



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

VIET NAM COUNTRY OFFICE



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

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Abbreviations

3S River Basin	Srepok, Sesan and Sekong River Basin
CR	Critically Endangered Species
BRIDGE	Building River Dialogue and Governance
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DONRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
EAGL	Expert Group for Assessment of Green List
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GL	Green List
HLCBA	Ha Long Cat Ba Alliance
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IKI	International Climate Initiative
LS2	Lower Sesan 2 Dam
MAM	Mangrove and Markets
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MARPLASTICCs	Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities
MDP	Mekong Delta Plan
MOCST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NBS	National Biodiversity Strategy
NDA	Designated National Authorities
ROAM	Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VBCSD	Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development
VCCI	Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
VNFU	Viet Nam Farmers Union
WHS	World Heritage Site

Message



If 2018 showed anything, it showed the value of partnership. Because of its broad membership, technical capacity, and status as an international organization, IUCN is in a position to contribute to significant advances at the policy and field levels. But these are only possible if we partner with others.

A good example is the USAID-funded Ha Long-Cat Ba Alliance, which brings government agencies, businesses, academics, and NGO together every six months to debate and set an agenda for a cleaner and better managed marine ecosystem. This involves important decisions over the impacts of mass tourism, the need for increased investment in waste water treatment and solid waste management, and the expansion of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Site to include the Cat Ba Archipelago. After five years, we are beginning to see progress on all these fronts.

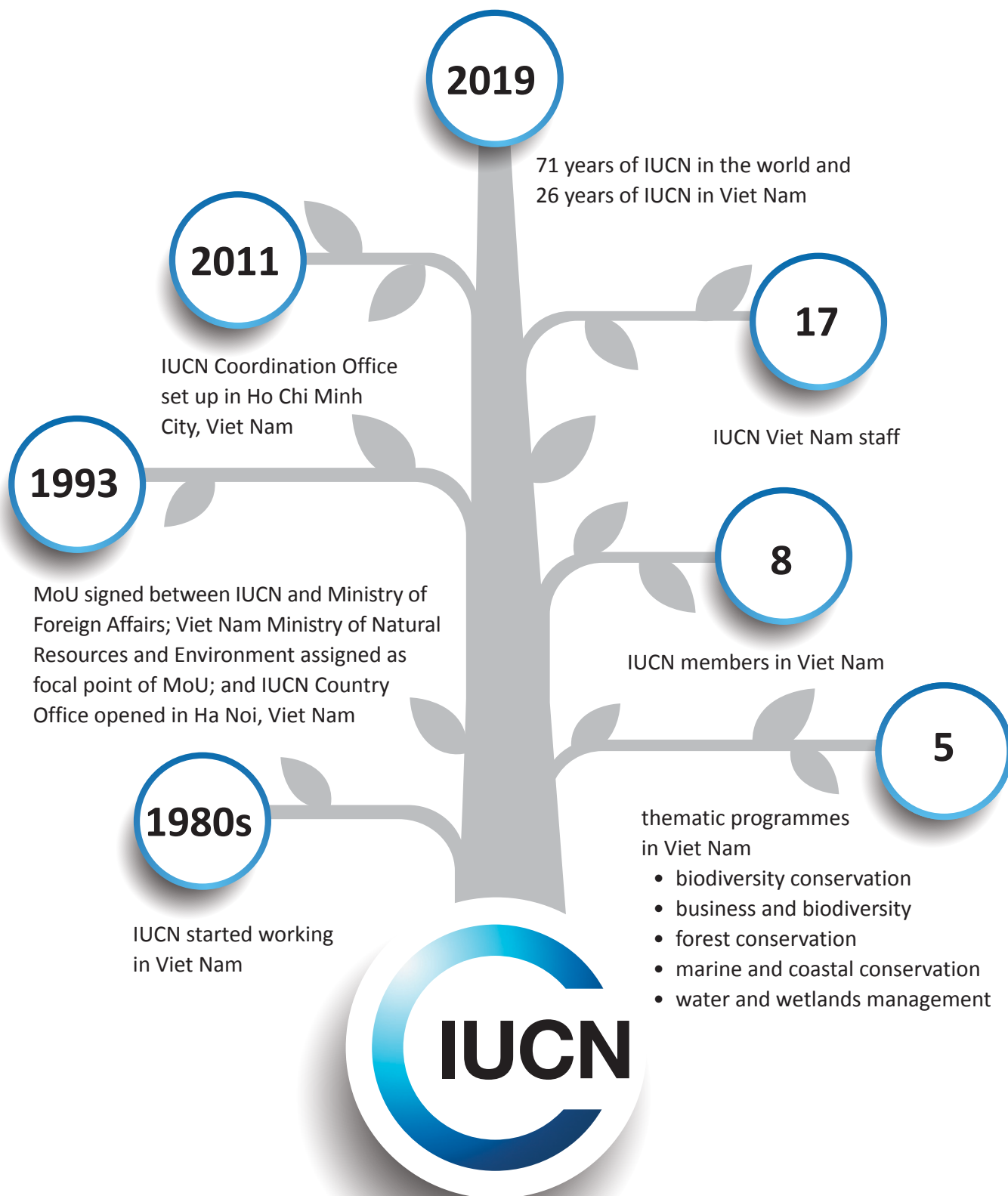
An effective partnership has also been established in the Mekong Delta with the World Bank and other development partners to implement Resolution 120. Issued in November 2017, it aims to de-intensify rice production and move land and water use to more natural and sustainable footing. As part of our support to government, and with support from The Coca Cola Foundation, IUCN is testing profitable low-risk flood-friendly livelihoods such as floating gardens to restore water retention areas. With this experience, IUCN is helping the government prepare a Green Climate Fund proposal to assist 200,000 farmers in the Plain of Reeds and the Greater Long Xuyen Quadrangle to transition out of the third rice crop and into flood-friendly livelihoods.

