



***Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species***

***Annual Report***

Project title	<b>Bai Tu Long Bay Biodiversity Awareness Project</b>
Country(ies)	<b>Vietnam</b>
Contractor	<b>The Society for Environmental Exploration</b>
Project Reference No.	<b>162/10/022</b>
Grant Value	<b>£ 125,888</b>
Start/Finishing dates	<b>01 October 2001 – 31 December 2003</b>
Reporting period	<b>01 April 2001 – 31 March 2002</b>

**Contents**

	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1. Project Background</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Project Objectives</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.1 Purpose</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.2 Objectives</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.3 Operational Plan</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Project Progress</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.1 Project Logistics</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.2 Biodiversity Centre</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.3 Workshops</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.4 Field Guides</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.5 Biodiversity Education</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.6 Publications</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.7 Methods</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.8 Problems Encountered</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3.9 Enhancement to the Project</b>	
<b>4. Partnerships</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Impact and Sustainability</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6.1 Project Outputs</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6.2 Publications</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6.3 Dissemination Activities</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7. Project Expenditure</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8. Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Logframe</b>	
<b>Appendix 2: Outputs Schedule</b>	
<b>Appendix 3: Baseline Timetable</b>	
<b>Appendix 4: Preliminary Science Report</b>	
<b>Appendix 5: Timetable Year 2</b>	

## **1.0 Project Background**

The project is based in Bai Tu Long Bay National Park, Van Don District, Quang Ninh Province, Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Bai Tu Long Bay National Park was established in January 2001 in order to expand a protected area that was an island nature reserve of 2000 ha into a National Park incorporating both marine and terrestrial environments and covering 13,000 ha. Initial short surveys of the area have highlighted the biological and geological significance of Bai Tu Long Bay,

One of the most serious issues facing protected areas in Vietnam is the lack of capacity for effective and sustainable environmental management. Vietnam's National Biodiversity Action Plan identifies the following as conservation priorities:

- establishment and management of protected areas, in particular integrated management of marine and coastal areas;
- improving public awareness about biodiversity conservation;
- capacity building and training of management staff involved in biodiversity-related work;
- international co-operation, to provide practical technical training, exchange of information and financial assistance, to work together to protect and develop Vietnam's biodiversity.

The current conservation status of the park is worrying. Significant logging, hunting, fishing (dynamite and cyanide fishing) within the new national park boundaries continues barely opposed or regulated by existing management structures. The recently appointed park authority is comprised of administrators and field staff from Provincial and District Forest Protection Department. They currently lack the technical capacity to effectively tackle the threats to the National Park's terrestrial and marine national park.

## **2.0 Project Objectives**

### **2.1 Purpose**

To raise biodiversity awareness and to facilitate conservation measures in Bai Tu Long Bay National Park.

### **2.2 Objectives**

- To develop a Biodiversity Interpretation Centre for Bai Tu Long Bay National Park
- To provide biodiversity awareness, identification and monitoring training to national park management staff, and Vietnamese post-graduate students in the form of four biodiversity training workshops, involving British taxonomic specialists.
- To produce four bi-lingual taxonomic field guides, specific to the national park. Workshop participants will be encouraged to participate in the collection and collation of data for these guides, as this will provide ongoing practical training.
- To produce biodiversity information boards, following each workshop, for permanent display in the interpretation centre. These boards will provide the backbone for biodiversity awareness activities organised by centre staff for the local community.

***Logframe included in Appendix 1***

### **2.3 Operational Plan**

The objectives of the project remain the same, however, the operational plan has been modified to accommodate delays to the start of project activities.

***Delay to start date*** In the first instance the proposed start date of 01 July 2001 was put back to 01 October 2001, this was agreed with the Darwin Secretariat and detailed in a revised set of project schedule documents. This delay involved the setting back of the whole project timetable by three months, however, as explained in the Half Year Report, modifications have been planned so as not to cause extension to the length of the project beyond the agreed date.

