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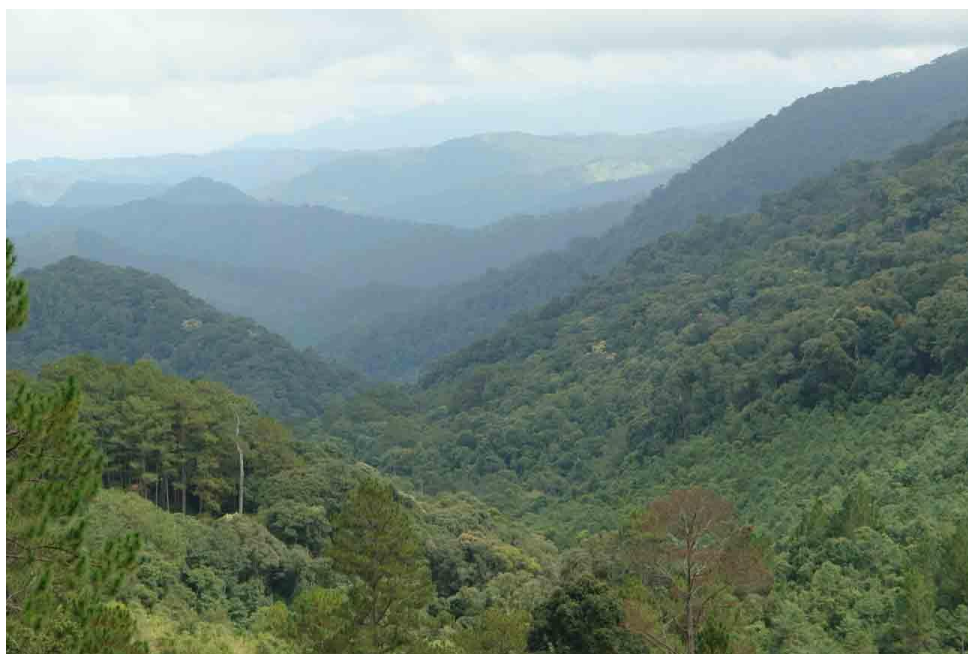
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TECHNICAL REPORT

Conference on
Integrated Watershed Forest and
River Basin Management in Vietnam
Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park , Dalat City, Lam Dong, Vietnam

May 23rd 24, 2011



June 2011

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1. INTRODUCTION

Forests and rivers obviously are crucial to human life as they can provide resources and significantly contribute to sustainable development, poverty reduction and other related development goals. Besides, they are crucial in controlling the ecological balance and protection of the environment, including flow regulation, erosion prevention, soil protection, etc. However, forest area is rapidly decreasing around the world. In Vietnam, forest especially watershed forests have been eroded by illegal logging and hunting, unsustainable development projects, etc. Similarly, rivers are facing ecological degradation and environmental pollution. Not only do these problems negatively affect biodiversity, ecological functions and other natural conditions but also deteriorate quality of life especially to those marginal communities who live in these river basins and buffer zones of protected areas. Moreover, recent climate change impacts, put these communities in the downstream under threat of disasters including flash floods or heavy floods in rainy season, and severe drought in dry season.

Accordingly, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forests. Protection of forests and rivers needs ensuring efforts from all relevant parties. In this regard, a workshop on Conservation of Rivers and Watershed Forests in Vietnam would provide an opportunity for relevant stakeholders to share problems, information and drawing people's attention on protection of our valuable natural property. Furthermore, it would bring about necessary measures for this emerging issue.

Objectives of the Conference

The conference will focus on the following objectives:

- Enhancing an open discussion of watershed forests and river conservation in Vietnam. Problems, management practices and policies related to watershed forests and river conservation will be discussed. Case studies selected and existing examples will be presented.
- Proposing solutions and initiatives for the protection and management of river basins and watershed forests with a focus on implications from climate change. Role of relevant parties will be determined.
- Drawing attention and raising awareness of concerned public on the protection and management of rivers and watershed forests. The conference will also create a link among parties for future actions.

2. DESCRIPTION OF CONDUCTED ACTIVITIES

The conference was held in 2 days from 23rd to 24th of May 2011 at BiDoup-Nui Ba National Park, Dalat City, Lam Dong province. It was hosted by the Center for Biodiversity Development (CBD), Institute of Tropical Biology (ITB) in collaboration with the following co-conveners The Norwegian Institute for Environment and Agriculture Research (Bioforsk),

Norway, IUCN Vietnam, Vietnam River Network (VRN) and Bidoup-Nui Ba National Park. A range of stakeholders from local, national and international settings were represented among the nearly 100 participants.

