Integrating Watershed and Biodiversity Management in Chu Yang Sin National Park, Vietnam

Implementation Completion Memorandum

November 2010

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Contents

A. BASIC TRUST FUND INFORMATION

TF Name:	Integrating Watershed and Biodiversity Management in Chu Yang Sin National Park, Vietnam
TF Number:	TF053039
Task Team Leader Name:	Douglas Graham, EASES
TF Amount:	Total financing: GEF: $973,000
Recipient of TF funds:	BirdLife International (Indochina Programme)
Type of TF:	GEF Child Fund
Single/Multi Donor:	Multi
Donor(s) Name(s):	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
TF Program Source Code:	GEFIA
Purpose of TF:	TA – Technical Assistance
TF Approval/IBTF Clearance Date:	June 27, 2005
TF Activation Date:	
TF Closing Date(s):	May 30, 2010
Date of ICM Submission to TFO:	
Cost and Financing Table:	

Cofinancier	***Original***	***Actual***
GEF (MSP)	$973,000	
PDF-A	$55,000 (BirdLife $30,000, GEF $25,000)	
Recipient	$661,000 (GoV)	
Other	$80,000 (BirdLife $50,000, other $30,000)	
Total	$1,769,000	

Rating summary	
Category	***Rating***
Overall TF Outcome	Satisfactory
Overall Risk to Development Outcome	Low/Medium
Bank Performance	Satisfactory
Recipient Performance	Satisfactory

B. TRUST FUND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND DESIGN

Original (and Revised) Trust Fund Development Objectives

The original project document defined one overall goal, one purpose and six objectives, with components and activities aligned to each of the objectives.

The **overall goal** of the project was defined as:

- Biodiversity attributes of Chu Yang Sin conserved in the long term within a wider framework of integrated watershed and biodiversity management.

The **purpose** of the project was defined as:

- Build a foundation of support and management for Chu Yang Sin National Park.

The six **objectives** of the project were defined as:

- Establish effective enforcement and forest protection to prevent encroachment and illegal exploitation of natural resources in the park.
- Establish the foundation of biological, landscape and socio-cultural knowledge to guide and inspire integrated park management and the improved integration of biodiversity conservation and watershed management objectives.
- Generate public and stakeholder support for conservation and the management goals of CYS NP.
- Build capacity for adaptive management within the management team.
- Integrate CYS NP into wider conservation, socio-economic and watershed management development strategies.
- Monitor the impact of project activities.

The **original** objectives were adjusted downwards to five (essentially by integrating capacity-building into the first objective) in a revision to the logical framework undertaken in November 2006 (finalized in early 2007). The **revised** objectives from November 2006 were:

- Build capacity for management and enforcement in the park management team.
- Establish a foundation of knowledge to guide park management and facilitate integration of conservation principles into selected policies and plans applicable to the surrounding landscape.
- Create an enforcement environment to stop illegal exploitation and encroachment in the park.
- Generate local community, decision-maker, and key stakeholder support for the management goals of Chu Yang Sin National Park.
- Monitor the impact of project activities

Original (and Revised) Trust Fund Activities/Components

The original project document included five components. These were reduced to four components in November 2006 – in line with adjustments to the objective structure (above). The five original components were:

- **Component A – Enforcement and protection:** To deliver support for effective on-the-ground enforcement and protection through establishment of an active community-based ranger service to address problems such as encroachment and hunting. To this end, the project aimed to mobilize park staff to expand the area, frequency and scope of patrols. The project also aimed to develop and institutionalize patrolling systems and strengthen two aspects critical for effective enforcement – (a) the active support and involvement of district forest protection departments, who have the power to arrest and prosecute offenders; and (b) the communication of intelligence on high-risk areas and potential offenders. This component also sought to put in place a radio communication system to link rangers to the park headquarters and improve cooperation between the Forest Protection Department, the State Forest Enterprise and Lak Reserve.

- **Component B – Surveys, Monitoring and Species Conservation:** To deliver three groups of outputs: a baseline of knowledge and information required for effective park management; field-tested local-level park management approaches including co-management; and integration of park management goals into land-use and development plans at various administrative levels. It was intended that these activities would be undertaken in close collaboration with other donor-funded activities in the buffer zone of the Park.

- **Component C - Public Awareness:** To establish public support and interest for Chu Yang Sin National Park (CYSNP) amongst a range of different stakeholders at local and provincial level. It was intended that the project would commission the preparation of a marketing and awareness strategy from an established Vietnamese marketing company to establish a baseline situation of knowledge and attitudes in buffer zone communes and the provincial capital - Buon Ma Thuot. The strategy would also identify steps to change public attitudes and practice. The component also included activities to conduct a community awareness programme including village level presentations by rangers, media activities and public events in and around the Park.

