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UNEP Conference Between the  
Rhinceros Range States,  
Consumer States and Donors  
on Financing the Conservation  
of the Rhinceros

Nairobi, 28 June - 1 July 1993

**CONSERVATION OF WILD POPULATIONS OF RHINOCEROS**

**COUNTRY PRIORITY PROJECTS**

**THAILAND**

Submitted by

Royal Forest Department  
Bangkok 10900, Thailand



**WWF** World Wide Fund  
For Nature

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**DATE:** Gland, 10 March 1993

**ATTN:** Ketty Faichampa, Sejal Worah, Charles Santiapillai, Simon ~~Stuart~~ (IUCN),  
Chris Hails

**FROM:** Anton Fernhout, Programme Officer, Asia/Pacific Programme

**RE:** WWF CONCEPT VN16 / VIETNAM - **Integrated Conservation &  
Management of the Greater  
Cat Tien Forest Sanctuary,  
Southern Vietnam**

We would be grateful if you could kindly assist us in reviewing the attached proposal for the second phase of this project, "The Implementation of the Management Plan of Cat Tien". This proposal is being considered for funding by AIDAB.

If you have any comments on this proposal, I would appreciate receiving them before May 1993.

Thank you in advance for your attention in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards.

P.P. *Anton Fernhout*

Registered as:

WWF - Fondo Mondiale per la Natura  
WWF - Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza  
WWF - Fonds Mondial pour la Nature  
WWF - Welt Natur Fonds  
WWF - World Wide Fund For Nature  
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Director General: Charles de Haes



cc: K. Farchampa  
S. Worah  
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## Project Proposal WWF Conservation Programme

PROJECT TITLE
Integrated Conservation and Management of the Greater Cat Tien Forest Sanctuary, Southern Vietnam

PROJECT IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	PROJECT START AND END DATES
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Vietnam Ministry of Forestry	June 1993 - May 1998

FUNDS REQUESTED	SFR 1,966,400 over 5 years
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### PROJECT SUMMARY

This sustainable conservation and forest management project will provide management guidance and infrastructure inputs for the Vietnamese Ministry of Forestry and the provincial forest protection offices of Lam Dong, Dong Nai, and Song Be and community extension and development programmes for local residents of the Cat Tien forest area leading to the improved sustainable management of an ecologically important lowland semi-evergreen forest and marsh habitat in southern Vietnam.

Project activities will focus on Cat Tien, a forested region of approximately 100,000 hectares along the Dong Nai River which is partially protected in the gazetted Nam Cat Tien National Park. Poaching, illegal logging, and unmanaged slash and burn agriculture are the most serious threats to the long-term viability of Cat Tien and its resident fauna.

Throughout the project, all activities will follow a "stakeholders" approach to integrated sustainable management in which current use patterns of the forest area will be identified and a dialogue established between all users of the protected area environs and provincial and national authorities to determine an equitable and sustainable utilisation strategy. Special account will be taken in project activity design of the historical use patterns of the long-term Chauma and Stieng ethnic residents of Cat Tien, balancing their special needs with those of the newer residents and the preservation of the natural ecosystems.

A complete management plan and five-year workplan for the integrated Cat Tien Sanctuary is being completed by WWF and the Ministry of Forestry in 1993, with a draft document expected by June 1993 and a completed document, following local evaluation and comment, to be ready for implementation by October 1993.

## 1. BACKGROUND SITUATION

### Environmental Situation in Vietnam

The state of the environment in Vietnam remains critical after the cessation of nearly four decades of warfare. Forest cover was halved during the war years, and uncontrolled logging, high population growth in forested areas, and slash and burn agriculture have contributed to the accelerated rate of deforestation since. Remote sensing data indicate that only about two million hectares of primary forest remain.<sup>1</sup> Fragmentation of forest tracts and uncontrolled hunting have seriously reduced the numbers of many rare species of birds and mammals.

Despite the pressures on the natural environment, Vietnam still contains forested areas of high ecological significance. To promote watershed protection and the conservation of biological diversity, the Government of Vietnam has proposed an extensive network of forest reserves and national parks, of which Nam Cat Tien National Park and adjacent forests are a focal point in southern Vietnam.

