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USAID BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

2020 - 2025 | IMPLEMENTER: World Wildlife Fund (WWF) | PLANNED BUDGET: \$38,000,000

Vietnam is one of the world's most biodiverse countries, but decades of illegal logging, wildlife trade, and agricultural conversion have led to staggering losses of natural forest and wildlife, with some species on the edge of extinction. Conservation crimes undermine the rule of law, perpetuate poverty amongst vulnerable populations, and endanger vital ecosystems. Securing the remaining strongholds of intact forest and wildlife is essential and must recognize the local context while holistically addressing threats. In partnership with local communities, government stakeholders, private sector companies, non-government organizations, and development partners, the USAID Biodiversity Conservation project will contribute to maintaining and increasing forest quality, and protecting and stabilizing wildlife populations in national parks and nature reserves in Vietnam.

PROMOTE CONSERVATION-FRIENDLY ENTERPRISES IN FOREST COMMUNITIES

WWF and partners are supporting the development of conservation friendly value chains of commodities such as non-timber forest products, high-value agriculture, community-based ecotourism, and medicinal plants, to provide alternative livelihood opportunities, increase incomes and reduce pressure on forests and biodiversity.

STRENGTHEN MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL-USE & PROTECTION FORESTS

The project supports the Government of Vietnam to increase accountability, governance, and capacity to deliver effective protected area and protection forest management, and promotes partnership with local communities as their participation and contributions are vital to conservation successes.

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST FOREST & WILDLIFE CRIMES

By supporting law enforcement agencies to increase their commitment and effectiveness in addressing conservation crimes, including capacity building, intelligence gathering, crime analysis, gaining appropriate convictions and sentencing in local courts, as well as engaging local communities to complement government efforts to protect forests and wildlife, the project seeks to frame law enforcement and wildlife protection within a vision of recovery and restoration.

REDUCE LOCAL DEMAND THROUGH BEHAVIOR CHANGE CAMPAIGNS

The project applies Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) approaches to wildlife trade demand reduction campaigns and provides support for community guardianship of wildlife and biodiversity. Additionally, the project is supporting investigations to identify key drivers or situational factors that create opportunities for wildlife trafficking, and in turn introduce interventions to reduce and limit conservation crime.

EXPECTED RESULTS

By the project's end, 7,000 individuals in targeted areas will have increased income or employment from conservation-friendly enterprises, 700,000 hectares of special-use and protected forests will be under improved management, Payment for Forest Environmental Services funds will contribute to 50 percent of community patrol team costs, and 250 villages reached with SBCC campaigns will show a 50 percent reduction in wildlife hunting and consumption.

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