thank you, IHAA!



In December, artist Zoe Williams organized UNICORN, an art show and sale in New York to benefit the SWG. The show opened on December 3 at the Gristle Gallery in Brooklyn. Eighteen artists contributed unicorn-themed works, with a portion of all sales donated to the SWG. We are indebted to Zoe for her passionate support of Saola conservation.



Figure 9. SWG Coordinator Bill Robichaud (second from left) and the IHAA team at the IHAA Saola fundraiser in Denver in June.

NEXT UP, 2017

Some priorities ahead for the coming year include:

- Biennial meeting of the SWG, in Hue, Vietnam.
- Inspection tour of Bach Ma National Park, to make final selection of the site for the conservation breeding center.
- At least three strategy and information meetings with other stakeholders in Vietnam, to enlist their support for the Saola conservation breeding program.
- Signing of agreements with GoVN for construction of the conservation breeding center.
- Recruitment of two national Saola projects coordinators, one each for Laos and Vietnam.
- Pursuit of an agreement and a strategy for commencing protection in the high-priority area south of Xe Sap NPA.
- The start of implementation of a new patrolling strategy in Nakai-Nam Theun NPA.