***A copy of the agreed revised output schedule is included in Appendix 2***

***Delays to the workshop training programme*** Further delays to the start of the programme of training workshops have been caused by the delayed appointment of the park authorities. The newly appointed park authorities had not appointed all of their staff nor established their office during the period covered by this report and did not take up their position until the first week of April 2002. Therefore, the programme of training workshops involving the new park staff which was due to commence in March 2002 did not begin during this period. Furthermore, a decision was made by the project team to hold an additional introductory workshop planning meeting prior to the start of the training programme in order to sensitise the park authorities and other stakeholders in the area to the project activities and to involve them in the design of the training programme.

A revised training schedule has therefore been drawn up and is currently awaiting approval from the Darwin Secretariat. This has been designed so as to retain the same number of training events and outputs and to maintain the planned length of the project, therefore keeping within the boundaries of the original project. This is achieved simply by bringing the training workshops closer together, which may in effect be more beneficial to the trainees.

### **3.0 Project Progress**

Expatriate project staff arrived in country at the beginning of December 2001. After establishing that the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute would not be providing a building for the interpretation centre, significant time was spent securing an office on Van Don Island, just outside the National Park and close to the proposed park authority office. The Vietnamese Counterpart Biodiversity Educator was recruited and more in-depth research was conducted by all staff on the Bai Tu Long Bay area as well as on similar awareness projects in Northern Vietnam. This involved making short study tours to meet with other environmental NGO projects to learn from their experiences and establish links for future collaboration. In January 2002 work began on the collection of baseline biodiversity information on the island of Ba Mun, at the centre of the National Park, to provide material for the field guides and the information displays. Project staff moved to the office on Van Don Island and began working on the first field guide, newsletter and the workshop planning meeting to be held with all National Park stakeholders.

***The baseline project timetable is included in Appendix 3***

### 3.1 Project Logistics

**Staff** The Project Manager and Biodiversity Educator were recruited as planned in October 2001, the Counterpart Biodiversity Educator was recruited in December by the existing staff team and began work in January 2002. All three core staff are contracted for the entire period of the project.

**Equipment** All capital items have been purchased as necessary, including a project boat and accessories.

**Monitoring** A short monitoring visit was made to the project office in Cai Rong in March 2002 by the Programme Development Manager of the Society.

**Collaboration** Good relations have been established with the park authority. The project team spent significant time meeting with newly appointed members of the national park in particular the vice director of the park authority. Good relationships have also been established with the District Forest Protection Department who currently have jurisdiction over the Bai Tu Long Bay area.

**Project Office** In the absence of an allocated building for the interpretation centre and project base, the District FPD assisted project staff to locate a suitable project office on Van Don island. Facilities will also be available to the project within the park authority's own building as necessary, the project will operate as an independent department of the Forest Protection Department.

### 3.2 Biodiversity Centre

The Forest Inventory and Planning Institute who had originally offered to provide a building are no longer in a position to do so. The issue of providing an operational base from which the project team would operate, has been solved by the renting of office space in Cai Rong. This may prove more beneficial due to its proximity to the new park authority office.

In terms of providing an interpretation centre, in the absence of a suitable building attempts have been made to secure funding from local (in-country) sources to facilitate the construction of a new building. Applications for funding have been made to, amongst others, the Environmental Project Fund of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office facilitated through the British Embassy in Hanoi. A new building will be constructed on Quan Lan Island at the southern end of the National Park. It will be used for most project educational and awareness activities, however administration will remain based at the Cai Rong office for the time being. If, as anticipated, money for the building of the interpretation centre will be available by mid May 2002, construction can begin in June and the building completed by September 2002.

Whilst this is quite a significant setback all other project activities will and are going ahead provided funds can be secured for the construction of a centre, this will only cause delay to the setting up of the information displays and not the whole project.

**Data collection** Baseline biodiversity surveys of Ba Mun island began in January 2002. These surveys are being carried out by the Frontier-Vietnam Forest Research Programme a collaboration between the Society for Environmental Exploration and the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Hanoi. (This survey work is funded entirely separately from the biodiversity awareness project). This work will provide baseline biodiversity information for management and monitoring plans, for the interpretation centre and field guides and will form the basis of field training activities for park staff.

