

Asia 10-148 RDMA RCE - ETD Alliance to Combat Illegal Logging, RFT, and IAA



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INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION (Amendment 2) IEE RDMA SO 486-004 Face Sheet: Request for Categorical Exclusion

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation

Program/Activity Data:

Program/Activity No.: SO 486-004 Improved Response to Environment Challenges in Asia

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

Sub-Activities: (1) Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered Species in Asia;
(2) Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Alliance; and
(3) Interagency Agreements with USG agencies (e.g. USFS, DOJ)

Originating Office: Regional Development Mission Asia (RDMA)

Country/Region: Asia Region

Funding Begin: 2005 **Funding End:** 2014

LOP Amount: \$30,500,000

Sub-Activity Amount: (1) Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered Species in Asia – \$15,000,000 (New)
(2) Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Alliance - \$12,000,000 (Current)
(3) Asian Wildlife Law Enforcement Alliance (closing end of FY2010)
(4) Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridors (closing end of FY2010)

IEE Prepared by: Apichai Thirathon and Barry Flaming, USAID/RDMA/REO

Date: April 22, 2010

IEE Amendment (Y/N): Y (Please refer to Amendment 1 dated 6/10/08_ANE 08-72)

Environmental Action Recommended:

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

Brief Description of Proposed Activities

The program provides regional technical assistance to participating USAID presence and non-presence countries in Asia to improve the sustainable management of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity and to mitigate global climate change. In doing so, the program aims to reduce the illegal trade in threatened and endangered species in Asia and enhance the sustainable management of forests and legal timber trade in the region. Major program elements include: (1) building wildlife law enforcement partnerships and networks among governments and civil society organizations to reduce the demand for and illegal trade in wildlife and other natural resources; and (2) combat illegal logging through promoting legal, sustainably-managed and conflict-free timber products in regional and global markets.

Summary of Findings

This amendment expands the funding levels for the above sub-activities while extending their completion dates to 2014. Two current biodiversity activities will be completed by September 2010 [ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) Support Program and Asia Regional Biodiversity Conservation Program (ARBCP)] and will be followed by a new activity: the Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered Species in Asia.

The new activity in this amendment follows on the previous activity, ASEAN-WEN Support Program as noted in the original approved and Amendment 1 IEEs and covered under this amended IEE until the expected completion date of September 2010. Activities proposed under this sub-activity are not expected to have a significant impact on the environment, and therefore would 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 form of technical consultations, participatory exchanges (e.g., study tours), training, workshops and conferences, and information sharing and dissemination. 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).

In summary, it is recommended that the Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered Species in Asia, the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Alliance Program, and the USG Interagency Agreements be granted a Categorical Exclusion for those activities that are excluded pursuant to the requirements of 22 CFR §216.2(c)(2) as described in Section C.

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 Response to Environmental Challenges in Asia

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

Sub-Activities: (1) Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered Species in Asia (New);
(2) Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Alliance,(Current)
(3) Asian Wildlife Law Enforcement Alliance – closing end of FY2010, and
(4) Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridors – closing end of FY2010

Originating Office: Regional Development Mission Asia (RDMA)

Country/Region: Asia Region

B. Background and Activity Description

SO Purpose: The purpose of the Strategic Objective is to improve environmental conditions through regional cooperation, facilitation of strategic partnerships, 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, fisheries and timber; significant greenhouse gas emissions resulting from deforestation; and the need for strengthening landscape protection and biodiversity corridors in the face of major infrastructure development in the Mekong and other parts of the region.

Program Objective: Under SO 486-004, the objective of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation Program is to: (1) provide technical assistance to Asian nations to establish effective collaborative mechanisms to enforce against the illegal trade in wildlife, fisheries, and timber; and (2) to increase capacities for sustainable forest management, strengthen regional cooperation on combating illegal timber trade, and facilitate timber trade from legal sources.

Program Background and Overview: The strategic planning process conducted by RDMA, through recent assessments (e.g. regional biodiversity conservation assessment in early FY2010) 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 regional programming. The major threats identified were: (1) the widespread illegal trade in wildlife, aquatic resources and timber throughout the region; (2) major infrastructural development planned as economic corridors in the region; (3) lack of sustainable financial mechanisms in support of forest conservation and protected areas management; and (4) rampant illegal logging in the region. The three sub-activities addressed here will contribute to reducing the threats to biodiversity and achieving the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity: (1) Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered

Species in Asia; (2) Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Alliance; and (3) Interagency Agreements with USG agencies (USFS, DOJ)

Program Activities: Three activities will achieve the goals of this program component to reduce the regional threats to biodiversity: (1) Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered Species in Asia ; (2) Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Alliance; and (3) Interagency Agreements with USG agencies (USFS, DOJ).