The conference was conducted as the following program.

First Day – Monday, May 23, 2011-Field trip			
When	Where	Descriptions	Responsible
Route 1 , 2	Hon Giao mount, Bidoup Núi Bà NP and Da Chais Commune, Lac Duong District, Lam Dong Province	Model of forest management of Bidoup Nui Ba NP and Pilot site of PES	Bidoup Nui Ba NP staff will guide and logistic preparation.
Second Day - May 24, 2011			
Session	Time	Content	Present
Opening session	8:30-8:35	Welcome	CBD/ITB
	8:35-8:45	Opening address	-People's Committee of Lam Dong Province. -VAST
Key note addressing	Chair : Dr. Udaya Sekhar Nagothu, Bioforsk		
	8:45-9:05	Key note: Integrated Water Resources Management : Needs, Constraints, Opportunities	Dr. Nils Vagstad, Research Director (Bioforsk)
	9:05-9:25	Hydropower Challenges and IWRM in Vietnam and Within the Mekong River Basin	Dr. Dao Trong Tu VRN
	9:25-9:40	Report back from international watershed management conference in Chiang Mai, March 2011	Mr. Nguyen Duc TU IUCN
	9:40 -10:00	Forest soil seed banks in Xishuangbanna, Upper Mekong Watershed	Prof. Dr. CAO Min Deputy Director of Xushangbana Tropical Botanical Garden
Coffee break	10:00-10:30		
Technical Session	Watershed, river basin and water resource management practices Session Chair: Mr. Nguyen Duc Tu (IUCN) and Dr. Udaya Sekhar Nagothu		
	10:30-10:45	IWRM and River Basin Organizations of Dong Nai and Srepok Rivers	Mr. Luong Van Ngu, Vice director of DONRE, Lam Dong province
	10:45-11:00	Pilot model of Collaborative Forest Management in Bidoup Nui Ba NP	Mr. Le Van Huong, Director of Bidoup Nui Ba NP

	11:00-11:20	IWRM in Sesan-Srepok basin: Experiences from the EU FP6 Project	Dr. Per Stalnacke, Head of Section, Water Quality. (Bioforsk)
	11:20-11:35	Water and Climate Change: Challenges to IWRM in Vietnam	Dr. Le Anh Tuan DRAGON Center
	11:35-11:50	Community based forest management in Dong Nai River Basin	Dr. Vu Ngoc Long Director of CBD
	11:50-12:00	Discussion and summary of presentation sessions	Dr. Hoang Minh Duc-CBD
LUNCH	12:00-13:30		
Group discussion session	Group discussions:	3 groups with 15 persons/group.	Chair: Dr. Vu Ngoc Long, CBD
	13:30-14:30	3 topics: Identifying issues and giving its solutions in (i) Social environment (ii) Natural environment and (iii) Policy- Governance	Group facilitators: Dr. Luu Hong Truong; Mr. Nguyen Duc Tu and Dr. Le Buu Thach
	14:30-15:00	Report back from each group: 10 mins/group	Representatives of discussion groups
Coffee break	15:00-15:30		
Plenary discussion session	15:30-16:30	Plenary discussion –Agreement on solutions and future cooperative plan	Moderator: CBD
Closing	16:30-17:00	Conclusion: Conference's summary	Prof. Bert-Colorado University Dr. Vu Ngoc Long

More than 20 posters were prepared and exhibited in the conference. Contents of these posters are to reflect potential issues in the River basin divided into three aspects: Social, natural and policy and governance. These posters were also used as suggestions for group discussions. Besides, brochures, leaflets, books of some organizations such as Bioforsk, VRN, Bidoup Nui Ba NP also were displayed during the conference.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Achievements

Following outcomes have been achieved:

- Through, the main section of presentations and group discussions in the conference, general messages were sent to all participants as well as inform to mass media, as follows:

(i) Natural Environmental Issues: A common theme across presentations is that changes in watersheds during the past few decades has yielded a decrease in biodiversity, an

increase in pollution, and decreases in water quantity and quality at both regional and local levels.

(ii) Social Environmental Issues: A common theme across presentations is that these same changes have often come at a cost for local communities. They have lost good agricultural lands, changes in water quantity and quality has affected their health, and there has been a significant decrease in river-based food resources.

