



ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

VIET NAM COUNTRY OFFICE



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

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Abbreviations

3S River Basin	Srepok, Sesan and Sekong River Basin
ARCM	Asia Regional Committee Meeting
ATP	Asia Turtles Programme
BMUB	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety
BRIDGE	Building River Dialogue and Governance
CECR	Centre for Environment and Community Research
CJ	Citizen Journalism
COMPOSE	Creating an Observatory for Measuring Plastic Occurrences in Society and Environment
CRES	Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EAGL	Expert Group for Assessment of Green List
ECO-ECO	The Institute of Ecological Economy
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FFPO	Forest and Farm Producer Organizations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GIZ	German Corporation for International Cooperation
HLCBA	Ha Long Cat Ba Alliance
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IIED	The International Institute for Environment and Development
IKI	International Climate Initiative
IMC	Indo-Myanmar Conservation
IRD	The Research Institute for Development
ISPONRE	Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
L&L	Live & Learn Viet Nam
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MARPLASTICCs	Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities
MCD	Centre for Marine Life Conservation and Community Development

MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSCAP	Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan
NbS	Nature based Solutions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RCF	Regional Conservation Forum
S2S	Source-To-Sea
SCCC	Siam City Cement Company
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIE	Southern Institute of Ecology
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VASI	Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands
VB4E	Vietnam Business For Environment
VNU	Vietnam National University
VUSTA	Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations
WCC	World Conservation Congress
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Message



2019 was a relatively quiet year for IUCN in Vietnam in that there were no major policy breakthroughs. But a lot was accomplished. Of special note was the signing in October of an MOU between IUCN, TH Group, and ISPONRE to establish Vietnam Business for Environment, or V4BE, Vietnam's first business and biodiversity platform. This was the culmination of a year of negotiations between the three founding members and will be followed by funding agreements to support joint projects with businesses and local NGOs on species and habitat conservation. VB4E will also engage in national-level policy on biodiversity and nature conservation.

With continued assistance from The Coca-Cola Foundation, a highlight of the year was IUCN's work with flood based livelihoods in the upper Mekong Delta, which has given provinces greater confidence to commit to even more ambitious targets to conserve and restore the ecosystem functions of the floods. Through a proposed \$40 million Green Climate Fund project, provinces have proposed to upscale flood-based livelihoods to conserve 17,000 hectares of flood area and to restore 42,600 hectares of lost flood area inside the high dykes. With growing confidence in the benefits of flood-based crops vs. the third rice crop, the An Giang PPC committed to opening up the high dykes to the floods every two years instead of the established 3-year rotation.

An important business engagement opportunity is the "coastal squeeze" that featured at the Mekong Delta Forum that was held in HCMC in June. This refers to the disappearance of the delta's mangroves trapped between the shrimp ponds on one side and rising sea level on the other. The solution that IUCN is advocating is to work with businesses to transition from intensive shrimp farming into a combination of ultra-high intensity Recirculating Aquaculture Systems embedded within an integrated mangrove-shrimp landscape. This would allow the mangroves to retreat inland while protecting important economic interests.

