

## **Indigenous Peoples - Social assessment**

### **Indigenous Peoples**

Approximately 49 households (157 people) occur slightly to the north/northwest of the project area of Cat Loc, Cat Tien National Park, in Village 3 and Village 4. The majority of these people's belong to the indigenous Chau Ma/Ma (Village 4) or X'Tieng (Village 3) ethnic groups, with some Kinh people immigrating recently to the project area in both villages. In addition, there are approximately 1000 people in Village 5, Tien Hoang Commune, situated in the northeast of Cat Loc although not technically a part of the National Park. Most residents of Village 5 are Ma people, with some temporary Kinh residents for trading purposes.

The majority of peoples living in the project area gain their income from cultivation of cashew inside the National Park. Rice is the second commonest crop, grown predominantly for consumption, with coffee also cultivated in village 5. Many villagers also conduct forest resource extraction (predominantly NTFPs but some hunting does take place) and some also partake in animal husbandry (pigs, chickens) but on a very small scale. It is not known to what extent the villagers are dependent on hunting as a subsistence or livelihood source, but notably, an elder from Village 4 told WWF that the villagers did not partake in hunting as they had enough income from cashew so it was not necessary. This may or may not be an accurate reflection of reality however as WWF were accompanied by FPD and villagers could have been intimidated by their presence.

Some village members also gain employment in communal work such as cutting grass, collecting cashew nuts and transporting products from one place to another. However, earnings from these activities are extremely marginal. Kinh people normally conduct trading, provide services and buy forestry products at the same time, to supply consumer goods to other people in the area.

### **Impacts and prior consultation**

The research activities conducted by the project supported by WWF will have no negative impacts on the indigenous people's inhabiting Cat Loc. This project will provide some localised benefits by employing the guiding services of two community members from Village 3 or 4 for up to six months.

Considering the activities of the above villages, the enforcement project not funded by CEPF may have some minor negative impacts on the indigenous peoples in the project area, if they typically hunt within the core zone for the rhino (south of Village 3 and 4 and southwest of V5). However, it is thought that snaring and other hunting practices in this area are not conducted by these villagers (but by people not indigenous to the project area), in which case they will not be impacted by the project.

During the project planning process, elders from villages 3 and 4 were consulted and both agreed to take part in the enforcement project by joining patrols into the core zone for the rhino with FPD and national park rangers. These project activities will

provide benefits for eight community members (in total from both villages) to take part in these patrols. Equipment will be provided and per diems paid for their involvement.

WWF will have a substantial presence in and around Cat Tien National Park for the next year at least. We will monitor the situation with local communities, by collecting information on violators encountered and facilitating informal discussions with community members regarding all of the project activities for Javan Rhino in the project area. More formal meetings and discussions can be held with community members, WWF, FPD and the National Park if requested or appropriate.

### **Mitigation**

If project activities are found or are reported to be negatively affecting indigenous peoples in Cat Loc, it is possible that these villagers can be included in current livelihood development initiatives also being undertaken by WWF in Cat Tien District. Inclusion in the 'diversifying landscapes' project (see Process Framework for more details) may be particularly relevant, by providing support to villagers in improving production of cashew, to reduce reliance on Kinh workers and traders and thereby improve livelihoods. However, this needs to be adequately assessed to ensure their inclusion would be successful (access to markets can be achieved) and that this would not occur at the expense of the national park, by encouraging increased encroachment, particularly as these villages are only a few kms from the core zone for the rhino. Inclusion in the project could be arranged if villagers agree to certain stipulations to reduce disturbance to the rhino (e.g. closure of a road bisecting Cat Loc, increasing the amount of habitat available to the rhino and also committing to no further encroachment of national park land). This is likely to be assessed following the implementation of the livelihoods project in less sensitive areas, to allow adaptation of the project approach to the communities living closest to the rhino range.