**Themed displays** Displays for the centre were originally due to be developed following each of the training workshops. However, due to the delay to the workshop programme and the absence of the interpretation centre itself, it was decided to begin work on the development of information materials in advance. Information will be collated ready to display permanently in

the centre when it is completed. Additional, taxa specific materials will still be developed following each workshop and involving trainees as planned.

### **3.3 Workshops**

The first workshop could not be carried out as scheduled due to the Park Authority's delays in establishing their own office i.e. there were no staff available to train. It was also concluded that an initial workshop planning meeting was necessary to ensure that the workshop programme meets the needs of the park authority and is directly informed by the park's numerous stakeholders. The meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2002 and will bring together the various park stakeholders for the purpose of agreeing a strategy and subject matter for the workshop programme. It is anticipated that the first training workshop will be held in June 2002.

### **3.4 Field Guides**

Research for the first field guide on the flora of Bai Tu Long Bay began in January. The field guide will include common species found within the park as well as species listed as endangered and others commonly used for medicinal purposes. Information will also be provided on the general vegetation of the Park. To supplement the baseline biodiversity survey several national botanical experts have been consulted as well as previous botanical surveys of the area. The guide, a 6 page A5 sized document, will be published on schedule in May 2002. In addition it is proposed to reproduce the same information on large (A0 sized) posters for reference and display in local schools, these would also be of interest to other organisations.

### **3.5 Biodiversity Education**

Extensive research was undertaken onto other educational projects within protected areas of Vietnam and links for future collaboration have been established. It is proposed that the initial phase of the environmental education component should focus on the "buffer zone" communes of Quan Lan and Mai Chau on the edge of the National Park. A document has been compiled detailing a proposed strategy for the environmental education programme. Once the park authority is in place discussions will be held to agree on what the authority see as priority activities and what will be possible within the programme. The success of the education component will also depend on collaboration with other relevant authorities including the People's Committee of Van Don District, the District Department of Education and Training, the Fisheries Extension Department, the Women's Association and the Youth Association.

### **3.6 Publications**

Work has begun on the first newsletter, originally due to be produced on a 6 monthly basis starting in June 2002. The first newsletter will be released shortly after the workshop planning meeting and will introduce the local community to the National Park and the Biodiversity Awareness Project. Contributions will be submitted from key National Park stakeholders, and representatives of the park authority including the Vice Director. It has been decided that the newsletter will be produced on a quarterly basis rather than 6 monthly, in order to keep the local community more closely informed of developments within the park and the project.

### **3.7 Methods**

**Training** As the project has yet to begin training activities, details of this are currently not available.

**Research** Baseline biodiversity survey work began in January 2002 on a 12 month survey of the terrestrial environments of the national park. The survey work so far has been carried out on Ba Mun and Sau Nam islands to the north of the park, which are both non-limestone islands.

### **Summary Methods and results**

**Botanical Research** The use of simple quantitative and repeatable methods to investigate aspects of vegetation structural diversity, species diversity, stocking density and disturbance levels.

Tree species composition are sampled using **permanent vegetation plots** of 50m by 50m (2500m<sup>2</sup>) to establish a basis for future monitoring of ecosystem exploitation, regeneration and development.

**Ground mapping and opportunistic observation** are also undertaken to be used in conjunction with existing data both from Frontier surveys and those of other organisations.

Levels of **disturbance** are assessed by systematically sampling the incidence of timber extraction and pole cutting using **disturbance transects** of 10 metres width.

So far four permanent forest vegetation plots have been established on Ba Mun and Sau Nam islands. The habitats surveyed on this first phase have comprised mixed evergreen lowland subtropical rainforest. Family and genus-level identifications have been provided in the field by Dr. Ha Van Tue (I.E.B.R.) and Dr. Tran Dinh Nghia (Hanoi National University). Disturbance levels have been found to be high in all plots this is largely due to ease of access and a long period of intensive logging peaking between 1975 and 1995, which is a continuing problem today. Further statistical analysis of the data is to be carried out in Hanoi.