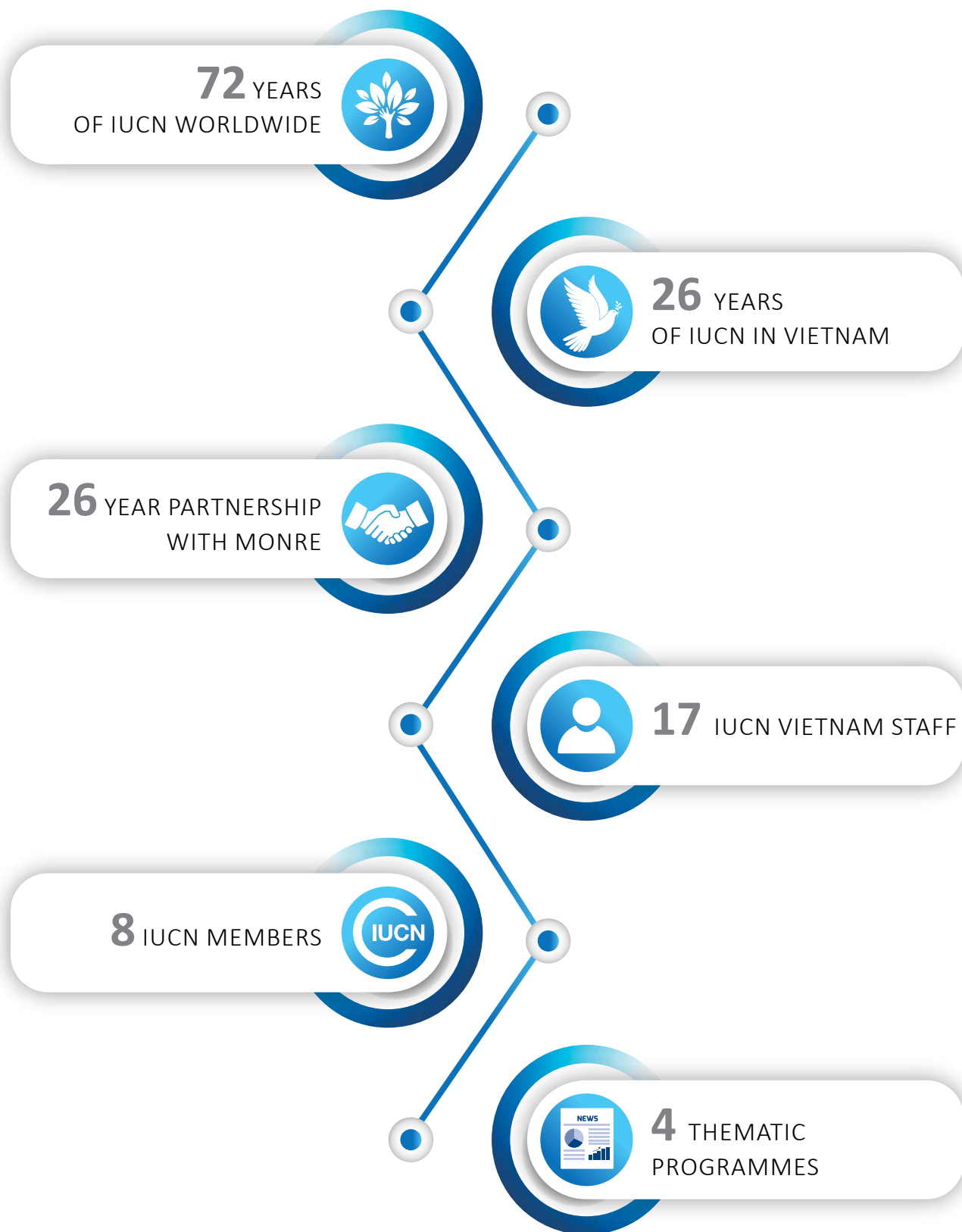
Also of note was the publication of a nexus assessment of the 3S river basins, which cover Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam and form the Mekong's largest tributaries. The assessment looked at ways to minimize trade-offs between energy and fisheries by integrating solar and wind into the regional power mix, transitioning to higher value and less water demanding crops in the Central Highlands, and, now that the Srepok and Sesan have been disconnected from the Mekong by the Lower Sesan 2 dam, preserving the mainstream of the Sekong as free-flowing to allow long-range fish migrations critical to regional food security

Inevitably, 2019 also saw disappointments. One was the continued delay in submitting the dossier to renominate the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Site, Vietnam's premier tourist destination, to include the Cat Ba Archipelago, a long-standing IUCN recommendation. The delay was linked to nervousness about the potential impact of tourism development in Cat Ba on its Outstanding Universal Value, or OUV. IUCN has mapped the OUV and shown how tourism infrastructure, including a 20-km cable car, could be developed in ways that minimize impacts and potentially enhance OUV if Cat Ba decided to move to 100% electric vehicles.

