

MACARTHUR  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



**MacArthur - Conservation and Development Project  
Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam  
19-22 September 2007**

(For more information please contact Terry Sunderland: [t.sunderland@cgiar.org](mailto:t.sunderland@cgiar.org))

## AGENDA Wed 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Morning session: 8.00 – 12.00

- Introductions

Terry welcomed all participants and opened the workshop by thanking everyone for their coming and participation to the workshop. Luke then followed with the opening session by giving a brief introduction of the program of the day.

As an ice breaker, Terry asked everyone to briefly introduce the person sitting next to him/her and it started with small discussion among participants.

- CIFOR & MacArthur Project

The first presentation of the agenda started with the introduction of CIFOR, the explanation of CIFOR's work, location, impacts, results and publications. Below are some of the points presented:

CIFOR' impact:

- Wide spread use of Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management
- Encouraged the GEF to look beyond protected areas
- Developing the CBD work program on forest biological diversity with a pro-poor focus
- Helping reach management on caps in the climate change convention

Impact at National level:

- Bamboo policy development in China
- Policy reform in Bolivia, Brazil, Honduras, Nicaragua
- Malinau – new book will be published by the end of the year
- Model Forests in West Africa
- Guinea – integrated landscape management

Capacity building:

- training and workshops
- multidisciplinary & experience
- workshops disseminating research funding

Getting the message out

- meetings
- POLEX (CIFOR & wide listserv)
- Journals
- Publications
- International media

Q& A:

Mr. Nguyen Huynh Thuat, the Officer of the Science Technology division of the CTNP raised a question about what is CIFOR plan in terms of working in Vietnam?

Terry explained that the CIFOR strategy for the next five years is currently being prepared. Hopefully in the next couple months once the strategy is finished, we will be able to determine more clearly how CIFOR's work will develop in Vietnam.

- Integrated conservation and development: an overview – by Terry Sunderland  
The session was followed by a presentation on the MacArthur project which was being funded by MacArthur Foundation and it was started in June 2006. The project goal is to enable organisations working on the ground in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam to achieve better biodiversity and human well-being outcomes of their projects

The main output of the project are:

- Using STELLA: tools to provide scenario of what happen in the future
- Tracking conservation and development outcome
- Testing project best practice
- Creating local impact through influencing better project design and implementation

Terry also gave a sample of the STELLA scenario on the elephant populations in NNNP, Congo. The following points are some of the explanation on the projects.

Project management & staffing:

- Managed by CIFOR
- Luke Preece
- 3 Research Assistants (one in each country)

Outputs:

- Website: each of the links from each landscape to be built
- CIFOR Working Paper describing the project's research methodology
- Key paper summarizing project results
- Single volume including a narrative summary from each site we are working with: in all 15 case studies and overview chapter.
- One PhD and 3 local graduate degrees

What's in it for you to participate....:

- learn form each others experiences
- chance to participate in regional research
- opportunity to publish in high quality journals and books
- welcome everyone to join the final workshop in Bogor to sit down and do the writing
- payment to compensate for time spent on completing data forms and narrative reports
- capacity building

The presentation was closed with no questions from the participants.

- Overview & Group Work – Presentation by Luke Preece

Luke gave an overview of the Conservation work in the Mekong. The study area covers Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. He also explained of the fifteen projects comparison which is comparing the conservation outcomes & development outcomes and from the current workshop, it is expected to have some answers of the three questions he provided for each landscapes.

QA:

Mr. Tran Van Hung from the Birdlife International Vietnam raised three questions as follow:

- Where was the data collected from which was shown by the dots in the graphic. Answer: it was just an illustration data.
- What are the variables and inputs which were used for the comparison. Answer: These will be discussed by Manuel Ruiz Peres in his session later in the afternoon.

Nguyen Nghia Lan, from ICRAF-CIFOR Vietnam office, asked whether the STELLA model has been tested elsewhere and the answer is yes, in Central Africa and Indonesia.

