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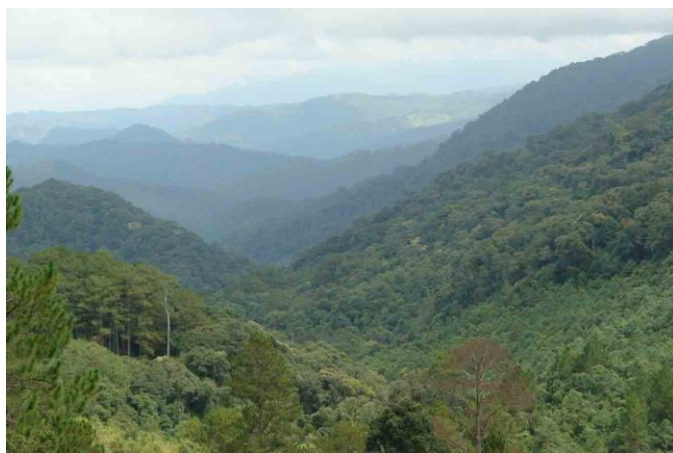
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ANNOUNCEMENT No. 03

Conference on
Integrated Watershed Forest and
River Basin Management in Vietnam
Bi Doup Nui Ba National Park , Dalat City, Lam Dong, Vietnam,
May 23-24, 2011

Rationale for the Conference



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 to 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 the 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.

Date and place

The conference tentatively will be held in 2 days from 23rd to 24th of May 2011 at BiDoup-Nui Ba National Park, Dalat City, Lam Dong province.

Organizers

- Center for Biodiversity and Development (CBD), Institute of Tropical Biology (ITB)
- The Norwegian Institute for Environment and Agriculture Research (Bioforsk), Norway
- IUCN Vietnam
- Vietnam River Network (VRN)
- Bidoup-Nui Ba National Park

Participants

- Representative from Ministry/Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry/Department of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Representative of protected areas in central and southern Vietnam
- Concerned NGOs working in Vietnam
- Concerned organizations and sponsors for biodiversity conservation and river protection
- Research and management institutions and universities
- Mass media

Total number of participant is about 60

Topic discussion:

Topics to be presented and discussed include:

- Biodiversity and depletion of rivers and watershed forests;
- Critical issues, threats; lessons learned; challenges and opportunities related to Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and watersheds forests and recommendations
- Policy and information exchange on conservation of forests and rivers

Language of the conference: Vietnamese and English.

Proposed Program of the Conference

The Conference will be conducted in two days. The agenda s is proposed as follows:

| Day 1 – May 23, 2011-Field trip | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| When | Where | Descriptions | Responsible |
| Route 1 | Long Lanh commune, Hon Giao mount, Bidoup Núi Bà NP | Model of forest management of Bidoup Nui Ba NP | Bidoup Nui Ba NP staff will guide and logistic preparation. |
| Route 2 | Da Nhim Commune, Lac Duong District, Lam Dong Province | Pilot site of PES | |

| Day 2 - 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. -Bidoup nui Ba NP |
| Key note | Chair : Dr. Udaya Sekhar Nagothu, Bioforsk | | |

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|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| addressing | 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 | Sharing information on the problems, management practices and policies of watershed forests of the upper Mekong (Lancang) River in China (case study of XTBG) | Prof.Dr. CAO Min Deputy 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 | 3 rd Programme and cooperative action plan to the watershed forest management in Tay Nguyen 2011-2015. | Dr. Tran Trung Dung, TayNguyen UNI. |
| | 10:45-11:00 | IWRM and River Basin Organizations of Dong Nai and Srepok Rivers | Mr Luong Van Ngu, Vice director of DONRE, Lam Dong province |
| | 11:00-11:15 | Pilot model of Collaborative Forest Management in Bidoup Nui Ba NP | Mr. Le Van Huong, Director of Bidoup Nui Ba NP |
| | 11:15-11:30 | IWRM in Sesan-Srepok basin: Experiences from the EU FP6 Project | Dr. Per Stalnacke, Head of Section, Water Quality. (Bioforsk) |
| | 11:30-11:45 | Water and Climate Change: Challenges to IWRM in Vietnam | Dr. Le Anh Tuan DRAGON Center |
| | 11:45-12:00 | Community based on the forest management in Dong Nai River Basin | Dr. Vu Ngoc Long Director of CBD |
| | LUNCH | 12:00-13:30 | |
| Group discussion session | 13:30 | Group discussions: 3 groups with 15 persons/group. | Chair: Dr. Vu Ngoc Long, CBD |
| | 13:30-14:30 | Issue: How to advance IWRM in Vietnam | Group facilitators: Dr Luu Hong Truong; Dr Hoang Minh Duc and Dr Le |

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| | | | Buu Thach, CBD |
| | 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: Bioforsk |
| Closing | 16:30-17:00 | Conclusion | Dr. Vu Ngoc Long CBD |

Notes:

- Time allocation for each presentation is 15-20'. Note addresses will be the orientation for presentations in the technical session and group discussions.
- Technical session will focus on cases studies, lessons learned and solutions to highlight issues mentioned in the key note addresses.
- All presentations and papers of the conference will be edited to be published in the Conference Proceedings.

***For technical information and presentations please contact:**

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***For Logistical arrangements, registration and sponsorship please contact:**

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