(iii) Policy /Institutional Issues: A common theme across presentations is that an integrative approach is needed to best protect watershed forests and manage river basins in Vietnam. While there are a range of government policies that are relevant to this topic they rarely address multiple issues, rather one policy might focus on energy development, a second on environmental pollution control, a third on working with communities impacted by development, and a fourth for biodiversity protection as examples. Because of this industry, scientists, human social workers, and other stakeholders may not pursue activities that are integrative. These traditional approaches towards development, social conditions, and conservation are not sufficient to meet contemporary needs.

- All information, results obtained from the workshop are being compiled and posted in the CBD website for further discussion.
- A documentary movie introducing biodiversity of involved protected areas was broadcasted on Lam Dong Television and the national Vietnam Television (VTV) on the same day of the conference.

3.2 Participants

Nearly 100 participants took part the conference. List of participant is attached in the Annex 1, including:

- Representative from Ministry/Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Department of Agriculture and Rural Developments
- Concerned NGOs working in Vietnam
- Concerned organizations and sponsors for biodiversity conservation and river protection
- Research and management institutions and universities
- Mass media
- Participants were invited from protected areas, forest management organizations in Southern Vietnam
- Participants were from domestic and foreign organizations: research and management institutions, universities, concerned organizations and sponsors for biodiversity conservation.
- Reporters from newspapers, magazines, Lam Dong Television and Vietnam Television (VTV)

3.3 Difficulties and advantages:

Difficulties:

Number of participant was increased significantly, from 60 in original proposal increased to about 95. Therefore, limited financial allowances were provided to participants, especially who came from remote areas.

Advantages:

The successes of Conference are thanks to strongly support from Bioforsk, IUCN Vietnam, VRN and Bidoup Nui Ba National Park. Besides financial funding, these organizations also provided assistance in technical issues, giving presentations and being chairpersons of presentation sessions and facilitators of group discussion.

4 FINANCIAL SECTION

Total expenses of the training course and Conference is **13,160** USD (rate exchange is 20,600 VND/USD).

Distribution of the Conference cost is showed in the table 1. All bills and receipts will be sent to donors via registered mails (if requested).

Table 1. Conference's expenses

I. IUCN Vietnam

No	Items	Cost (VND)	Cost (USD)
1	Accommodations	25,680,000	1,247
2	Coffee breaks	7,200,000	350
3	Food from 22 - 24/5/2011	70,240,000	3,410
	Total I	103,120,000	5,006

II. VRN

No	Items	Cost (VND)	Cost (USD)
1	Stationery	2,000,000	97
2	Other materials for poster exhibitions	1,200,000	58
3	Coordinator	3,300,000	160
4	Discussion rooms		252

		5,200,000	
5	Car hiring	16,500,000	801
	Total II	28,200,000	1,369

III. Bidoup Nui Ba NP


No	Items	Cost (VND)	Cost (USD)
1	Posters and banners	15,000,000	728
	Total III	15,000,000	728

IV. VAST

No	Items	Cost (VND)	Cost (USD)
1	Accommodations	20,160,000	979
	Total IV	20,160,000	979

V. BIOFORSK

No	Items	Cost (VND)	Cost (USD)
1	Accommodations	9,610,000	467
2	Conference hall	6,890,000	334
3	Headphone system	5,060,000	246
4	Local and VTV television	2,800,000	136
5	Petrol for CBD car	8,823,800	428
6	Photocopy	1,833,600	89
7	Other materials	1,155,000	56
8	Backpacks	19,800,000	961
9	Gifts for local people, water and drinks for field visits	4,604,200	224
10	Travel allowances for participants	7,000,000	340
11	Air tickets	23,018,000	1,117

12	Taxi fares	4,015,000	195
13	Allowance for presenters	10,000,000	485
	Total V	104,609,600	5,078
TOTAL		271,089,600	13,160
Dr. Vu Ngoc Long, Human Ecologist Vice director of Institute of Tropical Biology (ITB) Director of Center for Biodiversity and Development (CBD) 85 Tran Quoc Toan St., district 03 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Tel/Fax: (84) 8 39320 355. Email: vungoclong@cbd-itb.org.vn or long.cbd@gmail.com or n.vulong@yahoo.com		SIGNATURE OF PROJECT MANAGER 	

