



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523**

**ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION  
File No: ANE 05-202 RDM/A ETD**

**PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:**

**Country Code-SO:** 486-004  
**SO Name:** Improved Environmental Conditions through Regional Cooperation  
**Country or Region:** Regional Development Mission-Asia/ANE  
**Activity Name:** Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation Program  
**Funding Begin:** FY 2005      **Funding End:** FY 2008      **LOP Amount:** \$6,229,769  
**Sub-Activity Amount:**

**CE/IEE Prepared by:** Mary Melnyk      **Date:** July 29, 2005

**IEE Amendment (Y/N):** N      If "Yes," Number @ Date of Original IEE:

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:** (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deferral:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Positive Determination:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative Determination:	<input type="checkbox"/>
With Conditions:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exemption:	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

USAID's Regional Mission Development Office/Asia (RMDA) intends to fund the "Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation in Vietnam" to provide technical assistance to improve the sustainable management of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity. The program will restore and maintain ecosystem connectivity in biodiversity corridors; establish plots for sustainable financing mechanisms biodiversity conservation; and increase incomes for the rural poor. It will strengthen environmental governance by building capacity among governments to decrease illegal trade in wildlife and improve biodiversity management. Major program elements are: 1) establishing corridors to enhance biodiversity conservation and to protect the environment; 2) building communication and enforcement networks among governments to reduce illegal trade in wildlife; and 3) increasing government administrative management capacity for biodiversity conservation.





# USAID ASIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ANE 05-202 RDMA IEE

## Face Sheet: Request for Categorical Exclusion

### Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation

#### Program/Activity Data:

**Program/Activity No.:** SO 486-004 Improved Environmental Conditions through Regional Cooperation

**Program/Activity Name:** Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation Program

**Sub-Activities:** (1) Asian Wildlife Law Enforcement Alliance; (2) Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridors; and (3) Building Government Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Vietnam

**Originating Office:** Regional Development Mission/Asia (RDM/A)

**Country/Region:** Asia and Near East (ANE) Region

**Funding Begin:** 2005                      **Funding End:** 2008

**LOP Amount:** \$6,229,769

**Sub-Activity Amount:** (1) Asian Wildlife Law Enforcement Alliance – \$1,806,250  
(2) Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridors – \$5,000,000  
(3) Building Government Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Vietnam - \$68,519

**IEE Prepared by:** Mary Melnyk, USAID/ANE/TS

**Date:** July 29, 2005

**IEE Amendment (Y/N):** N

#### Environmental Action Recommended:

Categorical Exclusion:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deferral:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Positive Determination:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative Determination:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conditions:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exemption:	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Brief Description of Proposed Activities

The program is to provide technical assistance to participating USAID presence and non-presence countries in Southeast Asia to improve the sustainable management of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity. In doing so, the program will aim to restore and maintain ecosystem connectivity in biodiversity corridors; establish pilots for sustainable financing mechanisms for

biodiversity conservation; and increase incomes for the rural poor. It will also strengthen environmental governance by building capacity among governments to decrease the illegal trade in wildlife and improve the management of biodiversity. Major program elements are: (1) establishing corridors to enhance biodiversity conservation and to protect the environment (2) building communication and enforcement networks among governments to reduce the illegal trade in wildlife; and (3) increasing government administrative management capacity for biodiversity conservation.

**Summary of Findings**

No activities proposed under this program are expected to have a significant impact on the environment, and all fall under one or more categorical exclusions outlined under 22 CFR §216.2(c)(2). Over the life of the program, most program funding will be dedicated to technical assistance in the forms of technical consultations, participatory exchanges (e.g., study tours), training, workshops and conferences, and information sharing and dissemination. The remainder of the funding will be used to assist in the establishment of biodiversity corridors through improved natural resource management such as reforestation. There will be no logging occurring in core conservation forest or other areas. Also, no pesticide training, procurement or use is planned. No installation or use of equipment is expected in the activities under this program. Nevertheless, as activities are further developed over the program period, any activity presenting a risk of having significant environmental impact will be subject to additional review and final concurrence by the ANE Environment Officer (BEO/ANE).

