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# *Global Conservation Program Cooperative Agreement*

*LAG-A-00-99-00048-00*

*Performance Monitoring Report*

*10/01/2007 - 09/30/2008*

*for*

**World Wildlife Fund**

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Submitted by:

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## **Forests of the Lower Mekong FY08 Narrative**

### **Indicator 1: Improved Management**

The Lower Mekong's 5.1 million hectares are under improved management through policy development, site assessments, implementation of management actions, and capacity building. The following areas were prioritized in FY08:

**Dry Forests Ecoregion:** Following the prioritization of a 20,000-hectare corridor for improved management between Mondulkiri Protected Forest and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary, the Eastern Plains Biodiversity Review was completed, which delineates zones of importance for biodiversity conservation management and priorities for corridors in Mondulkiri. Several additional assessments were completed, including a Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use Planning Assessment to gain and understanding of agricultural trends and developments in Mondulkiri Province; a scoping paper on Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for Natural Resource and Protected Area Management to identify the potential for a conservation trust fund, small scale ecotourism, commercial and community forestry, and carbon financing; and a follow-up Mondulkiri Protected Forest Management Plan that identifies roles of potential partners. In addition, the Wildlife Ecotourism Management Board, aimed to coordinate decision making on all activities related to nature tourism in the province, was endorsed and established by the provincial government office.

**Central Annamites Ecoregion:** Key next steps have been taken to implement the two new protected areas (Saola Nature Reserve in Thua Thien Hue province and Saola Landscape in Quang Nam province) that make up 24,000-hectares of conserved landscape and a 16,500-hectare extension to Bach Ma National Park, directly contributing to saola conservation. These steps include the development of a management plan for the Bach Ma extension and feasibility studies for the establishment of the new saola reserves.

### **Indicator 2: Improved Biophysical Conditions**

**Dry Forests:** Project activities are still ongoing in order to establish baselines to enable the monitoring of improvements in biophysical conditions. Nevertheless, progress has been made in FY08 related to surveys of key species. For example, a survey in PPWS has shown that the population of yellow-cheeked crested gibbons is the second largest in the world. Funds secured this year will enable an estimate of the tiger and tiger prey population in MPF and PPWS in FY09.

**Greater Annamites:** Law enforcement to deter wildlife trade has been strengthened, including training forest rangers in Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam provinces in enforcement, mapping, forest restoration and awareness raising techniques. This has resulted in a 30% reduction of wildlife trade violations in Hue.

In addition, in partnership with the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation of the American Museum of Natural History

(AMNH), and the Vietnam National University of Hanoi and Vinh University, WWF has further developed a method for determining a baseline for monitoring saola.

### **Indicator 3: Improved Policy**

#### **Dry Forests Ecoregion, Cambodia:**

- The canceling of an illegal 1,000 ha concession inside MPF was highly significant, indicating a higher level of political support at the provincial level. Although there are a number of much larger concessions threatening the landscape, there is now a precedent for further similar and positive decisions to be made in the future.
- A provincial zonation announcement for MPF was signed by the Governor; as was a provincial regulation, or “Deka”, on the establishment of a land conflict committee; Draft Community Protected Area regulations/statutes for PPWS and MPF were developed as another milestone towards formal approval; Cambodia’s first provincial Wildlife Ecotourism Management Board (WEMB) was established in Mondulkiri with WWF’s technical support.

#### **Greater Annamites Ecoregion, Vietnam:**

- Online actions of WWF US (CAN) and WWF International (Panda passport) have collected more than 26,000 signatures from citizens of more than 150 countries in support of saola protection.
- The first ever forest use rights certificate was issued in Vietnam following MARD’s issue of Circular 38/2007/TT-BNN “Guidelines for legal procedures of forest allocating, forest hiring, and forest withdrawing to apply to organizations, households, individuals, village communities” in late fall .
- In three communes (Avuong; Bhalê; Anông), consensus was reached on the proposed saola’s sanctuary’s boundaries, and with the no-trapping and hunting zones in the Saola habitat conservation area. In total, 740 households in 20 villages within these three communes signed commitments regarding the no-trapping and hunting zones.

### **Indicator 4: Funds Leveraged**

The Forests of the Lower Mekong program leveraged a total of \$539,516 of which \$396,240 went towards match.

### **Indicator 5: Number of People Trained in Natural Resource Management**

**Dry Forests:** Facilitated training of 25 Bunong-speaking community members on how to conduct environmental education in their communities. A total of 15 community members from 2 communes around MPF were initially trained in the basic concepts of a Management Oriented Monitoring System (MOMS). Conducted train-the-trainer courses for 20 participants on how to use the environmental flip charts and provided support on the follow up activities in priority communes within the landscape.

**Greater Annamites:** A new ranger station was built in the extension of Bach Ma National Park and was equipped with GPS, exhibition facilities and a meeting room in the traditional community house. Training programs for placing and operating film-based camera traps were conducted for 30 local people in three communes in the area.

Ranger patrol trainings for 20 rangers have been conducted and patrolling in the new protected areas has started. For the two new saola reserves, discussions on setting up management boards for the protected areas are ongoing with the provincial authorities.

25 villagers were trained in sustainable shade-grown cocoa planting in the Southern Annamites.

**Indicator 6: Number of People Experiencing Increased Economic Benefits**

**Dry Forests:** The Commune Extension Team's work expanded into new communities in FY08, and saw the most progress made so far on developing livelihoods improvement support projects since WWF began working in the Eastern Plains Landscape. The fruits of the last few years' labour on socio-economic surveys and community relations building are starting to emerge with the first tangible economic benefits going to local communities (wild honey marketing); Two honey and two resin associations established in two communes – with the first honey flowing to market during the second half of the year; Agricultural improvement projects initiated in Sok Sang commune (4 villages); The precise number of people and male/female ratio is unknown.

**Greater Annamites:** At least one community on sustainable cocoa agro-forestry and three communes on collaborative protected area management have benefited through a combination of sustainable livelihoods and conservation management practices. The precise number of people and male/female ratio is unknown.