5 ANNEX

5.1 ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Full name	Organizations
1	Pham Van An	Department of Agriculture and Rural development-Lam Dong
2	Nguyen Thanh Men	Lam Dong Bioforestry research center
3	Nguyen Van Viet	Lam Dong Forestry Protection Agency
4	Kensei Oda	JICA Project- Lam Dong
5	Phan Trong Nhan	WWF Project- Lam Dong
6	Luong Van Ngu	Department of Natural Resource and Environment Lam Dong
7	Tran Thi Thuy Duong	Center for Environmental monitoring-Lamdong
8	Nguyen Mong Sinh	Lam Dong Union of Science and Technology Association
9	Pham Huu Khanh	WWF Vietnam
10	Nguyen Van Xuan	Department of Rural Agriculture and Development Daklak
11	Hoang Thi Kim Dung	Department of Natural resource and Environment-DakNong
12	Nguyen Van Hiep	DakNong Environmental Protection Agency
13	Le Danh Hong	Center for Environment Education and Training Agency, MONRE
14	Le Van Huong	Bidoup Nui Ba NP-Lam Dong province
15	Do Van Ngoc	Bidoup Nui Ba NP
16	Vo Duan	Bidoup Nui Ba NP
17	Nguyen Thi Kieu Noan	Bidoup Nui Ba NP
18	Nguyen Luong Minh	Center for Education Bidoup Nui ba
19	Tran Nhat Tien	Bidoup Nui Ba NP
20	Truong Trong An Nhan	Lam Dong People's Committee
21	Nguyen Quoc Thuan	Lam Dong People's Committee
22	Lai Duc Hieu	ChuMomRay National park –Kontum
23	Pham Ngoc Binh	Kon Ka Kinh National park -Gia Lai
24	Nguyen Van Hoan	Kon Ka Kinh National park -Gia Lai
25	Dang Van Cuong	Dai Ninh hydropower plant

26	Tran Van Thanh	Cattien national park-Dong nai
27	Tran Van Binh	Cat Tien NP
28	Le Xuan Tham	Department of Science and Technology- Lam dong
29	Nguyen Ngoc Thuy	University of Agriculture and Forestry- HCMC
30	Le Anh Tuan	DRAGON Institute, Can Tho University
31	Le Phat Quoi	HCMC National University
32	Nguyen Vu Huy	Southern Water Resource Planning Institute
33	Hoang Nghia Son	Institute of Tropical Biology (ITB)
34	Bui Van Lai	ITB
35	Nguyen Quoc Dat	ITB
36	Ngo Ke Suong	ITB
37	Duong Ngoc Hai	VAST
38	Luong Thuy Hang	VAST
39	Jason Bayly Stark	IUCN Vietnam
40	Nguyen Duc Tu	IUCN Vietnam
41	Tran Huu Nghi	Tropenbos International
42	Nagothu Sekhar	BIOFORSK-Norway
43	Vagstad Nils	BIOFORSK-Norway
44	PerStalnacke	BIOFORSK-Norway
45	Vaaga Perdensen Ragnar	BIOFORSK-Norway
46	Pham Lan Anh	VRN Hanoi
47	Dao Trong Tu	VRN Hanoi
48	Tran Ba Quoc	VRN-Hue .
49	Graeme Swift	General Consulate of Australia in HCMC
50	Le Thi Khoi Cat	General Consulate of Australia in HCMC
51	Anneth R.Ramirez	Sai Gon International University
52	Gay Marsden	Sai Gon International University
53	Nguyen Van Hung	Tram chim National Park -Dong Thap province
54	Ta Ngoc Dan	Logo Xamat NP -Tay Ninh province
55	Pham Van Xiem	Nui Chua NP -Ninh Thuan province
56	Tran Van Tiep	Nui Chua NP- Ninh Thuan province
57	Vo Thanh Liem	Takou Nature reserve -Binh Thuan province
58	Mai Van Quynh	Takou Nature reserve -Binh Thuan province
59	Le Van Sang	ChuJanSin NP-Gia Lai province