Jake Brunner
Head, IUCN Indo-Burma Group
Acting Country Representative, IUCN Viet Nam

IUCN Viet Nam in Numbers

www.iucn.org/vietnam



Our Activities in Numbers



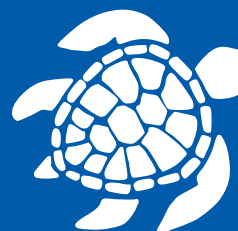
12 Workshops
organized



Covering **12 projects**



158 People Trained



94 Marine Turtle
Conservation Volunteers



26 Provinces
Engaged



20,000 Social Media
Followers

Project Locations

Updated December 2019





Membership

IUCN Viet Nam has a total of eight members, comprising of one state member and seven local NGOs/research institutes. These are as follows:

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)
8. Indo-Myanmar Conservation (IMC)/Asia Turtles Programme (ATP)

2019 witnessed an active year of IUCN members. In July, IUCN Viet Nam organised the first National Committee meeting to announce Ms. Nguyen ngoc Ly – Director of CECR as the new chair of the IUCN Viet Nam National Committee. Ms. Ly will replace Mr. Hoang Van Thang – Director of VNU-CRES who finished his two-year-term. At the meeting, Ms. Ly expressed her gratitude and privilege in taking on the position and reaffirmed that it is a learning process for all members to work together to effectively contribute to IUCN’s missions.



From 7-9 August, Ms. Ly and Mr. Jake Brunner attended the IUCN Asia Regional Committee Meeting (ARCM) in Islamabad, Pakistan. Following this meeting, the IUCN National Committee organised the second member meeting on the 19th of August in Ha Noi to update members about the recent proceedings from Pakistan along with discussing plans to submit a motion at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC). After many fruitful discussions, the motion titled: *“Supporting the Lower Mekong Basin countries with the trans-boundary management of water resources, ecosystem and biodiversity”* was agreed upon between all members and accepted at WCC in 2021 for voting.

On 6-8 November, IUCN organised the 7th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) in Islamabad, Pakistan. The forum welcomed the participation of 550 delegates from 25 countries including the Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi. Members from IUCN Viet Nam including both state members and local members actively participated in the forum.

During a plenary session on climate change adaptation and mitigation, Mr. Pham Phu Binh, Director General of the International Cooperation Department, delivered a presentation on “Promoting the application of Nature-based-Solutions (NBSs) in the large-scale agriculture landscapes: a case study from the Mekong Delta”. This was an opportunity Vietnamese Government to showcase their efforts in applying NbS to adapt to climate change in flood-based-livelihoods of the Mekong Delta. The knowledge shared from this presentation will be useful for other countries to take onboard when also applying Nature-based Solutions.

The final membership related event for 2019 occurred in November updating members on the motion supporting the Lower Mekong Basin, along with reflection of RCF and the discussion surrounding preparation for the World Conservation Congress 2021.





Highlights

Business and Biodiversity

Vietnam Business for Environment (VB4E)

2019 saw the start of a very exciting initiative on business engagement for IUCN Viet Nam. VB4E is Viet Nam's national Business and Environment Alliance engaging businesses in protecting the environment and conserving nature's value in the country. This new tool will help develop a strong network of companies committed to act in favour of biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and delivery of ecosystem services for sustainable development in Viet Nam. Through dialogue, workshops and collaborative projects, VB4E Alliance will be a strong asset to implement environmentally-friendly businesses.

The purpose of VB4E is to match businesses (supply) with environmental social organisations (demand) in the implementation of nature conservation projects across Viet Nam and provide businesses with opportunities to network and exchange sustainable business practices.

VB4E will focus on development of a project concept data bank, policy advocacy, and capacity building. The online concept bank gives an opportunity for NGOs, businesses, and other stakeholders to collaborate on impactful conservation projects. The collaborative projects can embrace the eight following thematic areas: biodiversity conservation, plastic waste management, sustainable tourism development, marine and coastal conservation, forest landscape restoration, water and wetland conservation, renewable energy and climate change.