While the Government of Vietnam has made a good start in the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable resource development, two major constraints exist which have profound impact on successful protection and management of these areas:

- an inadequate capacity to plan and manage sustainable development and protected area activities; and
- a severe shortage of funds to devote to such activities as scientific surveys and protection of biodiversity.

Despite these shortcomings in on-the-ground implementation, the government of Vietnam's policy on forestry is clearly one of the best in the region. The "Forestry Development Strategy Towards 2005" states the four basic forestry policy goals for Vietnam<sup>2</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Vietnam National Plan for Environment & Sustainable Development (1991-2000): A Framework for Action prepared by State Committee for Sciences, UNDP, SIDA, UNEP and IUCN under UNDP Project VIE/89/021, August 1991.

<sup>2</sup> Planning Department, Ministry of Forestry. Report for the "Formulation of Forestry Development Strategy Toward 2005" cited in the TFAP Forestry Sector Review (VIE/88/037) Draft Main Report, June 1991.

- i) meet the nation's need for forest products and environmental protection on a sustained basis;
- ii) increase social and economic benefits of the forest resources through efficient utilisation;
- iii) increase people's participation in forest protection and utilisation;
- iv) improve the living conditions of the rural population through forestry development.

The integrated approach to be employed in the sustainable protected area management plan of the Cat Tien forest and marsh ecosystems will address each of these stated forestry policy goals.

#### Project Location

The Cat Tien Integrated Sanctuary will be established along the borderlands of Dong Nai, Song Be and Lam Dong Provinces in southern Vietnam. The proposed expansion area (approximately 35,000 to 40,000 ha) for the Cat Tien sanctuary together with buffer zones (20,000 ha) lie to the east and south of the Dong Nai River and will be linked to the adjacent Nam Cat Tien National Park (38,000 ha) which will result in a major conservation area of great significance in the region. The expanded sanctuary will cover an area exceeding 100,000 ha, depending upon the final boundary decisions made in consultation with provincial officials and local communities.

#### Fauna and Flora of Cat Tien Region

Surveys of the Nam Cat Tien National Park record 120 bird species, 62 mammal species, 14 species of amphibians, and 22 species of reptiles. The park has 400 recorded plant species including 170 species of medicinal herbs and 59 orchid species.<sup>3</sup>

#### Javan Rhinoceros

Until about 1940, Javan rhinos were widely distributed in the northern, central and southern parts of Vietnam. Since then, their range and numbers began to decline drastically owing to poaching, conversion of habitat and habitat destruction as a result of a prolonged and bloody war. The last observation of rhino (tracks) in the northern province of Son La was in 1964 while in 1988 in the Lam Dong Province. However, between 1952 and 1976, a large number of Javan rhinos were killed by poachers and soldiers. Today, the Javan rhinos are restricted to not more than 750 km<sup>2</sup> area bordering on the four southern

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<sup>3</sup> Hoang Hoe and Vo Quy. "Nature Conservation in Vietnam: An Overview", Tiger Paper, October-December 1991. See also Attachment 1 to this proposal.

provinces of Dac Lac, Song Be, Dong Nai and Lam Dong. Only about 8-12 animals are estimated to occur in this area and as such the Javan rhino population in Vietnam is among the most seriously endangered populations of large mammals in the world. Their long-term survival in their natural habitat is therefore a priority for both national as well as international conservation agencies.

Throughout the world, there are only two known populations of the Javan rhino: one in Indonesia and the other in Vietnam. None exist outside these areas, not even in zoos. The total world population is estimated to be less than 100 and as such, the species is extremely endangered.<sup>4</sup> The Javan rhino's survival in southern Vietnam despite the ravages of the war is proof for its resilience. Protection of the proposed expanded Cat Tien sanctuary will not only enhance survival of the Javan rhinos, but also other endangered large mammals such as the gaur (*Bos gaurus*) and banteng (*Bos javanicus*) that are sympatric with the rhinoceros. Information collected in field surveys to be carried out in March-April 1993 by WWF in collaboration with the Lam Dong Forest Protection Department and the Institute for Ecology and Biological Research will be incorporated into the further design of this project plan.