The workshop was resumed with more presentations:

- Discussion: Integrated conservation and development projects (ICDPs) - Vietnam (presented by Terry Sunderland)

Main approaches:

- Compensation. Example: Cat Ba national park, where international organizations provide development-based compensation
- Providing economic alternatives: reducing pressure on the environment

However, some workers believe that:

1. ICDPs have been based on naïve assumptions:
2. ICDPs have unconvincing notions of local participation
  - working with community is actually captured the community
3. ICDPs have often targeted the wrong threats
4. ICDP implementation:
  - a. Often projects are short terms, often working outside government institution.
  - b. Most require external support
  - c. Self finance is often complicated
  - d. 'shadow institution' created
5. ICDPs don't generate enough benefits to provide local incentives for conservations
  - a. Local people do not see the connection between conservation and development
6. ICDP's are implemented by the 'wrong people' (i.e. conservationists doing development)

#### SUMMARY:

- How to do: clearly biodiversity simple can't be conserved if people's needs and aspirations are not taken into account
- Creation of protected areas while controlling unregulated resource extraction can create conflict with local communities which often leads to conservation objectives being compromised
- Arresting biodiversity loss is a challenge due to the dependence of a significant number of people on rural resources
- There is no doubt that poverty alleviation through development and biodiversity conservation must work hand-in-hand but there are trade offs that need to be recognized

#### What to do:

- Need to explicit and testable assumptions. Understanding the local context is extremely important.
- Objectives needs to be clearly stated and achievable
- Define a proper baseline to determine the conservation targets
- Most projects do not have adaptive strategies but rely on adherence to original project design
- Identify and address the diverse stakeholder interests are very important

#### Key questions:

- How can the diversity of life be maintained as human demands on natural resources expand seemingly without limit?
- How can biological conservation be reconciled with human rights and the development needs of the poor?
- Is conservation something that can be imposed by a knowledgeable élite, or will it only emerge naturally from the free will of people who are able to achieve their livelihood needs?

Terry expected participants to reflect all the problems and questions above to each of the local own cases (Vietnam)

#### QA & Reflection:

- Mr. Thuat gave his opinion in regards to what happens in the ground (Cat Tien).  
The sustainable projects, policies and research need to pay attention to the local culture and government.

- Ashley Brooks (IUCN Vietnam):
  - o Is there a willingness from the local level / district government to deliver the research result?
- Mr Thuat added: Many people don't understand which made hard for the government to deliver the message. So external help is also needed.
- Mr. Nguyen Duy Khang, Vice President of ecotourism and environment education CTNP mentioned that after the project finish, the local CTNP have to support themselves to continue the conservation. Will they get further support and help? There is a conflict between conservation & development. How to develop people and rhino if conflict persists?

Points of reflection from Manuel:

- Manuel compared of what happening in Vietnam as to 3 others countries (Spain, Britain, Australia). How to impose all of what being researched to the local situation no matter what the problems arise on the ground.
- What would have happen without the program?
- Is the conservation matter internally driven or externally driven? What are the influences between the two?

Lan questioned on the possibility of using the research result to change local the regulation and Manuel explained that there is no plan to change the local regulation. The intention of the research is hopefully can be used to prove that certain things are better than others, can be used as an understanding, something are not working. In principle, research work is to help out if it found useful to be used for the local or government.

Terry added it is really a good start if what being researched can be used as a learning lessons. The impact of the project will be felt if everyone is being honest and open in sharing their thoughts and minds and aspirations.

Nguyen Bich Ha from Fauna and Flora International Vietnam program shared her experience on implementing the conservation at the local level. ICDPs projects are often too ambitious for the current situation in Vietnam. Conservation itself costs money and is really hard to be implemented by the local people. Conservation has to be done by the people committee and also from top level. More practice on the ground needs also to be done.

Manuel said that the points raised by Ms. Binh Ha shall be discussed on the later session for discussion in the group.

GROUP DISCUSSION: 11.35-12.15

WHAT ARE THE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT SUCCESSES & FAILURES AT EACH SITE?

