

**A Regional Strategic Conservation Planning Workshop for
Wild Cattle and Buffaloes in South and South-east Asia
&
A National Action Planning Workshop for Wild Cattle and
Buffaloes in Vietnam**



*Tam Dao National Park, Hanoi, Vietnam
8-17 June 2008*

Convened and Co-Hosted by

**IUCN/SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group
and Wild Cattle Conservation Project in Vietnam (National Institute of Animal
Husbandry, Cat Tien National Park, CIRAD)**

Sponsored by

French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)



Workshop Rationale and Goals: range-wide conservation planning process for Asian wild cattle and buffaloes

The goal of this process is to facilitate the development of conservation plans for Asian wild cattle and buffaloes throughout their range. The process involves mapping the remaining populations of all species, identifying populations and areas in need of conservation attention, and sharing experience of conservation tools for these species. Our hope is that the process will be of value to all those engaged with conservation of these species, including national governments as well as local and international NGOs. The process is designed to be flexible enough to allow it to meet diverse needs identified by participants in the process.

The process has been developed as a partnership between the IUCN/SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group, the Wild Cattle Conservation Project in Vietnam (National Institute of Animal Husbandry, Cat Tien National Park, CIRAD), and the Wildlife Conservation Society. It is centred upon two regional strategic planning workshops to be held concurrently in Vietnam in June 2008, and a series of national action planning workshops to be held subsequently, with the first – for Vietnam – to be held immediately after the regional workshops.

Mapping is the first step in the process. Participants will map and characterise known populations of all species, as well as areas that may sustain populations but where recent survey data are lacking. Participants will also identify lands which may act as linkages between known populations, and areas where the species might be restored in future. Preliminary maps will be developed before each regional workshop, and refined at the workshops themselves.

Population comparisons will be conducted at the regional workshops, using mapping data to identify areas in need of conservation attention. Populations will be compared within species along two or more “axes”. One such axis will represent populations’ importance for preservation of the species and their ecological roles (e.g. size, connectivity, ecological functionality). A second axis will represent the magnitude and urgency of threats facing each population. Additional axes may also be identified by participants: possibilities include the species’ economic value in different areas, or the relative costs of conserving different populations. Conservationists from both governments and NGOs will be able to use these comparisons, in the context of their own organisational goals, to identify priority areas for conservation action at the national, regional, and range-wide level.

Strategic planning will follow on from the mapping and population comparisons. Participants in the process will use this information to identify key threats to wild cattle and buffalo populations within South and South-east Asia, and share experiences of different approaches to mitigate these threats. This information will be used to develop two regional strategic conservation plans (one of South Asia and one for South-east Asia) within a participatory process. The plan will list objectives together with appropriate activities aimed at mitigating and eliminating threats to wild cattle and buffalo conservation. The plan will be relatively high-level, but will be devised in such a way that it can easily be used within a national conservation planning process, and hence promote and aid national implementation of regional objectives. Recent successful examples of this approach include the regional strategies and national action plans developed for Cheetahs, African Wild Dogs, and African Elephants.

National workshops are a vital part of the process since most conservation action is planned and implemented at the national or local level. The regional workshops will therefore be followed by a series of national workshops, with the first (for Vietnam) following immediately after the regional workshops. Participants from other countries will be encouraged to plan and organise their own national workshops, with the support of the IUCN/SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group.

Outputs from the process will include reports from each workshop presenting updated distribution maps, descriptions of conservation tools particular to these species, two regional conservation strategies for wild cattle and buffaloes in South and South-east Asia, and a national action plan for Vietnam. The workshop process will of course also feed into the IUCN Red List. Finally, the production of regional conservation strategies that can easily be applied at a national level will facilitate national implementation of conservation policy in favour of wild cattle and buffaloes.

**Provisional agenda for the Regional Strategic Conservation Planning
Workshop for Asian Wild Cattle and Buffaloes**

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**National Action Planning Workshop for Vietnam's Wild Cattle and
Buffaloes**

| Date | Regional strategic conservation planning workshop for Asian wild cattle and buffaloes | National action planning workshop for Vietnam's wild cattle and buffaloes |
|-------------|---|--|
| Day 1 | <i>Delegates arrive</i> | |
| Day 2 | Introduction and presentation of aims Presentation and revision of status reports, threat data, and distribution maps | |
| Day 3 | Updated distribution maps finalized Evaluation of threats to wild cattle and buffaloes | |
| Day 4 | Status revision completed, possibly including identification of priority conservation areas Vision, goals, and objectives of strategic plans for S & SE Asia developed | |
| Day 5 | Strategic plans' objectives agreed and targets and activities drafted | |
| Day 6 | Regional strategic plans for S & SE Asia finalized. Discussion of next steps including national endorsements and national planning | |
| Day 7 | <i>International delegates depart other free to join group excursion to Ha Long Bay or Hanoi</i> | <i>Additional national delegates arrive</i> |
| Day 8 | Present, review, and update status information from regional meeting. Presentations and discussions on tools for wild cattle and buffalo conservation. Presentation and discussion of regional strategic plan for SE Asia | |
| Day 9 | Refine regional strategy for SE Asia to develop national strategy for Vietnam including planning conservation actions and timelines. <i>Delegates depart</i> | |
| Day 10 | <i>All remaining delegates depart</i> | |

Workshop Logistics

- *Venue:* Mela Hotel, Tam Dao National Park. One hour from Noi Bai Airport, Hanoi, Vietnam. Tam Dao National Park was established in 1996 on 368 km². The national park lies along a mountainous massif; there are several peaks over 1,400 m in elevation in the national park, known as the “island in the sky”, because often only their peaks are visible above ringing cloud formations. They are covered by evergreen bamboo forest and inhabited by over 230 species of birds and over 300 species of butterflies. Unfortunately large mammals like gaur are locally extinct in the park.
- *Dates:* Arrival and check-in dates 8 June 2008, Workshop opens Monday 9 June.
- *Field trip:* Small group excursion hopefully to be arranged post-workshop to visit Ha Long Bay or Hanoi. Details pending.
- *Language:* workshop working language in English.
- *Workshop rapporteur:* to be appointed by AWCSG officers.
- *Social events:* One or two informal evening sessions or receptions at the beginning and end of the workshop are contemplated.

Workshop Organizing Committee

Co-chair: Simon Hedges, WCS, United Kingdom

Co-chair: James Burton, Earthwatch Institute, United Kingdom

Co-chair: Miguel Pedrono, CIRAD, Vietnam

Vu Chi Cuong, NIAH, Vietnam

Tran Van Thanh, Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam

Karen Minkowski, Range-wide conservation planning specialist, USA