

Amphibian Conservation Needs Assessment workshop for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia

Hanoi, Vietnam, March 26-30 2012

The Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, at the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology in Hanoi, Vietnam, hosted a five-day amphibian conservation needs assessment workshop in March 2012. During the workshop, the conservation needs of 203 species of amphibians occurring in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were assessed.

Twenty participants met during the five-day period, with representatives from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Germany, France, China, Australia, the Philippines, and the USA. The workshop was jointly funded by grants from the Conservation Food and Health Foundation, the Conservation and Collection Management Committee of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, and the Prince Bernhard Fund For Nature.

Two main issues were re-iterated during the workshop. Firstly, there is very little known about many amphibian species in the wild in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and a great deal more field research is required to obtain a thorough understanding of the status of the region's amphibians. Secondly, although a number of species occur in protected areas within the region, most of these protected areas are not providing *effective* protection, and there is still collection of animals, habitat destruction for agriculture and mining taking place in these areas. This is especially evident in Cambodia where there is almost not real protection for natural habitat.

During the workshop, 90 species were recommended for *in situ* conservation work to ensure their survival in the wild, 123 species (mostly classified as Data Deficient) require additional *in situ* research to determine their distribution or the threats they face, 5 species were identified as husbandry analogs for more threatened species or for *ex situ* research, 81 species were identified as being suitable for conservation education purposes and there were 25 species that do not require conservation action at this time. There are also a number of species that require further taxonomic work to determine correct species limits.

The complete results from the workshop are available on the Conservation Needs Assessment web site, www.ConservationNeeds.org/AssessmentSearch.aspx.

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During the workshop, twenty experts assessed the conservation needs of 203 species of amphibians occurring in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. (Photo: Phung My Trung).



Amphibian experts from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Germany, France, China, Australia, the Philippines and the USA met in Hanoi for the Amphibian Conservation Needs Assessment workshop. (Photo: Jeremy Holden).