

GMS Transboundary Biodiversity Landscape Management Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing Event Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, PRC

13 – 15 June 2017



WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

**GMS Transboundary Biodiversity Landscape Management
Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing Event
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Summary of Proceedings

Introduction

1. Program Overview. The Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiatives of the ADB Core Environment Program (CEP) has been promoting biodiversity conservation and joint transboundary biodiversity landscape (TBL) management in three critical TBLs in the GMS. These are: Sino-Vietnam Karst landscape (Guangxi, PRC and Cao Bang, Viet Nam); Mekong Headwaters landscape (Yunnan, PRC and Luang Namtha, Lao PDR); and Eastern Forest Complex – Cardamom Mountains landscape (Thailand and Cambodia). It supports cooperation between neighboring countries on biodiversity conservation, ecological and habitat restoration, and sustainable livelihoods for local communities. The CEP also promotes climate change adaptation, ecosystem-based approaches, and payment for ecosystem services as means of supporting sustainable management. The program has been implemented in two phases: Phase I from 2006 to 2011, emphasized establishing Biodiversity Conservation Corridors that connect nearby protected areas; and Phase II from 2012 – 2017, focusing on the promotion of Transboundary Biodiversity Landscapes and Livelihoods in joint biodiversity landscapes between two (and potentially three) GMS countries.

To encourage the formulation of joint TBL action plans and share positive experience in biodiversity management among relevant practitioners, a Regional Sharing Event on GMS Transboundary Biodiversity Landscape Management was held in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, PRC from 13 to 15 June 2017. The event was co-organized by Yunnan Environmental Protection Department (YEPD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO) of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) of PRC, and ADB Environment Operations Center (EOC). It brought 70 participants from the six GMS countries involved in the CEP Program, EOC and ADB Consultants, and Development Partners. See list of participants in **Annex 1**.

2. Objectives of the Event. The objectives were to: (i) share knowledge, learning experiences and good practices from implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Project, and Transboundary Biodiversity Landscape and Livelihoods Program in the GMS; (ii) expose participants to China's best practices in establishing biodiversity conservation corridors and promoting public-private partnership (PPP) in sustainable management of natural capital; and (iii) develop joint TBL management strategies and action plans for the Mekong Headwaters, Sino-Vietnam Karst, and EFCOM-Cardamom Mountains TBLs.

3. Main Themes/Activities. Activities included (i) structured field visits to learn from good practices on biodiversity conservation, corridor establishment and management, sustainable livelihoods, and mutual interaction between the livelihoods, ecosystem services and conservation; (ii) review, discussion, and development of

Mekong Headwaters TBL management, measures, and conservation cooperation, taking climate change adaptation into consideration; (iii) review, discussion, and development of Sino-Vietnam Karst TBL management, measures, and conservation cooperation, including climate change adaptation; (iv) review and discussion of the Cardamom–EFCOM TBL management, measures, and conservation cooperation; (v) review and discussion on the international best practices and potential joint TBL actions for Cardamoms – EFCOM, Mekong Headwaters, and Sino – Vietnam Karst; and (vi) the discussion and formulation of a joint 2018-2022 TBL Management Strategies and Action Plans for Mekong Headwaters (Yunnan and Lao PDR); Mekong Headwaters (Yunnan and Myanmar); Cardamom-EFCOM (Cambodia and Thailand), and Sino-Vietnam Karst TBL (Guangxi and Cao Bang). See the full agenda in **Annex 2**.

4. Structured Field Visit. During the field visit, participants learned about good practices for biodiversity and corridor management, local livelihoods, and their mutual interaction from the (i) Nabanhe-Mangao biodiversity corridor established under the CEP I; (ii) Eco-tea plantation and ecological restoration sites in the established corridors; (iii) the Eco-village of Manxing; and (iv) the Virgin Forest Park by YEPD and Golden Peacock Group.

5. Discussion. Discussion and reflection points during the field visits focused on these key questions:

(i) The biodiversity corridors that have been established on 37.7 % state-owned and 62.3 % collective-owned lands, so what are the differences before and after the establishment with regard to the land use rights, crop production/management, and benefits?

(ii) What are priority policy supports or incentives for motivating active participation and strong support from relevant stakeholders and local people to the corridor establishment and management?

(iii) What are the understandings, forms of participation, and kinds of support involving local people/communities in the establishment and management of the corridors?