Finally, Van Long Nature Reserve in Ninh Binh Province has been one of Vietnam's great success stories. Long-term support from the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) has resulted in the recovery of the Critically Endangered Delacour's langur population. The challenge now is to expand the nature reserve to accommodate the growing population. As part of the IUCN Green List Program, IUCN is cooperating with Fauna & Flora International and FZS to quadruple the size of the nature reserve by adding forestland in Hoa Binh and Ha Nam Provinces. This kind of progress takes time and effort and is best delivered through partnerships.

Jake Brunner
Head, IUCN Indo-Burma Group

IUCN Viet Nam in Numbers

www.iucn.org/vietnam



Our Activities in Numbers

2018, IUCN Vietnam in action



12 Workshops organized

- Covering 8 IUCN projects
- On a broad range of topics



813 People trained

- 418 actors of environmental and politic sectors
- 365 farmers
- 30 journalists



25 Provinces engaged

- In the 13 Mekong Delta Provinces
- In the North and Central of Viet Nam



151 Media Coverage produced

- Printed and online newspapers
- Television
- Voice of Viet Nam

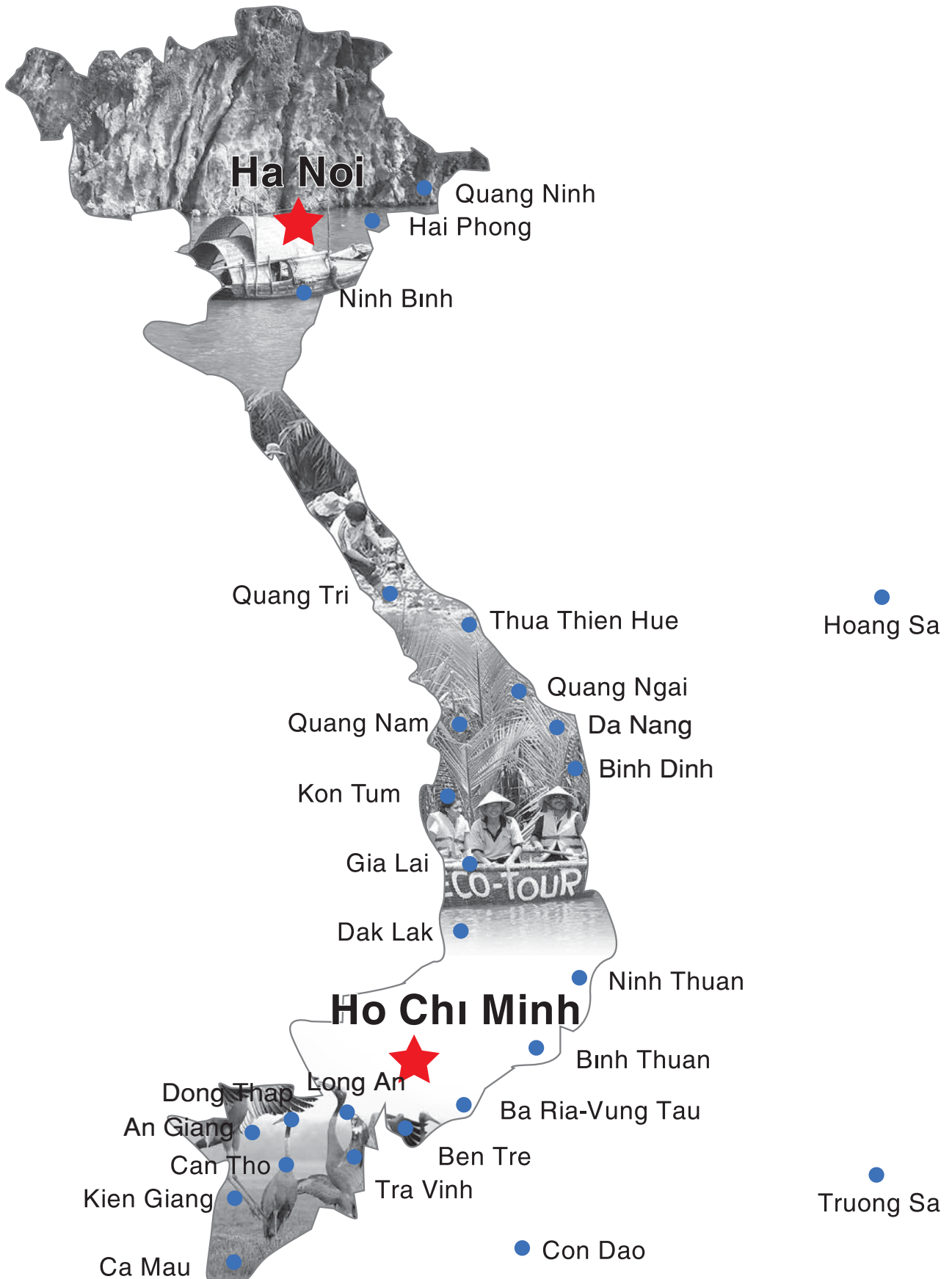


518 Volunteers

- 417 took part in beach cleanups
- 81 enrolled in the Marine Turtle Protection program

Project Locations

Updated March 2019





Membership

Membership

IUCN Viet Nam has a total of seven members including one state member and six local NGOs/research institutes:

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) – state member
2. VNU-Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (VNU-CRES)
3. The Institute of Ecological Economy (ECO-ECO)
4. Centre for Marine Life Conservation and Community Development (MCD)
5. Centre for Environment and Community Research (CECR)
6. GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Center (GreenViet)
7. Live & Learn Viet Nam (L&L)

In 2018, IUCN Viet Nam didn't experience any significant changes in membership development. Expressions of Interest were received from Indo-Myanmar Conservation (IMC) and the Center for Supporting Green Development (Greenhub), two local NGOs. Both have finalized their application documents to IUCN headquarters and are under final review and approval by the IUCN Council in 2019.

During the year, IUCN Viet Nam Office invited members to consultation meetings which included plastic waste pollution in Viet Nam. In June 2016, IUCN Viet Nam members welcomed Ms. Carole Martinez, IUCN Senior Coordinator of Regional Seas/EU Overseas, to update their on-going efforts on marine plastic pollution and to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

While attending the Theory of Change (TOC) workshop on plastic waste management in Viet Nam, IUCN members contributed ideas and initiatives on agenda topics. These contributions highlighted matters of policy advocacy, communications and knowledge, business engagement, and especially local initiatives and measures in reducing plastic waste pollution in Viet Nam.

IUCN and the Stimson Center met with MONRE Vice Minister Le Cong Thanh in December to discuss non-hydro renewables and how these alternatives could reduce the need for large-scale hydropower while providing an opportunity to develop the 3S river basins as a clean energy zone.



