

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	17-015
Project Title	Harnessing Carbon Finance to arrest deforestation: Saving the Javan rhinoceroses
Country(ies)	Vietnam
UK Organisation	International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED)
Collaborator(s)	SNV – The Netherlands Development Organisation
Project Leader	Maryanne Grieg-Gran
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Project website	http://www.iied.org/sustainable-markets/key-issues/environmental-economics/harnessing-carbon-finance-arrest-deforestation ; http://www.snvworld.org/en/regions/asia/ourwork/Pages/Cat%20Tien.aspx

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).

Progress on two key elements of the national REDD+ architecture namely: benefit distribution system (BDS) and participatory forest monitoring (PFM) has been made.

(i) Benefit Distribution System and local fund management:

A study setting out draft guidelines for the operation of a local fund for the disbursement of REDD+ payments under a national scheme has been produced. This is now informing the development of a national BDS design under the UN-REDD programme. This study (Output 4) drew from meetings conducted (throughout August and September 2011) by local advisors for SNV with relevant national, provincial, district and commune agencies, in addition to focus group discussions with villagers, within the project landscape. This included consultation with 81 households in Loc Bao, Tien Hoang and Dong Nai Thuong communes. An IIED paper reviewing the lessons for benefit distribution systems for REDD+ in Vietnam from the international experience with payments for environmental services schemes, integrated conservation and development programmes and food for work programmes has been drafted and will be completed and made available for the upcoming UNFCCC COP17 in Durban.

(ii) Participatory Forest Monitoring:

A draft operational framework has been prepared for the participatory forest monitoring, with an initial focus on carbon, and will move into operational design and field testing stages in the second half of project year three. PFM work (Outputs 2 and 3) has expanded in scope from initial participatory carbon monitoring (PCM) focus to embrace a broader purpose of local adaptive management and national (including REDD+) information needs. A team of national advisors to SNV have been secured comprising: a forest inventory and planning specialist from the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development; a forestry expert from the Forest Science Institute of Vietnam and a community participation specialist.

(iii) Communicating project outputs

The BDS and PFM elements of the project have been profiled (Output 5) at a number of national and subnational fora such as the national REDD+ technical sub-working groups on: BDS, local implementation and monitoring, and reporting and verification. Further project visibility opportunities, including communicating project outputs with practitioners and policy makers at the upcoming UNFCCC COP17 in Durban, have been identified for the second half of PY3.