The reflections led to diverse perspectives. Some found little difference in land uses when the corridors had been established. It was agreed that the biodiversity corridors were effectively designed for functions of connectivity of two or more protected areas (PAs), and reduced fragmentation, enhanced ecosystem resilience, and improved habitats. It was noted that the corridor lands and forests are not PAs, so they are managed by local people as ordinary lands and buffer zones. Policies and incentives for motivating local participation and support have not yet been applied, and the official regulations are being developed from the government. Local communities seemed happy to jointly manage their lands in the corridors for long term biodiversity conservation.

6. Outputs/outcomes. From the field visits, participants generally found that: (i) the local communities involved in the project were reasonably happy with the project activities, implementation, and maintenance; (ii) successful corridor establishment led to good linkage between conservation activities (gaur management, corridors, habitat restoration) and livelihood development in the communities; and (iii) the effective village waste water treatment should be replicated for larger scales.

They also saw a good example of the use of ecosystem services (eco-tourism in the case of Virgin Forest Park) for sustainable livelihoods and conservation to “respect and be close to nature”; it was a good example of PPP collaboration. On management and operation, the Virgin Forest Park followed the basic principles of the China National Forest Park Management Method (2011). This means that the park shall protect the forest landscape resources and biodiversity, popularize ecological knowledge, and develop forest eco-tourism. For running park business, its management shall follow the principle of "Strict protection, scientific planning, unified management, sound utilization and eco-balance development." Currently, the park maximizes the ecosystem services and functions as much as possible, then the public’s “willingness to pay” for ecosystem services would be “more willing”, thereby reaching a “win-win” situation for sustainable development and effective ecosystem conservation.

In conclusion, the participants found the field visits and case studies to be good practices for sharing knowledge and experiences on how to establish and sustainably manage the biodiversity corridors for long term management. They need policy support and active participation of stakeholders, especially the local communities, and incentives to link biodiversity conservation, corridors, local livelihoods, and ecosystem services.

7. Lessons learned on required future activities.

(i) Biodiversity corridors, biodiversity landscapes, landscape restoration and landscape approach are critical for modern natural resource management and sustainability, but they are new and are not yet understood by stakeholders, especially local officials and communities. It is therefore important that public awareness, capacity building, and communication are promoted to improve their approach and implementation.

(ii) Biodiversity corridors have been found to be effective, but they now need to be officially categorized in the land use systems (provincial, national, and regional).

(iii) Priority policy/regulations and incentives need to be applied for conservation corridor establishment and management to promote local participation and build sustainable livelihoods.

(iv) The landscape restoration approach should be considered a major tool for maintaining sustainable ecosystems that support biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate change adaptation.

Opening Section

8. The Welcoming Remark was delivered by Mr. Zhai Guiying, Deputy Director FECO of MEP, followed by Opening Remarks from Mr. Gao Zhengwen Deputy Director YEPD and Mr. Dao Shiming, Vice Party Secretary of XSBN Prefecture Government. The team leader of CEP II Program, Dr. Suchat Katima, presented a program overview of the Knowledge Sharing Event, covering the main themes and activities, and the expected results from the event.

Section One: CEP BCI in China and Mekong Headwaters TBL Management and Conservation Cooperation

9. Presentations included:
- **GMS CEP - BCI in China** was presented by Dr. XIAO Suili from FECO /MEP to review program highlights, main achievements, and outlook of Phase 3 (**Annex 3**). A video clip showed the activities of CEP BCI China, including results and achievements on biodiversity landscape management, corridor establishment, TBL collaboration, livelihood development, outstanding issues and future needs.
 - **Yunnan Biodiversity Conservation Corridor and Sustainable Management** had two presentations: (a) “The Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Planning of Xishuangbanna” by Dr. Guo Xianming from the Research Institute of Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve, focused on the master plan of the provincial corridors from a spatial planning viewpoint and approach, detailed procedures for corridor demarcation, proposed land use zoning/planning for the corridors, and a roadmap for institutionalization and mainstreaming of the conservation corridors (**Annex 4**). (b) The “Sino-Lao Trans-boundary Joint Protection for Asian Elephants and Exploration of Cross-Border Corridor Establishment,” by Dr. Luo Aidong from Research Institute of Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve addressed transboundary conservation collaboration in general and cross-border Asian Elephant Conservation between Xishuangbanna, Yunnan PRC, and three northern provinces of Laos (Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, and Phong Saly). The presentation also proposed a plan for the cross-border conservation of the Asian Elephant, highlighted the proposal for Trans-boundary Biodiversity Corridors for the Elephant, biodiversity landscapes, and ecosystems (**Annex 5**).
 - It was followed by a panel discussion on **Mekong Headwaters TBL Cooperation: History, Present and Outlook**, facilitated by Ms. Muanpong Juntopas, Climate Change Specialist, CEP – EOC and attended by representatives from Yunnan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. The panel discussed (a) the proposed Technical Assistance through cooperation between PRC and Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam, and (b) the potential areas for collaboration between Yunnan, PRC with Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam.
10. Discussion and Outputs
- Discussion of The Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Planning of Xishuangbanna focused on the participatory approach and consultation needed for full understanding and consensus from stakeholders, especially local people, for corridor establishment and management. The corridors should be officially linked and mainstreamed into the provincial and national land use planning (LUP) and the systems. To promote active participation and support from stakeholders for corridor establishment and management, supportive policy and regulations need to be made for the lands, forests (resources), local people, other land owners (resource managers), and management measures.