The first consultation meeting for VB4E took place in early January in Ho Chi Minh City with the attendance of 40 businesses and partners who shared best practices on plastic waste management and were consulted on the establishment of VB4E. At later meetings in Ha Noi, consultation meetings centred around how best VB4E should operate, with knowledge sharing and brainstorming events. It was clear from these events that there was a strong enthusiasm for the creation of VB4E as businesses expressed their willingness to be involved in such an alliance.

Later in the year, in October, IUCN, ISPONRE and TH Group signed an MOU to collaborate and establish VB4E. By joining VB4E, member companies can improve their environmental performance through field projects, showcasing and replicating sustainable business practice and by being part of the policy advocacy that enhances business reputation.

For more information, please visit:

www.vb4e.com



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

During 2019, with continued support from The Coca-Cola Foundation, IUCN continued the work to pilot flood-based livelihoods as a part of a water retention strategy for the Mekong Delta. Beyond the 3 flood season pilots in three provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An, the project contributed project expertise to the formulation of a draft feasibility study of a \$40 million Green Climate Fund proposal led by the World Bank and MARD for the upper Mekong Delta. Consultations with the seven involved provinces for the draft feasibility study identified the potential to use flood-based livelihoods to conserve 17,000 hectares of flood area, benefiting 84,200 beneficiaries, and to restore 42,600 hectares of lost flood area inside high dykes, benefiting 117,200 beneficiaries.

The consultations confirmed provincial commitments to phase out the third rice crop and to invest in the development of flood-based agriculture to address the climate risks of more severe flooding and droughts. Vice-Chair of An Giang made a new commitment to open up the sluices in the high dykes every two years instead of every three years largely because the Coca-Cola project has demonstrated the feasibility of flood based crops inside the high dykes.

In June 18, IUCN Viet Nam participated in the fourth Mekong Delta Conference in Ho Chi Minh City that continued the high-level dialogue between Developing Partners (DPs) and government to review progress implementing Resolution 120. The Mangroves & Markets experience on the role that integrated mangrove shrimp systems can play in developing a more climate resilient landscape was shared along with the Coca-Cola initiative. The afternoon session was chaired by the prime minister, two deputy prime ministers, and four ministers.

Later in the year, in October, IUCN participated in WWF's Regional Forum on Building Resilient Asian Deltas in Bangkok and presented experience from Coca-Cola and Mangroves & Markets on the application of NbS in large agricultural landscapes. The forum reviewed evidence of unsustainable urban and agricultural development in Asian river deltas revealing a critical loss of climate change resilience. Audience response to our panel contribution suggests there is keen interest in the application of NbS such as flood-based crops and silvo-aquaculture in agriculture-dominated landscapes as a way to increase the climate resilience of deltas while still maintaining economic productivity.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.iucn.org/asia/countries/viet-nam/monkey-cheeks-project>



IUCN - Siam City Cement Group Partnership

Siam City Cement Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IUCN to implement robust environmental development standards for biodiversity conservation. INSEE in Vietnam is a member of the Siam City Cement Public Company Limited (SCCC), one of the market leaders in building materials industry in the region.

The shared objectives of IUCN and INSEE are to promote good environmental practices through knowledge sharing throughout the industry and to identify and develop joint local initiatives to support biodiversity conservation in nearby communities.

The three-year partnership also aims to protect limestone hills in the company's quarrying sites, as well as surrounding areas in Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, and contribute to sector-wide improvements in the extractives and relevant sectors in the region. Siam City Cement Public Company Limited is the first company in Thailand's cement industry to have signed an MOU with IUCN.