GROUP

1. Mr. Khang, Mr. Luong Quang Hung (WWF Vietnam), Mr. Tran Van Hung (Birdlife), Ashley Brooks (IUCN)
2. Nguyen Van Dien (Officer of Science Technology in Vinh Cuu Natural Preserve Area, Dong Nai), Nguyen Bich Ha (FFI), Nguyen Nghia Lan (CF)
3. Mr. Nguyen Huynh Thuat, Mr. Duong Van Hung (TDNPMBD), Luke Preece

- **Present site successes & failures by each group**

CONSERVATION - SUCCESS & FAILURE:

### **Cat Tien 1**

Combination of 2 Nature Reserves into single National Park  
Listed as UNESCO Biosphere Reserve  
Formal identification of rhinos  
Crocodile rehabilitation into wetlands

Changing land-use - conversion to agriculture even in core zone  
Increased hunting, increased demand in restaurants for wild meat

42 commune development plans formulated - 150km of road sealed overall (Dong Nai province)

Difficult to increase livelihoods of people in buffer zone  
Difficult to assist people in core and buffer zone to access benefits from biodiversity and tourism legally

### **Cat Tien 2**

Objective: Create sustainable habitat for species

Constraints:

People still living in core  
Hunting

Approaches

Training and support local community: handicraft  
Ecotourism  
Capacity building  
Facility building  
Environmental education

### **Cat Tien 3**

Objectives:

Improvement of forest cover  
Improvements in of conservation awareness  
Reduction in hunting and collection of NTFPs

Constraints

Lack of biodiversity monitoring and assessment  
Lack of indicators (monitoring and evaluation)  
Conflicts between stakeholders  
Local cultures/context not recognised and promoted  
Tourism is not professional

Successes

Good cooperation with local people  
Improvements in local livelihoods  
Improvements in infrastructure

### **Quang Tri**

Successes:

Increased participation in NR  
Planting of rattan under forest  
Increased awareness of forest/biodiversity led to decrease negotiate activities in natural resources  
Decreasing hunting and tapping in forest

Constraints:  
Basis for sustainability uncertain  
Difficult to fine livelihoods that link to conservation activities