60	Pham Anh Tuan	Phuoc Binh NP-Ninh Thuan province
61	Herbert Covert	Colorado University /USA
62	Jacinto Regalado	Missouri Botanical Garden
63	Cao Min	Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG)
64	ZHOU Zhekun	XTBG, CAS
65	ZHU Hua	XTBG, CAS
66	YIN Jiantao	XTBG, CAS
67	Dengxiaobao	XTBG, CAS
68	Nguyen Duc Tuyen	Media / Tuoi tre newspaper
69	Ngo The Vinh	Institute of Economic
70	Nguyen Tan Vinh	Institute of Economic
71	MOUL Phath	WWF Cambodia
72	Amy Maling	WWF Cambodia
73	Rohit Singh	WWF Cambodia
74	Sopheak Keo	WWF Cambodia
75	Tran Duy Quy	Institute of Asian Science and technology corporation Research
76	Pham Thi Anh Ngoc	HCMC University of Agriculture and Forestry
77	Vuong Duc Hoa	Bu Gia Map NP
78	Do Truong Giang	Bu Gia Map NP
79	Nguyen Hai Yen	Foreign service center- HCMC
80	Vu Ngoc Long	Center for Biobiology and Development (CBD)
81	Luu Hong Truong	CBD
82	Hoang Minh Duc	CBD
83	Le Buu Thach	CBD
84	Truong Anh Tho	CBD
85	Lam Dinh Uy	CBD
86	Pham Thi Thuy Lien	CBD
87	Nguyen Thanh Mai	CBD
88	Pham Bich Nga	CBD
89	Le Dinh Hung	CBD
90	Le Trong	Lam Dong-Television
91	Dang Ngoc Dung	Lam Dong-Television
92	Vo Dinh Trong	Investment newspaper
93	Nam Vien	Liberation newspaper

5.2 ANNEX 2: CONFERENCE PHOTOS



Fig 1: Participants of the conference



Fig 2: The Key note addressing “Integrated Water Resources Management : Needs, Constraints, Opportunities”, by Dr. Nils Vagstad, Research Director (Bioforsk)



Fig 3: The talk “Water and Climate Change: Challenges to IWRM in Vietnam” by Dr. Le Anh Tuan, DRAGON Center-Can Tho university



Fig 4: Group discussion: Participants are discussing the social issues



Fig 5: Group discussion: Natural environment group



Fig 6: Group discussion: Policy-governance group



Fig 7: Presenting the results of group discussions



Fig.8: Mr. Graeme, General Consulate of Australia in HCMC, is giving opinions in the Conference



Fig 9. Field visit to Giang Ly Forest Station, Bidoup Nui Ba National Park



Fig. 10 Prof. Duong Ngoc Hai, vice president VAST presents in the Workshop



Fig. 11 Mr. Lam Dinh Uy described the content of the poster



Fig. 12 VAST Delegation in the field of Bidoup Nui ba



Fig 13. The indigenous people are dancing together with participants for closing ceremony.

5.3 ANNEX 3: RESULTS OF GROUP DISCUSSION

I. SOCIAL GROUP

Problems	Solutions
1. Outsiders' negative impacts on community	Better land management
2. Poverty:	
- Lack of cultivation land and capital	Agricultural encouragement
- Hard conditions of cultivation	Improve productivity
- Many children	
- Relying on government	

3. Lack of participation in planning and management	Applying co-management
4. Bad implementation of resettlement	Reducing resettlement Deeply care about local culture when resettlement
5. Habit of unsustainable use and poor awareness on natural resources	Awareness education
6. Lack of benefit-sharing mechanism	Agreement for benefit-sharing mechanism Applying PES

II. NATURAL GROUP

Problems	Solutions
1. Biodiversity reduction - Hunting - Habitat fragmentation	Inventory and monitoring on biodiversity Improve livelihoods of forest-based community
2. Forest degradation - Forest fire - Uncontrolled deforestation - Illegal harvest of forest products - Invasive alien species	Reforestation using native plants Forest allocation to community (with monitoring) Better implementation of forest policies More money for forest protection
3. Mineral exploitation without EIA	Better enforcement of laws Science-based decision making
4. Climate change and Micro-climate change	Change policy More laws and regulations More support for scientific research Better cooperation among stakeholders
5. Water resources reduction	Investment for research on sustainable use of water resources
6. “Ecotourism” development	Sustainable use of natural resources
7. Unsustainable human behavior	Change human behavior

	Improve people and government's awareness
8. Dam construction	Reduce the number of hydropower plans General planning and good implementation

III. POLICY GROUP

Problems	Solutions
1. Lack of cooperation among regions and agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve transparency; - Review the effectiveness of cooperative agreements - Build up mechanisms for contiguous areas; - Basin commission, MRC; - Better implementation of agreements; - Involve regional NGOs
2. Poor capacity in setting up and implementing policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure continuity of funding for capacity building in policy establishment; - Research institutions involve more effectively in policy building.
3. Inappropriate benefit sharing in natural resources management (population, culture, indigenous knowledge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and assess on demands on sharing order of precedence; - Create a sustainable income for shared people.
4. The overlapping of current laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check and revise related laws and regulations.
5. Lack of mapping in national policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve governmental awareness; - Strengthen dialogue, public debate; - Information propaganda.
6. Inadequate participations of local community and gender in policy building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve community awareness; - Establish communication groups.