**Zoological Research** Standardised, repeatable methods are used to record the faunal biodiversity value of the area. This zoological work is focused on a number of core groups of vertebrate and invertebrate fauna, namely: small mammals including bats; ungulates; reptiles; amphibians; butterflies; millipedes and molluscs. Opportunistic sampling of core faunal groups is carried out to supplement the systematic collection methods to survey more comprehensively faunal biodiversity for each area.

To date **mammal research** has been conducted principally on bats, which are considered good indicators of habitat type and quality. Small mammal trapping also forms a component of the survey work and the presence of larger mammals has been ascertained through opportunistic observation and interviews with local hunters.

The results gathered so far have been very mixed, with a promising diversity and stability in some groups (especially birds and potentially butterflies) but discouraging results in others (notably small mammals). Moth trapping and to a lesser extent bat trapping have been of limited success perhaps due more to seasonal and logistical factors than to an actual lack of diversity, and more results are hoped for in the future. It is clear that this area has supported a range of interesting and diverse wildlife communities in the past and is now being given a chance at regeneration, with some degrees of success.

**Socio-Economic Research** has been conducted with two principal aims: to identify the threats to the conservation of natural resources within the region studied and to develop an understanding of the context of these threats in relation to underlying development issues.

This research work is implemented through a series of informal interviews and discussions held with local inhabitants, and management and administrative authorities. There are no official residents living within the park's boundaries, there are, however, many communities of varying socio-economic condition living within the buffer zone with easy access to the park habitats by means of boat. The principal problem of hunting and logging is, it seems, a product of the poorer communes in the area which have a more traditional dependence upon forest for their lifestyle and livelihood.

*A more full account of the biodiversity surveys conducted is included in Appendix 4*

### **3.8 Problems Encountered**

**The lack of a building for the interpretation centre** The absence of an interpretation centre posed two problems. First, the lack of a base from which to work created initial logistical difficulties until the office in Cai Rong was established. Frequent long distance trips from Hanoi were required almost weekly to secure a contract on the office and liaise with the Park Authority and other collaborating parties in the Bai Tu Long Bay area. However, these problems were overcome as soon as the project office was up and running and the office location secured is extremely beneficial being located next to the new park authority office.

The issue of a physical interpretation centre is a bigger problem. The lack of suitable available buildings raised the issue of constructing a building. The problem with this option is the lack of funds available to build a centre as this was not an item budgeted for in the Darwin Initiative proposal. It was decided to seek an additional small pot of funding from sources in-country. The outcome of funding applications are currently awaited. The project team are confident that funds will be found and that a centre will be up and running by the start of the second year of the project.

**Park Authority Delays** The Park Authority had not established their office or appointed all of the park authority staff until the first week of April. This has most significantly affected the training workshop programme, delaying activities by a further 3 months. However, this will not affect the success or the outcome of the project, all proposed training activities will be completed as planned, within the project period. On the positive side relations with the park authority have developed well and the additional time available has enabled this relationship to become more solid before activities have begun. It also means that there is a better sense of collaboration as the project will be involved from the outset with the setting up of park authority activities which places the project staff in a very influential position with regard to the development of all aspects of the park.

Despite the reported delays, the project has progressed well, and remains on target to achieve the set objectives within the agreed timeframe and budget. When considering these delays it is important to bear in mind that this is a newly established national park and that the park authorities have been recruited from outside of the immediate project area, therefore all activities are starting from nothing and so some delays were perhaps inevitable.

### **3.9 Enhancements to the project**

Several enhancements have been made to the logistical, methodological and exit strategy design of the project. These were generated through consultation with the park authority, collaborating organisations, and discussions with other environmental groups currently working in Vietnam.

- **Administration Office in Cai Rong, Van Don**



The establishment of a project office next to the park authority office is a major logistical improvement to the project design. The centre, which when built will be located on Quan Lan Island at the most inhabited and accessible edge of the park, is not suitable for project administration due to the distance from the park authority office and the absence of daytime electricity.