- Discussion of Sino-Lao Trans-boundary Joint Protection for Asian Elephants and Exploration of Cross-Border Corridor Establishment addressed the specific policies and regulations required for the conservation and livelihood development of local communities for harmonization of issues between conservation and development. Villagers are often concerned about potential conflicts between elephant conservation and the livelihoods of local people, an issue that would come back with Section 5 of Joint TBL strategies and action plan formulation for Mekong Headwaters between Yunnan, SRC, and Luang Namtha, Lao PDR.
- The panel discussion on Mekong Headwaters TBL Cooperation covered current environmental training, transboundary landscape management and community emission control demonstrations that are provided by YEPD to the DoNRE Luang Namtha of Lao PDR under the MoU signed between the two sides. Attempts to establish bilateral environmental cooperation between YEPD with Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar have been made. Myanmar cooperates with India and China, but no TBL project as yet. Understanding and future action plans from Myanmar will need support to establish effective transboundary conservation, TBL corridors, capacity building, and specific mechanisms for transboundary cooperation. Thailand is interested in exploring key options for transboundary cooperation with Myanmar, and transboundary cooperation with Vietnam is also expected for the fields of biodiversity survey and research, communication, environmental education, and awareness raising. Vietnam called for more improvement on institutional arrangements for biodiversity conservation and proposed future cooperation with Yunnan in cooperating on taxonomic research supporting biodiversity conservation and management, and transboundary TBL corridor establishment, management and cooperation between Yunnan and four provinces of Vietnam (Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Lao Cai, and Ha Giang) with shared and connected PAs, biodiversity landscapes, and forest ecosystems. The key challenge for the transboundary cooperation, especially at the start, would be a practical mechanism for the TBL cooperation.

Section Two: Sino-Vietnam Karst TBL Management and Conservation Cooperation

11. Presentations included:

- **Guangxi Sino-Vietnam Karst Ecological Restoration and Integration of Climate Change Considerations in BCC Planning** also had two elements: (a) “Lessons learned and best practices in designing and implementing ecological restoration of Sino-Vietnam Karst Biodiversity Landscape”, presented by Dr. Wang Shuangling, Guangxi Biodiversity Expert, focused on implementation and achievement of the ecological restoration in established corridors and in response to climate changes for adaptation, better planning and management (**Annex 6**). (b) “Practices in integrating Climate Change Adaptation

considerations into Transboundary Biodiversity Landscape Plan in Guangxi,” by Mr. Lin Weidong from Guangxi Environmental Protection International Cooperation & Exchange Center, GEPD, shared biodiversity assessments, main threats, recent climate changes, and their impact analyses in Guangxi Sino-Vietnam Karst Landscapes, followed by the Guangxi Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (Guangxi BSAP issued 2014), and Transboundary Collaboration Program between Guangxi and Cao Bang of Vietnam (**Annex 7**).

