

## Summary of Terminal Evaluation

1. Outline of the Project		
Country : Socialist Republic of Viet Nam		Project title : Project for Development of the National Biodiversity Database System (NBDS)
Issue/Sector : Biodiversity Conservation		Cooperation scheme : Technical Cooperation Project
Division in charge : Forestry and Nature Conservation Division 1, Global Environmental Department		Total cost : about 259,285,000 Yen
Period of Cooperation	Record of Discussion : April 22, 2011	Partner Country's Implementing Organization : Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA), Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Nam Dinh Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Xuan Thuy National Park (XTNP)
	Cooperation period : November 17, 2011- March 31, 2015	
		Supporting Organization in Japan : Ministry of Environment
1. Background of the Project		
<p>In response to the 2010 Goals adopted at the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP6, 2002), the Government of Viet Nam (GOV) formulated the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2010, 2020 (Decision No. 79/2007/QD-TTg) in 2007, and in 2008 it enacted the Biodiversity Law aimed at preserving and developing biodiversity in continental areas, marine areas, wetland and farmland, in order to realize the sustainable use of biological resources and bolstering biosafety controls. GOV also ratified global convention for biodiversity (such as the Ramsar Convention<sup>1</sup> in 1989, the Washington Convention<sup>2</sup> in 1994 etc.), and promotes conservation of biodiversity.</p> <p>The said Act stipulates that MONRE should take uniform control of biodiversity (Article 6). In addition to compiling national plans on conservation of biodiversity (Article 10), this ministry is charged with taking a leading role in implementing basic surveys for the monitoring of biodiversity, constructing biodiversity databases, promoting their utilization and reporting on conditions of biodiversity and so on.</p> <p>Based on the said Law, GOV issued a request to the Government of Japan for technical cooperation comprising development of a national biodiversity database system geared to consolidating data based on systematic monitoring.</p>		
2. Project Overview		
(1) Overall Goal: The second generation of national biodiversity database system is developed.		
(2) Project Purpose: The first generation of national biodiversity database system is developed.		
(3) Outputs:		
1. Architecture of NBDS is developed in VEA with the cooperation of MARD, MOST, Viet Nam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) and other relevant agencies, institutes, etc.		
2. Mechanism for collaboration with other agencies in sharing, managing, exploiting and utilizing data and information of NBDS is recommended.		
3. A database for Nam Dinh Province is developed as a part of NBDS.		
4. Capacity on management and utilization of NBDS is strengthened.		
(4) Inputs (as of July 2014)		
Japanese side : Total 259,285,000 yen		
1) Experts 67.64 MM		
2) Trainees received 22 persons (Japan and Malaysia)		

<sup>1</sup> the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat the Ramsar Convention

<sup>2</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

<p>3) Equipment Approximately 6,155 thousand Japanese Yen  Vietnamese Side :</p> <p>1) Counterpart (C/P)s: 53 C/Ps  2) Facilities (Project office)  3) C/P fund (537 thousand USD)</p>				
2. Evaluation Team				
Members of Evaluation Team	No.	Name	Position	Organization
	1	Dr. Motohiro HASEGAWA	Team Leader	Senior Advisor, JICA
	2	Prof. Susumu TAKAHASHI	Biodiversity Conservation Administration	Professor, Faculty of Education, Kyohei University
	3	Ms. Tomoko TAIRA	Cooperation Planning	Advisor, Forestry and Nature Conservation Division 1, Global Environment Department, JICA
	4	Mr. Jun TOTSUKAWA	Evaluation Analysis	Director, International Department Sano Planning Co., Ltd
Period of Evaluation	13th July, 2014 – 2ed August, 2014			Type of Evaluation: Terminal Evaluation
3. Results of Evaluation				
3-1 Accomplishment of the Project				
3-1-1 Achievement of the Outputs				
(1) Output 1 :				
<p>Output 1 is in the right direction towards achievement. It is highly likely to be completed by the end of the Project through workshops inviting the stakeholders for gaining their comments. As to the indicator 1, “specification, data formats of NBDS” were almost fulfilled, and “MONRE’s approval” as the indicator 2 is likely to be achieved. Therefore Output 1 is achieved by the end of the project.</p>				
(2) Output 2 :				
<p>Output 2 is in the right direction towards achievement. Collaboration mechanism with stakeholders is to be defined in the legal document, which is now under development by the Core group. Judging from the current progress, the legal document is highly possible to be completed. The indicator’s requirement, “assessment survey”, was already conducted, and the indicator 2 “recommendation of legal document” will be achieved as abovementioned. Therefore Output 2 is achieved by the end of the project.</p>				
(3) Output 3:				
<p>Output 3 is in the right direction towards achievement.</p> <p>The database of Nam Dinh DONRE is now developing on the basis of information and data of XTNP as a part of NBDS. The indicators, “data entry”, “technical guideline”, and “trainings for DONRE’s staffs’ were almost fulfilled as of the terminal evaluation. Only the “manual” will be made during the remaining project period. Therefore Output 3 is achieved by the end of the project.</p>				
(4) Output 4:				
<p>Output 4 is progressing towards achievement by the end of the Project, though, it is required to raise the achievement level through further capacity development to BCA/VEA/DONRE, which ensures stable management of NBDS. The indicator 1, “gaining skills to manage NBDS” was fulfilled at a certain level. Other indicators about “manual” and “awareness workshop” are likely to be achieved until the end of the Project. Therefore Output 4 is achieved by the end of the project.</p>				

