

# *Global Conservation Program Cooperative Agreement*

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

*Performance Monitoring Report  
10/01/2008 - 09/30/2009*

*for*

**World Wildlife Fund**

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## Forests of the Lower Mekong FY09 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 FY09:

**Dry Forests Ecoregion:** The establishment of a mobile law enforcement team in FY09 was a significant step towards improving management across the Eastern Plains landscape inside and outside the main protected areas, including the connecting forest corridors.

In addition to the official designation of two community protected areas (CPAs) inside PPWS, three community fisheries were established covering more than 7,000ha inside MPF.

**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 support for the implementation of the management plan for the Bach Ma extension and convening a national saola event to enhance the Government's engagement in setting up management for the new saola reserves.

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

**Dry Forests:** Significant progress has been made in the project's aims to put in place a monitoring system for species in the landscape, particularly for tiger, as well as tiger prey species, and other significant carnivores. Preliminary analysis suggests that leopard have recovered significantly (at least based on historical anecdotal evidence) and that densities are approximately 4 per 100km<sup>2</sup>. This equates to roughly 150 leopard in Mondulkiri Protected Forest alone. This is a very encouraging indicator of the recovering prey base.

**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.

More than 1500 snares were removed from the four highest priority areas for conservation action within Bach Ma National Park extension and the new Saola reserve. This has reduced overexploitation, the greatest threat to the core population of Saola in the Hue-Quang Nam landscape;

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, but more work still needs to be done.

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

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

- While there were no major policy successes this year in the Dry Forests Ecoregion, the demonstrated willingness of the Cambodian government to engage with Vietnamese authorities on the future collaboration to protect the Eastern Plains landscape from illegal activities undertaken across the borders is quite encouraging.

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

- WWF handed over signatures of more than 26,000 citizens in support of saola protection to key representatives of the provincial and national Governments at the national saola event in Hanoi. The signatures came from more than 150 countries. With more than USD 420,000 secured over the coming years, a programme was officially kicked off to enhance research on and protection of the saola. The government representatives from Hanoi, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam were very responsive, positive and actively engaged in the discussion. WWF anticipates that we will get their full support for this project following more detailed consultations. It is too early to determine whether the government will increase their level of support to Saola conservation.
- The Wildlife Trade Action Plan was proposed to the Thua Thien Hue provincial Government for approval, but is awaiting Government budget allocation to proceed. During the inception phase of the new project “Supporting Law enforcement to reduce illegal wildlife trade in the Central Annamites Bottleneck”, jointly implemented by the Forest Protection Department (FPD) , Environmental Police, TRAFFIC and WWF a tangible work plan was elaborated which will work towards the implementation of the Action Plan. Through the latter project relevant funds are now available for the implementation of the Action Plan.

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

The Forests of the Lower Mekong program leveraged a total of \$732,512 of which \$396,240 went towards match.

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

During FY09, 110 men and 86 women received training in natural resource management. This included:

**Dry Forests:** WWF trained 50 people in 2 villages on the edge of MPF on sustainable honey harvesting and proper honey handling in preparation for the upcoming harvest season. The project staff and honey leaders provided a refresher course on harvesting methods and proper honey handling to new members and other collectors who were to participate in a National Trade Fair sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce in Cambodia.

WWF has provided training to more than 30 local community members in guiding, and other areas of hospitality. Part of the training was conducted by the hospitality school of the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP).

In partnership with International Cooperation for Cambodia (ICC), an organization working on a literacy program for the Bunong Indigenous communities, 25 Bunong literacy program teachers were trained in “Facilitating Community Environmental Awareness”. Six officers from different community associations (CPAs and CPFs<sup>1</sup>) were also trained on facilitating community environmental awareness.

**Greater Annamites:** WWF built the capacity of Bach Ma National Park by providing equipment to two new ranger stations in the extension area (Thuong Nhat and Dong Giang) and the community display house which provides education facilities to communities in the buffer zone. Conservation education films are presented, theatres conducted and classes are informed to increase the conservation awareness.

A 2-day training for 10 primary and secondary school teachers in Bach Ma extension area communes of A Ting, Song Kon, Tu and Talu communes, Dong Giang district, were conducted. Training topics focused on the extension area of Bach Ma National Park, its role and significance for conservation as well as various activities, games and publications for practicable application in extracurricular activities with pupils.

In FY09, WWF provided direct grants to the Forest Protection Department and National Park staff in Thua Thien Hue province to train and build the capacity of forest rangers and national park staff. Rangers and park staff were trained in systematic snare removal patrol methodology and data recording. As a result, more than 1500 snares were removed from the four highest priority areas for conservation action, within Bach Ma National Park extension and the new Saola reserve, which were previously identified by this project.