**Approval of Recommended Environmental Actions:**

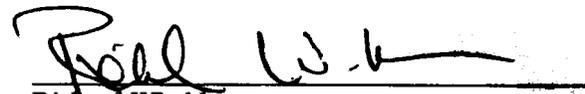
Clearance:

Approval:

  
Timothy Beans  
RDM/A Mission Director

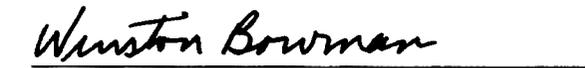
8-17-05  
Date

Approval:

  
Richard Whelden  
RDM/A Mission Deputy Director

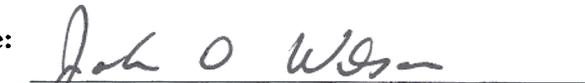
8-16-05  
Date

Approval:

  
Winston Bowman  
RDM/A Environment Officer/Team Leader

8-11-05  
Date

Concurrence:

  
John O. Wilson  
ANE Bureau Environmental Officer

9/9/05  
Date

Approved:   
Disapproved:

**Distribution:**

RDM/A Environmental Officer / IEE File

## Request for Categorical Exclusion

### Asian Regional Environmental Program

#### A. Program/Activity Data

##### Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation

**Program/Activity No.:** SO 486-004 Improved Environmental Conditions through Regional Cooperation

**Program/Activity Name:** Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation Program

**Sub-Activities:** (1) Asian Wildlife Law Enforcement Alliance; (2) Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridors; and (3) Building Government Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Vietnam

**Originating Office:** Regional Development Mission/Asia (RDM/A)

**Country/Region:** Asia and Near East (ANE) Region

#### B. Background and Activity Description

**SO Purpose:** The purpose of the Strategic Objective is to improve environmental conditions through regional cooperation, partnership facilitation and the sharing of experiences across the region. Several major problems will be addressed by this SO, among them are the illegal trade in wildlife and the need for establishing biodiversity corridors in the face of major infrastructural development in the Mekong Region.

**Program Objective:** As a component of SO 486-004, the objective of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation Program is to provide technical assistance to ASEAN member states to establish a network to enforce against the illegal trade in wildlife and to work within the Mekong Region in establishing biodiversity corridors and conserving existing protected areas.

**Program Background and Overview:** The strategic planning process and the FAA 118/119 analysis of the threats to tropical forests and biodiversity in the region identified natural resources and biodiversity conservation as a priority for programming. The major threats identified were: (1) the widespread illegal trade in wildlife throughout the region; (2) major infrastructural development planned as economic corridors in the region; (3) the lack of capacity for conservation. Three activities will achieve the goals of this program component to reduce the threats to biodiversity: (1) Asian Wildlife Law Enforcement Alliance; (2) Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridors; and (3) Building Government Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Vietnam.

**Program Activities:** Three activities will achieve the goals of this program component to reduce the regional threats to biodiversity: (1) Asian Wildlife Law Enforcement Alliance; (2) Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridors; and (3) Building Government Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Vietnam.

1. *Asian Wildlife Law Enforcement Alliance*: This activity will work to reduce the illegal wildlife trade by establishing a cooperative and cohesive wildlife law enforcement network between countries in Asia. To meet this goal, the activity will:

- Develop a national task force approach to bring national agencies together to combat illegal wildlife trade;
- Support regional and international wildlife law enforcement cooperation and coordination between countries through a regional network.

2. *Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridors*: This activity will establish connectivity within biodiversity corridors identified by the Greater Mekong Subregion while working to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor. It will facilitate innovative mechanisms for sustainable financing for biodiversity, including payment for environmental services while strengthening environmental governance and institutions at the local, national and regional level.

3. *Building Government Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Vietnam*: This activity will provide fire ecology and management information to national level policy makers with an objective to encourage a review of existing policy of fire exclusion in national parks within biodiversity corridors and other areas included in the Management Strategy for Protected Areas System of Vietnam. It will also build capacity for fire management and ecology expertise within the Fire Protection Department through provision of training and informational materials. Specifically it will improve fire management practices to expand the habitat for the Sarus Crane.

**Categorical Exclusion(s):** Pursuant to USAID authority under 22 CFR 216, this program qualifies for the following Categorical Exclusions:

- (i). Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);
- (iii). Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings;
- (v). Document and information transfers; and
- (xiv). Studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.).

Furthermore, the grantee/s shall not expend or otherwise utilize funds obligated hereunder for any activity that may have a significant adverse effect on the environment without further environmental review and approval by the BEO/EGAT; this is especially true if procurement or use of pesticides is anticipated in any manner, or any activity related to managing natural forests, logging, wood processing, or exporting.

### **C. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Request**

No activities proposed under this program are expected to have a significant impact on the environment, and all fall under one or more categorical exclusions outlined under 22 CFR §216.2(c)(2). Over the life of the program, most or all program funding will be dedicated to technical assistance in the forms of technical consultations, participatory exchanges (e.g., study tours), training, workshops and conferences, and information sharing and dissemination. No installation or use of equipment is expected in the activities under this program. Nevertheless, as activities are further developed over the program period, any activity presenting a risk of having significant environmental impact will be subject to additional review and final concurrence by the ANE Environment Officer (BEO/ANE).