- **Cao Bang Sino-Vietnam Karst Ecological Restoration and Integration of Climate Change Considerations in BCC Planning** also had two presentations: (a) “Cao Bang BL management strategies and action plans – implementation experiences” was presented by Dr. Le Xuan Canh, ADB Biodiversity Consultant. This presentation introduced the current status and practices of biodiversity management in Cao Bang, Vietnam, its strengths and challenges with a strong focus on the Cao Vit Gibbon, considered critically endangered on the IUCN Red List, with only about 150 gibbons surviving in border areas of Cao Bang and Guangxi. Their conservation is included in the detailed Strategy and Action Plans for Biodiversity Conservation (BSAP) of the Cao Bang with its vision up to 2030, nine strategic and specific goals for period of 2016-2020, and six main activities for future investment plans. This Cao Bang BSAP has been recently approved by the Provincial People Committee (PPC) (**Annex 8**). (b) “Integration of Climate Change Adaptation into Bio-conservation, with focus on Caovit Gibbon Species, in Cao Bang province, parts of Sino-Vietnamese Karst Landscapes” was presented by Dr. Le Quoc Huy on behalf of Mr. Le Thanh Vinh, Environment Policy Specialist, CEP-EOC. The presentation covered basic concepts and key assessments of climate change, its vulnerability and impacts, climate change adaptation and mutual interaction among them. It also made recommendations for future actions for biodiversity management, conservation for the whole landscapes and with special focus on the Caovit Gibbon species while taking climate change adaptation into consideration. This CCAP has been reviewed by the Cao Bang province and BCA/VEA Vietnam for further improvement and actions (**Annex 9**).
- A panel discussion on **Mekong Headwaters TBL Cooperation: History, present and outlook** was held to discuss (a) the transboundary Caovit Gibbon Conservation Plan and Joint Actions, and other TBL cooperation between Guangxi and Cao Bang, and (b) potential areas of future cooperation and emerging needs and issues. This panel discussion was facilitated by Dr. XIAO Suili from FECO /MEP and attended by representatives from Guangxi, Cao Bang and BCA/VEA, Vietnam, and finally followed by an open discussion.

12. Discussion and Outputs

- The discussion was opened with a question regarding the status of the Guangxi CCAP (Climate Change Adaptation Plan), with the answer that its formal approval was expected soon.
- Some important discussions on the Cao Bang BL management strategies and action plans addressed key areas for cross border habitat connectivity during

rapid economic development, impacts of climate changes, degradation of natural landscapes and biodiversity, ecological security in the karst areas, and building a strategy for trans-boundary management. Regarding traditional knowledge of local minority people, Vietnam has developed a national program that engages with research projects, scientists for better approach and implementation (specific compositions, substances of the traditional medicines, for example), and for knowledge sharing, development and preservation. Regarding the issue of differences in scale between biodiversity corridors in Guangxi and Cao Bang, it is essential for establishment of transboundary corridors and cross border TBL cooperation for both sides to discuss details on future cooperation, collaboration mechanisms, action plans, and implementation.

- Panel discussion and open forum: Dr. Suili asked about MOU actions post-signing 2015 to focus on conservation, Cao Vit Gibbon, monitoring, enhancement of community livelihood, and awareness raising. She noted that conservation policies would come from MEP and other agencies/departments, and China has been increasing its efforts on biodiversity conservation. Resourcing and monitoring issues are now included in China's national biodiversity projects. With regard to local livelihoods and community development, the Chinese government supports close cooperation for the participation and support. It hopes that their dependence on forests will be considerably reduced and that local livelihoods and their roles in biodiversity conservation will be significantly enhanced. The CEP BCI in China has had an effective seed fund activity (CDF) that is getting bigger and better.

Mr. Lin Weidong GEPD expressed the importance of a signed MOU as the key mechanism for bilateral cooperation and exchange. He also addressed the usefulness of GMS resources and knowledge exchange events organized both in Cao Bang and Guangxi. The cooperation on biodiversity conservation has been developed for Guangxi with four provinces in Vietnam and teams from the agencies through annual meetings. A joint strategic plan will guide future development. The initial framework for cooperation has been developed but needs more details for implementation. Funding still remains an issue for the transboundary collaboration.

Ms. Nguyen Dang Thu Cuc (BCA/VEA, Vietnam) proposed more frequent meetings between PA officials on law enforcement, community engagement, and sustainable use of the natural resources for the transboundary cooperation. She also called for proposals for research cooperation on potential subjects.

Dr. Le Xuan Canh also pointed out the needs of the transboundary corridors, the mechanism for establishment and management, and the monitoring of endangered species with special focus on the Caovit Gibbon.