Highlights

Business and Biodiversity

Flood-Based Livelihood in Support of Water Retention Strategy of the Mekong Delta

In 2018, the Integrated Planning for Climate Change and Biodiversity project benefited from the continued support of Coca-Cola Vietnam. In January, IUCN staff joined the Mekong Delta Working Group (MDWG) retreat near Hanoi to discuss the far-reaching policy reforms on water and land use in the delta. These talks focused on the **commitment to transition out of the environmentally harmful third rice crop and how the MDWG should adapt as policy advocacy transitions to policy implementation**. IUCN is considered the development partner with the greatest field capacity in the delta.

In February, IUCN met MARD Vice-Minister Hoang Van Thang to discuss how its “monkey cheeks” water retention project will contribute to a \$100M GCF proposal to support the transition out of hyper-intensive rice production in the upper delta. The World Bank and IUCN will lead development of the proposal; MARD will be the project owner; and the Designated National Authorities has indicated support. A project design meeting is scheduled for early April 2020.

In September, the IKI funded Integrated Planning project and Coca-Cola brought Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah from IUCN Bangladesh to **conduct a field school on constructing floating vegetable garden platforms out of water hyacinth**. The field school was conducted in collaboration with the An Giang Fruit and Vegetable Company on their farm in Tri Ton District, An Giang Province and with the support of An Giang DARD. Thirty-five participants attended, including DARD officers from An Giang, Dong Thap, and Long An Provinces, and researchers from Can Tho, An Giang, and Ho Chi Minh City Natural Science University.

Participants received a comprehensive introduction to floating vegetable gardens. Under Haseeb’s guidance, several growing platforms were built, planted with various vegetables, and are now being monitored and tested. If this small-scale test is successful, a larger pilot will be implemented in the next flood season. **Floating gardens are a way to restore the flood storage capacity of the upper delta floodplain by enticing farmers with higher profits to open the high dikes to the floods instead of growing the third rice crop inside¹.**

For more information, please read: <https://www.iucn.org/asia/countries/viet-nam/monkey-cheeks-project>

¹ <https://www.iucn.org/news/bangladesh/201811/blog-floating-agriculture-drifts-bangladesh-viet-nam>



Forest Conservation



Forest and Farm Facility

This year is an important step for the FFF project with a workshop in Hanoi to begin phase 2. This phase emphasizes a landscape approach and is expected to deliver four outcomes:

- More inclusive governance and cross-sectorial processes to enable policies and a legal environment for Forest and Farm Producer Organizations;
- Increased entrepreneurship, access to markets, and finance through equitable value chains and business development services within FFPOs;
- Improved delivery of landscape scale mitigation, adaptation and resilience for climate change through direct engagement of FFPOs, and integration with inclusive livelihood approaches, and
- Improved and equitable access to social and cultural services².

