

# THE ANNAMITES CARBON SINKS AND BIODIVERSITY (CarBi) PROJECT

Avoidance of deforestation and forest degradation in the border area of southern Laos and central Vietnam for the long-term preservation of carbon sinks and biodiversity

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## BACKGROUND

Degradation and conversion of natural forests in Vietnam continue at unprecedented rate due to illegal logging, agriculture expansion and a lack of forest protection. Despite reforestation successes in Vietnam, the nation's growing demand for timber spurs deforestation and associated carbon emissions in neighboring countries with rich forest cover, including Laos.

Laos is one of the countries with the largest forest cover in Southeast Asia, but it also experiences one of the highest deforestation rates (1.4 % or 134,000 ha p.a.). Together with forest degradation, deforestation accounts for approximately 70% of greenhouse-gas emissions in Laos. While illegal logging is recognized as one of the main factors leading to forest degradation, infrastructure projects and agricultural activities are key drivers of forest conversion.

The increasing fragmentation and degradation of the natural forests threatens both habitat connectivity and ecosystem resilience. Acknowledging the pressure upon the forest resources both countries are engaged, nationally and internationally, in the process of REDD+, or "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation". This process increases the motivation of forest authorities and local people in both countries to halt deforestation and address the trade of illegal forest products more effectively.





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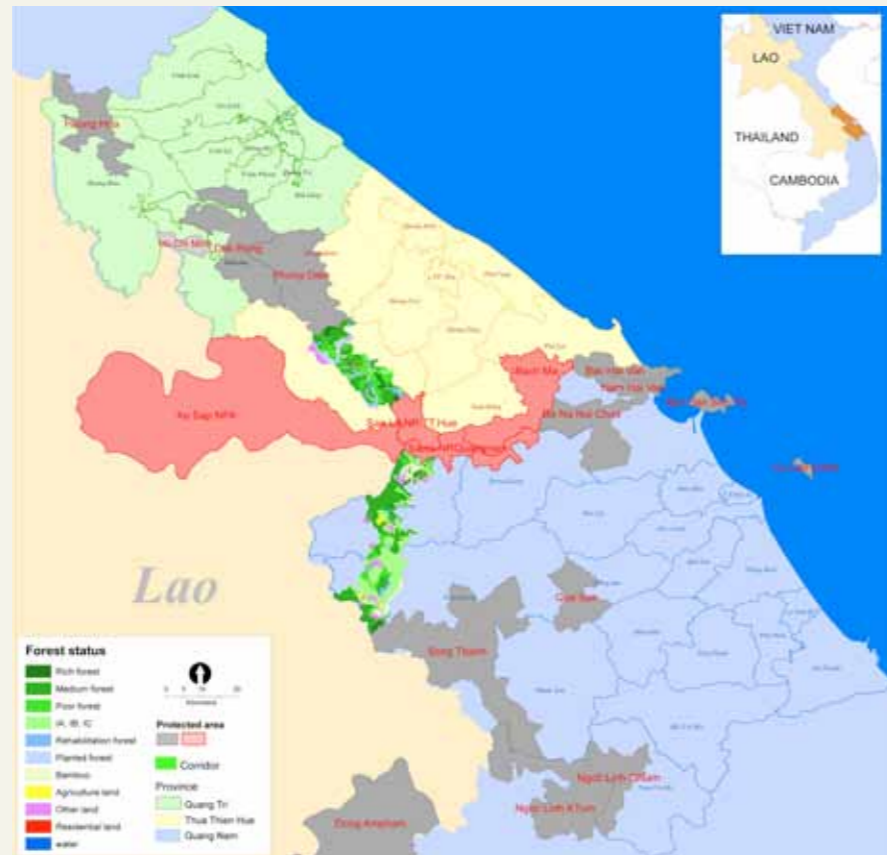


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## PROJECT GOAL

The project will work from 2011 to 2014 towards sustainable management and protection of an area of approx. 200,000 ha of trans-boundary forest, rich in species and carbon, comprising the two Saola Nature Reserves and the Bach Ma National Park extension in Vietnam, and the Xe Sap National Protected Area in Laos. These areas are connected with Phong Dien and Song Thanh Nature Reserves (Vietnam) via natural forest corridors.

The project area is located within the Annamite mountain range – an important carbon sink which links central Vietnam with southern Laos (see map). This mountain range is an area of high biodiversity, unique endemism, and includes one of the largest continuous natural forest areas in continental Asia. It has been designated a WWF eco-region, but is also an area where deforestation and illegal logging are rife.