One of INSEE's main areas of productive environmental management was the development of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hon Chong Plant, Kien Giang Province with the support from IUCN. This action plan has been instrumental in meeting environmental targets at the site and allowing progress to be made. At the end of 2019, this progress was evaluated via a review mission which was undertaken by both IUCN Viet Nam and SIE. Although success has been made at the plant in a variety of ways, there are some key recommendations that have been laid out for the future. These recommendations include:

- Support improved management of the Phu My Grassland Nature Reserve
- Continue negotiations with Kien Giang PPC to establish Hon Chong – Kien Luong Nature Reserve
- Investigate the cause of mangrove destruction in Khoe La and initiate a replanting project.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.iucn.org/asia/countries/viet-nam/biodiversity-management-system-bms-holcim>



Marine and Coastal Conservation



Ha Long – Cat Ba Alliance

To preserve the natural integrity of Ha Long Bay, IUCN established the Ha Long-Cat Ba Alliance (HLCBA), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), that aims to build partnership between the Vietnamese government, businesses and civil society. The goal of the initiative is to catalyse actions in order to improve environmental management and protect the natural integrity of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Site including the Cat Ba Archipelago.

On January 9, IUCN met the Vice Chairman of Hai Phong City People’s Committee and the General Secretary of National Commission for UNESCO to discuss the Ha Long Bay/Cat Ba Archipelago re-nomination for World Heritage Status. After fruitful discussions, it was later decided that the final plans to extend the World Heritage Status would be delayed until 2020 once a 21km cable car has been erected at the site. This cable car will reduce car and motorbike presence in the bay, and IUCN are looking forward to its’ completion.

In March, a first training was conducted on phytoplankton for the 10 staff of the Ha Long Bay Management Board and Cat Ba National Park. This training event had an emphasis on blooming and toxic algae, with trainers and leading scientists participating from the National Institute of Oceanography.

A further training course was organised by IUCN and GreenHub in May, which educated staff at the Cat Ba National Park on marine plastic monitoring. This is the second of ten Marine Protected Areas (MPA’s) that will receive training of this nature to help collect data on marine plastic pollution and its impacts on biodiversity. Later in May, IUCN supported Ha Long Bay Management Board to establish a sample plot to monitor plant diversity. All tree species in this 50 cm x 50 cm plot will be identified, measured and recorded every 3-5 years.



In June as part of HLCBA, IUCN, UNESCO, and Ha Long Bay Management Board organised a workshop on HLB WHS management effectiveness. This evaluation was done using IUCN's Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit and will be used to revise the WHS management plan. The workshop had the attendance of Prof. Richard Mackay, an ICOMOS advisor, who shared the same concerns as the IUCN Advisory Mission to HLB in July 2018 about impacts of rapid rise in visitors and waste on the property and recommended a high-level mechanism to coordinate a whole government approach in managing the site given the limited authority of the management board.

In the following months, IUCN, in partnership with VUSTA, VASI, Cat Hai District People's Committee, and GreenHub, organised a dialogue in Cat Ba on tourism and marine plastic pollution. This was part of a workshop on the role of science and technology in the marine economy on July 25-27. The dialogue shared solutions and good business practices to reduce single-use plastics.

The positive work that IUCN have conducted in the Ha Long Bay has not gone unnoticed. In August, IUCN led a visit by five US Congressional staffers and Forest Service officials to Ha Long Bay and Cat Ba. The mission met the HLB Management Board and Cat Ba National Park Management Board to learn about the biodiversity monitoring that IUCN is supporting as part of this project. They took a boat to see the site's endemic fauna and flora, including the critically endangered Cat Ba langurs. The visitors were impressed by the hard work of the management board despite having evident issues with an inadequate budget, a problem also faced by US national parks.

Following this mission, IUCN organised the 7th Ha Long Cat Ba Alliance Leadership Committee meeting in September. In response to persistent advocacy from IUCN, Quang Ninh and Hai Phong provinces have gone beyond simply issuing new rules and regulations. Now, the provinces are allocating substantial funding for waste-water treatment, using Japanese Jokaso Technology and solid waste management. Moreover, the provinces have made positive steps to ban plastic bags.