- **Component D – Capacity building:** To establish a motivated and professional park staff with strong capabilities in adaptive management, and the essential infrastructure and equipment to enable them to put this into practice. Planned activities ranged from training in ethnic languages and English, developing managerial and information technology skills, and developing knowledge and expertize in

biodiversity survey, species and habitat identification. The component also included activities and budget to upgrade and/or construct five guard posts to operational standard.

- **Component E - Monitoring and Evaluation:** To prepare a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan with specified methods and indicators. The approach also sought to ensure that park staff were proficient in the execution of monitoring requirements, either directly or by contracting outside parties.

Outcome Indicators

Various sets of indicators have been applied at outcome level during the project. The original set was included in the project document and used the following indicators at goal level[1]. A new monitoring and evaluation system was commissioned by the project in 2006 but this proved over-complex and was not adopted by the project team. The logframe was then revised in November 2006 and adjustments were made to the indicators to make these more measurable and to reflect the emphasis given to landscape level watershed management in the goal statement. The adjusted indicators adopted in November 2006 were then used in subsequent reporting, including a final self-assessment report prepared by BirdLife International in Indochina[2]:

[1] The logframe does not use the term '*outcomes*'

[2] BirdLife International (2010). *Integrated Watershed and Biodiversity Management at Chu Yang Sin National Park. Project Results and Impact.* Funded by the Global Environmental Facility/the World Bank (TF053039). Hanoi 2010.

Original indicator	Revised indicator
Stabilization of the interface between natural forest and the agricultural landscape.	Stabilization of interface between natural forest and agricultural landscape
Change in forest area and quality	Change in forest area and quality in the Park and change in forest area in key areas of the surrounding landscape
Abundance of key indicator species	Abundance of key indicator species
Amount of settlement or potentially damaging infrastructure in vulnerable areas	Amount of settlement, infrastructure, or development projects planned or impacting the Park or key areas of the surrounding landscape.
Level of use for recreation and research	
Level of consistency between planning documents and conservation of the park	Integration of conservation criteria into socio-economic development plans affecting districts around the Park Level of engagement of local communities in environmental planning in districts around the Park
Level of planned activities impacting negatively on the park	
Profile of the park in wider development visions	

C. OUTCOMES

Relevance of TF Objectives, Design and Implementation

The project was designed to address international and national policy priorities for biodiversity conservation. At the time of design, the forests of Chu Yang Sin were known to support species and forest habitats of critical international and national importance - although survey information was very limited. It was immediately recognized that the National Park (then a Nature Reserve) was threatened by expanding agricultural frontiers and by hunting and at the time of design, and there was little awareness of the Park's environmental values amongst national and provincial planners – giving rise to decision-making that paid little attention to the Park's environmental values. At Park level, there was limited capacity to effectively protect and manage the Park's forests and biodiversity effectively.

The considerations above gave rise to the objective and component structure of the project – and these remained relevant to the end of the project – improving the information base needed for planning, strengthening enforcement systems, and building management capacity and public awareness.

Overall, design and component structure were appropriate to address the immediate and rapidly escalating pressures on the Park. However, the design and scale of the project was inadequate for addressing the project's goal statement of addressing biodiversity conservation '*…within the wider framework of integrated watershed and biodiversity management.*' For example, decisions over road construction through the Park were taken with little involvement of provincial level authorities (with whom the project worked) by the Ministry of Defence and so the project was unable to influence this crucial new development. Likewise, the driving forces behind escalating hunting pressures were driven by strong regional demand for wildlife products from expanding domestic and Chinese markets, facilitated by rapid in-migration of ethnic H'Mong people (with strong traditions of hunting) from northern provinces. The project's steering committee – chaired by provincial Department for Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) provided a useful means of improving provincial stakeholder awareness and engagement, but was insufficient to address these bigger trends and threats – where critical decision-making rested with central authorities.

Aside from the new and expanded threats associated with infrastructure development and hunting, other issues emerged that required adjustments to implementation. The original design anticipated assisting the province and park management board to develop the tourism potential of the Park – but shortly before approval of the project, social unrest in the Central Highlands of Vietnam led to political sensitivities over foreigners visiting rural areas outside of the main towns and cities of the central highlands. These sensitivities also prevented the first two World Bank supervision missions from visiting the Park and meant that BirdLife was unable to post an international adviser to the project area – as envisaged at design. Tourism development activities were therefore removed when the logical framework was revised in 2006 and BirdLife International needed to rely more heavily on recruiting national expertise to fill the technical assistance gap. Initially,

this came from Tay Nguyen University and after 2006, from stronger involvement of the national technical staff of BirdLife.