Figure 1. Summary of perceived conservation success and failure by site

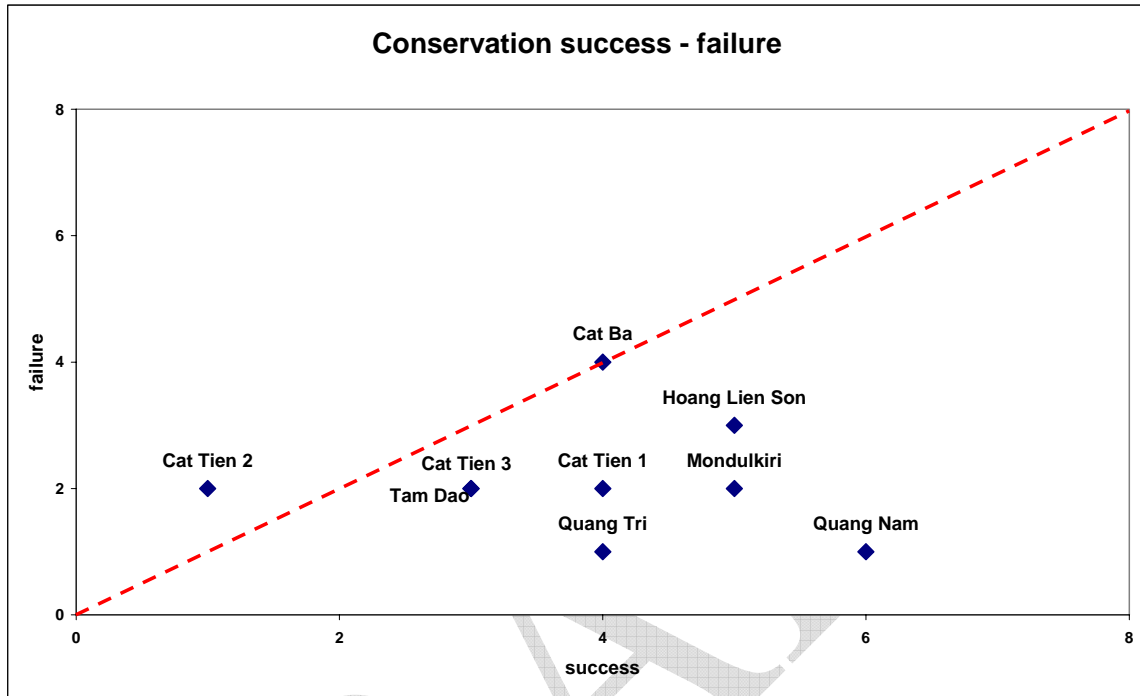
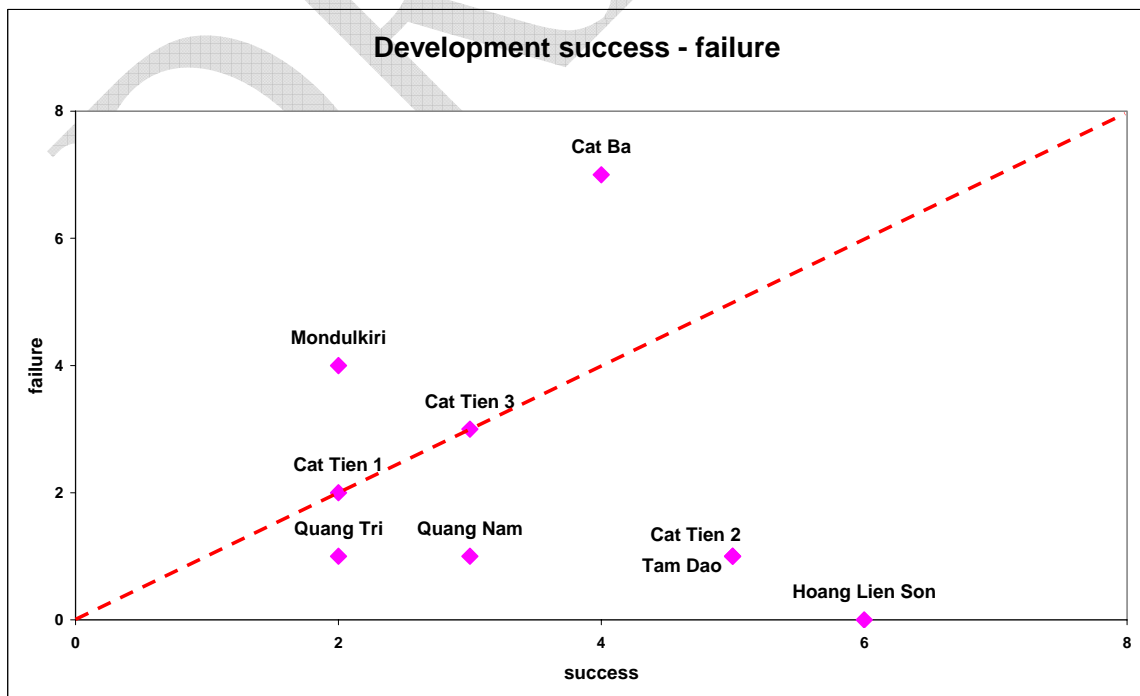


Figure 2. Summary of perceived development success and failure by site



## **Quang Nam**

### Successes:

Good policy influence - biodiversity conservation start at the province - 2010  
Tree action plan enforcement  
Song Thanh NR mgmt plan  
Conservation action plan - education  
Increased cooperation of FPD, DONRE, MARD - increased lobbying skills; able to engage govt. to see environmental impacts of development projects  
Increase in PA coverage across province  
Community based NFM plan  
Village regulations for forest protection  
Support govt to develop land use planning and allocation method

### Constraints:

Difficult to achieve conservation goals due to external factors  
Failure to prevent national development plan that affects project site

## **Tam Dao**

### Successes:

Reduction in forest fires  
Reduction in wildlife trafficking  
Improvement of forest cover  
Networking in annual planning between national park and local agencies  
Tourism increase - more people, not because of natural resources  
Small improvement in livelihoods - bee keeping and resin, NTFP marketing  
Improvement in NP staff capacity  
Social improvement (culture house for community, women's groups (clubs))

### Constraints:

Lack of awareness of conservation  
Lack of biodiversity monitoring and assessment  
Local cultures/context not recognised and promoted

