

MFF VIETNAM NCB MEETING, NOVEMBER 25, 2011, 14:30-18:00

SUMMARY

The meeting, which was held in the Can Gio Biosphere Reserve to the south of HCMC, covered the following issues. NCB decisions are highlighted in **bold**.

- After Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi welcomed NCB members and introduced MFF to new participants. Dr. Nguyen Nghia Bien observed that MFF had done a good job of coordinating with and supporting other government initiatives and that in 2012 we need to take advantage of this momentum to achieve real success.
- Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi, Dr. Nguyen Nghia Bien, Mrs. Do Thi Huyen, and Jake Brunner attended RSC-8 in the Maldives. Jake reported that the Vietnam presentation had been well received and summarized the highlights, including DVDs on mangrove restoration in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, and the main decisions taken.
- Do Thi Huyen commented on the high quality of the Sri Lanka DVD and the excellent social and environmental performance of the high-end tourism companies that have invested in locally grown organic food, solar panels, environmental education, reef restoration, etc.
- Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi observed that although the government doesn't formally recognize the role of NGOs (there is no reference to civil society in any central level documents), MFF has successfully fostered government-NGO cooperation, despite the challenges.
- Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi recommended that MFF improve its communications through the development of promotional materials, video clips, etc and the translation of key documents into Vietnamese to be delivered to local people. **NCB recommended that IUCN create a web page in English and Vietnamese for MFF activities in Vietnam** (which would be linked to the regional MFF web site).
- NCB members will be invited to join the SGF evaluation. Although not discussed at this meeting, it is proposed that the next NCB meeting be held in Hue or Quang Nam and include a visit to one of the two SGF project sites nearby.
- **NCB approved posting of the second SGF call for proposals**, which will be worth \$70,000, enough for 3-4 projects (in addition to the four already underway). The call will be posted in English and Vietnamese in national newspapers, on the IUCN web site, and via email networks. It will not have a geographic or thematic focus but we hope to receive more proposals from the Mekong Delta and that proposals address other coastal ecosystems besides mangroves. Proposals will be accepted in English or Vietnamese. Approved proposals from the first round will be posted on the IUCN web site to assist potential applicants.
- NCB reviewed the draft Medium-sized Grant Facility (MGF) call for proposals, which will be worth \$100,000, enough for two projects. It will make a decision after the SGF call is posted. **NCB recommended posting the MGF call after the SGF one to avoid confusion.**
- **NCB recommended that all short-listed SGF organizations receive project cycle management (PCM) training** (as was done in the first round). In an open call for proposals, it isn't possible to train organizations submitting pre-proposals since we don't know which organizations to train until after they've submitted the pre-proposals. Moreover, the pre-proposals do not require advanced writing skills but rather focus on defining the problems and proposed solution.
- Dr. Bien reported on the PES decision on spawning ground forests and the TOT program:
 - Using non-MFF resources, IUCN will fund Dr. Don Macintosh as an international consultant to lead the mangrove-related research on the decision. GIZ will fund two national consultants, one to support Don, the other to work on non-mangrove forests. IUCN has also

offered to pay for a national consultant to draft the decision. It is hoped that Don will visit Vietnam in early January to start the research. **IUCN will confirm timing with NCB members and partners ASAP.**

- MFF has offered to co-fund a TOT program for staff from nine provinces from Quang Ninh to Ha Tinh to support the design and implementation of projects as part of MARD's national mangrove rehabilitation program. The phase covering these provinces will receive \$70 million from the World Bank. **Dr. Bien will provide an estimated budget, key training needs, and work plan for IUCN to submit to the RS in Bangkok by December 16.**

Agenda

Time	Item	Lead
14:30-14:45	Welcome	Nguyen Chu Hoi
14:45-15:15	RSC-8 meeting in Maldives report back	Nguyen Chu Hoi, Nguyen Nghia Bien, Do Thi Huyen, Jake Brunner
15:15-15:45	SGF and MGF update	Nguyen Thi Bich Hien
15:45-16:15	MARD PES Decision and TOT	Nguyen Nghia Bien
16:15-16:30	2012 work plan	Bui Thi Thu Hien, Nguyen Chu Hoi
16:30-17:00	Can Gio Biosphere Reserve information sharing	Nguyen Hoang Tri
17:00-17:15	Can Gio field work	Vo Quoc Tuan
17:15-18:00	Open discussion, wrap up	All, Nguyen Chu Hoi

Participants

NCB members

1. Nguyen Chu Hoi (Chair NCB, VASI)
2. Nguyen Nghia Bien (Co Chair, VNFOREST)
3. Nguyen Hoang Tri (CERE/MAB/HUP)
4. Mai Sy Tuan (HUP/MERC)
5. Do Thi Huyen (UNDP)
6. Do Thi Lan Huong (VASI)
7. Bui Thi Thu Hien (MFF National Coordinator)
8. Tran Chinh Khuong (FAO)

NCB members absent:

1. Pham Anh Tuan (MARD/Fisheries Administration)
2. Hoang Viet (WWF)
3. Morten Fauerby Thomsen (CARE)
4. Truong Duc Tri (MONRE)
5. Hoang Van Thang (CRES)

Other participants

1. Jake Brunner (IUCN Program Coordinator)
2. Nguyen Thi Bich Hien (MFF SGFManager)
3. Nguyen Duc Tu (IUCN Water and Wetlands Coordinator)
4. Le Thi Thanh Thuy (IUCN Program Assistant)
5. Debora Simon (IUCN Program Assistant)
6. Vien Ngoc Nam (Thu Duc University)
7. Le Van Sinh (Director, Can Gio Biosphere Reserve)
8. Le Duc Tuan (Secretariat, Can Gio Biosphere Reserve)
9. Tang Phuong Gian (IUCN BCR Field Coordinator)
10. Nguyen Thi Phuong Thanh (IUCN BCR Field Coordinator)
11. Vo Quoc Tuan (PhD candidate, Germany)
12. Huynh Duc Hoan (Can Gio Biosphere Reserve)