Achievement of objective and goals.

The assessment presented in this section starts with a review of the project components, and then reviews the extent to which they have helped achieve the overall goal, purpose and objective set-out in the logical framework. The ICM mission drew upon a range of different sources in developing this assessment – including the Aide Memoirs of the various supervision missions[3], a review of 'status an trends' undertaken in 2008[4] and BirdLife's final assessment of the project's results and impacts[5].

Achievement of overall goal

The overall goal of the project was to contribute to the long-term conservation of the biodiversity of the Park within the '*wider framework of integrated watershed and biodiversity management'*. The project has made a significant contribution to this goal and the assessment is very positive. - despite the challenges posed by a number of significant constraints that lay outside the control of the project. Overall, the project succeeded in putting in place much-improved information on the biodiversity of the park, improved public awareness amongst key decision-makers of the importance of the park, strengthened capacity for day-to-day conservation management. The project also put in place a workable monitoring and evaluation framework for the Park although it remains to be seen whether this will be used following project closure.

The project made less progress at watershed management level where the scale and pace of landscape level changes meant it was unrealistic to expect significant impacts of a project of this size. Further, approval delays meant that anticipated partnerships with other, larger development projects operating in the buffer zone were missed. However, the project did succeed in facilitating and encouraging working level cooperation (including joint planning and patrolling) with the adjacent Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park and supported efforts to integrate the Lak Landscape Nature Reserve into the National Park. These two strands of work continue post-project and will extend improved forest and resource management to a significant part of the forests remaining in the upper watershed.

Achievement of project purpose

The purpose of the project was to build public and decision-maker support for Chu Yang Sin National Park. The project has made significant progress towards achieving the project purpose, although much work remains to be done. Monitoring shows that support for the conservation of the Park has increased amongst government officials at Provincial and District Level and that local communities around the Park have a better understanding of the Park's regulations compared to the 2005 baseline. Notable in this regard was a public event organized by the Park management board – with project support, to highlight the conservation implications of illegal wildlife consumption and trade. The event

[3] The World Bank undertook supervision missions in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

[4] Chu Yang Sin National Park: Status and Tends 2005-2008. BirdLife International in Indochina. June 2008.

[5] Project Results and Impacts. BirdLife International in Indochina. June 2010.

attracted over 4000 people in the provincial capital and did much to raise the profile of this serious threat to the Park's biodiversity. However, less than 50% of those surveyed before project closure in 2010 claimed to have knowledge of where the Park's boundaries were - or the rationale that lay behind the Park's regulations. Clearly, much works remains for the Park's management board. However, it is also clear that the Park's management board now understands the importance of community outreach and awareness raising work and these activities are continuing after project closure.

Assessment of objectives and components.

Project components were closely aligned to project objectives and so progress for each are reviewed together below:

Objective 1: Establishing effective enforcement and forest protection to prevent encroachment and illegal exploitation of natural resources in the park.

The enforcement and protection component has achieved satisfactory results and progress has been made towards achieving this objective. The results of fixed point photography show that there was no encroachment of agricultural cultivation within the Park's boundaries over the last three years – a substantial achievement for the Park management board's efforts. Within the buffer zone, loss of forest continued to occur at local scale - roughly in accordance with pre-baseline rates (Annex 2). This was documented in an assessment of the status of the watersheds forests undertaken by the project in 2006, but this issue is largely beyond the remit of the Park's management board.

The project was instrumental in helping the management board to increase the frequency and quality of patrolling within the Park (see figure below), and this is likely to have been a major factor in the increase of recorded violations reported and recorded in patrol records. This was achieved through targeted training activities, improving equipment and by upgrading two guard stations that improved working and living conditions for up to 20 park guards. Without this, it is likely that levels of encroachment, illegal logging and hunting would have continued at very high levels. It is likely that these improved enforcement systems will continue post-project and it should also be noted that the Park's management board now manages a considerable amount of national funds to engage local people in forest protection activities within the Park.