A scoping mission co-organized with Viet Nam Farmer Union followed in September. The mission aimed to study the Yen Bai, Bac Kan and Hoa Binh areas. In all three provinces, **the transition to longer rotation acacia plantations, though underway, is limited by the farmers' need for short-term income.**



In Hoa Binh, large areas of production forest have been converted to fruit trees, which are more profitable than short-term acacia. Several models of integrated farming exist, including agroforestry, fishponds, and eco-tourism exist. These models diversify incomes and promote cultural and social values and could be supported by FFF. **Almost all cooperatives in these provinces are in their infancy with weak governance and service delivery to members. More coaching and capacity building are needed.**

For more information, please read:
<http://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en/>

² <https://www.iucn.org/news/viet-nam/201809/second-phase-fff-gets-going-vietnam>

Forest Landscape Restoration

After the Quang Tri Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) assessment, IUCN organized a validation workshop in Dong Ha in January. From the workshop, it was determined that the total proposed FLR area measures approximately 54,000 hectares, or about 10% of the province. A draft report was produced which identified three major FLR opportunities:

- Enrichment planting and assisted natural regeneration within the province's two protected areas and the corridor connecting them
- Transitioning acacia monoculture plantations upstream of major reservoirs to longer rotations – possibly with the introduction of native species – to produce high value timber
- Improved soil and water conservation in agriculture with a focus on cassava fields to reduce pressure on the remaining natural forest

In May IUCN presented the results of the Quang Tri ROAM assessment during a joint workshop held in Hue with UNIQUE, a German forestry consultancy. The shift from short-rotation acacia plantations to wood chip production then to longer rotation round-wood production or native species introduction can increase incomes while reducing the growing dependency on imported timber in Vietnam's booming wood furniture export industry.

The workshop confirmed the barriers that had been identified previously in Viet Nam's effort to move toward a more diverse and higher value forestry sector. A few days following the workshop, a few days later, IUCN, UNIQUE, and the Dutch development organization SNV, met to discuss a joint International Climate Initiative (IKI) proposal to transition Vietnam's forestry sector from quantity to quality, with an IKI call for Vietnam likely in 2019. The first step for Vietnam is to commit to the Bonn Challenge, a global project for land reforestation.

For more information, please read:

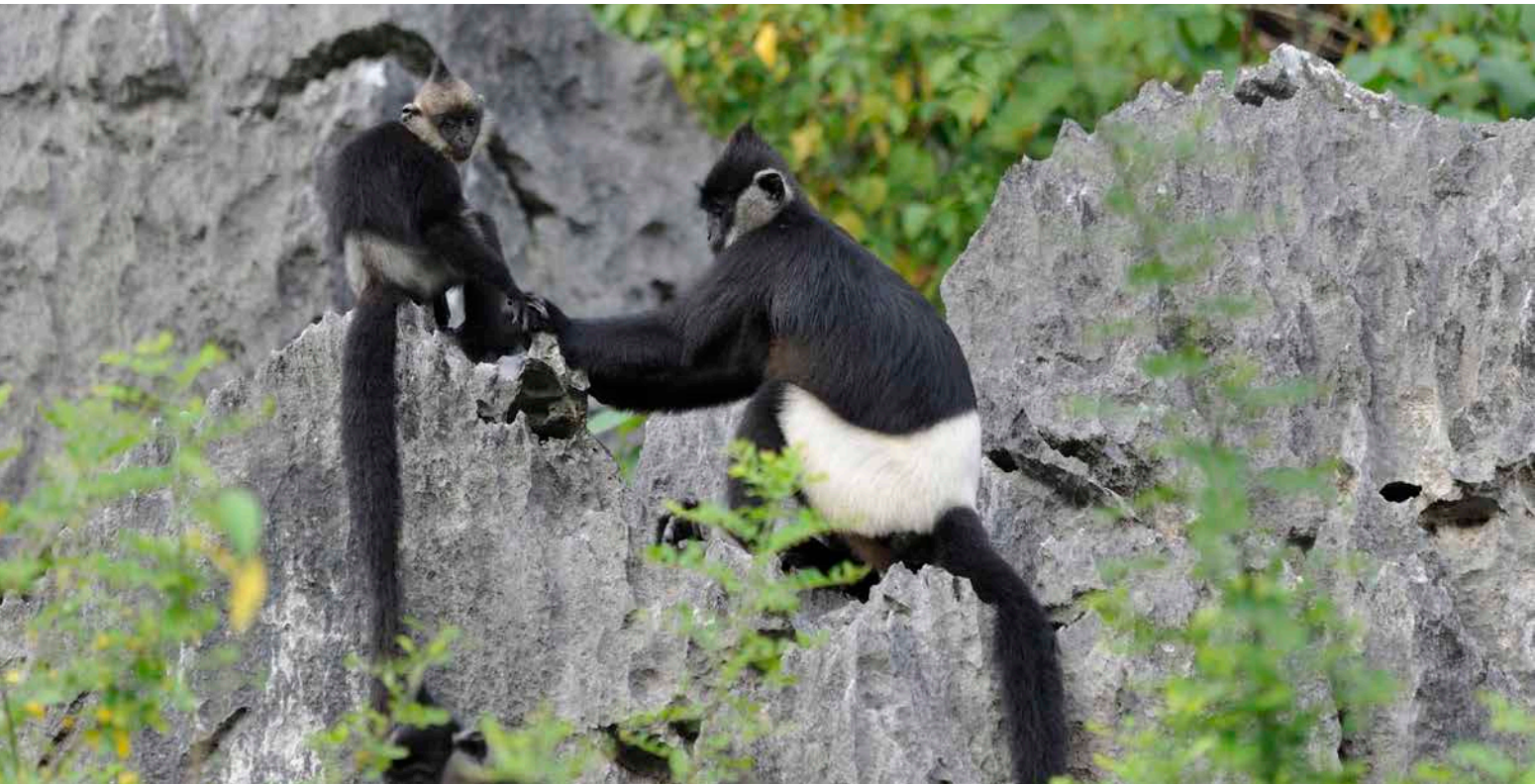
<https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/our-work/forest-landscape-restoration/restoration-opportunities-assessment-methodology-roam>