Dr. Xiao Suili addressed the limitation of resources and funding for immediate actions, livelihoods, and policy development, and raised the question of priorities for the MOU in the next five years. Suggestion from Dr. Wang was for two fronts, with support from ADB and MEP, to obtain more government support to translate

planning and ideas into actions at macro and micro levels and to carry out bilateral cooperation. The focus is now on the Gibbon, but it will be expanded.

Some final discussion from the panelists focused on the need for legal and cooperation frameworks, technical guidance, how to scale up the experiences of the corridor and VDF in China, how to share them with Vietnam, development of TBL corridors from both sides of Cao Bang and Guangxi, more practical research and knowledge share, and how to sustainably monitor and utilize the shared natural resources (ecosystem services, biodiversity, genetic resources, and other relevance).

- Open Forum: based on the MoU signed between Guangxi and Cao Bang provinces for the Sino-Vietnam Karst TBL cooperation, activities have been conducted such as joint technical meetings and knowledge sharing events, regular meetings, joint patrolling for forest and biodiversity protection, and further discussions for collaboration mechanism. Due to limitation of the budget, many planned activities could not be implemented. Dr. Suchat Katima asked for a possibility for China to find funds for South-South cooperation rather than just relying on small ADB-EOC pots. Dr. Suili reflected that there may be a mix of international cooperation and national funds; the key is to have solid ideas and concepts and that will help gain funding.

Section Three: Cardamom – EFCOM TBL Management and Conservation Cooperation

13. Activities and subjects included:

- **Collaborative Management for Watershed and Ecosystem Service Protection and Rehabilitation in the Cardamom Mountains, Upper Prek Thnot River Basin of Cambodia** was presented by Mr. Meng Monyrak, the Director, Department of Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia to share their lessons learned and practices on how to restore and maintain forest cover, watershed stability functions, and ecosystem services in combination with providing sustainable livelihoods to local communities in the Upper Prek Thnot Watershed (**Annex 10**).
- **Catalyzing the Sustainability of Thailand’s Protected Area System (CATSPA – EFCOM)** presented by Dr. Songtam Suksawang, Director of National Parks Office, Department of National Parks, Thailand to share lessons learned on how to deal with the issues of complexity and fragmentation of forests, land use systems, environmental degradation, and social pressures in the context of current climate changes in Thailand. Thailand’s practices with the ecosystem/landscape approach, collaborative management, buffer zone arrangement, connectivity management and climate change adaptation is very modern and growing in effectiveness (**Annex 11**).
- It was then followed by a panel discussion on **Cardamom – EFCOM TBL Management and Conservation Cooperation** to discuss the potential areas

for the TBL collaboration between Thailand and Cambodia. It was attended by delegates from Thailand and Cambodia.

14. Discussion and Outputs

- The discussion was opened with a question to Dr. Songtam on the balance between natural resources and people in the corridors. This balance would entail compromise for livelihoods, habitat, and conservation (designing, restoring, protecting and using). For the Cardamom-EFCOM TBL collaboration and management, transboundary corridors need to be established from both sides, which will help form biodiversity landscapes that will support wildlife conservation and ecosystem resilience on both sides of the border.
- From the open forum and discussion, several potential areas for the TBL collaboration between Thailand and Cambodia were suggested: (i) PA management planning (to develop a joint strategy for the entire transboundary PA, establish joint thematic working groups, and develop joint monitoring system for natural resource planning and management), (ii) cooperation on protection of natural resources (coordination of protective measures concerning protected species, rare habitats and endangered ecosystems; maintenance and restoration of ecological corridors, joint patrolling, sharing of the intelligence database and law enforcement methods); (iii) sustainable ecotourism and nature tourism development (preparation of sustainable development strategy, development of joint tourism services, organize joint training, and so on); (iv) capacity building for PA authorities (joint staff training, staff exchange for best management practice, measures, tools and equipment); and (v) joint research for important and relevant fields.
- Cambodian delegates sought help on (i) how to establish a joint strategic plan for the entire transboundary PA between two countries with different administrative systems, operation and management, and (ii) how to establish a joint database for information and data exchange/share with different data systems and operational arrangements.
- The proposed potential areas for TBL collaboration between Thailand and Cambodia were shared by Le Quoc Huy were similar activities proposed for the Sino-Vietnam Karst TBL cooperation between Guangxi and Cao Bang: (i) joint monitoring system for NRs, biodiversity landscapes and ecosystems, (ii) joint transboundary biodiversity corridors, (iii) joint research from both sides on issues of shared TBL and NRs, and (iv) transboundary eco-tours.