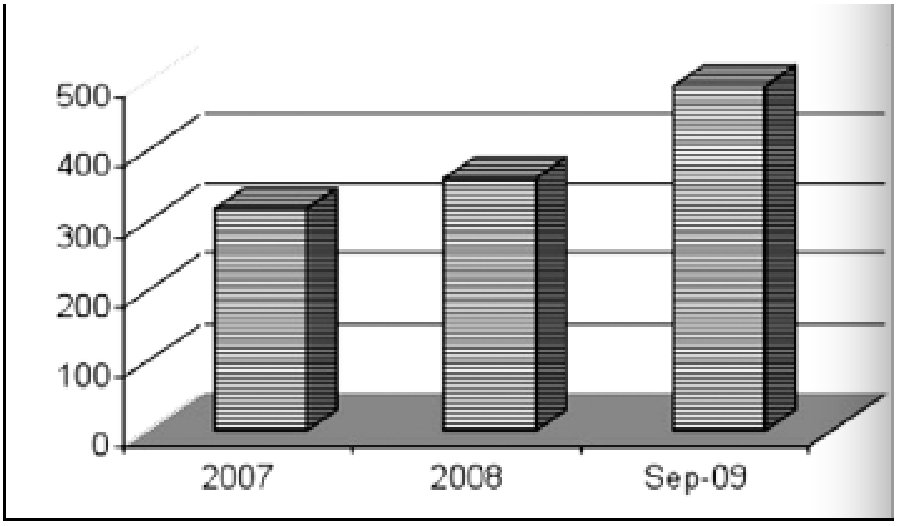

Figure shows trends in patrolling effort between 2007 and 2010.

Controlling illegal logging within the Park, mostly of the valuable Gymnosperm species, *Fokenia hodginsii,* has improved but this issue continues to pose a problem. Pressure from illegal hunting remains a major and growing problem as market prices and demand continues to increase.

However, the project was not ineffective in helping the management board engage better with forest protection units and other enforcement agencies outside the park boundary. For example, the project failed to follow-up on two (excellent) surveys of extensive wildlife and illegal trade networks operating in the buffer zone, and was also unable to facilitate coordinated patrolling between patrol groups inside and outside of the Park.

Objective 2: Establish the foundation of biological, landscape and socio-cultural knowledge.

The project made impressive progress towards this objective by vastly improving understanding of the Park's biodiversity through a structured and professionally-executed program of surveys and studies. A remarkable seventeen new-to-science species of amphibian and reptile were discovered. Of these, two species have so far been described and published: Chu Yang Sin tree frog *Rhacophorus chuyangsinensis* and at least one new species of gecko *Cyrtodactylus ziegleri* belonging to the *Cyrtodactylus irregularis* complex. The other fifteen species of herpetofauna are in the progress of being described. All biodiversity information was collated and published in a high quality overview report of the Park's biodiversity.[6]

A number of other outputs improved the foundation of knowledge available on the Park. The project supported the preparation of a forest cover map for the Park and buffer zone,

[6] BirdLife Inetrnational (2009). *The Biodiversity of Chu Yang Sin National Park, Dak Lak Province,* Vietnam.

and this has proved extremely useful for practical park management and planning activities.

Good quality studies were also undertaken on wildlife and timber trade chains, on customary forest land uses in the park and buffer zone[7],[8],[9],[10],[11] and on the impacts on biodiversity of the construction of East Truong Son Highway and other infrastructure developments within the Park.

Objective 3: Generate public and stakeholder support for conservation and the management goals of CYS NP.

Implementation of this component of the project fell well behind schedule – making it difficult to assess the overall impact of this component's activities. Nonetheless, the component did support some promising initiatives. For example, a Communication Strategy for the Park was developed which has helped the Park to identify objectives, messages, tools, - together with the financial and human resource needed for its implementation. Public awareness activities then were implemented at both provincial level and grassroots (district/commune/village) level. The project also supported a campaign to "Say NO to illegal forest products", which was included a provincial level event that attracted four thousand people and indirectly reached hundreds of thousands local people through live television broadcast. \

The project also supported the development of a website for the park http://www.vqgchuyangsin.org/ which hosts information for a Vietnamese audience on the Park's ecology, conservation management and also video clip information on broader issues, including tiger trade. Large numbers of news articles were written about CYSNP and the current GEF/WB supported project. The project has also supported the management board to develop awareness materials and events such as posters, leaflet, signboards, CYSNP's billboard at Buon Me Thuot airport.

Objective 4: Build capacity for adaptive management within the management team.

Capacity building activities were integrated into other components when the project's logical framework was revised in November 2006.

Capacity building efforts were effective and considered by the project management board to be the most important contribution of the project. The project supported a range of capacity-building initiatives and through a range of different approaches. Examples included language training, enforcement skills, legal training, ranger skills, patrol planning and monitoring, working with local communities, biodiversity monitoring and

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[7] Lindskog, E. (2008) *Assessment of traditional forest resource use by local communities, and impacts of establishment of Chu Yang Sin National Park*. Hanoi: BirdLife International *in Indochina*.