- **Consultative Planning Meetings** - The inclusion of planning meetings for major project objectives ensures that activities are developed jointly with the park authority, thereby increasing accountability and long term sustainability. Meetings will be jointly organised with the park authority thereby handing a certain level of responsibility to the park authority from the outset which will also set a good precedent for long term sustainability and instil greater confidence in other stakeholders.
- **Park Authority Liaison Officer** – A project liaison officer will be appointed from within the park authority to work directly with the project team. The officer will be informed and involved in all aspects of the project, receiving training from project staff and delegating to other members of the park authority under his or her jurisdiction to participate in the production project outputs. This will create an ongoing transfer of ideas and skills between the project staff and the park authority and provide the basis for a clear exit strategy.
- **Community Management Board** – Following consultation with Vietnamese experts in conservation strategy, the project team have concluded that the formation of a community management board could facilitate conservation measures, communication and collaboration between the park authority and the park's buffer zone communes. The board would be largely comprised of commune and local organisation leaders, park authority representatives, and respected village elders. The project staff would only attend as observers. The design and formation of a management board may become an objective of the workshop programme.
- **Posters and Field Guides** – The project staff felt that the information in the field guides could have wider applications if also produced in poster format. This would provide a convenient reference and display of park flora and fauna for local schools, organisations and other interested parties.
- **Quarterly Newsletter** – The park newsletter will be published on a more frequent quarterly basis to keep the local community closely informed of the latest developments both from the park authority and the awareness project. This is deemed necessary as current awareness of the national park and its purpose is very low and many new policies and programmes are scheduled to take place regularly, often involving the co-operation and participation of the local community.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation techniques** – Monitoring and evaluation techniques are being developed to measure the success of project outputs in the actual protection of park biodiversity in addition to the raising of biodiversity awareness. Biological and socio-economic surveys conducted by the Frontier-Vietnam Forest Research Programme, the park authority and independent researchers will inform project staff of the current levels of resource exploitation within the park.
- **Park Logo** – The project staff will be assisting in the design of a logo for the park. All publications and events will feature the logo, making Bai Tu Long Bay easily identifiable.
- **English Tuition** – A short informal course will be provided for members of the park authority who will have exposure to foreign visitors or involvement in scientific work. If a larger more comprehensive course is deemed necessary, the project staff will assist the park authority in finding a voluntary organisation with the appropriate capacity to run a full English language programme.

*A timetable for activities during the next year is included in Appendix 5*

#### **4.0 Partnerships**

**The Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR)**, Hanoi is the main partner to the Society for Environmental Exploration operating in Vietnam. This relationship has been fairly constant over the last year. In this project their role will be most prominent in providing technical support to the biodiversity data collection activities, the foundation for biodiversity awareness activities. Scientists from IEBR participate in the biodiversity survey activities providing taxonomic expertise enabling field identifications to be made more quickly and providing information for the development of field guides and display materials. They will also be involved as much as possible in the training of the park staff in field monitoring techniques and on issues relating specific taxa relevant to the park. It is planned to involve students of IEBR as participants in the project training activities thereby building the capacity of park managers of the future.

**The Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI)** were involved initially in the proposal to establish the park, however, since a responsible authority has been appointed to manage the park they are no longer directly involved in the day to day activities. FIPI are not a project partner and as such no agreement was ever made with them with respect to the project. This was a significant error as the project was designed based on the provision of support from FIPI in the form of a building for use as the interpretation centre. When the project team arrived to begin the project it was discovered that FIPI were not able to provide a building and there was no means of recourse as no written agreement had been secured to this effect. As a result alternative means for finding a suitable building have to be sought.

**Bai Tu Long Bay National Park Authority** Forming strong relationships with the Park Authority and the local community is key to the project's success. The project teams commitment to consulting the park authority regularly about the programme direction has been well received. Wherever possible decisions on activity planning have been deferred to the authority. This is seen as vital to the sustainability of project objectives and the local ownership of project outputs. Although no written agreement has been drawn up between the project and the park authority the excellent close working relationship that has developed will enable the project to work in effect as a department of the park authority. To further enhance this the assignment of a Liaison Officer will facilitate daily integration of project activities into park activities and begin the transfer of responsibility from the start of project activities.

