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Landscape Conservation in the Greater Annamites Ecoregion

Barney Long

MOSAIC Project

WWF Greater Mekong – Vietnam Programme





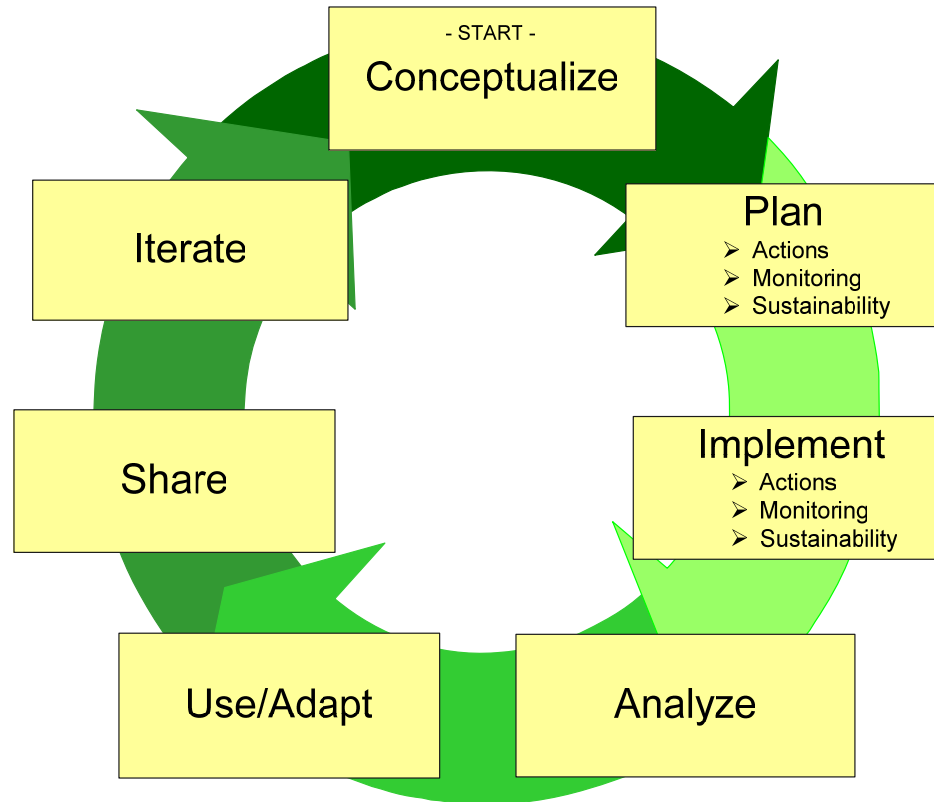
Greater Annamites Ecoregion

- 30 million people depend on the area's ecosystem services
- Cultural diversity: 43 ethnic groups
- Cultural significance
- Historical importance
- The highest concentration of endemic species in a continental setting
- Five large mammals described in the last 12 years
- Four endemic bird areas