[8] Ksor, N. (2008) *Complementary Assessment of Traditional Forest Resource Use by Local Communities and Impacts of the Establishment of Chu Yang Sin National Park*. Unpublished report to BirdLife International *in Indochina*.

[9] Le Trong Trai, Mahood, S. P., Luong Huu Thanh and Mai Duc Vinh (2008) *The illegal wildlife and timber trade network around Chu Yang Sin National Park, Dak Lak Province, Vietnam*. Hanoi: BirdLife International *in Indochina*

[10] Dang Ngoc Can, Loc Xuan Nghia, To Van Duong and Le Trong Trai (2009) *The illegal wildife and timber trade network around Chu Yang Sin National Park, Dak Lak Province, Vietnam.*Hanoi: BirdLife International *in Indochina*

[11] International Center for Environmental Management (2010) *Chu Yang Sin National Park: Assessment of Proposed Road and Trail Developments in the Core Zone. Preliminary Findings*. Draft Internal Document.

visits to other protected areas to share experience and develop new ideas and approaches. ASEAN Competence Standards for Protected Area Management were used to monitor changes in staff capacity and these demonstrated a strong improvement in basic skills – in 2005 only 30% of CYSNP staff members had received some form of training in key skills areas and this had risen to over 70% by the end of the project.

Objective 5: Integrate CYS NP into wider conservation, socio-economic and watershed management development strategies.

Until quite recently, the Park was part of a contiguous forest complex that covered much of the Da Lat plateau and virtually the entire upper watershed of the Srepok river. Today, the Park and adjacent Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park afford protection to the core of a rapidly-diminishing block of forest that comprises the upper watershed of three major rivers , the Sre Pok, the Dong Nai and the Cai rivers.

The project objective referred to the broader context of watershed management and the intention at design was to contribute to improved management of the upper watershed forests, primarily through linkages with co-financed watershed management projects. In retrospect, this proved over-ambitious for a project of this scale. Analysis undertaken by the project highlighted the scale of ongoing forest fragmentation ongoing in the upper watershed – caused mostly by the expansion of commodity crops and construction of various new roads. Landscape level threats – notably from infrastructure construction, replaced encroachment as the principal threat to the Park's biodiversity during project implementation and hence the project placed greater emphasis on addressing these issues through public awareness of key decision-makers and through the environmental review of the military road and patrol trails (see above).

Nonetheless, the longer-term vision for the Park includes an expansion of its boundaries to include the adjacent forests currently under the management of a range of different management authorities, including the Lak Landscape Reserve, the Lak Forest Enterprise and the Krong Bong Forest Enterprise. To this end, the project supported a feasibility study[12] for the expansion of CYSNP. The management authorities for these various forest management units currently lack the expertise, capacity and financial resources to implement appropriate management. Expansion therefore provides an opportunity to coordinate conservation management across a larger forest landscape and introduce improved incentives for local communities to participate in forest management, for example through community forest management, the expansion of existing co-management arrangements and development of community-based ecotourism. These approaches could help balance sustainable use with biodiversity conservation and the protection of environmental services such as watershed protection and carbon storage – both of which could generate significant future revenues for forest management.

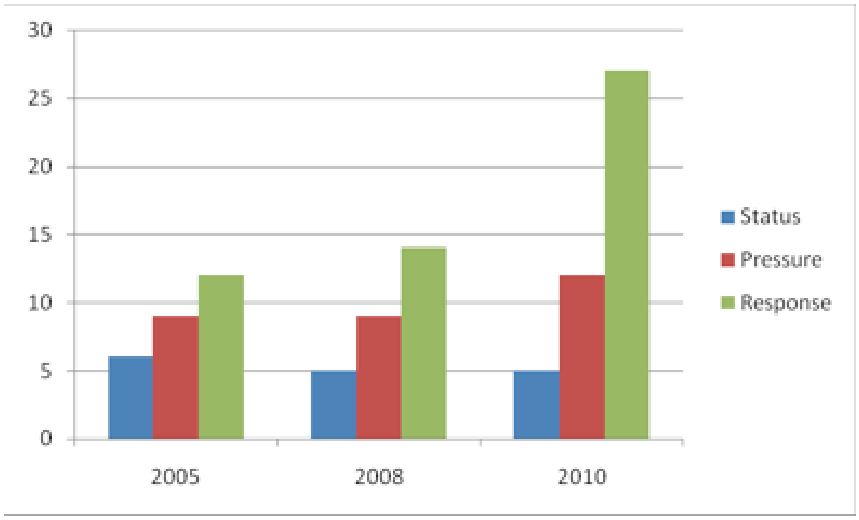
Objective 6: Monitor the impact of project activities.