## **Hoang Lien Son**

### Successes:

Preserved MuCang Chai SHCA  
Stabilisation of populations of gibbons  
Sustain institutional and financial community forest ranger protection group  
Participatory approach to conservation  
Pilot collaborative and sustainable approaches to biodiversity conservation and landscape conservation in HLS mountain.  
New biogas project that may give something to local people  
Plan to sell traditional medicine trade to China sourced from NP  
Demands from collecting from forest reduced  
Livelihood intervention: livestock reduction for regeneration of special use area  
Demonstrate the link between sharing responsibility between the management board and the local people - big effort to improve livelihood  
Make improvement to importance to conservation at the grassroots level  
Influenced the decision makers at the national level

### Constraints:

Win-win situations difficult to identify  
No economic benefits from PA's  
Landscape intervention: limited and should be encouraged

### Cat Ba

#### Successes:

- Halt of the hunting of the Langur sp.
- Increased awareness of the Langur
- Stronger/stricter policy development for conservation
- Increase in area of core zone
- Household and hamlet level successes and increase in income (alternative livelihoods)
- Animal husbandry/agriculture extension (technical assistance)
- Employment of ex-poachers for Langur conservation

#### Constraints:

- Weak links between conservation and development - result in decreased impact of conservation awareness raising
- Cutting down of trees for bee hives
- Continued hunting and trapping
- Tourism remains a negative impact because the parks do not use the benefits of tourism for infrastructure
- Continued weak forest protection
- Poor use of revolving funds
- No increase in livelihoods in priority communes
- Failure to undertake baseline surveying
- Failure to work with local authorities to design project
- Provincial development plan still go against agreed conservation priorities
- Failure to strengthen the NP management
- Creation of too many 'new entities'/'shadow institutions'

**Figure 3. Project interventions contributing to conservation success**



Figure 4. Project related and external factors contributing to conservation failure