For more information, please visit:

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

MARPLASTICCs

In 2017, with support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), IUCN launched the Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities initiative (MARPLASTICCs). MARPLASTICCs uses an integrated lifecycle approach which supports a global transition from a linear take-make-dispose model to a circular plastics economy.

In June, as part of MARPLASTICCs, IUCN and MONRE organised a workshop on Plastic Pollution in Viet Nam: from Science to Policy with about 100 participants to discuss the results of research on plastic waste pollution and legislation to identify policy gaps to be addressed in the revised Environmental Protection Law. The discussion focused on the opportunities and challenges related to segregation at source, economics of plastic value chains and the role of informal plastic recyclers.

To conclude the year, in December, IUCN organised a workshop in Hanoi on a plastic pollution hotspot mapping methodology, which MARPLASTICCs commissioned, validating the initial results, and identifying data gaps and sources. The workshop was co-hosted by IUCN, IRD, and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs through COMPOSE. Workshop participants came from all ministries responsible for plastic pollution, solid waste management businesses, local and international NGOs, scientists, and the French Embassy...

For more information, please visit:

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



Support for Community Based Marine Turtle Nesting Beach Conservation and Bycatch Reduction in Viet Nam

With over 3,000 km of coastline and thousands of offshore islands, Viet Nam is home to a wide range of species, including marine turtles. In Viet Nam, marine turtles are protected by both international and national legislation. Despite current laws, threats to marine turtles have increased due to the accidental and opportunistic capture by fishers; direct taking of nesting females and their eggs; and commercial hunting of hawksbill turtles for the shells for the international market.

Marine turtles used to nest in 13 of the 27 coastal provinces of Viet Nam. With the exception of the nesting population of green turtles in Con Dao, the number of green, hawksbill, leatherback and Olive Ridley turtles nesting each year has declined significantly over the last 30 years. Similarly, with the exception of the protected beaches on Con Dao and at Nui Chua, a significant and mostly non-commercial harvest of nesting turtles and eggs still occurs for each species.



To raise awareness of local communities on marine biodiversity conservation and support marine turtle conservation, IUCN has been working with partners and the communities to support the marine turtle conservation volunteer network in the pilot sites through nesting beach and bycatch monitoring; conduct communications, education and awareness raising activities; and support preparation and implementation of the Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan (MTCAP) 2015-2025.

In August, IUCN's Sea Turtle Volunteers launched a crowd-funding campaign to raise money for a new conservatison facility in Hon Cau MPA. The facility will serve as a common living space for MPA staff and volunteers working in bad weather or long hours. It will also be used to store sea turtle protection equipment and hold a biodiversity information centre. The total cost is \$35K of which \$18K came from IUCN (\$7K) and other organizations and individuals. By August 30, another \$18K was received from 661 individuals and businesses. Construction of the facility will start in September.

In October, IUCN organised a workshop on the status of marine turtles in the country. The number of nesting females has fallen from 10,000/year in the 1980s to only 450 in 2019. 90% of these are on Con Dao National Park and almost all are Green turtles. A 2017 survey in central and northern Vietnam confirmed the absence of nesting Hawksbill and Leatherback turtles in these areas. The cause of this decline is the degradation of nesting beaches, degradation of sea grass beds, illegal wildlife trade, and pollution. These trends are likely to worsen in the face of very rapid and largely unregulated coastal development.

This was not the only work that the marine turtle programme completed in October. In the same month, IUCN arranged a half-day workshop in Da Nang to review the status of Vietnam's MPAs. A national MPA network was established in 2010 but has had flaws in terms of both quantity and quality. The 16 MPA network covers only 0.18% of Vietnam's EEZ vs. target of 0.18%. Of these 16, only 10 have any form of management. And the strictly protected zone is typically less than 1% of MPA area vs. global average of 25%.

The management effectiveness evaluation of the existing 10 MPAs that IUCN carried out in 2015-16 identified specific measures that each MPA should implement to improve quality. As such, this workshop enabled IUCN to have a better insight into the state of MPA's in the country and gave basis for a positive vision moving forward.