1. *Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered Species in Asia:* This activity will work to conserve biodiversity by reducing the illegal trade in endangered and threatened species in Asia through reducing demand in key consuming societies, bolstering deterrents, and supporting and sustaining a positive enabling environment. To meet this goal, the activity will:

- Reduce the demand for illegally traded threatened or endangered species through targeted awareness campaigns, public service announcements, and public-private partnerships;
- Strengthen law enforcement capacities to deter the illegal trade across the entire enforcement continuum (apprehension, prosecution and adjudication/conviction) via increased USG engagement and institutionalization of efforts;
- Enhance regional cooperation and strengthen networking within the region (such as ASEAN-WEN), relationships between key enforcement entities, and vertical linkages to site-based initiatives at the local level; and
- Increase the sustainability and scale of efforts including facilitating sustainable financing mechanisms and partnering with other existing networks, programs, and initiatives.

2. *Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Alliance:* This activity will improve the quality and extent of sustainable management of forest resources and biodiversity and enhance the legal trade in forest resources. To meet this goal, the activity will:

- Increase the regional timber trade from legal sources through supporting enabling policies, procedures, and practices such as chain of custody tracking systems, legality standards, and U.S. Lacey Act compliance;
- Measurably improving the sustainability of forest management on the ground through support for protection of High Conservation Value Forests, implementing Reduced Impact Logging practices, and facilitating independent forest certification;
- Strengthening regional cooperation on forest management and trade through public-private partnerships and increased cooperation between regional platforms and organizations (e.g. ASEAN, etc.); and
- Advancing the role of sustainable forest management in contributing towards climate change abatement by demonstrating and documenting reduced carbon emissions from the forest sector.

3. *Asian Wildlife Law Enforcement Alliance:* This project works 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.

4. *Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridors* This project establishes connectivity within biodiversity corridors identified by the Greater Mekong Sub-region 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 (PES) while strengthening environmental governance and institutions at the local, national and regional level. To meet this goal, the activity will:

- Support National PES Policy development and implementation in the Mekong countries that integrate climate change elements, hydrological ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods;

Building capacity of the local, national and regional agencies through practical trainings and enhance sharing of best practices through regional workshops, study tours.

C. Discussion of Environmental Impacts

Categorical Exclusion(s): Pursuant to USAID authority under 22 CFR 216, all three sub-activities (the Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered Species in Asia; the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Alliance; and Interagency Agreements with USG agencies qualify 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.).

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 Asia Bureau Environment Officer (BEO/Asia).

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/Asia; 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.

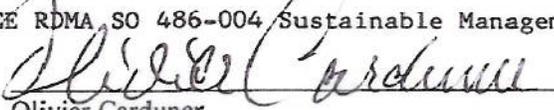
D. Recommended Environment Action

It is recommended that the Alliance to Combat the Illegal Trade in Threatened and Endangered Species in Asia; the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Alliance; and Interagency Agreements with USG agencies programs be granted a Categorical Exclusion for those activities that are excluded pursuant to the requirements of 22 CFR §216.2(c)(2) as described in Section C.

Approval of Recommended Environmental Actions:

Clearance: IEE RDMA SO 486-004 Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and

Approval:


Olivier Carduner
RDMA Mission Director

Date

5/3/10

Biodiversity
Conservation

Approval:


Barbara Krell
RDMA Deputy Mission Director

Date

5/3/10

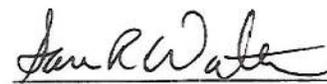
Approval:


Rebecca Hammel
RDMA Regional Legal Advisor

Date

5/1/10

Approval:


Sara Walter
RDMA Program Development Office Director

Date

4/29/10

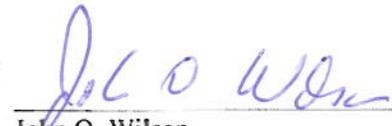
Approval:


Winston Bowman
RDMA Environment Officer/Team Leader

Date

4-29-10

Concurrence:


John O. Wilson
Asia Bureau Environmental Officer

Date

8/6/10

Approved:

Disapproved:

Distribution:

RDMA Environmental Officer / IEE File