The project explored a number of different approaches to project monitoring. By mid-term, the project opted to assist the Park's management board develop their own Park monitoring system. To this end, the project grouped a range of indicators (including

[12] Feasibility studies are the first step of the official process for re-categorizing forest types.

scoring generated through application of the Management Effectiveness Tracker Tool) into a Pressure, State and Response monitoring framework. This was then used to monitor changes to the state of the park and upper watershed, the pressures on these resources and the response capability of local authorities and the park's management board. This has proved a useful framework since it is reasonably easy to apply and generates information that is useful for management. In hindsight, the project found that improvements could be made to the indicator set so that the framework can be made more sensitive to changes in pressure, state and response.

The graph below shows how pressure, state and response scores changed through project implementation, from the 2005 baseline year, through 2008 and then at 2010 project closure. The results suggest that the project was successful in strengthening the management board's **response** capabilities to pressures on the Park and contributed to a modest improvement in **pressure** variables (mostly by encouraging provincial authorities to increase funding for the park and by improving local stakeholder awareness of the Parks values and regulations). **Status** variables remained largely unchanged with a dip between 2005 and 2008 caused by loss of forest to the Krong K'Mar hydropower project – approved prior to project start-up. In hindsight, improved indicators for pressure and state would have improved sensitivity, and this is an issue that the Park's management board could be encouraged to improve.



Progress against outcome indicators

Table 1 summarizes project achievements against outcome indicators included in the original project document.

Objective Level Indicator	Summary of Progress
Stabilization of the interface between natural forest and agricultural landscape	Forest – agriculture interface stabilized. No encroachment of agricultural land along the Park boundaries.
Change in forest area and quality in the Park and change in forest area in key areas of the surrounding landscape	Minimal loss of forest coverage within the Park. Continued deterioration of biodiversity inside Park due to hunting, selective logging and infrastructure development.
Abundance of key indicator species	Improved information on the Park's biodiversity. Determined that this is the only site known to support all of the restricted range bird species that characterize this Endemic Bird Area. Seventeen species of amphibian and reptile were collected and are expected to be new to science.
Amount of settlement, infrastructure, or development projects planned or impacting the Park or key areas of the surrounding landscape	The East Truong Son National Highway will go through the Park. An extensive patrol trail network was built inside the Park with negative impacts on the Park's biodiversity. The Krong K'Mar hydropower plant approved prior to start-up and built inside the Park during project implementation. The Park management could exert little influence on plans for road and hydropower development.
Integration of conservation criteria into socio-economic development plans affecting districts around the Park.	A feasibility study was carried out for the expansion of CYSNP to include Lak Landscape Protection Area and some forest blocks belonging Lak and Krong Bong districts. Influencing overall socio-economic plans proved to be too ambitious.
Level of engagement of local communities in environmental planning in districts around the Park.	Communication Strategy developed with Park management board involving wide consultations with related stakeholders. Public awareness activities implemented at both provincial level and grassroots (district/commune/ village) level, encouraging active involvement of local communities in forest protection issues. The project found that the engagement and actual influence of local communities in environment planning in buffer zone districts were beyond the project's capacity. This proved to be a design weakness.

Efficiency

- **Project management efficiency**: The project has been managed efficiently by BirdLife, despite a number of significant management challenges, particularly during the early implementation phase.

- **Institutional efficiency**: Institutional arrangements were appropriate to achieving objectives at park level. However, these same institutional arrangements proved inadequate for working at the broader watershed management level.

- **Outcome efficiency:** Project support for building basic capabilities necessary for protected area management were appropriate, given that the site lacked even basic capacity and equipment and there was limited information available of the biodiversity of the park.

- **Financial management, procurement and disbursement efficiency:** Reporting, procurement and auditing reports have been submitted in accordance with World Bank requirements. An independent audit of project accounts was undertaken by KPMG to May 30 2010[13] and this identified no issues of concern regarding financial management. BirdLife submitted the audited statement and management letter to the World Bank on 19 October, 2010.

Impacts

The main impacts of this project were:

- **A greatly improved information and research base** to guide the management of the park and for use as a basis for engaging with key decision-makers and the wider public. Surveys have identified seventeen species new to science and improved information has been translated into awareness and interpretation materials and management tools.