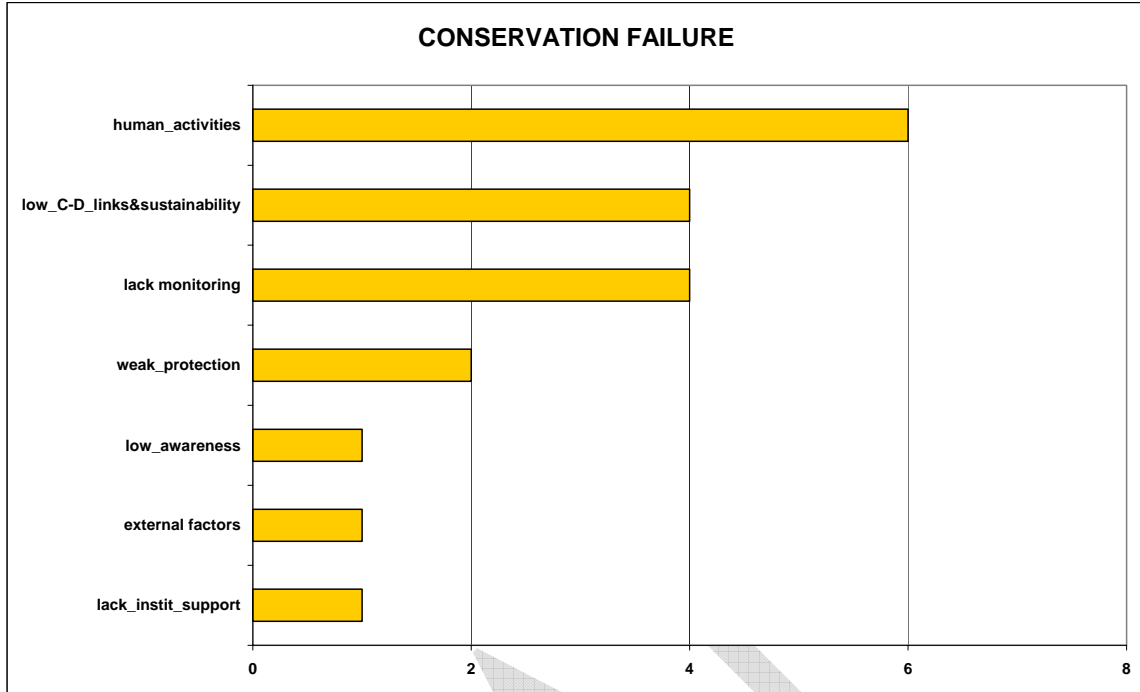
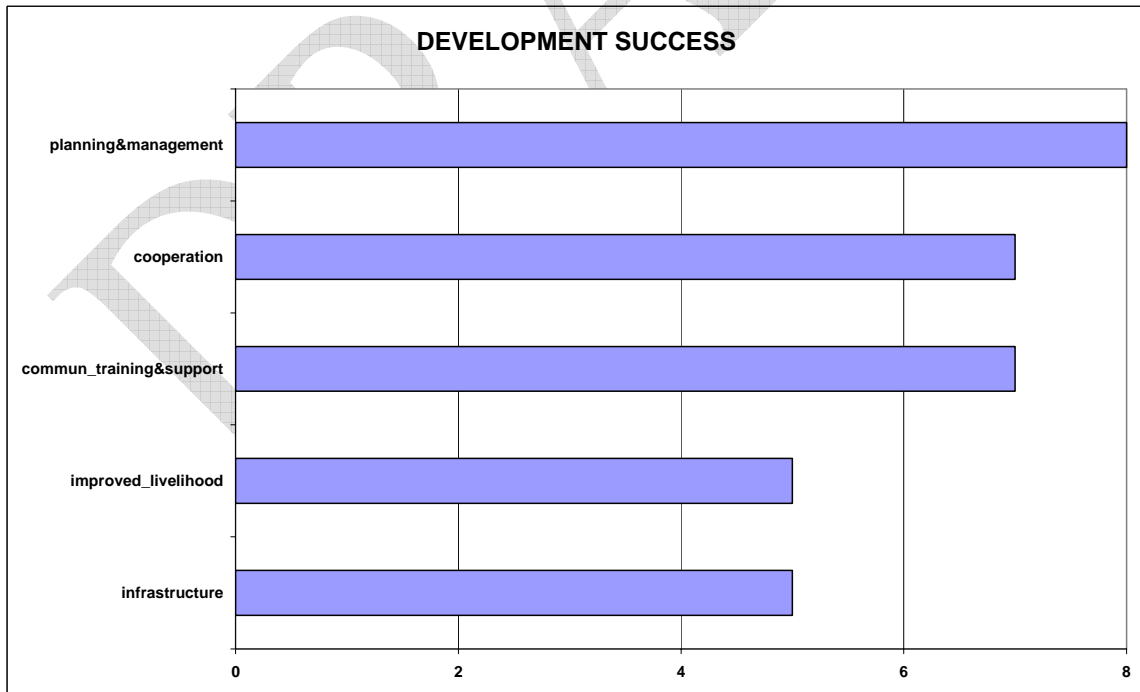


Figure 5. Project interventions contributing to development success



**Figure 6. Project related and external factors contributing to development failure**



- **Intro to research techniques (M.R.P)**
- **Discussion on variables & aims**

Background to data collection and analysis

- Comparative analysis of some 15 to 20 cases in three countries of the Mekong Region
- The objective

Case selection criteria

- Contrasting cases with a landscape approach in different conservation development priorities
- Stratified, Non-random sample
- Presence of a project to support the conservation area
- Availability

Information and analysis – 1

- Narrative, qualitative and quantitative information to be gathered
- All of it will be integrated in a continuum of outputs (book compilation, newsletter information, journal articles)
- Hierarchical approach to defining variables

Information and analysis – 2

- Four key themes
- Each theme disaggregated into three to five sets of related variables
- Each set defined by several variables (descriptors)
- Need to compromise between relevance, efficiency and measurability when agreeing on the list of variables

Four key themes

1. Environmental setting
2. Socio-economic conditions
3. Policy and institutional frame

#### 4. Project features

##### Main sets of variables

1. Environmental setting: geophysical, biological, land cover/use, environmental threats
2. Socio-economic conditions: demography, livelihoods, socio-cultural setting, infrastructure
3. Policy and institutional frame: laws & regulations, participatory processes, social organization
4. Project features: scale, implementation, programmes, collaboration, outcomes