For more information, please visit:

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

Monitoring and Assessment Programme on Plastic Litter in The Coastal Areas of Viet Nam

Marine plastic remains one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Viet Nam is one of the world's top marine plastic polluters, with numerous studies placing Viet Nam as the fourth largest polluter on the planet. Although many coastal communities are implementing plastic waste management methods, the reality is that Viet Nam does not have adequate data to map the situation, neither the infrastructure to deal with the problem.

In order to gather effective data on marine plastic to build the foundations for effective policy, IUCN Viet Nam collaborated with GreenHub to develop a shoreline survey and monitoring of coastal plastic pollution. The process was based on guidelines of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The monitoring results are set to be analysed and IUCN will share the outcomes of the report to recommend a general application of a national dataset for marine waste monitoring in Viet Nam.

Monitoring will take place twice a year over three years with the participation of MPA and NP staff and volunteers. The results of the first phase (May-July 2019) showed that plastic waste makes up to 97% of seven categories of waste collected (plastics, metals, glass, rubber, cloth, wood and miscellaneous). The most common plastic waste was styrofoam, fishing equipment, container foam and plastic bags. These initial results were shared at a national workshop on “Ocean Plastic Pollution: Action Plan of Fishery Sector” organised by IUCN and Directorate of Fishery of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in October 2019.

They will serve as a valuable input to an Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management of Fishery for 2020-2025. Running such a program requires sustained effort and technical and financial assistance from government agencies, CSOs, and other stakeholders. Plastic waste monitoring, together with other measures and, critically, government leadership will hopefully remove Viet Nam from the top five countries for marine plastic pollution.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.iucn.org/news/viet-nam/202001/conducting-a-beach-debris-monitoring-programme-coastal-areas-viet-nam>





Water and Wetland Management

BRIDGE – Building River Dialogue and Guidance

BRIDGE supports the capacities of countries sharing river or lake basins to implement effective water management arrangements through a shared vision, benefit-sharing principles and transparent and coherent institutional frameworks. Its goal is to enhance cooperation among riparian countries by applying water diplomacy at multiple levels.

In June, a part of BRIDGE, IUCN met with the Ministry of Public Security to brief them on the need for Vietnamese leadership in determining the future of regional energy development and the survival of the Mekong Delta. IUCN found that previous relationships with our traditional interlocutor were found to be too passive.

In the final month of the year, IUCN arranged a meeting with NGOs and government partners from Cambodia, Lao, and Vietnam for the BRIDGE 3S work plan. The 3S nexus assessment published in early 2019 identified major opportunities relating to three priority areas. Firstly, sustainable management of coffee and water in the Central Highlands. Second, proper management of energy development in the Srepok and Sesan; and finally, the importance of maintaining the Sekong as the Mekong's last large free flowing tributary for regional fisheries and food security.

For more information please visit:

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



Foundations for Source-to-Sea (S2S) Management

In October, facilitated by SIWI and IUCN, a group of experts from the Resources and Waste Advisory (RWA) Group conducted the first quantitative and qualitative assessment on S2S solid waste flows in Vu Gia-Thu Bon river basin. The assessment aims to apply the three steps of the S2S framework for this area out of six-step-process which are Step 1: Characterise, Step 2: Engage, Step 3: Diagnose,

In November, with GIZ funding, IUCN in collaboration with the Stockholm International Water Institute and People's Committees of Quang Nam Province and Da Nang City organised stakeholder engagement and training workshops on source-to-sea and solid waste management in the Vu Gia-Thu Bon river basin.