#### **Collaboration and Links**

The Project Manager made a study tour to Cuc Phuong National Park to learn more about the 5-year old Awareness Project which is run by a Vietnamese NGO, Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV), This project involved the construction of a nature centre and implementation of a number of educational and community training activities in the Park's buffer zone communes. The similarities between the project objectives and activities lend themselves well to co-operation.

The project Biodiversity Educator, went on a study tour to visit the Frontier-Vietnam Sa Pa Integrated Environmental Education Project. This provided an insight into a formal environmental education programme in schools and community activities undertaken with the local Women's and Youth Associations. It is proposed that these associations in Bai Tu Long Bay will also be the key to biodiversity awareness activities within the communes.

Project staff also met with the Director and Education Co-ordinator of International Marine Life Alliance to discuss collaboration. This organisation has worked in several coastal community programmes across Vietnam, including a community managed marine reserve and are very keen to work on joint initiatives with the Bai Tu Long Bay project. Similar meetings with Protected Areas Conservation Project (PARC) and Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO) volunteers also proved useful, providing useful advice on setting up a successful project in Vietnam.

The Counterpart Biodiversity Educator met with scientists from Hanoi National University as part of her research concerning the development of the field guides. The possibility of involving university staff in the training and capacity building activities is being considered.

## 5.0 Impact and Sustainability

As little activity within the park has so far taken place at this early stage in the project, publicity has been minimal, however efforts are being made to raise awareness about the project as activities get underway. In April, Quang Ninh TV and newspapers will cover the project planning meeting across the whole of the province. In addition *Voice of Vietnam*, a national radio programme will air a piece on the biodiversity survey activities being carried out in the park.

Project counterparts relationships are well established and the counterparts are very keen to begin the awareness programme. The project's consultative / inclusive approach has also been well received.

There are very few marine or coastal protected areas in Vietnam let alone national parks combining marine and terrestrial environments therefore when Bai Tu Long Bay National Park was established there was considerable debate about which of the national ministries would take responsibility for managing the park. The resulting decision that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development would take responsibility meant the appointment of a park authority from a terrestrial background, the Forest Protection Department. As a result there is a lot of interest in how the park authority will tackle issues of coastal and marine nature. The involvement of an international NGO in the development of park management strategy also adds to interest levels.

Exit strategies are integral to every aspect of the project. By working with staff of the park authority and involving them in decisions on all aspects in the project, it is hoped that this will lead to a gradual transition of responsibility over the life of the project. The appointment of a Liaison Officer from the park authority, who will shadow all project activities either him /herself or appoint a colleague to do so, will greatly increase the effectiveness of responsibility transfer.

## 6.0 Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

### 6.1 Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures) 2001 / 2002

Code No.	Quantity	Description
4C	0	<b>5 Vietnamese postgraduate students to receive training for 2 weeks (total 10 weeks training)</b>
4D	0	
		Training activities delayed until June 2002. The workshop training programme will be determined at the planning meeting. The park stakeholders represented at the meeting will determine which postgraduate students will participate in the first workshop and in what capacity.

6A	0	<b>Other individuals receiving training</b>
6B	0	20 Vietnamese park management staff to receive training for 2 weeks (total 40 weeks training)  Training activities delayed until June 2002. Training priorities for park staff will be determined at the stakeholder workshop planning meeting. This will set the agenda for training at the first workshop.
7	0	<b>Training materials produced</b>  Nothing yet produced. Extensive research and resource gathering has been accomplished towards the production of training materials and information for display in the interpretation centre.
8	34 weeks	<b>Time spent in the host country by UK staff</b>  Project Manager and Biodiversity Educator commenced work December 2001. Specialist taxonomists not yet involved.
10	0	<b>Field Guides for National Park</b>  Data collected and draft layout for first field guide produced according to project output plan.
15A	0	<b>National Press release in National Papers</b>  To announce the first workshop, therefore delayed until June 2002.
15C	0	<b>Press Releases in UK papers</b>  Plans to release details when UK experts attend first workshop in Vietnam.
16A	0	<b>Newsletters (Bi-annual)</b>  Draft format for first newsletter produced according to planned timeframe.
18A	0	<b>National TV Programmes</b>  Workshop planning meeting in April to be covered by Quang Ninh provincial television.
19 A/B/C/D	0	<b>Radio interviews/features</b>  The workshop planning meeting in April will be covered by national radio <i>Voice of Vietnam</i> .
20	£ 14,160	<b>Physical Assets for Host Country</b>  Purchase of a boat and accessories plus display equipment and materials for the interpretation centre.
23		<b>Value of other Resources</b>
	£ 9,366.00	Matched Funding for the project from the Society for Environmental Exploration.
	£ 31,200	<b>In kind support:</b> support of Frontier-Vietnam Research Programme activities from The Society for Environmental