### 3-1-2 Achievement of the Project Purpose

The Project purpose is in the right direction towards achievement. It is highly likely to be achieved by the end of the Project. The indicator 1, “approval of MONRE/VEA” is highly expected. The indicator 2, “data entry” was already completed, and “development, operation and maintenance of NBDS” will be possibly confirmed within the Project period. Therefore the Project Purpose is achieved by the end of the project.

### 3-2 Summary of Evaluation<sup>3</sup>

#### 3-2-1 Relevance: High

The Project is in accordance with the priority of development policies of Vietnam and Japan’s Assistance policy. In Vietnam, the National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, vision to 2030 was issued in July 2013 as the Prime minister’s Decision in addition to the Biodiversity law in 2009. The Strategy places “establishment of biodiversity database” as one of the seven prioritized programs. The Project’s contents and direction meets with the MONRE’s needs. Also, the Project effectively utilizes Japanese experiences. In this line, the relevance of the Project is evaluated high.

#### 3-2-2 Effectiveness: Relatively high

The Project purpose has been steadily preceded towards their achievement. It is highly likely to be achieved within the Project period. Only the Output 4, capacity development is necessary to upgrade the achievement level. The logic of relationship/hierarchy between the Project purpose and the outputs is consistent. As an overall assessment, the effectiveness of the Project is relatively high.

#### 3-2-3 Efficiency: Relatively high

Japanese side made manpower inputs on both Information Technology (IT) and biodiversity aspects. The Project assigned additional experts who have expertise on environmental policy and/or administration. The additional arrangements have contributed to enriching the Project activities’ contents. Vietnamese manpower inputs are also evaluated appropriate.

However, looking at the beginning half of the Project period, the Project had no manpower inputs who actually engage in making outputs such as the Core groups. It influenced on the progress of the Project activities. In this line, the efficiency of the Project is evaluated relatively high.

#### 3-2-4 Impacts: Relatively high

Achievement of the overall goal will be influenced on the actual implementation of the Master scheme. Judging from information as of the terminal evaluation, there are concerns on financial aspect. In this line, achievement forecast is evaluated moderate.

On the other hand, the Project produced many varieties of impacts on technical, organizational and academic aspects.

Overall, the impact of the Project is evaluated relatively high.

#### 3-2-5 Sustainability: Moderate

Sustainability to utilize continuously the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of the NBDS can be positively evaluated, on the other hand, development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation is challenging from the technical and financial aspects because the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation development requires larger budget and trainings for persons in charge of collection of biodiversity data at the field level nationwide. In this line, the sustainability is evaluated moderate. However, if the Master Scheme will be officially approved and implemented by the Vietnamese government accordingly, sustainability is expected to be raised.

### 3-3 Contribution factors

#### (1) External human resource input of local experts:

The Core groups are composed of local experts such as university faculties, experts from private companies including consultants, in addition to government officials. Their expertise has contributed a lot to producing a series of the Project’s outputs. In addition to contribution to the outputs, these local experts have functioned to bridge understandings between the Vietnamese counterparts and Japanese experts.