#### Local Communities

There are several village enclaves of minority tribe families within the proposed area of the expanded Cat Tien Sanctuary and buffer zones. Many of these are composed of 5-10 families with about 30-60 people along the Dong Nai River. Field surveys undertaken by WWF and the Lam Dong Forest Protection Department in January 1993 indicate that recent Hmong migrants have also moved into the flat areas along the banks of the Dong Nai River. An establishment of an integrated protected area will provide a good opportunity to better understand the relationships between these ethnic groups and their natural environment.

Thousands of people live in the lands peripheral to the proposed expanded Cat Tien Sanctuary in Lam Dong and Dong Nai provinces. To exclude these people who are dependent upon forest products (e.g. resins, rattans, natural foods) from a role in the integrated program for the region without soliciting their input for alternative incomes and a role in management would be unacceptable and inappropriate, and could lead to further deterioration of the forest and marsh ecosystems of Cat Tien and the ultimate demise of the important Javan rhino population.

## 2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

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<sup>4</sup> Santiapillai, et. al.

The primary project goal is to develop in Vietnam a participatory model of natural resources and protected area management which is based upon sound scientific surveys and community involvement.<sup>5</sup> Specific immediate and long range project objectives are:

a) Short-term:

Implement a sustainable management and community development programme for the 100,000 ha Cat Tien integrated sanctuary.

b) Long-term:

Enhance the continued viability and survival of the diverse forest and marsh ecosystems at Cat Tien which are home to Stieng and Chauma ethnic minority populations, and significant fauna species including mainland Southeast Asia's last known population of the Javan rhinoceros (Rhinoceros sondaicus)<sup>6</sup>, other important faunal species such as the rare white-winged wood duck (Cairina scutulata), and numerous plant species which are endemic to the Indochinese Peninsula.

The properly protected Cat Tien Sanctuary can also serve as a safe repository for the wild Asian elephants (Elephas maximus) and other large mammals which are outgrowing their restricted and isolated forest habitats throughout southern Vietnam, creating land-use conflicts and endangering farmers and local villagers.

An iterative process of consultations, field research, and training is needed throughout the project to devise and put in place a participatory model of natural resources utilisation and conservation for Cat Tien and associated buffer zones. The project team consisting of international technical assistance and national counterparts drawn from the Ministry of Forestry and other Vietnamese agencies will undertake a process that seeks to maximise Vietnamese participation and decision-making with the project.

### 3. ACTIVITIES

<sup>5</sup> As noted in the Vietnam National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development (1991-2000) and in various forestry policy documents.

<sup>6</sup> Charles Santiapillai (WWF), Pham Mong Giao (MOF) and Vu Van Dung (FIPI). Conservation and Management of Javan Rhino (Rhinoceros sondaicus) in Vietnam, WWF-4567 Project Report, April 1991.



The primary activities of the project will be the provision of technical assistance, equipment and infrastructure support to the Vietnamese Ministry of Forestry, provincial forestry offices, and local communities for implementation of an integrated management plan for the expanded Cat Tien Sanctuary. On-going training and community programmes will complement the management process. Specific activities planned are:

a. Surveys and Information Gathering

Community surveys and ongoing monitoring of Cat Tien to assess the status of the communities, the ecosystem and the various flora and fauna will be undertaken in coordination with the Ministry of Forestry (MOF) and the provincial forestry offices with assistance from experienced staff from MOF and WWF.

Initial community surveys should be undertaken by May-June 1993. All survey reports will be prepared in Vietnamese and English.

b. Infrastructure and Equipment Inputs

The infrastructure and equipment needs of the Cat Tien Integrated Sanctuary will be assessed in the management plan currently under preparation. Inputs will include three 4-wheel drive vehicles, a series of forest protection officer posts, and equipping the mobile extension personnel who will work with the communities.

c. Community Extension Programmes

In order to reduce adverse human impact on the Cat Tien Sanctuary, a broad buffer zone will be established both on the north and east of the proposed protected area. Within the buffer zone, villagers will be permitted to harvest forest resources under a sustainable land-use system to be developed.