WWF Project Cycle





Conceptualize

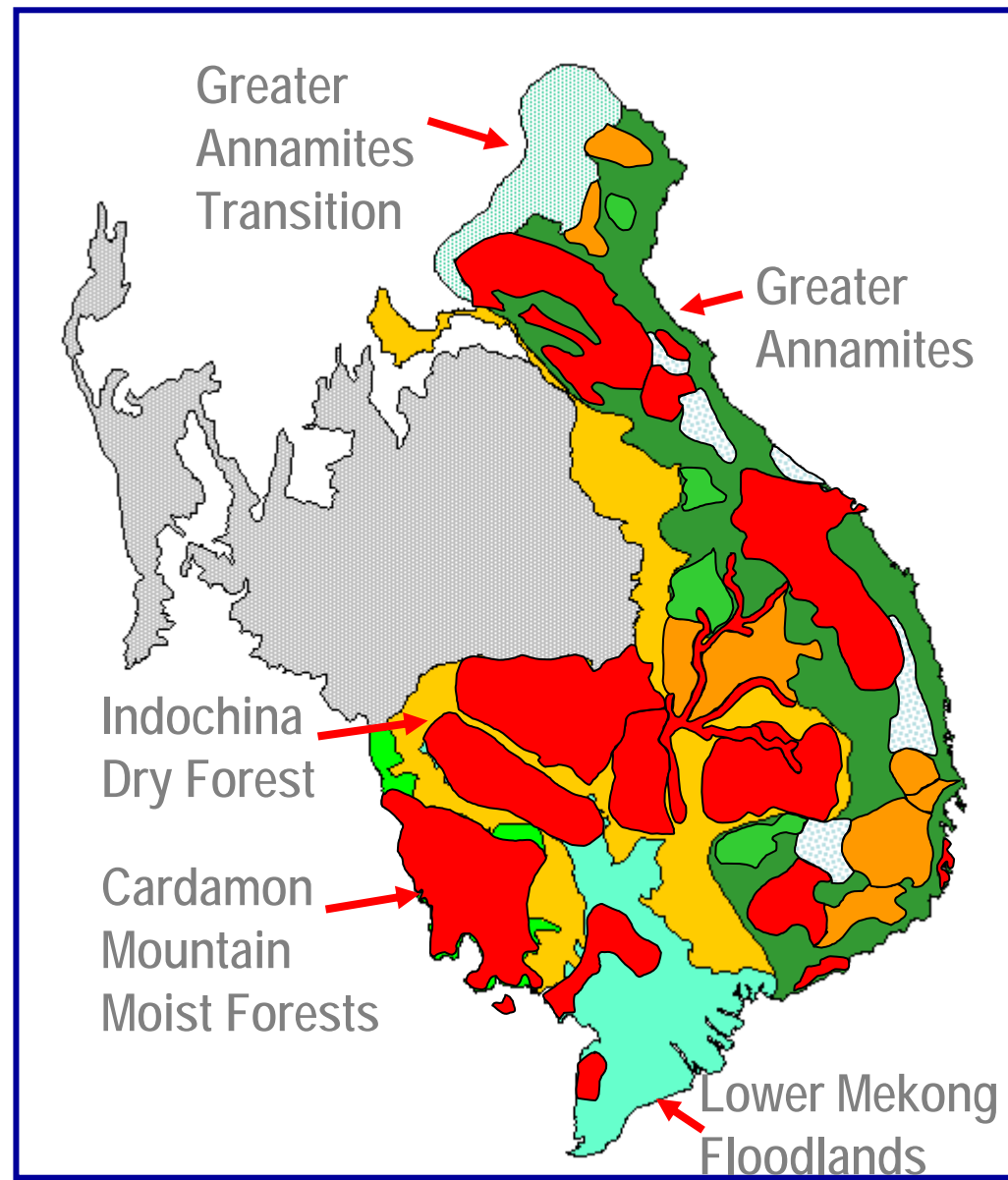
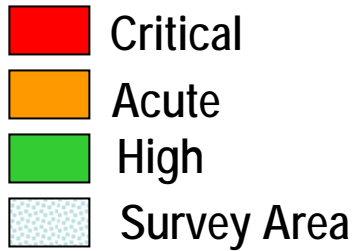
Determining Spatial Scale