Protected Areas Solutions

With the PA solutions project, IUCN aims to extend the protected area of Van Long Nature Reserve, home to the Critically Endangered (CR) Delacour's Langur. In January, a team from GRID-Arendal visited the area to collect GIS and field data in advance of a participatory mapping workshop in mid-2018.

The team met the Frankfurt Zoological Society, Fauna & Flora International, and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute in Hanoi. In addition, three days were spent in the Van Long Nature Reserve where team members had the opportunity to interview experts, local authorities, and community representatives. As a result, **the team supported the green listing of Van Long reserve and proposed its extension into Dong Tam (Hoa Binh) and Kim Bang (Ha Nam), which would quadruple the available habitat for the CR Delacour's Langur.**



In April, the Expert Group for Assessment of Green List (EAGL) for Vietnam was launched at a training course for EAGL members in Da Nang. Ten members participated and were trained on Green List (GL) criteria and indicators.

Cat Tien National Park is in the process for inclusion on the Green List. In September, experts returned to Cat Tien to complete the GL registration and to work with park managers on the first round of assessments for GL indicators at the site.

By the end of the year, the registration and self-assessment against GL indicators for Van Long and Cat Tien were completed. The EAGL will now review those assessments and determine if these sites can be Green Listed.

For more information, please read:

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/iucn-green-list-protected-and-conserved-areas>



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Rainforest Trust

The Rainforest Trust project came in April to Rach Gia in southern Viet Nam. The Rainforest Trust focuses on preserving biodiversity and the protection of invertebrates in the fragile Mekong limestone habitat of Kien Giang. IUCN, Kien Giang DONRE, Sub-FIPI (Forest Inventory Planning Institute), and Southern Institute of Ecology Viet Nam organized **the first consultation on the draft feasibility study to establish the Kien Luong Karst Species and Habitat Conservation Area**. More than 20 participants from provincial agencies attended.



Marine and Coastal Conservation



Ha Long Cat Ba Alliance

In March, IUCN organised a 2-day workshop in Ha Long City for cruise boat companies and government departments **on new itineraries based on the OUVs of Ha Long Bay and Cat Ba Archipelago, including the natural history of the karst landscape and its unique biodiversity.** Participants discussed the environmental impacts of mass tourism and how these can be mitigated. By the end of the workshop, three itineraries were developed to attract high-end tourists.

Later in the month, IUCN invited 30 journalists to Hanoi for a briefing that exposed participants to issues surrounding tourism development in Cat Ba. A trip to the island concluded the program allowing the journalists to gain a better understanding of the site's significant biodiversity and environmental values. This participation resulted in broad media coverage and the publication of over 50 stories. The journalists that attended expressed a strong interest and appeared willing to continue investigating these issues³.

