

## Step 3:

### Assessing protection and conservation status

Assess the extent to which lands and waters are legally protected and effectively managed

Two parts of this process:

1. Assessing the status of protected areas;
2. Assessing the status of other conserved areas.

# 1.1 *Assessing the status of PA* (1/3)

## Definition of a PA

“A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”.

Tool: IUCN categories and governance types.

# *1.1 Assessing the status of PA (2/3)*

## **IUCN's Protected Area categories:**

Ia - PA for science

Ib - PA for wilderness protection

II - PA for ecosystem protection and recreation

III - PA for conservation of specific natural features

IV – PA for conservation through management intervention

V - PA for landscape/seascape conservation or recreation

VI – PA for the sustainable use of nature resources

# 1.1 *Assessing the status of PA (3/3)*

## **PA categories by governance type:**

- Government management;
- Co-management or collaborative management;
- Community-conserved areas; and
- Private protected areas.

⇒ IUCN categories and governance types can be a useful tool when mapping and assessing protection status:

- indicate degree of protection
- identify connectivity gaps in protection

## *1.2 Assessing PA management effectiveness (1/2)*

Methodologies, guides, case studies, analysis... contain the following elements:

- Context: threats, policy environment
- Planning: PA design and planning
- Inputs: resources needed to carry out management
- Processes: the way in which management is conducted

## 1.2 Assessing PA management effectiveness (2/2)

- Outputs:
    - the implementation of management programs and actions;
    - delivery of products and services
  - Outcomes:
    - Assessment of the results of management actions;
    - The extent to which they achieved objectives.
- \* Adv.: pinpoint the strengths, weaknesses and threats within PAs
- \* Dis.: issues of connectivity are not included in a PA management effectiveness assessment.

# *Assessing and measuring other conserved areas and sustainable use areas (1/4)*

**Definition:** “other conserved areas” (OCA) or “sustainable use areas” (SUA) = lands and waters that are not part of a legally-designated PA.

## **Current situation:**

- OCA and SUA facilitate the maintenance of connectivity at a landscape scale;
- OCA or SUA may also provide significant ecological benefits.

BUT

- most planning processes focus exclusively on legal PA w/o considering other alternatives.

## *Assessing and measuring other conserved areas and sustainable use areas (2/4)*

### Types of other conserved areas:

- Legally-established system (reserves)
- Third party certification (Stewardship Council, certification)
- Second party certification (ISO standards & certification)
- Voluntary agreements (Codes of practice, agreement, protected sites...)



# *Assessing and measuring other conserved areas and sustainable use areas (3/4)*

## Challenges of using OCA, SUA

- no commonly agreed upon classification system of other conserved areas

## Tool: a system for

- measuring the contribution of OCA and
- assessing their contribution to connectivity

## *Assessing and measuring other conserved areas and sustainable use areas (4/4)*

*Five parameters for measuring OCA include:*

- Biodiversity value*
- Biodiversity planning instruments*
- Amount of modification*
- Permanence*
- Social sustainability*

# Vietnam's case

Vietnam's context:

- High biodiversity value,
- High population,
- Limited NR-land per capita,
- Poverty.

⇒ conservation in human-dominated landscape

- Governance (conflict of interests => reconciliation, prioritisation, coordination).

# Vietnam's case

Five categories of PAs:

1. National Park (IUCN's category II)
2. Nature Conservation Area (NCA)
  - Nature Reserve (I)
  - Species and Habitat Conservation Area (IV)
3. Landscape Conservation Area (III&IV)
4. Scientific Forest

In the NP and NCA, there are three zones: strict protection zone, ecosystem rehabilitation zone and service-administration zone (tourism sub-zone, administration sub-zone and residential sub-zone)

# Vietnam's case

## Governance:

- NPs managed by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development / Forest Protection Department;
- NPs and PAs managed by provinces, districts, forest protection sub-departments, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and others, even some PAs have no management authority;
- Co-management and collaborative management are encouraged but just piloted and results are limited.

# Vietnam's case

## ***Conservation as a component of rural land use.***

Evaluation of conservation criteria at the landscape level, it includes an assessment of existing PAs but is by no means limited by their boundaries;

A picture of conservation values of the entire landscape is built up by analysing

- field conservation measures,
- biological and physical information, and
- geographical analysis of forest cover.

# Vietnam's case

- Each conservation value, or criteria, is graded and forms a layer in a cumulative analysis;
- Put all the layers together and the resulting map will show biodiversity 'hotspots',
- In most cases, the biodiversity-rich areas, representing priorities for conservation management, will not be restricted to the defined PAs within the landscape.

The goal of this systematic analysis is to establish *conservation as a component of rural land use*.

# Vietnam's case

- 2001-2004 helped Bac Kan FPSD in development, designation and management of the 'South Xuan Lac Species and Habitat Conservation Area' and its buffer zone.
- Aim:
  - conserve a suite of national and international biodiversity values, and
  - implement pilot project for collaborative management of a PA involving local community.
- Process: main activities include
  - biodiversity rapid survey (=>Biological values include many fauna rare and threatened species, Tonkin Snub-nosed monkey, Francois Langur and night heron),
  - identification of potential reserve location,
  - preliminary reserve design,
  - site nomination,
  - information gap identification,
  - detailed stakeholder consultation