- **Improved awareness and capacity:** Park management staff have greatly improved capacity to undertake basic park management and monitoring. Park management leadership now has a clear understanding of the purpose and role of conservation management and are keen to be seen as a national example of good practice for national park management. Local stakeholders have an improved understanding of Park regulations and boundaries, although work will need to continue on this theme. Provincial and national decision-makers are now much more aware of the values of the Park and this should translate into fewer decisions by provincial authorities that damage the

[13] KPMG (2010). Audited financial statements and management letter for the period January 1 2009 to May 30 2010.

ecological integrity of the Park.

- **Improved and operational enforcement and protection systems** has been a striking impact of project support. Patrolling and enforcement systems are now operational and working effectively under strong Park leadership. This has led to a sharp rise in recorded violations and complete elimination of encroachment of agricultural land inside the park. This performance will need to continue as hunting levels and pressure on land from unregistered migrants grows and the Park's forests are now more accessible following recent infrastructure development.

Overall TF Outcome

Overall, the outcome of the project is rated as satisfactory. The project has delivered a firm foundation of capacity-building across different components and especially forest protection and enforcement. There is now a very good understanding of the Park's very considerable biodiversity values and this information has been translated effectively into management tools, public awareness materials and events that have increased the public profile of the Park at local, provincial and national level. This should translate into better integration of the Park into provincial and national planning, albeit in ways that will always be difficult to monitor and evaluate.

D. RISK TO DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME

As noted above, the project logical framework did not include outcomes, so for the purposes of this assessment, risks have been assessed in relation to the six project objectives.

Outcome/objectives	**Risk**	**Assessment**
Establishing effective enforcement and forest protection	Low	The Park management board now has the capacity to plan, execute and monitor effective enforcement and forest protection activities and has a strong commitment to continuing these efforts
Establish the foundation of biological, landscape and socio-cultural knowledge	Low	Good information is now available on the Park's biodiversity, the socio-economic uses of the Park's resources and on forest cover changes.
Public and stakeholder support for conservation	Medium	There is now greater awareness of Park values and boundary locations, although further and continuous work is required to maintain and build further public support, especially as pressure in land and resources outside the Park boundary continue to grow.
Build capacity within the management team	Medium	Management capacity is now much better than pre- project, although there is a risk that capacity levels will fall as staffing changes over the next few years. Continuity in capacity building efforts is required across Vietnam's protected areas network.
Integrate CYS NP into wider conservation, socio-economic and watershed management development strategies	Medium	The Park now has a much higher profile amongst key decision-makers at provincial and national levels and this should improve integration into planning. Risks remain, especially from national decision-making on roads and hydropower development.
Park monitoring	Medium/High	The Park now has a good baseline of information on pressure, state and response indicators and a relatively easy to apply monitoring framework has been developed and piloted at Park level. National standards for monitoring special use forests are being developed at national level and so it remains to be seen whether the Park management authorities continue use this system as the basis of their monitoring efforts.

Provincial authorities have now committed substantial financial resources for the management of the Park and this should help ensure that conservation management levels are maintained at reasonable levels. However, a major challenge for the management board will be to ensure that provincial financing can be translated into effective conservation management - rather than over-investment in infrastructure. In the case of investment in patrol trail construction, this has damaged the Park's ecological integrity and there is a danger that further ill-advised investments may lead to further problems. This is a problem facing protected areas management throughout Vietnam and is being addressed at national policy and institutional level by the Forest Protection Department, with support of the GEF-funded Vietnam Conservation Fund.

Replicability

At Park level: The project has developed training and capacity- building modules that can be replicated for further use post-project. The project assisted the Park's management board to adopt the Operational Management Planning format developed at national level for use in Special use Forests. The communications strategy should provide a useful resource to guide further communication and awareness efforts.

At national level: The monitoring framework developed by the project, based on BirdLife's global IBA monitoring framework provides a very practical and potentially-useful approach for integration into national protected areas monitoring and reporting. However, this will require continuing efforts to promote the uptake of this framework at national level, and this may not happen following project closure. Survey approaches for assessing and monitoring illegal wildlife trade and consumption also have relevance for wider application and take-up.