The 5th HLCBA leadership committee meeting held in Ha Long City in March was a highlight of the year. The provincial leaders of Quang Ninh and Hai Phong, senior officials from UNESCO, MOFA, and MOCST, businesses, and journalists attended and **discussed waste water treatment solutions in Ha Long Bay World Heritage Site (WHS) and the upcoming plan of the IUCN Advisory Mission on sustainable tourism and waste management.**

IUCN's work with HLCBA has demonstrated the challenges of combating single-use plastics in Ha Long Bay, especially polystyrenes. In June, IUCN co-organised the fourth beach cleanup of the HLCBA with 117 volunteers who collected 741kg of trash on two different beaches in less than an hour. Hazardous waste was found including lighters and hypodermic needles. Yet, **the most striking fact is that 98% of the total amount of material collected was not recyclable**⁴.

In July, IUCN representatives attended a UNESCO conference on World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Contemporary Context in Ha Long. Here, IUCN **led a presentation on private sector engagement in HLCBA and the urgent need to invest in a wastewater collection and treatment system for cruise boats in the bay.**

Following this event, IUCN organized a World Heritage Advisory Mission to Ha Long Bay. Two international consultants were hired to advise on waste and visitor management. Accompanied by senior staff of the Ha Long Bay Management Department, the experts spent three days at the bay and briefed the Chair of the Ha Long City Peoples' Committee on conclusions and recommendations. IUCN has since been informed that the management department will push Au Lac to build a temporary wastewater storage site at its Tuan Chau port.

³ <https://www.iucn.org/news/viet-nam/201804/media-trip-focuses-tourism-development-cat-ba-island>

⁴ <https://www.iucn.org/news/viet-nam/201811/zero-waste-programme-mutual-benefits-both-environment-and-private-sector>





In November, as part of HLCBA, IUCN organized a series of training on terrestrial biodiversity monitoring for staff of Cat Ba National Park and Ha Long Management Board. Twenty-eight people were trained to use simple methods to monitor eight priority species. These species emerged from consultations with staff at the sites based on threat level, endemism, commercial value, and other criteria. After the training, leaders of HLB Management Board stated **their intent to integrate biodiversity monitoring into their management plan and produce an annual work plan to allocate the necessary resources**⁵.

For more information, please read:

<https://www.iucn.org/asia/countries/viet-nam/ha-long-cat-ba-alliance>

⁵ <https://www.iucn.org/news/viet-nam/201812/a-species-list-isnt-enough-protected-area-management>

Marine Coastal and Community Project

In late 2017, IUCN initiated the Marine Plastic and Coastal communities (MARPLASTICCs) initiative to enforce legislation and other effective measures that reduce plastic pollution. These measures emphasized four main outputs: Knowledge, Capacity, Policy, and Business. During June, IUCN received a visit from headquarters to explore opportunities for MARPLASTICCS in Viet Nam by meeting with government officials and the Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD).

IUCN, in collaboration with VBCSD under Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), organised a consultation workshop in September on “Mapping stakeholders and policy barriers in plastic waste reduction in Vietnam” **to identify key local actors and their role in facilitating national action to control plastic pollution and analyse current policies and regulatory frameworks on plastic waste management.** This consultation is the first step among the variety of efforts that MARPLASTICCs intends to deliver in the coming years.

For more information, please read:

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar/our-work/close-plastic-tap-programme/projects>



Marine Turtles Conservation Programme

The marine turtle protection program that began in 2006 continues to be implemented and is growing. In May, with support from the Fish and Wildlife Service, two IUCN staff members conducted a campaign in Ly Son Marine Protected Area (MPA) called “Save a bottle, shape our future” that aims to reduce single-use plastic bottles. The campaign included a **meeting with hotels and guesthouses, which invited them to become drinking water refill stations for tourists as part of the RefillnotLandfill initiative**. The campaign also included a workshop to raise awareness on marine turtle conservation and marine protection for students from two secondary schools, and a redemption program to exchange plastic wastes for multiple-use bags, notebooks, and bottles. Ten businesses agreed to become refill stations⁶.

⁶ <http://vietnamnews.vn/society/438199/islanders-urged-non-use-plastic-bags-and-straws.html#0HrTw47UTEH8eyce.97>



The campaign continued through June as IUCN worked with Bai Tu Long National Park and GreenHub on a workshop to produce artwork from marine plastics. In two hours, volunteers collected 140 kg of waste (mostly expanded polystyrene and plastic bags in smaller amounts), fishing nets, and hazardous waste. Eight works of art were produced from the trash⁷. Coincidentally, during the campaign, a local fisherman caught a 20-kg Green turtle, which was released by volunteers and local authorities.

During June – August, IUCN called for applicants to join the IUCN marine turtles conservation volunteer programme in Con Dao National Park and Hon Cau MPA. The programme received hundreds of applicants and strong interest from different society strata. So far, the programme has **substantially strengthened the capacity of local forest rangers and filled in the gap of human resources shortage during peak nesting seasons.**

For more information, please read:

<https://www.iucn.org/asia/countries/viet-nam/marine-turtle-conservation>

⁷ <http://hanoitv.vn/khi-rac-thai-nhua-va-phao-xop-thanh-tac-pham-nghe-thuat-d92085.html>





Policy Advocacy

In March, IUCN staff attended Vietnam Water Week in Hanoi organized by MONRE, its State member. MONRE presented IUCN's work in the Vu Gia-Thu Bon at a special session organized by SwAM, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management on "source to sea" river basin management.