Section Four

15. Activities and subjects included:

- **Overview of PRC Biodiversity Conservation and TBL Cooperation** with presentation of “China’s Biodiversity and Transboundary Conservation” (**Annex 12**) delivered by Prof. Zhang Fengchun to share a full picture of Biodiversity and Conservation in China, the challenges facing for the conservation now and the experience in Transboundary Cooperation in China.

- **International Best Practices and Potential Joint TBL Actions in GMS Transboundary Landscapes** presented by Prof. Jeffrey McNeely (**Annex 13**) to introduce the best practices in ecological corridors as a major international innovation for biodiversity management and transboundary conservation, the relationship between human and natural infrastructures, and how to manage their interaction and balance with the transboundary cooperation as a promising solution. The presentation also proposed six potential joint actions (share the best technology, transboundary eco-tours, landscape approach for PA and agriculture management, stronger public support, joint transboundary research, and collaboration for climate change adaptation) for TBL management in the three areas being addressed at the event.
16. Discussion and outputs: this was combined with the discussion of section five.

Section Five: Formulation of Joint 2018 – 2022 TBL Management Strategies and Action Plans

17. Activities and subjects included:

Formulation of Joint 2018 – 2022 TBL Management Strategies and Action Plans for (a) Mekong Headwaters TBL (Yunnan and Lao PDR), (b) Mekong Headwaters TBL (Yunnan and Myanmar), (c) Cardamom-EFCOM (Cambodia and Thailand), and (d) Sino - Vietnam Karst TBL (Guangxi and Cao Bang).

Presentation of proposed strategies and action plans for (a) Mekong Headwaters (b) Mekong Headwaters (c) Cardamom-EFCOM and (d) Sino-Vietnam Karst TBL.

18. Discussion and Outputs

Group discussions and brainstorming sessions were used to draft TBL Management Strategies and Action Plans, guided by two questions: (i) what are potential joint projects that the two countries can do together to promote sustainable transboundary environment and natural capital management in the next five years? and (ii) for CEP Phase 3, what are the current good practices/projects/cooperation you want to “KEEP” (or continue); what are the new initiatives you want to “START” together and what are the bad practices/projects you want to “STOP”? Each geographic group formulated their required outputs as outlined below.

- a) Mekong Headwaters 1:** (i) Promotion and sharing of lessons learned on transboundary corridor construction; (ii) Joint project for studying the impacts of Rubber and Sugar (concession) on the ecosystems; (iii) Establishment of rubber pilots in an ecologically friendly way to support sustainable livelihoods and conservation; (iv) Ecological landscapes and impacts on carbon sequestration; (v) Platform for knowledge sharing; (vi) Development of monitoring scheme for TBL management; (vii) Joint survey and inventory for plant, animal and elephant conservation (*keep*); (viii) Joint capacity building project on environmental planning and management, environmental education, ecological restoration and waste management; (ix) Joint development of ecotours in the Mekong Headwaters TBL between Luang Namtha and Yunnan (*start*); (x) Joint project to

- develop Tea Network (villagers and government); (xi) Joint project on capacity building for environmental impact assessment.
- b) Mekong Headwaters 2:** (i) Establishment of mechanism for communication; (ii) Establishment of joint protected areas; (iii) Technical support to develop biodiversity conservation action plans; (iv) Rural community environment protection (treatment of waste); (v) Area prioritization for TBL spatial planning and biodiversity landscape management with support from GIS based SMCA; (vi) Development of district/state forest management plans.
- c) Cardamom-EFCOM:** (i) Exchange study tour visits (*keep*); (ii) Joint and exchange capacity building (*keep*); (iii) Joint PA management planning project; (iv) Establishment of joint conservation networks for protected areas; (v) Sustainable ecotourism and nature tourism development; (vi) Capacity building for Protected Area management; (vii) Joint research for important and relevant fields; (viii) Joint monitoring project for TBL management.
- d) Sino – Vietnam Karst:** (i) Joint transboundary biological corridor establishment for the Sino-VN Karst TBL management (*keep and new*); (ii) Joint project on the sustainable management and utilization of medicinal plants and genetics resources in the Sino-Vietnam Karst TBL (*new; Nagoya Protocol*); (iii) Transboundary monitoring framework establishment and implementation between Cao bang and Guangxi for the Sino-VN Karst TBL management (*new*); (iv) Transboundary Ecotourism framework establishment and implementation between Cao Bang and Guangxi for TBL management and livelihood development (*new*); (v) Joint project on future projection on the impacts of climate changes on natural distribution and population dynamics of Caovit Gibbon in Sino-VN Karst (*keep, Cao Bang and Guangxi*); (vi) Transboundary environmental management project to support local communities (*keep*); (vii) Joint Daxin – Cao Bang watershed project (*start*); (viii) China-Vietnam MOU mechanism for cooperation, capacity building, trades and principles; (ix) Joint Sustainable Landscape and Corridor Restoration (*keep*); (x) Community-level sustainable livelihood development (*keep*).