E. Performance

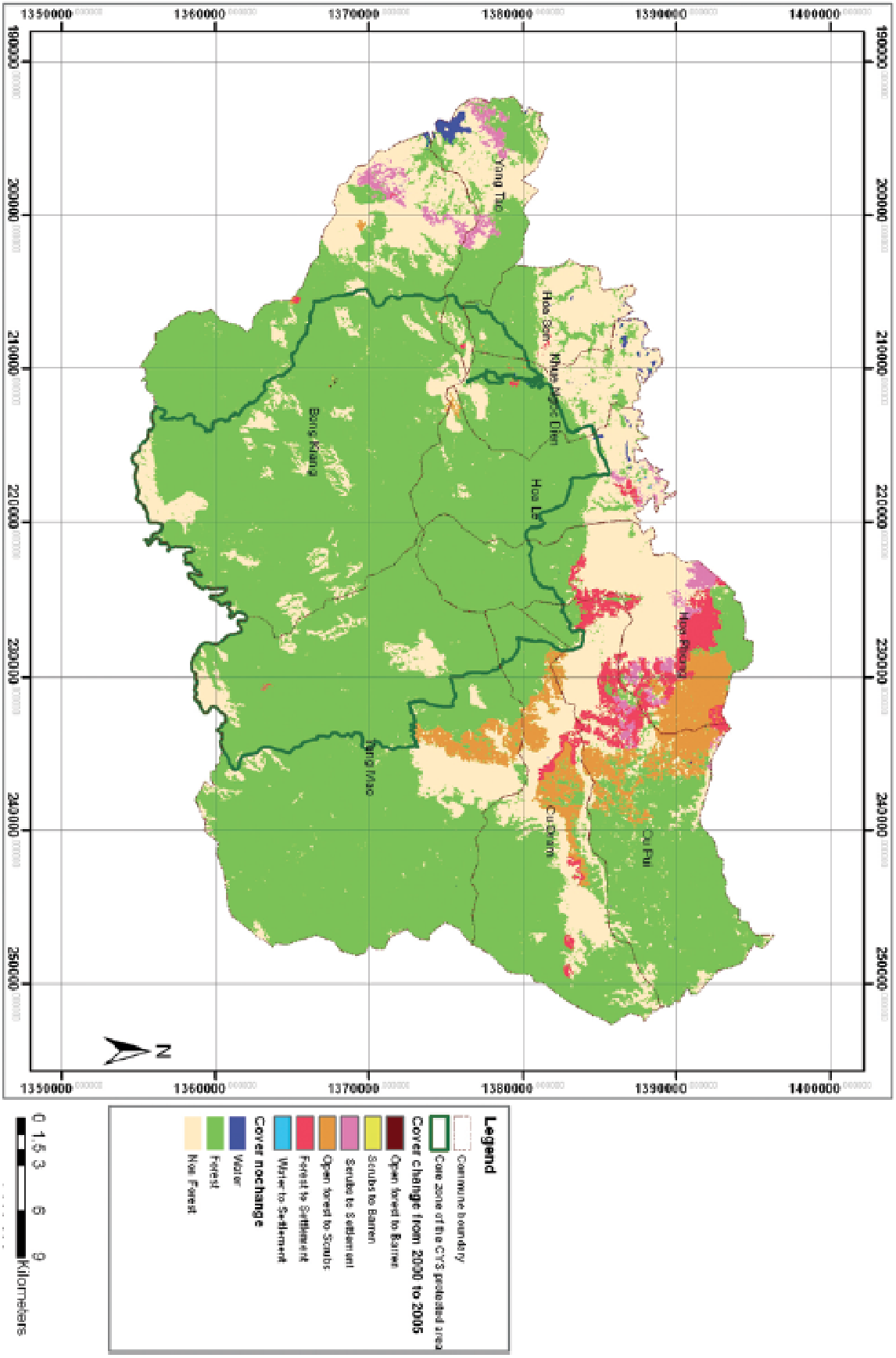
World Bank

Performance assessment. The recipient expressed the view that World Bank TTLs and staff have been highly supportive of the project throughout the prolonged approvals and start-up process - and throughout implementation. World Bank made possible a visit by a large number of donors and senior Vietnamese officials to the Park during the semi-annual donor consultative group meeting in 2008 and this provided an opportunity to focus attention on the vales of the Park and the challenges it faces, especially from poorly-planned infrastructure development.

Recipient

Performance assessment: BirdLife managed the project effectively - despite some difficult management challenges posed by political sensitivities in the central highlands. These factors constrained early progress and forced the project to adjust its staffing and implementation strategy. The project gradually developed a good relationship with provincial authorities and a very strong relationship with the National Park management board. The project team and Park management board, working closely together, implemented this project professionally and to a high standard and adapted well to a number of unforeseen setbacks. The technical quality of work, especially ranger training, forest cover analysis and biodiversity surveys have been undertaken to an extremely high standard.

Annex 1: Forest Cover Map



Map 6: Forest cover change for Chu Yang Sin National Park 2000 - 2005