

STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELEPHANT POPULATION IN VU QUANG NATIONAL PARK

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Summary

Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is a large mammal and endangered species, and special priority in conservation, but their populations in the wild are under high pressure because of habitat loss and conflicts with local people. Vu Quang National Park is situated on the administrative territory of 3 districts of Vu Quang, Huong Khe and Huong Son, Ha Tinh province. This is the habitat of many endangered species, including elephant. Conservation activities of elephants here have currently experiencing difficulties due to lack of the necessary information about the current status of species, distribution, as well as the threats to the species and habitats. Therefore, the objectives were to determine the current status, distribution and threats to them, as a scientific basis for proposing conservation measures. Habitat loss and elephant/human conflict are 2 major threats to elephant populations in the study area. Two main groups of measures to improve the management and conservation of elephant populations were short-term solutions (Protection of existing elephant populations, propaganda and raising awareness for local communities) and long-term solutions.

Keywords: *Status, distribution, elephant, Vu Quang National Park, Ha Tinh.*