



# **Development of the Biodiversity Corridors Decree in Viet Nam**

*Workshop on  
Experiences and Challenges in Biodiversity Policy  
Development in GMS Countries*

19-21 August 2009, Melia Hotel, Hanoi, Viet Nam

# Biodiversity Law

## **Article 9.3**

Contents of the national master plan for biodiversity conservation includes corridors

## **Article 70.2 and 70.3**

Cooperation with bordering countries in managing corridors and participation in programmes

## **Article 75**

Penalties for violations in corridors

# Steps in the Process

- Background papers – national regulatory framework and comparative national law and international management experience
- Six drafts of the decree
- Informal consultation with relevant officials from Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces where corridors are being implemented
- Review by 3 national experts
- Formal consultation – provincial and national workshops
- Revised draft of the decree
- Final review and revision by national legal expert

## Background Paper – National

Analysis of existing law which enabled corridors prior to Biodiversity Law: Fishery Law, Land Law, Agriculture Law

Most important issue in corridor creation is land use rights

Creation of corridors should be carried out step-by-step in accordance with socio-economic conditions and land and forest use rights in the corridor area

Two ways to create corridors:

- land, forest, and protected area planning and plans – takes longer
- agreements with land users – can be done more quickly

# Background Paper – National

- Corridor management will be similar to buffer zone management, under local authorities
- Requires a mechanism for close coordination among local authorities
- Requires collaboration in State management between MONRE and MARD
- Requires continuous process of building awareness among local people and central, provincial and local authorities to implement corridors effectively
- Participation of all stakeholders in the management of corridors is the key to success of corridors

# Background Paper – International

## **Successful corridors require:**

- Clear national policy
- Law that enables corridors
- Harmonizing sectoral laws and regulations
- Linking planning and management of biodiversity corridors to the national protected areas system and including them in local, sub-national and national land use planning and plans
- Participation by all stakeholders in creating and operating corridors

## **Successful corridors require:**

- A variety of possible management coordination mechanisms
- Multiple options for operating biodiversity corridors for local authorities to choose from
- Incentives for all stakeholders
- Access to and sharing of information on biodiversity corridors
- Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of corridors and their contribution to local livelihoods and to biodiversity conservation objectives at the national, sub-national and local levels

## Informal Consultations

- Corridors should be created and managed at the local level
- Local officials should have maximum flexibility to plan, create and operate corridors to enhance conservation and local livelihoods at the same time

## Formal Consultation – National workshop

- Corridors are multiple-use, sustainable use areas, not protected areas, and not only for endangered species
- Activities in corridors should not be restricted in such a way that local livelihoods are negatively affected
- Corridors are for plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians and other species and not only for mammals
- Economic incentives must be big enough to achieve conservation objectives
- Community involvement is essential and benefits to communities must be clear
- Land use rights are most important



## Formal Consultation – National workshop

- Prioritize biodiversity corridors so that only important ones are established – don't just create them in every province
- Include participation of the private sector
- Time frame for creating and operating a corridor must be realistic and long-term
- Allow flexibility
- Capacity building must be included
- Coordination mechanism for operating corridors:
  - clear authority and status of officials
  - clear sources of funding

# Final Draft – Principal Provisions

- Purpose and functions of corridors
- Principles and policy for corridors
- Classification of corridors as terrestrial and aquatic and national and provincial
- Requirements for planning for corridors, linked to land use planning
- Criteria and procedures for creating corridors
- Biodiversity corridor operation committees
  - Includes participation of all stakeholders, including the private sector



# Final Draft – Principal Provisions

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Financing, including payments for ecosystem services
- Rights and obligations of all stakeholders
- Incentives
- Public awareness

**Thank you!**