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## PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Improving Protected Area management: better protection and development of the interconnected conservation areas in Vietnam and Laos through improved control, training, and effective management practices.
- Natural forest restoration: rehabilitation of neighboring forest corridors in Vietnam through reforestation and sustainable forest management.
- Reducing illegal logging and control of trans-boundary timber trade: in a unique approach CarBi tackles international leakages linked to REDD, by addressing illegal cross-border timber trade between Laos and Vietnam. Systems are being introduced that make the timber trade between Laos and Vietnam more transparent. The results will guide the implementation of national and international processes, in particular EU FLEG-T, the U.S. Lacey Act, UN REDD and the World Bank FCPF.
- Trans-boundary REDD pilot: training of the local Government administrations in REDD, development of a Project Design Document (PDD) and assessment of forest carbon reserves and their change during the project duration.

## PROJECT INDICATORS

- Emissions of 1.8 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> deriving from deforestation and forest degradation will be avoided.
- Populations of mammals, especially ungulates, will be protected and their numbers increase in the Protected Areas.
- Trans-border illegal timber trade from Laos to Vietnam is reduced by 40% in the project region.
- At least 400 households will have benefitted from the sustainable use of natural forest as well as from compensation mechanisms for use restrictions and effective forest protection.



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## TARGET AUDIENCE

Local populations in 100 villages surrounding the protected areas and forest corridors – approx. 5,000 to 7,000 people;

Forest administrations in Laos and Vietnam at all levels, including forest police, environmental police, border police, and state owned forestry enterprises – approx. 400 people.



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The CarBi project is supported with € 7 Mio. by the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and with € 1.2 Mio by WWF Germany.

On behalf of the German Government, KfW - the German development bank - has taken on the role of the German financing agency. WWF has been assigned the function of the implementing agency, in close collaboration with Government partners in Vietnam and Laos.

Since 2008, ICI has been financing climate protection projects in developing and newly industrialized countries, as well as countries in transition in Central and Eastern Europe. Based on a decision taken by the German parliament (Bundestag), € 120 million from the auctioning of emission allowances is available for use by ICI annually. By means of this innovative financial mechanism, BMU effectively contributes towards emission reduction and adaptation to climate change. This new form of climate cooperation complements the existing development cooperation work of the German Government.

The funding focuses on the BASIC countries (Brazil, China, India, South Africa) and Russia. The ICI is active in three areas: (i) promoting climate-friendly economies, (ii) fostering measures to adapt to the effects of climate change and (iii) ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of natural carbon reservoirs/reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

When selecting projects, BMU attaches great importance to developing innovative, multipliable and transferable approaches whose results are maintained long after completion.

Targeted cooperation with partner countries provides the ICI with an important impetus for an international climate agreement. The ICI also makes a significant contribution towards the international dialogue on creating a climate change financial architecture.

# CARBON SINKS & BIODIVERSITY

## SUMMARY

Project site:	Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue provinces
Project Implementation organization:	WWF Vietnam Programme
Thua Thien Hue Counterpart agencies:	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Saola Nature Reserve and Bach Ma National Park
Quang Nam Counterpart agencies:	Forest Protection Department, Saola Nature Reserve
Donor:	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany (funded through KfW)
Time span:	4 years (2011 – 2014)

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

<p>Improving Protected Area (PA) management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake baseline assessments of biodiversity, management effectiveness and law enforcement</li> <li>Develop/revise PA management plans</li> <li>Implement the management plans, e.g. infrastructure measures, integration of different monitoring systems, buffer zone establishment, financial compensation for use restrictions.</li> </ul>	<p>Natural forest restoration in the degraded forest corridors in Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue provinces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis of the current state of forest corridors</li> <li>Participatory planning, and allocating forest plots to individual households and communities</li> <li>Forest rehabilitation, consisting of a mixture of reforestation, natural regeneration and enrichment planting, forest protection contracts with the local population, as well as community-based forest management.</li> </ul>
<p>Reducing illegal logging and control of trans-boundary timber trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance trans-boundary cooperation of neighboring provinces and government agencies regarding illegal timber trade</li> <li>Develop monitoring and surveillance systems for law enforcement agencies and villages/communities.</li> </ul>	<p>Trans-boundary REDD pilot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a trans-boundary REDD Project Design Document (PDD)</li> <li>Build capacity on REDD inventory, monitoring, baselines, and trans-border leakage.</li> <li>Collaborate with stakeholders i.e. national agencies, communities.</li> </ul>

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- The Saola Nature Reserves in the central Vietnam provinces Quang Nam and Thua Tien Hue, and the expansion area of Bach Ma National Park, are effectively managed.
- Natural forests are restored, fragmentation is reduced and natural forests are properly managed in the A Luoi corridor in Thua Thien Hue province and the Tay Giang corridor in Quang Nam province.
- Sub-National REDD capacity, a trans-boundary PDD and MRV (monitoring, reporting, and verification) for forest carbon are developed in the provinces of Quang Nam, and Thua Thien Hue.
- Illegal logging is reduced and cross-border timber trade is brought under control.

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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