##### Detailed example of variables:

Geophysical: precipitation, altitude, topography, soils

##### Types of variables

1. **Nominal**: qualitative or categorical descriptor (EG, Forests, Swamps and agricultural fields)
2. **Ordinal**: rank-type variable arranged along a gradient without measurable regular intervals (EG, high, medium, low)
3. **Interval**: numeric variable along regular and equal interval; no true 0. Can calculate distance (subtraction). But not proportion (division) (EG, year, temperature)
4. **Ratio**: as above, but true 0. Can calculate distance and proportion (ratio) (eg, mass, volume, \$)

##### Status and Trends

1. Need to assess current situation and direction of change
2. Two sets of complementary data (status and trends)
3. Trends will normally be measured as ordinal variables, but some can also be recorded quantitatively.

##### ISSUES

- Case definition and what to include (core, buffer, larger provincial – national context?)
- How to assess outcomes independently from data above?
- How to fix comparable scales between very different sites? (need for regionally standardized criteria -> Luke will collect data from each location)
- How to aggregate different variables?
- Possible professional or personal biases

Manuel then presented results of researches, publication & samples which were done using the above mentioned approached. How & what to measure is the most important things to gathered.

Terry emphasized so that the participants will not get confused by the complicated process behind collecting the data, but the aim of presenting the process is so that each location knows what to gather and how the process is going to be done.

- Presentation by each landscape
  1. Tam Da National Park by Duong Van Hung (Tam Da = Mountain Tree)
  2. Community-Cased Conservation of the Hoang Lien Mountain Ecosystem by Nguyen Bich Ha  
QA: Bich Ha explained the impact & success of the project to the local government. The project funded EURO 1million.
  3. By Mr. Thuat: asking about the classification of the map – how was it done? & co-management.

## AGENDA – THURS Sept 20

Morning Session (8.00-12.00)

Luke opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the workshops with the agenda of the day. It will start with the presentation from each landscapes.

- LANDSCAPE PRESENTATION
  - OVERVIEW OF THE DAKRONG PROJECTS – QUANG TRI PROVINCE, VIETNAM. By Hung (Bird)

The objective of the work in the Ba To area is: how to protect forest in one side and also to continue support the local using the rattan as their NTFP for living.

QA:  
Doan van hung asked how could the people allowed to grow inside the Ba To area? It is only done outside the reserved area.  
- Loang Hung asked where the area belongs to, and Hung explained that the area belongs to the nature reserve.
  - QUANG NAM PROVINCE by Luong Quang Hung

The aim of the project: The project for SR Viet Narn/Lao PDR - Ngoc Linh - Xe Sap Biodiversity Conservation Corridor (the "Project"), aims to maintain the ecological integrity of the Central Annamites landscape through improved management of core areas for biodiversity conservation, watershed protection and the sustainable development of landscape linkages through the creation of government - community co-management mechanisms.

QA:  
Daong Hung asked whether the sustainable financing has been successfully achieved and Luong Hung explained that it has just being started.  
Ashley wondered why in each projects always create control groups and how about the sustainable financing of it? Luong Hung explained that the main reason was because there is not enough manpower (officer government) and the community would like to share their effort when they see there is opportunity in the project for their living.  
Bich Ha also added that the numbers and functions of the forest protection is limited by the government regulation. Thus the control groups have more functions and also have livelihoods functions so that they can do more approaches. In her area, the SSG recruited by the forest protection department.  
Luong Hung then added that it is also important to give the owning license (red book) of the land to the local so that they can maintain it longer term rather than just giving the change co collect the NTFPs products.
  - CAT TIEN NP – by Mr. Thuat

Luong Hung questioned whether there are direct threats whose have access to the local to the CTNP? Mr. Thuat explained that there were actually lots of hunters, fishers etc. However their activities are being controlled by the rangers.  
Bich Ha mentioned that in Vietnam it is not allowed to enlarge a protected area. She also added in her project area, that it is better not to add a new area into an existing protected area in order to achieve the conservation and development and also the sustainability of the living of the local people.