Ecoregion analysis

Biological parameters

Lack of data

Expert opinion

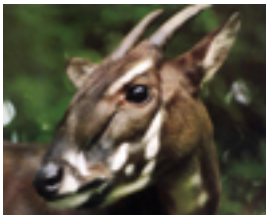
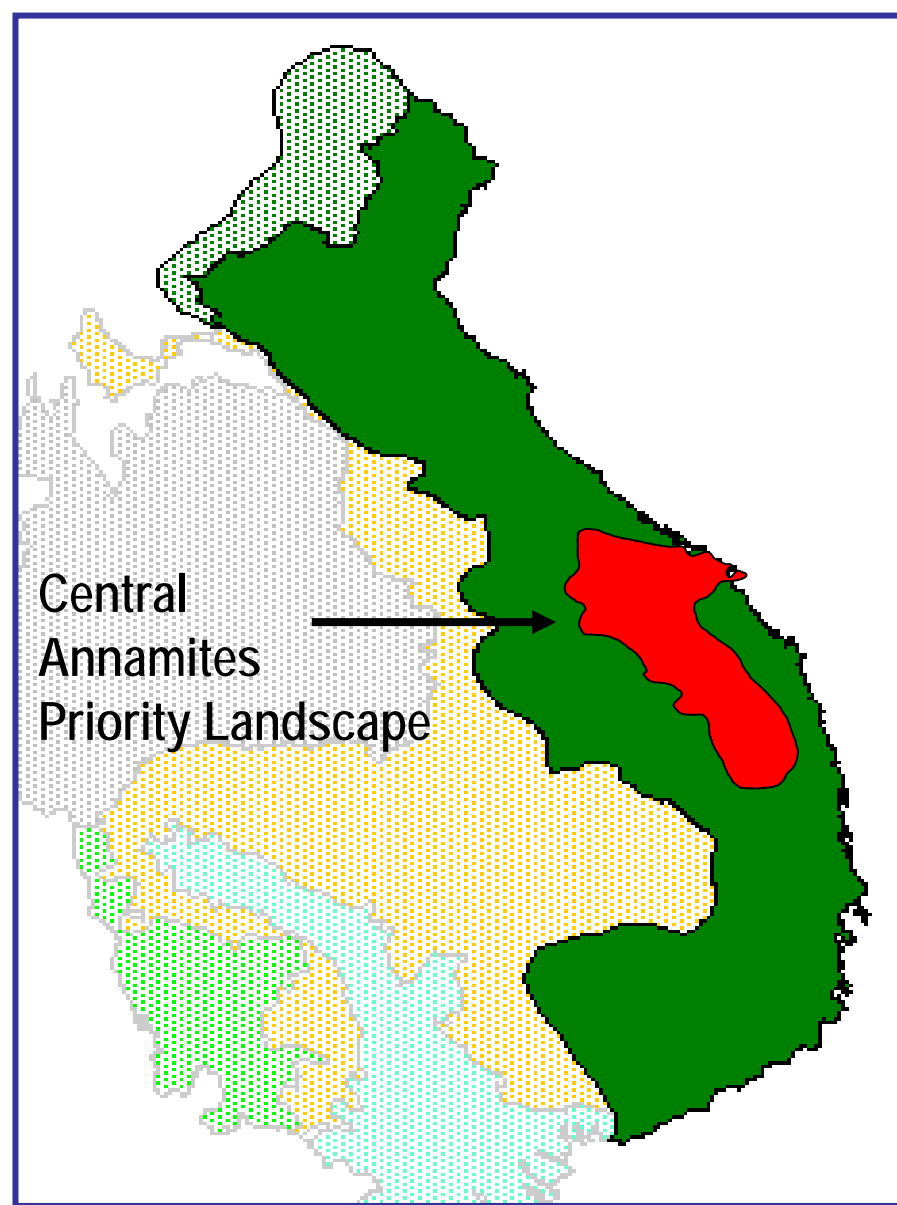




Conceptualize

Central Annamites

- 2.5 million hectares (in Vietnam)
- 35 ethnic groups
- Intact natural habitats
- All 5 newly described large mammals and 2/3 of new birds
- Critical centre-pin for successful conservation of the Greater Annamites Ecoregion





Setting Conservation Targets

Based on four principles of biodiversity conservation (adapted from Noss 1991)

- Maintenance of viable populations of species
- Responsive to environmental change (habitat connectivity)
- Maintenance of ecological and evolutionary processes
- Representation of all distinct natural communities

Consensus obtained through multi-stakeholder expert forums





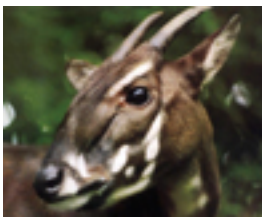
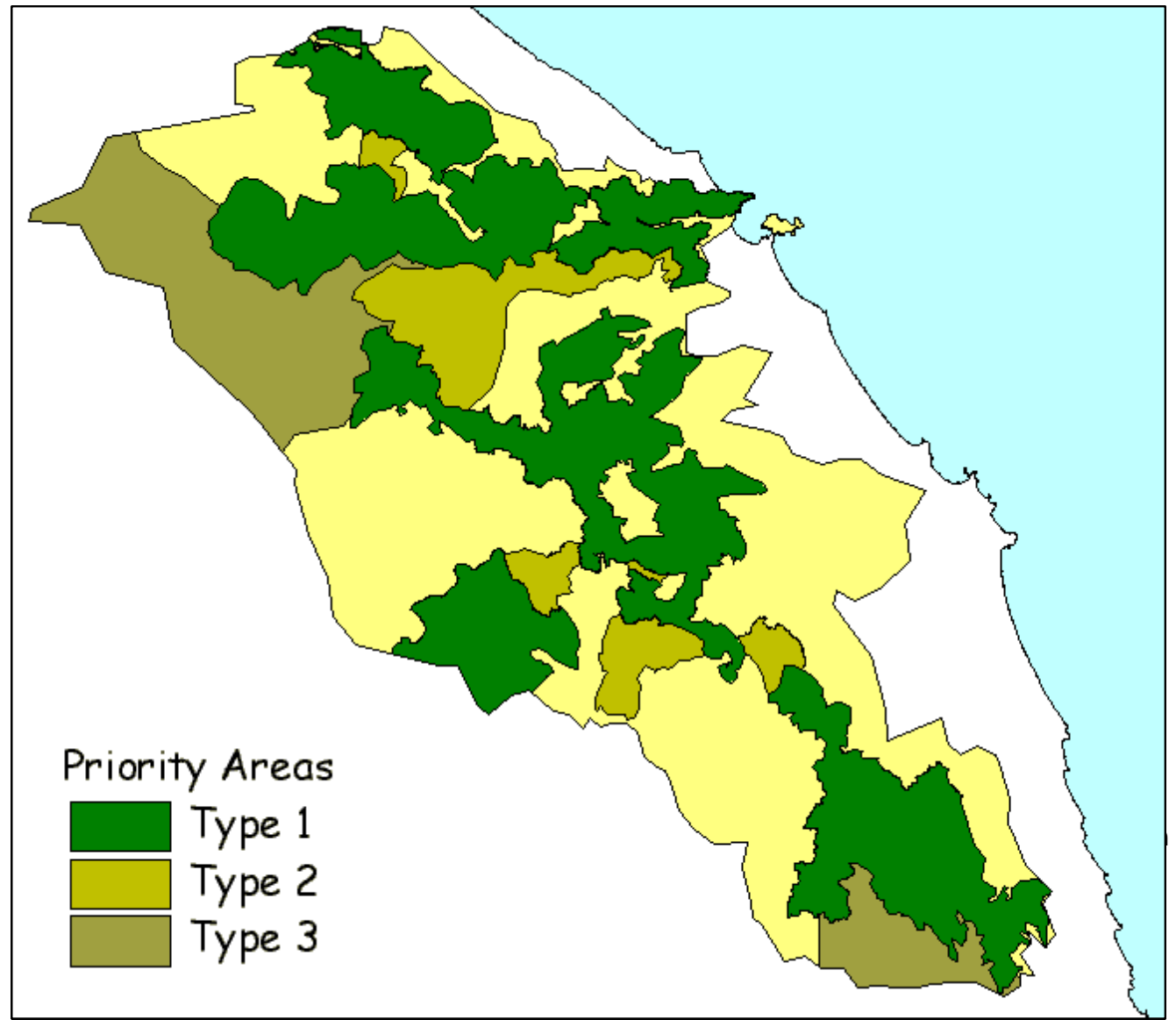
Conservation Targets

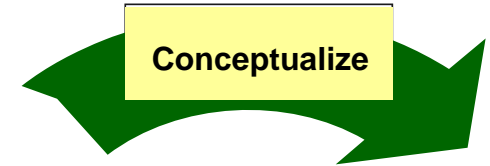
| | |
|--|--|
| Habitats Lowland forest <400m Upper montane forest >1,500m Rapids and headwaters | Priority species groups Primates Turtles Endemic birds |
| Flagship species Saola Edward's pheasant Ngoc Linh ginseng | Core conservation areas Ngoc Linh – Song Thanh NRs Xe Sap NBCA – ‘Green Corridor’ Kon Ka Kinh – Kon Cha Rang |



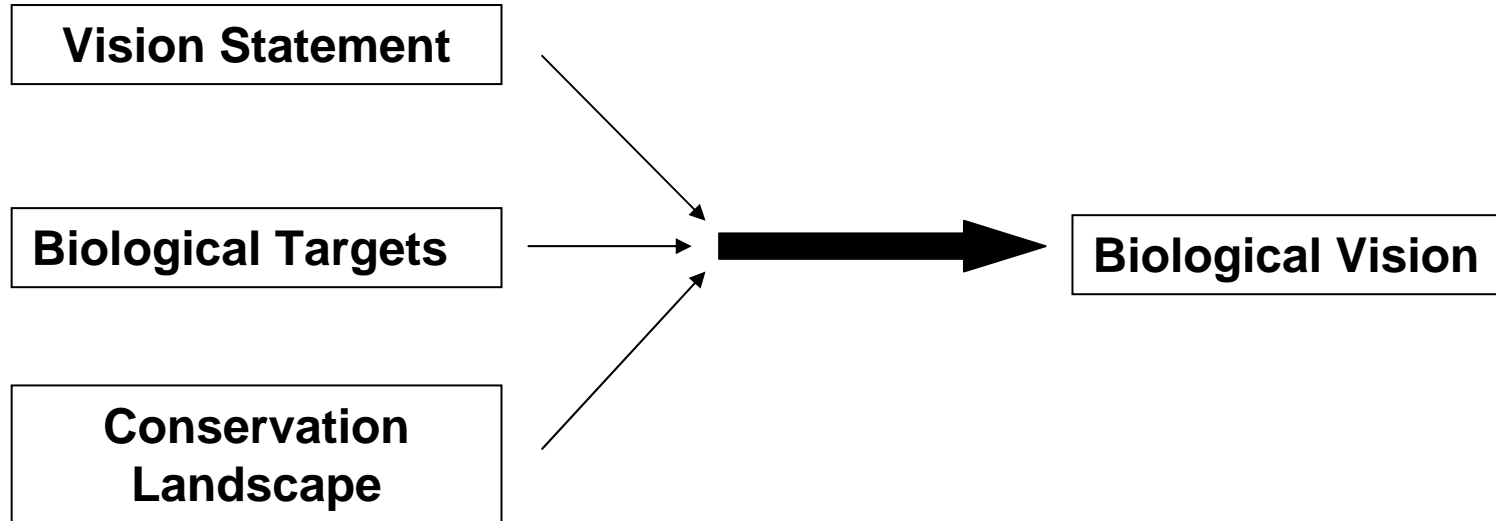


Designing the Conservation Landscape





Defining the Biological Vision

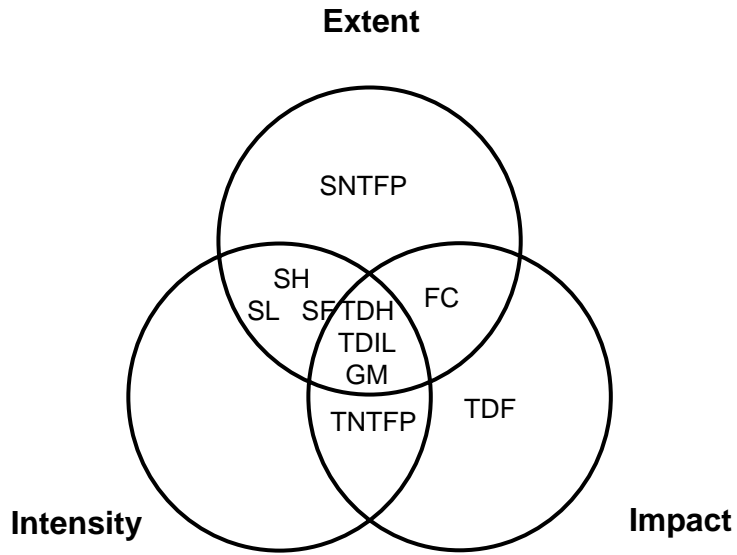




Identification of Threats to the Biological Vision

Stakeholder consultations

Experts, national and provincial policy makers, communities



| Rank | Code | Threat |
|------|-------|------------------------------|
| 1 | TDH | Trade Driven Hunting |
| 1 | TDIL | Trade Driven Illegal Logging |
| 1 | GM | Gold Mining |
| 2 | FC | Forest Conversion |
| 3 | TNTFP | Trade Driven HTFP harvest |
| 4 | SH | Subsistence Hunting |
| 4 | SL | Subsistence Logging |
| 4 | SF | Subsistence Fishing |
| 5 | TDF | Trade Driven Fishing |
| 7 | SNTFP | Subsistence NTFP harvest |





Identification of Priority Actions 1

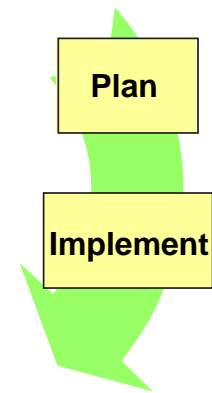
Landscape Plan:

Central Annamites Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (MARD 2004)

5 broad objectives:

- Conservation
- Awareness and Responsibility
- Legal Framework
- Capacity
- Development





Identification of Priority Actions 2

Specific actions defined by each province:

Quang Nam Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation Strategy (Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee 2005)

Focused on smaller scale

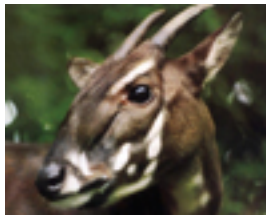
Most effective political unit for implementation

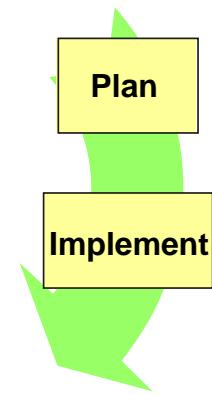
Strong partnerships can be built

Diverse and numerous but manageable amount of stakeholders

Ambitious yet realistic targets

Lowest self monitoring yet powerful unit





Identification of Priority Actions 3

Provincial action plans:

Action Plan on Strengthening Nature Law Enforcement in Quang Nam Province (Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee 2005)

14 provincial departments including:

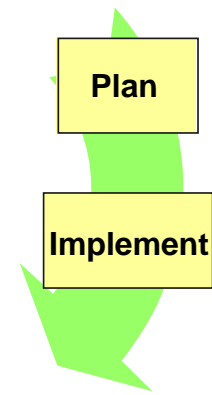
Police, army, market control, rangers, courts, legislation department

Quang Nam Conservation Education Action Plan (Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee 2005)

16 provincial departments including:

Telecommunications, education, sports, rangers, youth, culture





Replication Across the Landscape

Provincial plans working towards landscape targets

Landscape coordination unit

Part national Government, part NGO

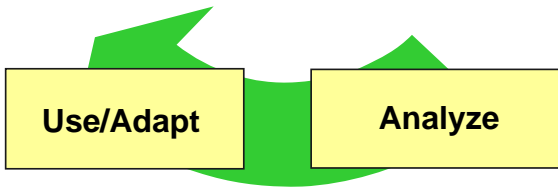
Technical advice

Landscape monitoring programme

Independent monitoring of provinces' performance towards targets

Higher level authority than Provincial People's Committees

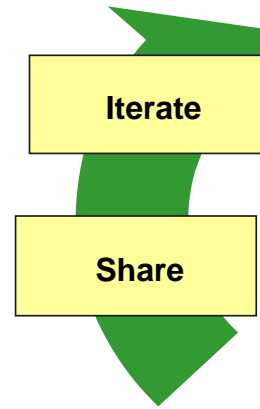




Measuring conservation effectiveness

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Site monitoring: | Tracker tools (PA, SFE, CBNRM) |
| Species monitoring: | Field assessments (primates, tigers, ungulates) |
| Departmental monitoring: | FPD database and monitoring system development |
| Threat monitoring: | Enforcement and violation monitoring system development |
| Thematic monitoring: | Impact on poverty indicator development |
| Landscape monitoring: | Through coordination unit |





What's Working?

1. The provincial approach

Management Of Strategic Areas for Integrated Conservation – MOSAIC

- Provincial biodiversity and natural resource conservation strategy
- 2 provincial action plans
- Provincial method for forest land allocation to communities

Manageable scale

Strong institutional partnerships can be made whilst knowing on-the ground implementers

Site level interventions can be supported by direct policy interventions

Implementation easily adapted through field or policy level changes





What's Working?

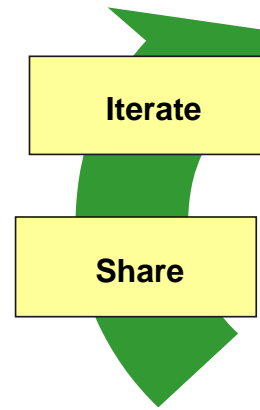
2. Multiplier effects

Method development takes time

Almost as easy and costly to train staff from many sites as one

If planning is done at the correct level provincial and district governments can replicate without further external input

Allows replication through the landscape





What's Working?

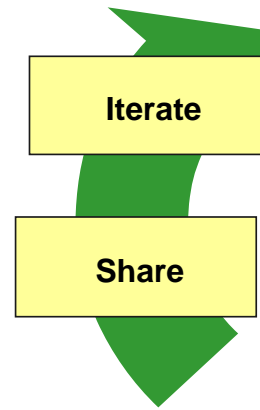
3. Training

Effective conservation needs knowledgeable implementers

Training of trainers within established institutions permits long-term training

Investment in individuals = increased motivation

Long-term investment in institutional capacity development including management





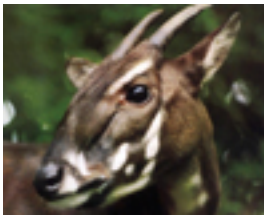
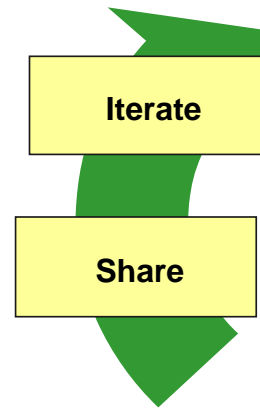
What's Working?

4. Large scale threats

Working at multiple scales

Working with multiple departments

Working on multiple issues





What's Challenging?

1. Financing

Long-term approach requires constant funding

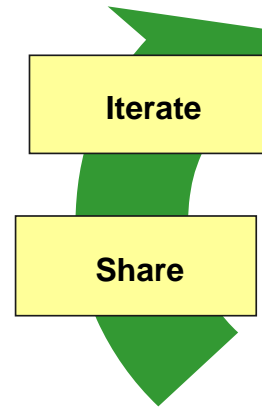
Landscape scale implementation through provincial replication requires many projects doing similar things

But:

Donors want new ideas all the time!

So:

PES, CDM, provincial financing consultations





What's Challenging?

2. Staffing

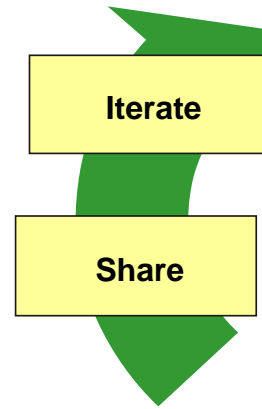
Working across a landscape requires many interventions

Lack of skilled people in Vietnam and Lao

Skilled people get paid more elsewhere

So:

Training and staff retention major focus of project managers time





What's Challenging?

3. Training

Working with numerous departments on multiple issues

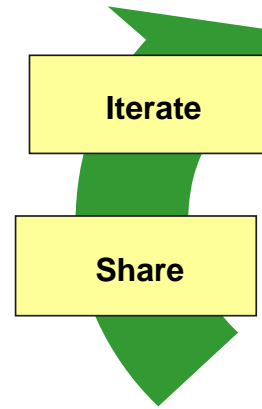
Multiple provinces

Long-term capacity development required

So:

Partnerships with other organizations

Training of trainers within departments and national institutions





What's Challenging?

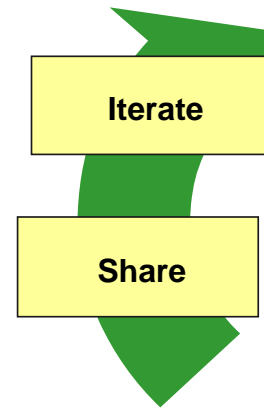
4. Large scale threats

eg road networks and hydropower plans

So:

Multi-scale approach: site, province, landscape national, international

Coordination unit





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Thank you to:

The whole Annamites team past and present in Vietnam and Lao

The whole Annamites team past and present in US and Switzerland

The Governments of Vietnam and Lao

All our on-the-ground partners

The Government and people of Quang Nam province

Our generous donors: USAID, WWF-US, DGIS, Dandia, MacArthur Foundation, Swiss-Re, USFWS, WWF-CH, Ford Foundation and others!

