

To: Mrs. Tran Minh Hien
Country Director of WWF Vietnam programme

Cc: Mr. Marc-Alexander Gross
Greater Annamites Coordinator
WWF Greater Mekong Programme,

Hanoi, 14 June 2010

Re: Endorsement of the Expression of Interest "*Decreasing deforestation and forest degradation in the border area of Central Vietnam and Southern Laos by avoiding leakages to maintain forest carbon pools and biological diversity*".

Dear Mrs. Tran Minh Hien

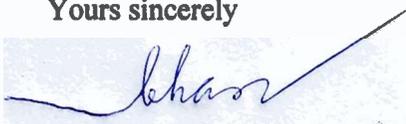
Referring your letter requesting National Focal Point for Programme of Work on Protected Areas to endorse project idea titled "Decreasing deforestation and forest degradation in the border area of Central Vietnam and Southern Laos by avoiding leakages to maintain forest carbon pools and biological diversity", we would like have some comments as followings:

The Central Annamites landscape (Central Truong Son) in Central Vietnam has been identified as a biological diversity area which contains large natural forest areas and has globally the highest rates of endemism in a continental setting. The Protected Area network in the Central Truong Son is a cornerstone to conserve the unique species combination in the area and maintain large forest carbon pools. The Protected Areas targeted by the suggested project form a belt of forest landscape from the Vietnamese coast in the East to the ridge of the Annamites mountains in the West and are crucial for climate change resilience of the landscape, in particular for affected species to move along changing climate gradients. Also, the project will provide an opportunity for cooperation with Laos government on biodiversity conservation in the region.

As a government agency coordinating biodiversity management issues in Vietnam, as well as being Focal Point for the Programme of Work on Protected Areas of CBD in Vietnam, we very support the project idea. From your letter, we understand that this idea will be further developed and discussed with Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the process of project preparation and implementation. We highly appreciate your recognition of MONRE role in project development and implementation process.

We are looking forward to working with you on further development of this project idea.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. Hoang Thi Thanh Nhan
Focal Point for the Programme of Work on Protected Areas