Later that month, at SwAM's invitation, one IUCN Vietnam representative attended the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia where IUCN's representative presented "Emerging Policy Solutions to Manage Water Quality from Ridge to Reef" during a Swedish session.

The 6th GEF Assembly in June hosted in Da Nang offered a new opportunity for IUCN Vietnam and a headquarter delegation to position plastic waste at the heart of discussions. IUCN supported VASI to organise a side event during the 6th GEF Assembly delivering a commitment to implement a regional cooperation mechanism to minimize the amount of marine plastic debris. In addition, IUCN helped to organize a beach cleanup that was reported at a special session on marine plastics that same day⁸.

⁸ <https://www.iucn.org/news/asia/201806/gef-assembly-beach-clean-yields-nearly-1-kilo-trash-metre-minute#>



Water and Wetlands Management

Integrated Planning for Climate Change and Biodiversity

In July, an IUCN Viet Nam representative attended the annual Integrated Planning team meeting with the Environmental Law Center, IUCN Sur and IUCN East, and South Africa Regional Office (ESARO) in Dar es Salaam to plan for an orderly close to the project by December 2018. Vietnam's results were received with great interest, particularly **the use of flood-based agriculture to address the clearance of wetlands for rice in the Mekong Delta**, which has occurred in Tanzania. Internal meetings were followed with a review of project achievements.

In November, an IUCN Vietnam and MONRE representative participated in the 2 day closing workshop at the Environmental Law Office and attended the Global Landscape Forum in Bonn, Germany. The project delivered a major new publication on Integrated Planning⁹ and accompanying learning materials¹⁰ which were also presented at the GLF. For Vietnam, a highlight was the success in advocating reform of rice intensification policies and its contribution to integrated planning that allows for the possibility of conserving about 300,000 hectares of floodplain in the upper delta. **At the project inception workshop in May 2014, many thought that such a reform was impossible. However, in November 2017 the government issued Resolution 120 to phase out intensive rice production and to “actively” live with the floods.**



Also in November, IUCN delivered a presentation at a conference in Can Tho on challenges and solutions to responding to climate change in the Mekong Delta. The conference was organized by Tuoi Tre, one of Vietnam's leading newspapers. The meeting was attended by party leaders, government officials, and academics and received widespread media coverage. IUCN presented the work of Integrated Planning and Mangrove and Markets (MAM) in the delta, including **flood-based farming systems and coastal planning using integrated mangrove-shrimp systems**¹¹.

⁹ <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48416>

¹⁰ <https://www.iucn.org/theme/environmental-law/our-work/training-and-capacity-building/learning-material-integrated-planning>

¹¹ <https://tuoitre.vn/lam-gi-de-dbscl-phat-trien-ben-vung-20181122164201803.htm>.

IUCN led a 5-member-consultant team at the first all-ministry consultation in Hanoi during the last month of the year for a \$40M World Bank, Green Climate Fund (GCF) project concept to transform flood disaster risk in the Mekong Delta. Participants included representatives from MONRE, MPI, MOF, Dong Thap, and An Giang, which represent eight provinces in the Mekong Delta that share the two large floodplains of the Plain of Reeds and Long Xuyen Quadrangle. The GCF concept proposes investing at scale in nature-based-solutions, specifically flood-based agriculture, to conserve the remaining floodplain and to partially restore flood absorption capacity within rice polders.

To conclude the year, the project team organized a workshop in collaboration with An Giang DARD in Long Xuyen to review the outcomes of over 100 hectares of flood-based livelihood pilots in An Giang and Dong Thap. Sixty participants attended from provincial and district levels departments, Can Tho University, An Giang University, Natural Science University, two major lotus buying companies, Do Thanh and Mega Market, and 20 lotus farmers.

An Giang farmers reported that profits were double that of rice only profits. Lessons include the successful treatment of a previously rare fungal disease in Dong Thap. Do Thanh and Mega Market made significant commitments to buy up this year's production. IUCN also reported on the analysis of heavy metals and nutrients in the floating vegetable garden pilot. No significant uptake into the vegetable crop was found. These results will inform the GCF project design.

For more information, please read:

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/environmental-law/our-work/land-use/integrated-planning-climate-change-and-biodiversity>

Development and implementation of a communication and information dissemination strategy for the principles and recommendations in the Mekong Delta Plan (MPD) Communications Strategy



In January, as a part of MDP Communication Strategy, IUCN team and Can Tho University delivered a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for the Vietnam National Farmers Union (VNFU). The team trained 105 VNFU members from all 13 Mekong Delta provinces to understand and deliver key climate adaptation messages derived from the Mekong Delta Plan. These messages, including **the need to adapt to floods and salinity through nature-based solutions, are now incorporated into national policy and have become a top government priority.** The trainees will deliver the key messages to provinces, districts, and communes across the delta through March.

