

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

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| Project Title | Community based conservation of Hoang Lien Mountain Ecosystem, Vietnam |
| Country | Vietnam |
| Organisation | Fauna and Flora International |
| Project Ref. No. | 162/10/011 |
| Report date | 29 th October 2003 |

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

During the last 6 months further work has been undertaken as follows:

- Work is progressing on the preparation of a synthesis document for the Lao Cai Forest Protection to feed into the protected area gazettelement in Van Ban District.
- The final field activities related to the detailed NTFP study featuring *Thao Qua* have been completed.
- Awareness activities have been extended including work with the Youth Union to distribute material to local communes schools.
- A major set of awareness 'frames' on the flora and fauna of the Hoang Lien Son were produced as part of the celebrations for '100 years of Tourism in Sa Pa'.
- The 3 year project funded from the EU (and a number of other specialist cofinanciers) commenced operation on 1 July with the Team Leader in place on 1 September in Lao Cai Province.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

No further major problems have occurred since the submission of the annual reports to the department in August 2003. The project is now on course to close at the end of 2003.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

This project is due to close at the end of the year. However, the gazettelement process for the new protected area/s in Van Ban district will commence early next year with a discussion of the Darwin sponsored synthesis document (to be published with accompanying CD of all studies undertaken to produce it). This process will attempt to establish new flexible approaches to protected area gazettelement and management within the policy arena in Vietnam. Ongoing technical support through Darwin or other appropriate means would be an asset and allow the

work already undertaken to be built on in a positive manner.

Lao Cai province is one of the poorest in Vietnam but new moves through a possible 'roll-out' of the national Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS) formulated by the Government of Vietnam with assistance of numerous donors including DFID and The World Bank create a new opportunity to include innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation as well as livelihood development and community involvement. At the time of writing the annual report for 2002 – 3 this was not apparent, therefore this project would like to be considered for possible 'follow-on' funding to enable technical and capacity building inputs into the process of gazettelement which would ensure that creative models could be discussed in line with the draft poverty reduction strategy of Lao Cai Province. Now that the EU financed Community Based Conservation of the Hoang Lien Son project is in place with full time technical/managerial assistance located in Lao Cai province there is a good opportunity to use this management structure to support the required technical inputs into the wider gazettelement process.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, Email: stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk