

Overview of the Bank's work on biodiversity in East Asia

Context

- EAP spans the Palearctic, Oriental, and Australasian bio-geographical regions
- Richer and more diverse than almost anywhere in the world
- Contains the centers of origin for many important and widespread crops (e.g. rice, sugar cane, coconut, citrus and soybean).
- Many people rely on wild nature for food, shelter and other inputs to their livelihoods
- Numerous species boost economic growth by contributing to trade and foreign exchange earnings
- **MAJOR HABITAT LOSSES**

Conservation efforts are directed at the merest remnants

EAP Biodiversity Projects

- In past six years, 50 projects approved in full or partial support of biodiversity conservation in EAP
 - 82% focuses exclusively on biodiversity conservation; 18% on mainstreaming biodiversity into projects with different primary objectives
- Projects sited in all of the region's *hotspots* (CI) and in most of the *Global 200 ecoregions* (WWF)
- Indonesia and China received the majority of the WB totaling almost \$200 million
 - Reflects the diverse nature of the former, the absorptive capacity in the latter, and the scale and urgency of threats in both. Indonesia could/should have received more.

GEF Projects

- 30 GEF-supported biodiversity projects
 - 3 enabling activities,
 - 13 Medium-Sized Projects,
 - 14 Full Size Projects
- FSPs represent 92% of all the GEF funds
- MSPs
 - useful in capacity-constrained countries
 - take advantage of singular opportunities
 - expedite conservation interventions where government capacity weak
 - includes some of the most innovative projects.
 - In Indonesia, where systemic difficulties constrain GEF FSPs, MSPs have been used opportunistically to bridge the gap.

Three Major Themes

- A. Supporting protected areas – ‘cornerstones’
- B. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation
- C. Partnering

Common feature is the effort made to achieve conservation success through participatory processes that balance the needs of biodiversity with the development needs of local communities.

A. Protected areas - new sites

- Vietnam: Ngoc Son – between Cuc Phuong NP and Pu Luong Reserve – important habitat for critically endangered Delacour's langur
- Indonesia: Sembilang National Park adjoining Berbak National Park (eastern Sumatra). Includes largest tracts of swamp forest and some of the most important mangroves in western Indonesia.

Strengthening management of existing PAs

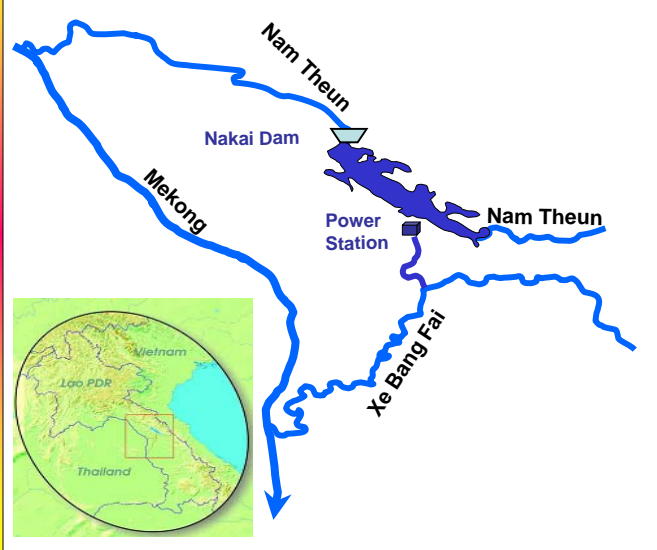
- Lao PDR, Indonesia, China, Vietnam
- Cambodia - Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Project (BPAMP)
 - strengthen the management of Virachey National Park
 - use this experience as a demonstration site to build new government capacity
 - Strengthen legal systems (through World Bank / WWF Alliance)
- Usually explicitly linked to sustainable livelihoods and improved resource management for local communities.

Approaches

- a detailed participatory planning process taking customary rights into account
- adaptive management
- the creation of incentives for the inhabitants and neighbors of protected areas to participate in their conservation
- Best illustrated in NT2 Watershed

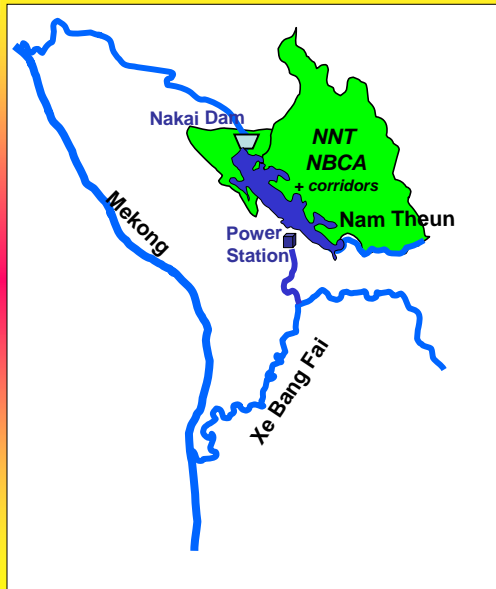


Trans-basin Hydropower Project Generating 1070 MW of Electricity

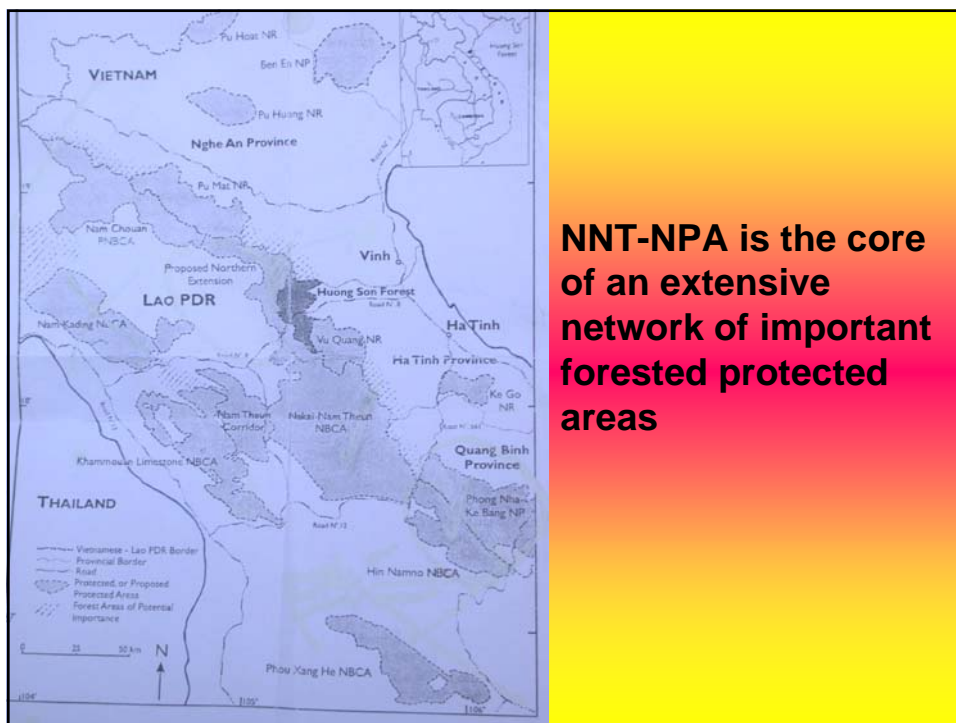


Clearly there was going to be a loss of 'natural habitat', so an *offset* planned

- **Environment:**
Conservation of 4000 sq. km. (nine times the size of the reservoir)
- **Social:**
5,800 people may have access to natural resources restricted as a result of conservation plans



Nakai-Nam
Theun National
Protected Area
is not just any
odd convenient
patch of forest



NNT-NPA is the core of an extensive network of important forested protected areas



SEMFOP

- Specialized agency established to manage the program
- Secure financing of US\$ 31.5 million for 30 years and trust fund being set up for revenues
- Patrolling and monitoring, enforcement, biodiversity and forest management and reducing cross-border threats
- Livelihood development activities
- *And* imminent Lao Environment and Social Project for broader support

B. Mainstreaming

- Only China, Lao PDR and the Philippines have more than one project where a biodiversity component was added to another project
- This does not necessarily indicate a failure in identifying opportunities,
- Rather
 - reluctance by EAP governments to borrow for biodiversity needs
 - the bulk of the project sites located away from natural habitats where biodiversity investments are most effective – (*biodiversity aversion?*)

Mainstreaming through ‘safeguards’

- Each and every WB project subjected to a ‘safeguard review’
- Key tool for integrating environmental concerns
- Review process can lead to significant design improvements (even if an ‘*environmental component*’ does not result), e.g. China roads projects:
 - ensuring adequate attention was paid to management of a World Heritage Site
 - seeking protection and management of an interesting coastal wetland
 - proper protection and monitoring of a wetland in Inner Mongolia.

C. Partnerships

- By increasing its engagement with stakeholder groups the World Bank and its projects will benefit from a wider range of experiences.
 - BirdLife International (Indonesia and Vietnam)
 - Conservation International (Indonesia)
 - IUCN (Samoa and Vietnam)
 - TNC (Indonesia)
 - FFI (Indonesia and Vietnam)
 - Wetlands International (Indonesia)
 - WWF (Mongolia, Vietnam, China and Indonesia)
 - WCS (Indonesia, Mongolia, Lao PDR)

Partnering with the Faiths

Oldest, largest, most respected, deepest penetrating NGOs which share the conservation agenda *(even if they don't know it)*.

- encouraging people of faith to engage in direct conservation action as an expression of their teachings
- giving religious leaders the opportunity to participate in stakeholder discussions and, through this, to improve the design and sustainability of investment projects and the content of policy documents
- undertaking theological investigations of environmental issues and their practical implications
- publishing materials facilitating faith-based public advocacy on conservation and interfaith dialogues.

• *Faith and Conservation* (2003)

Faith activities

- Two major conferences on Buddhism and Environment / Development for monks and NGOs
- practical field- and temple-based projects in Thailand and Cambodia with government foresters
- book (*Conservation and Islam*), workshops and field activities at GEF sites and elsewhere in Indonesia
- *Declaration on the Environment* by the major faiths in Indonesia
- Teaching through agro-forestry in two Catholic parishes in Timor Leste and in Protestant areas of Sulawesi and Sumatra
- Production of a handbook on theology and ecology in PNG, and *Goroka Declaration*

Other Themes

- Integrating conservation and development
 - ICDP review
- Illegal activities
 - *Going, going ... gone?*
 - Social and economic drivers
- Building public awareness and public support
 - BSAPs
 - INFORM
 - COREMAP
 - LEnS – baseline study of attitudes/experience
 - Mongolia NEMO - \$1 million grant facility

Trust Funds

- WB able to mobilize trust funds - endowed by donor governments for biodiversity conservation
- During the period under review, several million dollars were allocated for technical assistance, analysis and research.
- E.g. new Dutch TF in Mongolia - the assessment of competition between wild ass and domestic grazers in the Gobi desert, illegal wildlife trade, IUCN red listing, National Biodiversity Database, capacity building
- Local language field guides (mainly Dutch TFs) – 100?
- World Bank-WWF Forest Alliance

WB / WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use

- Strengthening the protected area network in China
- Supporting sustainable forestry in Lao PDR
- Drafting a protected areas law for Cambodia
- Surveying Cambodia's biodiversity
- Supporting FLEG across region

Arguably most significant is the **Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool**

Forests

Coral Reefs

Coastal Wetlands

Freshwater Biodiversity

- Focus on fish - a good proxy, but often poorly known
- **N. Vietnam:** 1999 - 203 native fish species were known. 2003 - a few World Bank-financed surveys raised this to 268. Used now in hydropower planning.
- **Lao PDR:** 1986 - 211 native fish species were known - after mainly Bank-related surveys, total 456 – including **100 new to science**
- Generating economic benefits at the local level, not just formal fisheries, also crabs, clams, snails, and turtles
- **China:** Lake Dianchi basin, Yunnan, home to 24 fish species - 11 endemic, and dozen endemic mollusk and crustacean species.
 - Invasive 'alien' species, declining lake water quality, and the loss of natural habitats. GEF MSP seeking to restore and manage habitats around the lake, and improving public awareness, etc.

Limestone Biodiversity

- Found in/on/within limestone also not well understood. WB published book highlighting the status and threats
- Karst landscapes have exceptional biological diversity with high hydrological and cultural values
- Under-represented in protected area networks and the Bank's conservation investment portfolio.
- Biodiversity in the region's limestone ecosystems is amongst the most restricted in terms of habitat space
- Global extinctions of species occur through careless exploitation of limestone; status of other species, some with significant economic value (especially pollinating bats), is perilous.
- GEF MSP limestone karst landscape conservation project(s?) in Vietnam, and full project under preparation in Guangxi, China
- (*Large NGOs and cement companies*)

Supporting taxonomy

- Foundational in the scientific underpinning of biodiversity conservation and protected area management
- Taxonomy in crisis - in developed and developing countries alike
- Supporting taxonomic work a challenge, but:
 - Vietnam fishes
 - Mongolia fishes and mammals
 - Major GEF project in Indonesia
 - Zoology Museum and Herbarium specimens rehabilitated – animal specimens moved and re-housed in a large purpose-built museum
 - Existing staff and 'new blood' capacity building (MSc and PhDs)
 - Collection Managers received tailored management training
 - Mentoring relationship with the museum to help organize parts of the collection and impart their experience.

Key Tasks

- *Confirm and demonstrate political will*
- *Understand impacts and outcomes*
- *Translating public awareness and knowledge into action*
- *Experiential learning*
- *Have biodiversity brought into project and sectoral planning*
- *Strengthen PAs and networks*
- *Build strong **local** constituencies for PA and forest management*
- *Understand long-term costs and benefits of conservation interventions*