#### (2) Assignment of a technical coordinator

The Project has assigned a technical coordinator as an additional human resource input in order to activate the Core groups’ works since the January 2014. The coordinator has monitored the works’

<sup>3</sup> Five categories are evaluated by five ranks: high, relatively high, moderate, relatively lower, and low.

progress and to instruct for the Core groups' works to get back on the right track when necessary.

(3) Effective use of the mid-term review

Effectively utilizing the mid-term review occasion, both Japanese experts and Vietnamese counterparts reconfirmed the expected and necessary outputs with necessary implementation structure during the Project period.

3-4 Inhibition factors

- Limited functions for Technical Working Group

The Technical Working Group (TWG) did not achieve function so much as the Project originally expected. It was originally expected to be the main body of drafting project outputs based on the consensus of participating members. As of the terminal evaluation, the Core groups were the solution for the dedicated body of drafting project outputs instead of TWG.

3-5 Conclusion

The purpose and the series of the activities of the Project are consistent with the policy and needs of the Vietnamese government. The Project purpose, development of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of the NBDS, is likely to be achieved within the Project period along with expected outputs. The Project also contributed to developing capacity of the main counterpart, BCA, and other departments/organizations such as Information Technology Center (ITC) of VEA, Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (IEBR). Various impacts on technical and academic aspects are observed as well.

As for the sustainability of the Project's outputs, the sustainable use of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of the NBDS is positively expected, and the development of further generations of the NBDS requires strong leadership and initiative of MONRE because it requires constant budgeting and capacity development of the persons in charge of survey and monitoring at the field level nationwide.

The Project will be terminated as planned in March 2015.

3-6 Recommendations

3-6-1 Within the Project period:

(1) Recommendation to MONRE

a) Strengthening of the NBDS and collaboration with various stakeholders

As the Biodiversity law and related strategies define, it is important for MONRE to play a key role in establishment of NBDS as well as maintenance of this system. It is very crucial to have collaboration with various stakeholders such as MARD, line ministries, provincial authorities, research institutions, etc.

b) Early approval and implementation of the Master scheme and legal document on collaboration mechanism  
MONRE should proceed to finalization of the Master scheme and legal document on collaboration mechanism as soon as possible, and start explanation to the stakeholders and official approval process.

c) Transformation of the Core group or Establishment of an Advisory Board

It is important to continue or develop the technical network, cooperation/partnership relations, which were established as the Core group in the Project. Establishing an Advisory Board will be an option for this purpose.

d) Securing budget for further works on the NBDS in the year of 2015

Budget for the works on the NBDS in the year of 2015 should be secured by the counterpart fund.

3-6-2 After the Project ends:

(1) Recommendation to MONRE

a) Securing budget for the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of the NBDS

It is important to secure budget for developing the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of the NBDS. Effectively utilizing the roadmap and necessary budget described in the Master scheme, MONRE should actively make efforts to receive necessary budget.

b) Public relations for the NBDS promotion

It is important to conduct public relation activities on the NBDS continuously even after the

Project ends, inviting the target users such as line ministries, local government, universities, research institutes and others.

c) Promoting establishment of collaboration mechanism at central and provincial level

It is important to promote and/or encourage the Provincial People's Committee (PPC) for establishment of collaboration mechanism at provincial level, which can contribute to efficient data collection of biodiversity, in addition to the collaboration mechanism at central level.

d) Effective alignment and avoidance of duplicated efforts with other databases

It is important to examine the content and functionalities, strength and weakness of existing databases of other organizations, and to align them with avoidance of duplication.

(2) Recommendation to JICA

- Further assistance

It is recommended that further assistance be given to MONRE to strengthen NBDS. It appears to be essential to examine the database system in a different ecosystem(s) with a different user(s) as a pilot. It would create an opportunity to refine the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of NBDS before disseminating it to other provinces.

3-7 Lessons learned

(1) Monitoring and flexibility

Trends and required actions on climate change and biodiversity issues are frequently changed in accordance with international policies and discussions. In case that the Project assists in this kind of dynamic sector, it is important to conduct regular basis monitoring by resource persons in the sectors from the beginning of the Project. The Project is also requested to be flexible all the time for such frequently changing environment.

(2) International initiative

Registration under international initiatives such as the Ramsar Convention and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme is useful and effective for promoting proactive management.

3-8 Follow up

Nil