

Title: Annamite Range Moist Forest

LOCATION/Geography:



The area is at the border between Lao PDR and Vietnam.

CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE:

The Annamite Range Moist Forests support one of the world's most unique and diverse communities of flora and fauna. Due to climatic and geographic peculiarities of the ecoregion, the moist forests remained stable during major global climate changes. These forests provided refuge to a unique set of species that have evolved and survived in this ecoregion. In the last ten years, four new mammal species have been discovered: the saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), a remarkable animal that represents a unique branch of the cattle and antelope family, was discovered in 1992; In 1994 a new deer species called the large-antlered muntjac (*Muntiacus vuquangensis*) was revealed and in 1997 another smaller muntjac (*Muntiacus truongsonensis*) with very small, stubby antlers, plus the annamite striped rabbit (*Nesolagus timminsi*) were discovered. In addition to the tiger (*Panthera tigris*), these forests are home to the only Javan rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) still living in mainland Southeast Asia, the Asian elephant (*Elaphas maximus*), and the Indochinese pig (*Sus bucculentus*) - a species still only known from a single skull. The forests' primate species include monkeys such as the Douc langur (*Pygathris nemaeus*) and Francois's langur (*Semnopithecus francoisi*) - all of which are highly threatened. At least 10 bird species are entirely restricted to the ecoregion, including several galliforms such as Edward's pheasant (*Lophura edwardsii*) and the rare and critically endangered orange-necked partridge (*Arborophila davidi*).



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In addition to numerous reptile, amphibian, fish, invertebrate, and plant species that exist only in these forests. The forests were once rich in tall hardwood dipterocarp trees, which are highly valued for timber, aromatic oils, and resins.

PROBLEM/THREATS:

Logging, dam construction, road building (particularly the Ho Chi Minh highway), agricultural expansion, wildlife trade and unsustainable forest resource exploitation are all threatening this landscape.

WWF ACTION & STATUS: Together with a number of partners such as the World Bank and 18 other bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental organizations in "Forest Sector Support Programme" (FSSP), WWF will apply the principles of forest landscape restoration to linking conservation benefits to human wellbeing and to monitor these through an agreed range of social and environmental indicators in the Central Annamite landscape - a priority landscape within the Annamite Range Moist Forests.

The proposed monitoring and evaluation framework will be a tool to bring together the many different components of WWF's overall programme, such as work on protected area effectiveness and endangered species, which affect and potentially feed into the overall landscape priorities. It draws on WWF's previous experience in assessing forest quality at a landscape scale, assessing management effectiveness of protected areas and on a draft framework for assessing FLR.

The objectives of the programme are:

1. To develop and implement a framework for monitoring and evaluating the Central Annamite landscape through a set of indicators agreed by key stakeholders¹, which will contribute to both agreeing and measuring progress towards a shared vision
2. To use this framework to monitor and enhance the effect of restoring forest functions and processes - including habitat for biodiversity, provision of non-timber forest products, soil stabilisation, etc — on human well-being, including poverty alleviation

To develop and implement specific criteria and indicators tailored to measuring the impact of different activities (WWF-led as well as other relevant programmes) on the status of one or more sub-landscapes within the Central Annamites, with an emphasis on "cultural landscapes" (e.g. Quang Nam, the Green Corridor and the Ho Chi Minh highway)

¹ Agreement on stakeholders is one specific activity