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# *Global Conservation Program Cooperative Agreement*

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

*Performance Monitoring Report*

*10/01/2006 - 09/30/2007*

*for*

**World Wildlife Fund**

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Submitted by:

Judy Oglethorpe

## Forests of the Lower Mekong FY07 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 FY07:

**Dry Forests Ecoregion:** A 20,000-hectare corridor was prioritized for improved management between Mondulkiri Protected Forest and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary. Community rangers were trained in wildlife monitoring and participated in patrolling of the corridor.

**Central Annamites Ecoregion:** 50,000 hectares were conserved through landscape and forest conservation as well as enforcement efforts in four districts and two protected areas in Thua Thien Hue province.

### Indicator 2: Improved Biophysical Conditions

**Dry Forests:** Current monitoring does not allow us to accurately calculate the number of hectares under improved biophysical conditions. However, specific sites in the Lower Mekong have noted the following improvements:

- Camera trap photographs show a female leopard with cubs in the Mondulkiri Protected Forest – the first such camera trap photos of leopard and young taken in Cambodia; other photos show a female elephant with a young calf. Both of these photos provide evidence for species recruitment, vitally important for recovery of the wildlife in this landscape

**Greater Annamites:** A team of scientists from WWF and Conservation International has discovered the world's largest known population of grey-shanked doucs (*Pygathrix cinerea*), increasing chances that this Endangered monkey can be saved from extinction. Fewer than 1,000 individuals are believed to still exist, and until now, only one other population with more than 100 animals was known. This indicates that the population has not been significantly impacted by hunting like all other known populations of the species which can be attributed to increased enforcement efforts by the Forest Protection Department of Quang Nam, supported by WWF.

### Indicator 3: Improved Policy

#### Dry Forests Ecoregion, Cambodia:

- WWF prepared an international standard protected area management plan for Mondulkiri Protected Forest; the first plan prepared since its establishment in 2002;
- WWF facilitated the establishment of a Provincial Conservation Planning Unit (PCPU) within the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Mondulkiri Provincial

- Rural Development Committee (PRDC); The PCPU is the first of its kind in Cambodia and aims to facilitate improved coordinated development decision-making between government line agencies;
- In the same project a Memorandum of Agreement was established between the Mondulkiri ExCom/PRDC, WWF, and WCS to integrate biodiversity conservation and environmental management into the Mondulkiri Province's development planning institutions, mechanisms, and processes;
  - Facilitated development of community conservation agreements between communities, government agencies, and NGOs in all three community clusters around Mondulkiri Protected Forest;

**Annamites Ecoregion, Vietnam:** There was a major policy win in Central Annamites regarding Protected Areas in Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue provinces:

- On 28 September 2007 the two central Vietnamese provinces of Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam have endorsed a new set of conservation actions that will help ensure the saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) will survive in Vietnam beyond the 20th anniversary of its discovery. The provincial People's Committees of Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam signed a commitment to saola conservation which included 10 point action plans for each province. As part of these commitments, two new reserves for the saola have been declared; one of 121 km<sup>2</sup> in Thua Thien Hue and one of 121 km<sup>2</sup> in Quang Nam. These two new reserves are directly adjacent to each other as well as connecting to a 165 km<sup>2</sup> expansion to the 220 km<sup>2</sup> Bach Ma National Park. The result of this action is the formation of a continuous protected landscape covering approximately 2,920 km<sup>2</sup> stretching from the Vietnamese coast to Xe Sap National Biodiversity Conservation Area in Lao PDR. This secures a landscape corridor which is less vulnerable to the impacts of development, climate change and human pressure.
- In addition, Thua Thien Hue province approved the development of management plans for two Watershed Protection Boards.

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

The Forests of the Lower Mekong program leveraged a total of \$752,000 of which \$417,655 went towards match.

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

**Dry Forests:** USAID support was used to provide overall assistance to the design of the project's CBNRM activities, PA management improvement, and ecotourism development activities, with the following results:

- Basic field ranger training conducted for 30 rangers. This is the third consecutive year time this training has been provided; five new rangers were hired and trained.

- The Srepok Wilderness Area project's Community Extension Team – running the CBNRM activities around the Mondulkiri Protected Forest – recruited and trained additional local staff (now a total of 8 staff in the team).

**Greater Annamites:** WWF trained Forest Rangers in Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue provinces in enforcement, mapping, forest restoration and awareness raising techniques. WWF supported 'Village Protection Teams' in five communes in Quang Nam, including training of the commune rangers who coordinate these teams. A total of 40 rangers in Hue and 20 rangers in Quang Nam were trained.

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

**Dry Forests:** The Commune Extension Team's work expanded into new communities in FY07, and began a study to assess the feasibility of initiating targeted livelihood development projects. The team will prioritize from the 500+ households interviewed which sites to select first. Environmental and health education activities were carried out in two key communities. Three community clusters have benefited from improved management of natural resources. The precise number of people and male/female ratio is unknown.

**Greater Annamites:** At least 6 communities have benefited through a combination of sustainable livelihoods and conservation management practices. The precise number of people and male/female ratio is unknown.