	Exploration.
£ 1,268.79	Technical support from IEBR in the form of scientists participating on biodiversity research activities.

Due to delays in the appointment of the new park authority staff and the establishment of the park office, training activities were delayed. The park authority established themselves during the beginning of April 2002 and therefore no training activities for students and park management staff took place during the last year. This also meant that other outputs directly related to the workshop training programme also did not occur during last year, these include: production of training materials, national and UK press release, national and international TV coverage and radio interviews. These media activities are all planned to coincide with the training workshops and key events so once these get underway media coverage will be implemented.

Time spent in the host country by staff is less than originally planned due to the fact that no external experts have been involved in training workshops due to the delays described above.

Due to the absence of an interpretation centre the first themed display has not been in place, however information on which displays will be based, has been collected as planned.

Work has begun on the preparation of the first newsletter, which will be produced early as the frequency and number of newsletters will be increased from bi-annually to quarterly and a total of eight newsletters will be produced rather than the four originally planned.

## 6.2 Publications

No such publications have been produced at this stage in the project.

## 6.3 Dissemination Activities

**Newsletter** The first edition of the quarterly newsletter, to be published in May 2002, will be disseminated broadly both within the Bai Tu Long bay area and also to numerous national and international organisations operating throughout the country. The first edition will be produced by project staff but involving park authority staff in the writing of some sections. It is intended that park staff will be directly involved in the production of the second newsletter ideally with the appointment of one staff member to take responsibility for this aspect. Over the two years of the project remaining seven editions of the newsletter will be produced during which time park staff will gradually take on full responsibility for its production. Discussions will be held with the park authority with respect to the allocation of park funds to the continuation of future production.

**Website** Information generated for the newsletter will be reformatted to develop a Bai Tu Long Bay National Park website. It will provide interested parties with an opportunity to learn about the National Park, the project and to download field guides, posters, newsletters and educational materials when they are published. The Park Authority will be involved in the website's production again with the assignment of a competent staff member to taking responsibility for the site. During the remaining 21 months of the project funds from the park authority or from external sponsors will be sought in order to support the website.

**Field Guides and Posters** As stated above, aside from hard copies printed and distributed across Vietnam, these will also be available in PDF format from the website. This will greatly increase their circulation and ease of access to interested parties world-wide.

**Media Coverage** The first planning meeting will be broadcast on Quang Ninh Television and covered by provincial newspapers. The 'Voice of Vietnam', a national radio programme, will

also be visiting the Bai Tu Long Bay programme in May. All subsequent workshops involving visiting experts from the UK will be announced through provincial and national media outlets to maximise local and national awareness of the project.

## 7.0 Project Expenditure

**Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period**

Item	Budget	Expenditure
<b>Salaries</b> (specify)		
Project Manager		
Biodiversity Educator		
UK visiting experts		
Counterpart Biodiversity Educator		
Park Authority Participants		
Rent ,rates heating lighting etc		
Office administration costs		
Capital items/equipment		
Others		
Travel and Subsistence		
Printing		
Conferences/ Seminars		
Stationary		
Administration		
Total		

Variations occur throughout the budget due to the delays to project activities described in this report.

**Salaries** Expenditure on salaries is significantly less than budgeted due to the agreed delayed start to the project. The project began three months late. Costs associated with the UK experts and Park Authority participants have not been spent as none of the workshop training activities incurring these costs have begun due to the delayed establishment of the park authority and therefore the delay to the training programme involving both UK experts and park authority staff.