Workshop resume and Terry refreshed participant on what will be the next step from the current workshop and the aim of the project:

- Luke will stay for the next 2 months and visit each site and help complete data matrix.

- Feby to create list serve (Lower Mekong Conservation & Development) for information exchange
  - Each site leader will write a narrative report
  - Once received CIFOR will pay small honorarium to site leaders
  - End of 2009, data analysis & look preparation workshop (in Bogor)
- ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES
    - Group Work (30 minutes).  
Each group will look on each variable and put in the data.
  - Discussion (group presentation) started at 11.45 with the 1<sup>st</sup> result presentation from Ashley' group.
  - SOCIO-ECONOMIC VARIABLES
    - Group Work
    - Discussion

Manuel suggested projects provide two different indicators of the threats. All variables will be compiled and the following day it will be circulated to be used in defining the preliminary outcomes.

- Forest Protection and Rural Development Project (Cat Tien National Park) by Mr. Khang

QA:

- Do the project own the household, asked Duong Hung. Mr. Khang said that the project gave every household a support i.e. car, pig, food for animals, rice seeds etc.
- Hung also asked about what the success story of the demonstration. The sample is the grasp plantation, explained Mr. Khang.
- Does the community request for more help after the project finish & not depend on the support from the project? Mr. Khang admitted that there is gap ever since the project finish therefore it is one of the obstacles to have another small project in the future. However, Bich Ha emphasized that the community thoughts need to be improved so that they will one day no longer depend on outside support.
- Bich Ha then raised the point so that everyone will pay more attention on whether it is a right thing or not that more investment in development will improved the situation of conservation & development and how far & how much livelihood will be improved to which level?
- Terry asked and then confirmed by Mr. Khang that the migration happen in the area.
- An examination of the performance of internationally funded projects against identified success...(Cat Ba Island) by Ashley Brooks
  - Manuel raised the concern about why don't people pass the experience between the project and learn from each other. Ashley said that there were few exchange information and that the NGOs just did their work in a very limited time (rush) and loose in gather information and very weak in assumption. Terry also added that the issue also happen in all levels and not only on the project sites.
  - Manuel also added that projects tends to report on success and afraid to report the failures. He then gave an example on the matrix showing that the tendency of the projects always gave successful report.
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#### POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL VARIABLES

- Group Work
- Discussion

- PROJECT VARIABLES
  - Group Work
  - Discussion

### **AGENDA – Friday Sept 21**

Luke welcomed everyone to the 3<sup>rd</sup>/last day of the ws and briefly run through the day agenda.

- Presentation / information of website & forum (TS &WP)

Terry presented the Project Website which was prepared and led by Widya. The new and interesting tools of the website is the Discussion Forum. Also, all the partners websites will be linked to the websites. Feby will contact all partners to get the respective link of each project website: Tam Dao ([www.tamdaonp.com.un](http://www.tamdaonp.com.un))

The idea of the forum is to host the Lower Mekong project.

Terry encouraged everyone to post each comments, file, documents, papers, publications may arise in the forum.

Terry also encouraged all to visit not only the conservation and development website of CIFOR and the forum, as well as other CIFOR websites to get as many as published publications.

Widya then briefly run through in how accessing and creating new account in the discussion forum.

QA: MRP asked whether people has been actively using the website which was then answered that the website has just been started as well as the forum.

- Completion of variables
  - Project

The agenda is followed with a discussion group on the completion of variables of each project (30 mnts)

- Presentation of updated variables (9.40)

Each projects/groups presented their variables. All the variables will be put in the matrix and will be discussed in the next session.

- Luke presented the variables which were put in the matrix and it was followed by the discussion. The file is in the appendix: Variables\_table\_penultimate.XL)

QA:

- Manuel - Could the estimation of the total income be included in the matrix? YES.
- Bich Ha - Participatory processes: "existence of pilot participatory mechanisms" is about the grading of process of the mechanisms. It is about the ability to test whether or not the mechanism can be tested in the future or not, added Ashley.
- Smaller project section is added for smaller implementation.

Terry thanked Luke for putting the matrix, to Manuel for travelling all the way from Spain to act as an invaluable resource person and to everyone in their contribution to the workshop.

A final workshop dinner was held that evening.