IUCN delivered the final MDP Communication Strategy training workshop in May for all 13 Mekong Delta provinces in Can Tho. Over 260 participants from provincial and district governments and provincial media participated in the training, which was designed to provoke and inspire participants with practical actions to take on climate change adaptation in their work. This workshop follows the successful rollout of similar training in March for farmers in all 13 provinces conducted with the assistance of the Vietnam Farmers Union and Can Tho University.

In November, IUCN staff joined a synthesis workshop of the Dutch-funded Urbanizing Delta around the World (UDW) project at IHE-Delft, Netherlands. IUCN has contributed its experience with the Mekong Delta Plan and tools such as the Motivation and Ability (MOTA) survey method that we tested in the World Bank Mekong Delta Integrated Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Project project with local partner Centre for Water and Climate Change. Several journal articles are currently under review in a special issue of the Journal for Environmental Planning and Management for an expected publishing date of April 2019¹².

¹² https://strategic-delta-planning.un-ihe.org/sites/strategic-delta-planning.un-ihe.org/files/report_synthesis_workshop_nwo_udw_strategic_delta_planning_project_final.pdf



Building River Dialogue and Governance / Nexus Trade-offs in the 3S River Basins

IUCN, supported by the Stimson Center, participated in a series of meetings with government agencies in Phnom Penh, Vientiane, and Hanoi **to discuss how non-hydro renewables could reduce the need for large-scale hydropower and the opportunity to develop the 3S river basins as a clean energy zone.** These talks led to the determination of some strategic features regarding the implementation of the Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) and 3S Nexus projects.

In Cambodia, now that the LS2 dam has been built cutting off the Srepok and Sesan, there is an opportunity to build dams upstream since the incremental environmental impacts will be low. These could connect to a new transmission line between LS2 and Phnom Penh - and eventually HCMC. Given the amount of sunlight the country receives, **Cambodia could also develop unused economic land concessions in the 3S into solar parks for export to energy-hungry southern Vietnam.**

In Laos, the message concerned **integrating solar and wind into the energy mix** to enable the country to become the green “battery of Asia” and, by implication, **reduce the need to dam the Sekong, the Mekong’s last large free-flowing tributary.**

In Vietnam, the message emphasized substantially **increasing hydropower imports from Laos** (now that Thailand’s interest in building more overseas dams is waning) **provided that dams that pose the greatest risk to the Mekong Delta are removed from consideration**, including any dams on the Sekong mainstream.

For more information, please read:

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/water/our-work/current-projects/bridge>

<https://www.iucn.org/asia/countries/lao-pdr/nexus-trade-offs-3s-river-basins>



Photo credit

Cover page: Indian Coral Trees in Cat Ba Archipelago, Hai Phong city, Viet Nam © Nguyen Xuan Khu

Page 9: Jake Brunner, Head of IUCN Indo Burma, presented MONRE Vice Minister Le Cong Thanh a picture of Voc Mui Hech (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*) in Ha Giang in a meeting © Le Khac Quyet

Page 11: A farmer working on a lotus farm in Plain of Reef, Dong Thap Province, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 12: IUCN staff practised a demonstration of a floating garden in An Giang Province, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 13: Dr. Luu Hong Truong, President of Southern Institute of Ecology instructed staff of Cat Ba Management Board on monitoring plants in Cat Ba National Park © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 14: Grapefruits were displayed in a commercial exhibition in Ha Noi by FFF Management Board © IUCN Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 15: Forest in Bac Kan Province, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 16: Delacour's langur in Van Long Ramsar Site, Ninh Binh Province, Viet Nam © Nguyen Van Truong

Page 17: Peaceful scenery in Van Long Ramsar Site, Ninh Binh Province, Viet Nam © Nguyen Van Truong

Page 18: Fishing boats in Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh Province, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 19: Journalists were interviewing experts during a media trip organised by IUCN in Cat Ba island, Hai Phong city, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 20: Trainees are learning skills on plants monitoring in a training organised by IUCN in Cat Ba National Park © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 21: Staff of IUCN, Greenhub and volunteers are classifying waste types in plastic waste monitoring programme in Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 22: Newly-born-marine turtles in Con Dao National Park, Ba Ria Vung Tau Provinc, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 23: A work art made of plastic waste produced by IUCN volunteer in Bai Tu Long National Park, Quang Ninh Province, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 24: IUCN delegation at the meeting with MONRE Minister during 6th GEF Assembly meeting in Da Nang city, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 25: Dray Nur water fall in Dac Lak Province, Viet Nam © Bui Bich Thuy

Page 26: Lotus cultivation inside high dike in Dong Thap Province © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 27: Building platform by water hyacinth for floating garden in An Giang Province © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 28 & 29: Buon Kuop Hydropower in Srepok River, Dac Lak Province, Viet Nam © Bui Bich Thuy

Back cover: Farmers are caring water caltrop farms during floating seasons in Tri Ton, An Giang Province, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam



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