**Travel and subsistence** Expenditure in this area has also been significantly less due to the same reasons described above. The late start to the project has incurred slightly less expenditure on internal staff travel, accommodation and subsistence. Furthermore, the non

involvement of UK experts has meant no expenditure on international flights, visas, internal travel, accommodation and subsistence for these visitors.

**Printing** No expenditure has been made on printing as no materials have been printed that is, neither training materials for workshops nor display materials for the interpretation centre.

**Conferences/seminars** No expenditure has been made in this area due to the delayed start to the programme and the pushing back of the operational schedule.

All of these budget lines will be spent in due course as there have been no activities removed from the operating schedule, rather activities have been delayed. Unfortunately, initially it was planned that the delays would be rescheduled to fall within the first financial year, however, due to the very late establishment of the park authority (the key to all activities in the project) these events have now been pushed back into the second financial year of the project.

## **8.0 Monitoring and Evaluation**

In the first instance, in terms of achieving output objectives these are being monitored through quarterly progress reports produced to monitor implementation of activities against the workplan and budget expenditure. A monitoring visit by the programme manager of the Society for Environmental Exploration, was made to the project office in March 2002 which enabled a clear picture of the progress to be made. Evaluation so far is that most planned activities have not yet taken place and so monitoring the effects of these is not yet applicable. However, it can be determined that these output objectives can feasibly be achieved by the project in the time and with the resources available.

Planned indicators of achievement (the number of trainees trained and changes in their actions as a result of training and feedback, visitors to the interpretation centre and their feedback, publication and use of field guides and incorporation of biodiversity conservation measures into the management plan for the park) have not been appropriate during the project to date as these are indicators of the effects of activities that have not yet been implemented. However, the project team have begun to put together a strategy for monitoring whether the project outcomes and outputs actually contribute to the project's purpose. To evaluate the success of project activities, the staff will monitor the effects they have on involved parties in terms of their **K**nowledge, **A**ttitudes, **P**erceptions and **P**ractices or **KAPP**.

**Workshop Training Programme** Before the commencement of each workshop programme, participants will fill in a KAPP questionnaire to determine what they already know and think about the workshop objectives. Semi-structured group and individual discussions may also be used. The results, both qualitative and quantitative, will be used to structure the workshop content and provide a basis for future evaluation of the participant's progress after their training. This method will have the most direct application to the park authority field staff. In their case, the managing field officer will be trained in monitoring the progress of their staff to determine whether they are implementing the training provided. This is vital for effective monitoring of whether workshop training has been translated into improved conservation practice.

**Biodiversity Interpretation Centre** The interpretation centre will be monitored and evaluated firstly by the number of centre users. Depending on the nature of their visit, their opinions will be recorded and if trends develop changes to the centre design will be implemented.

**Biodiversity Education Programme** KAPP surveying techniques will have applications within the biodiversity education programme. Different styles of monitoring survey will be constructed for different groups involved, and these will be applied before the activities and directly after by project staff. Long-term monitoring will be conducted by group leaders to learn whether the programme has an impact on the group's conservation practice. Other more

experimental surveying techniques such as participatory diagramming may be applied if deemed appropriate.

**Newsletter** Each newsletter will field letters from the local community and involved organisations to learn their opinions of the project progress. This forum will allow members to voice their concerns and give valuable insight into their perceptions and attitudes of the project and the National Park. The number of people who will have access to the newsletter will also be recorded.

**Field Guides** records will be kept about the numbers of field guides produced and if possible, who uses them.

### **Lessons**

The main lesson learnt by the project team is that concentrating on relationship building, particularly at planning stages is crucial to future project success. A mistake made and learnt by other international organisations managing similar projects has been simply proposing a programme to their counterparts to seek their approval. The slower relationship orientated approach the team have adopted here emphasises continued consultation with counterparts so the project programme is largely determined and designed according to their input and needs. This approach will be copied and applied to all facets of the project throughout its cycle.

### **Authors**

Leo Bottrill, Project Manager

Liz Humphreys, Programme Development Manager

**Completed 27 April 2002**