With WWF support, an international expert was hired to train five teams (10 people each) of local residents in the setting and maintenance of film camera traps within the Hue-Quang Nam Saola landscape. Forty-eight camera traps were set. One FPD ranger from each province (provincial coordinators) was trained in a newly designed data entry and storage system for camera trapping data (designed by the project).

In addition to camera trapping, two other survey methods were tested for Saola occupancy surveys: wandering transects and point location survey methods. University

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<sup>1</sup> Community Protected Area and Community Protected Forests. These are the community-based natural resource management committees that WWF assisted to be organized. Each committee have their extension sub committed in charge with the awareness raising activities in their respective villages.

students were trained in these survey methods at the time of undertaking the trials. The trial demonstrated that wandering transects are superior to point location sampling for sign-based ungulate occupancy surveys, habitat surveys and for assessing snare density.

In order to achieve a sustainable way of conservation, WWF and FPD have initiated a series of community consensus events to protect saola and other species of high biodiversity. This activity began in late 2007 and continued until early 2009 with the hope of strengthening conservation efforts. In 20 villages of A Vuong, A Tieng, Bha Lee communes there were at least twenty meetings for local people to sign a commitment for their community not to undertake animal trapping, hunting, as well to undertake measures to reduce the incidence of forest fire and logging. After the commitment was signed, each of the 20 villages held monthly meetings to review the implementation with FPD support and identified solutions found to make it a better community based conservation model.

WWF organized Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and 'cocoa clubs' to train farmers on sustainable cultivation practices according to the ACDI/VOCA training program, with the aim to extend sustainable agro-forestry practices and reduce conversion of natural forests.

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

**Dry Forests:** Local honey associations sold 50 bottles of honey (around USD \$180). A small amount, but nevertheless an important first step. In total, 400 liters of honey was market tested, and sold for around \$5,400. Income from honey marketing increased from \$2/L (2007) to \$5/L (2008-09). In total, there were approximately 1,141 community members benefited.

**Greater Annamites:** Through its work on promoting better management practices (BMPs) for cashew cultivation around Cat Tien National Park, WWF and partners engage with 700 farmer families to increase their income from sustainably grown cashew. Although the project has not unfolded its full potential yet, engagement with the farmers has started and benefits have started to come in. It is estimated that each farmer family has at minimum 4 members, so benefits trickle down to at least 2,800 people.

## WWF FY09 PMP

### Forests of the Lower Mekong

#### Indicator 1

	FY06 Actual	FY07 Actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 Actual
Number of <u>hectares</u> in areas of biological significance under <u>Improved Management</u> as a result of USG assistance <b>(New)</b>	0	0	0	0
Number of <u>hectares</u> in areas of biological significance under <u>Improved Management</u> as a result of USG assistance <b>(Previously reported and reflecting ongoing investment)</b>	5.1 Million ha*	5.1 Million ha*	5.1 Million ha*	5.1 Million ha*
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.1 Million ha*</b>	<b>5.1 Million ha*</b>	<b>5.1 Million ha*</b>	<b>5.1 Million ha*</b>

\* No new hectares because previously reported figures reflect the total area of landscape for which site assessment and strategic planning has been done.

#### Indicator 2

	FY06 Actual	FY07 Actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 Actual
Number of <u>hectares</u> in areas of biological significance showing <u>Improved Biophysical Conditions</u> as a result of USG assistance <b>(New)</b>	0	0	0	0
Number of <u>hectares</u> in areas of biological significance showing <u>Improved Biophysical Conditions</u> as a result of USG assistance <b>(Previously reported and reflecting ongoing investment)</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Indicates number of hectares reported in previous fiscal year.

**Indicator 3**

	FY06 Actual	FY07 Actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 Actual
<b>Number of Policy Successes</b>	4	6	5	2

**Indicator 4**

	Funds Leveraged		
	Total Amount Leveraged in USD	Amount counted towards match	Funders
USG funds	\$0	\$0	
Non-USG funds	\$732,512	\$396,240	WWF US, Private Donor, MacArthur Foundation
<b>GEF Funds</b>			
<b>Total Funds Leveraged</b>	<b>\$732,512</b>	<b>\$396,240</b>	

**Indicator 5**

Number of <u>People Trained</u> in NRM and/or Conservation	FY06 Actual	FY07 Actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 Actual
<b>Men</b>		75	90*	110
<b>Women</b>		23	40*	86
<b>Total</b>	111	98	130	196

\* These figures represent best estimates.

**Indicator 6**

Number of <u>People with Increased economic benefits</u> from NRM and/or conservation	FY06 Actual	FY07 actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 Actual
<b>Men</b>				
<b>Women</b>				
<b>Total</b>	17 communes in Vietnam; 5 communities in Cambodia	2000 in Vietnam; 1200 in Cambodia	2500 in Vietnam; 3000 in Cambodia	2800 in Vietnam; 1,141 in Cambodia