The proposed joint projects and activities will be reviewed for further preparation of strategies and action plans of target TBLs (a) Sino – Vietnam Karst (b) Mekong Headwaters, and (c) Cardamom – EFCOM.

Synthesis and Way Forward

19. The six sections including the structured learning visits, the GMS TBL Management Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing Event has been successfully organized, and its planned objectives have been fully achieved. During the event, participants disseminated and shared lessons learned, experience and best practices on biodiversity landscape and ecological corridor management, ecosystem services, livelihoods, and transboundary cooperation. Group brainstorming led to formulation of significant and feasible joint projects with activities proposed for future cooperation and implementation in target TBLs of CEP Phase 3. These proposed joint projects and activities will be further reviewed in coming CEP Events to include into CEP Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2018-2022, that is to be submitted to the 5th Environment

Minister's Meeting (EMM5) in Bangkok in late February 2018 for finalization and implementation. Joint TBL Management Strategy and Action Plans for Sino-VN Karst, Mekong Headwaters and EFCOM- Cardamoms will also be prepared as part of the proposed joint projects and activities.

20. Work remaining for the TBL management and cooperation that need to be completed by 2017 included the following:

- Specific joint TBL project and investment proposals for the CEP III;
- Joint TBL Management Strategy and Action Plans respectively for the Sino-VN Karst, Mekong Headwaters, and EFCOM- Cardamoms; and
- Climate Change Adaptation Plans integrated into TBL management strategies for the Sino-VN Karst, Mekong Headwaters, and EFCOM- Cardamoms.

ANNEXES

These annexes are available online via www.gms-eoc.org

- Annex 1. List of Participants
- Annex 2. Agenda of the TBL Management Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing Event
- Annex 3. GMS CEP-BCI in PRC: Highlights of Phase II & Outlook of Stage III
- Annex 4. The Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Planning of Xishuangbanna by Dr. Guo Xianming from Research Institute of Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve
- Annex 5. Sino-Lao Trans-boundary Joint Protection for Asian Elephants and Exploration of Cross-Border Corridor Establishment by Dr. Luo Aidong from Research Institute of Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve
- Annex 6. Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Designing and Implementing Ecological Restoration of Sino-Vietnam Karst Biodiversity Landscape by Dr. Wang Shuangling, Guangxi Biodiversity Expert
- Annex 7. Practices in Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Considerations into Transboundary Biodiversity Landscape Plan in Guangxi by Mr. Lin Weidong, GEPD
- Annex 8. Cao Bang BL Management Strategies and Action Plans – Implementation Experiences by Dr. Le Xuan Canh, ADB Biodiversity Consultant
- Annex 9. Integration of Climate Change Adaptation into Bio-conservation, with focus on Caovit Gibbon Species, in Cao Bang province, parts of Sino-Vietnamese Karst Landscapes presented by Dr. Le Quoc Huy on behalf of Mr. Le Thanh Vinh, Environment Policy Specialist, CEP-EOC
- Annex 10. Collaborative Management for Watershed and Ecosystem Service Protection and Rehabilitation in the Cardamom Mountains, Upper Prek Thnot River Basin of Cambodia by Cambodian Delegate
- Annex 11. Catalyzing the Sustainability of Thailand's Protected Area System (CATSPA – EFCOM) presented by Dr. Songtam Suksawang, Director of National Parks Office, Department of National Parks, Thailand
- Annex 12. China's Biodiversity and Transboundary Conservation by Prof. Zhang Fengchun
- Annex 13. International Best Practices and Potential Joint TBL Actions in GMS Transboundary Landscapes presented by Prof. Jeffrey McNeely, ADB Biodiversity Conservation Expert