All community programmes will be designed and carried out by the community development specialist and assistants to be hired by the project. The buffer zone could be monitored by local committees with protected area and wildlife staff continually liaising with these committees.

d. Training and Professional Development

Conservation workers in Vietnam have little exposure to the new approaches to protected area management, community extension activities, and environmental education applied and tested internationally and in other countries of the region. Neighbouring nations such as Thailand share similar management situations as Vietnam. This project provides for overseas training to increase the familiarity

of Vietnamese conservation managers with new approaches to the management of protected areas and adjacent forests and in environmental education.

i) Environmental Education. Two officers of the Cat Tien Sanctuary will participate in a three-month training programme in the United Kingdom in environmental education.

ii) Protected Area Management Approaches. The park manager and deputy manager will observe national park and wildlife sanctuary management in Thailand, a nation with a long history of protected area management with lessons that are appropriate for Vietnam. Sites to be visited include the Khao Yai National Park and the World Heritage Site at Thung Yai-Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary Complex.

e. Technical Assistance Inputs

Technical assistance will be provided to assist the overall operation of the Bach Ma National Park management plan and for a specialised ecotourism study.

i) Sanctuary Management. A full-time technical assistance input covering 36 mm over the five-year project period will be provided to work with the park director in establishing park infrastructure, developing a park patrol system, developing annual workplans within the scope of the approved management plan, providing in-service training of local staff and forest guards, and developing a research and monitoring programme which can be carried out by the Ministry of Forestry and by local research institutions.

ii) Sustainable Employment for Local Communities. A community development specialist and two assistants (all Vietnamese or nationals of countries in the region) will be employed either as direct hires or secondments to the project for a total of 180 mm to devise appropriate livelihood development strategies for communities living in and near the sanctuary.

iii) Field Surveys. 10 mm of field biologist field surveys will be provided throughout the project to monitor field conditions during the project period.

f. Project Monitoring

Project monitoring will be carried out throughout the five-year project period.

**4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The project will be administered by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Field management of the project will be provided by the WWF Vietnam Programme at the Ministry of Forestry Headquarters in Hanoi.

Project activities described in section 11 will be undertaken according to the following timetable:

## 5. OUTPUTS

As a result of the project protected area management and community inputs, the project will yield the following outputs. Specific measurable outputs will be provided in a more detailed follow-up project document.

- A comprehensive management system for the Cat Tien Integrated Sanctuary, including a trained and well-equipped staff;
- Reduced forest destruction and wildlife poaching in the Cat Tien Integrated Sanctuary; and
- Newly cultivated environmental awareness and participation in conservation activities among local people, particularly focusing on the Chauma and Stieng minority peoples.

## 6. BUDGET

SFR	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	TOTAL
101 Vehicles	105,000					105,000
102 Equipment	20,000	25,000	8,000	5,000		58,000
103 Infrastr/ Construction	36,000	80,000	12,000			128,000
203 Project Staff	180,000	198,000	217,800	120,000	84,000	799,800
204 Daily Paid Workers	6,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	38,000
205 Professional Fees	40,000	15,000	15,000	8,000	12,000	90,000
206 Vehicle Running	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600	48,000
210 Office Running Costs	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	30,000
211 Field Costs	45,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	30,000	225,000
212 Travel	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	30,000
213 Conf/Meetings	4,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	28,000
214 Publications/ printing	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
215 Audio/video	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	40,000
217 Training	28,000	6,000	15,000	4,000	2,000	55,000
400 Contingency	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
Sub-Total Field Costs	500,600	424,600	368,400	237,600	178,600	1,709,800
218 Mgmt Fee	75,100	63,700	55,300	35,700	26,800	256,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>575,700</b>	<b>488,300</b>	<b>423,700</b>	<b>273,300</b>	<b>205,400</b>	<b>1,966,400</b>