The aim was to introduce the S2S approach and the benefits of addressing critical freshwater and marine challenges holistically. Current understanding about solid waste management in the basin was presented and opportunities and measures to reduce mismanaged plastic waste in the area were discussed. The project will continue in 2020 to finalise the quantitative and qualitative assessment on S2S solid waste flows, a stakeholder engagement plan and governance baseline survey.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.iucn.org/news/viet-nam/202006/source-sea-management-a-case-study-solid-waste-flow-vu-gia-thu-bon-river-basin>



Mekong WET

Funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the “Mekong WET: Building Resilience of Wetlands in the Lower Mekong Region” project aims to build climate resilience by harnessing the benefits of wetlands in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Mekong WET will help the four countries to address their commitments to the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

From August to September, as part of Mekong WET, IUCN worked with ICF and Mekong Wetland University Network to organise a training course on wetlands management in context of climate change at Natural University of Science in Hochiminh City and U Minh Thuong National Park. The course gathers 24 participants from 16 wetland conservation areas in the delta.

In September, journalists from Viet Nam Television and Vietnam News and IUCN staff to ran a citizen journalism training workshop for participants from the three MWET sites: U Minh Thuong, Lang Sen, and Phu My. The training at U Minh Thuong National Park was to help local community members write and present news stories on wetlands and climate change for national media. About 30 members of the Women’s Union, Youth Union and forest rangers from all three sites attended the training, which covered communities’ role in environmental protection through Citizen Journalism (CJ), mobile journalism code of ethics, how to write news stories, interview people, select photos, and make short films using mobile devices. CJ is a powerful way to raise awareness about important issues through the use of social media and many traditional media outlets increasingly use CJ content in their reporting.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.iucn.org/regions/asia/our-work/regional-projects/mekong-wet>



Forest Conservation



Protected Areas Solutions

Through the PA Solutions project, IUCN intends to enhance the governance strategies of the Van Long Nature reserve, which is home to the largest global population of the critically endangered Delacour's Langur.

In March 2019, staff from the Global Protected Areas Programme and the IUCN Hanoi office travelled to the Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve, located south of Hanoi, as part of the IUCN Green List assessment process. The Van Long reserve, the largest wetland in northern Vietnam, is a place of immense natural beauty, with limestone karst outcrops up to 400m high overlooking a wetland area of lakes, rivers, streams, sinkholes, and caves. The Van Long management board has opted to join the growing community of global Green List candidate sites.

This initiates a multi-stakeholder “assessment” process which takes place over a prolonged period of time, bringing together a community of practice. The standard contains criteria and indicators for good governance, sound design and planning and effective management, practices that lead toward long term successful conservation outcomes. The IUCN teams were joined by map specialists from GRID-ARENDAL, members of the national Vietnam Green List EAGL team as well as several other national conservation and social science experts.

The preliminary results of the assessment show that the success of Van Long is due to the simultaneous recognition of multiple values: natural, ecosystem services and cultural all of which are rooted in the good governance component. Van Long is clearly IUCN/CBD governance type 1, governance by the government, and it is largely successful due to a multitude of local actors all playing their part.

In the past two decades, the management board have been able to successfully reduce or eliminate the local threats emanating from hunting, over-grazing, unregulated tourism and electric fishing practices. This has been through successful engagement of local people, village residents and others who can continue sustainable use practices such as fishing, grazing, medicinal plant collection, clam collection and tourism activities adjacent to Van Long.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/projects/protected-area-solutions-project>



Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)

The Forest and Farm Facility focuses on forest and farm producer organisations as the primary actors within the ‘largest rural private sector’. It engages in practical approaches to working within a global agenda encompassing: the growing global interest in forests within landscapes, the role of forests in food security, the emphasis on a ‘green economy’, the role of the small and medium scale private sector, and a new sustainable development framework.

In May, as part of FFF, IUCN accompanied FAO and IIED to Hoa Binh on a rapid training needs assessment for local forest and farm producer organisations. Almost all of these FFPOs are newly established with weak governance and market development capacity. The timber FFPOs, though aware of the benefits of longer rotations and FSC certification, are not convinced; they argued that the need for short term income is the biggest barrier to implementing these models. Disease is also increasingly common, the result of genetically identical acacia monocultures.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/our-work/locally-controlled-forests/forest-and-farm-facility>

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