



ANNUAL REVIEW 2024

VIET NAM COUNTRY OFFICE



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



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Published by: IUCN Viet Nam Country Office

Produced by: IUCN Viet Nam Country Office

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Citation: IUCN Viet Nam Country Office (2025). *Annual Review 2024 – Viet Nam Country Office*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Cover photo: Indian spot-billed ducks in Tram Chim National Park, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam/Nguyen Manh Hiep

Layout by: Hoang Minh JSC

Available from:

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About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,400 Member organisations and around 17,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

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Abbreviations

ARMC	Asia Regional Members Committee
BCA	Biodiversity Conservation Activity
BUS	Building and Promoting Sustainable Development
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CMDA	Cambodia Mekong Delta Aquifer
CP	CP Viet Nam Group
CR	Critically Endangered
CRES	The Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF IW	Global Environment Facility International Waters
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GL	Green List
ICD	International Cooperation Department
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWW	Informal Waste Worker
MCD	Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development
MDC	Mekong Delta Coastal Habitat Conservation
MERFI	Mekong Region Futures Institute
MERIT	Climate Resilience and Integrated Transformation of the Mekong Delta
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NC	National Coordinator
NBCA	Nature Biodiversity Conservation Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
N4H	Nature 4 Health

NPAP	National Plastic Action Partnership
OECD	Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures
PA	Protected Areas
PRO	Packaging Recycling Organization
SCG	Species Conservation Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VND	Vietnamese Dong
WHS	World Heritage Site
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Message



Jake Brunner

Head, IUCN Lower Mekong Subregion
Viet Nam Management

This annual report gives a snapshot of what IUCN accomplished – and worked with partners to accomplish – in 2024 and I want to take this opportunity to add some context and detail.

The first point is about youth engagement. One of the most inspiring moments of the year was a visit to Con Dao National Park. The park is home to 90% of Viet Nam’s marine turtle population, of which 95% are Endangered Green turtles. Since 2014, IUCN has advertised online, interviewed, and recruited over 100 volunteers every year from all over Viet Nam to help rangers protect marine turtle nesting beaches on five islands in the park. The program is very competitive: we only accept 1% of applicants.

In November, I met the park director to review the latest cycle. Between June and August 2024 (the nesting season), 132 volunteers (61 men, 71 women) spent a total of 1,232 person-days protecting 424 nests and transferring 44,000 eggs to a hatchery for safe keeping before being released back into the sea. The total budget was about \$35,000 or \$270 per volunteer of which the volunteers paid 62%. This is an extremely cost-effective approach to marine turtle conservation. It also reflects growing youth interest in nature conservation, a powerful force to both scale up and deepen support for wildlife protection in Viet Nam.

The second point is about Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures or OECMs. In December 2022, Viet Nam ratified the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which commits Viet Nam to protect at least 30% of its land and sea by 2030, the 30x30 target. However, the land area under legal protection in Viet Nam is less than 7% and the government has shown little interest in significantly expanding this. There’s more interest in expanding MPA coverage but that’s starting from a very low base: less than 0.5% of Viet Nam’s EEZ is legally protected.

In this context, OECMs are the only practical way to move significant progress toward the 30x30 target. In terms of implementing OECMs, the key point is that they already exist. What’s missing is a government-led or coordinated process to validate and report them to UNEP-WCMC, the global repository.

OECMs are of particular relevance in the agricultural and fisheries sectors. Large areas of low-intensity rice, integrated mangrove-shrimp, and fisheries protection could be designated as OECMs, which could be used as a marketing strategy to brand organic, chemical-free rice and shrimp.

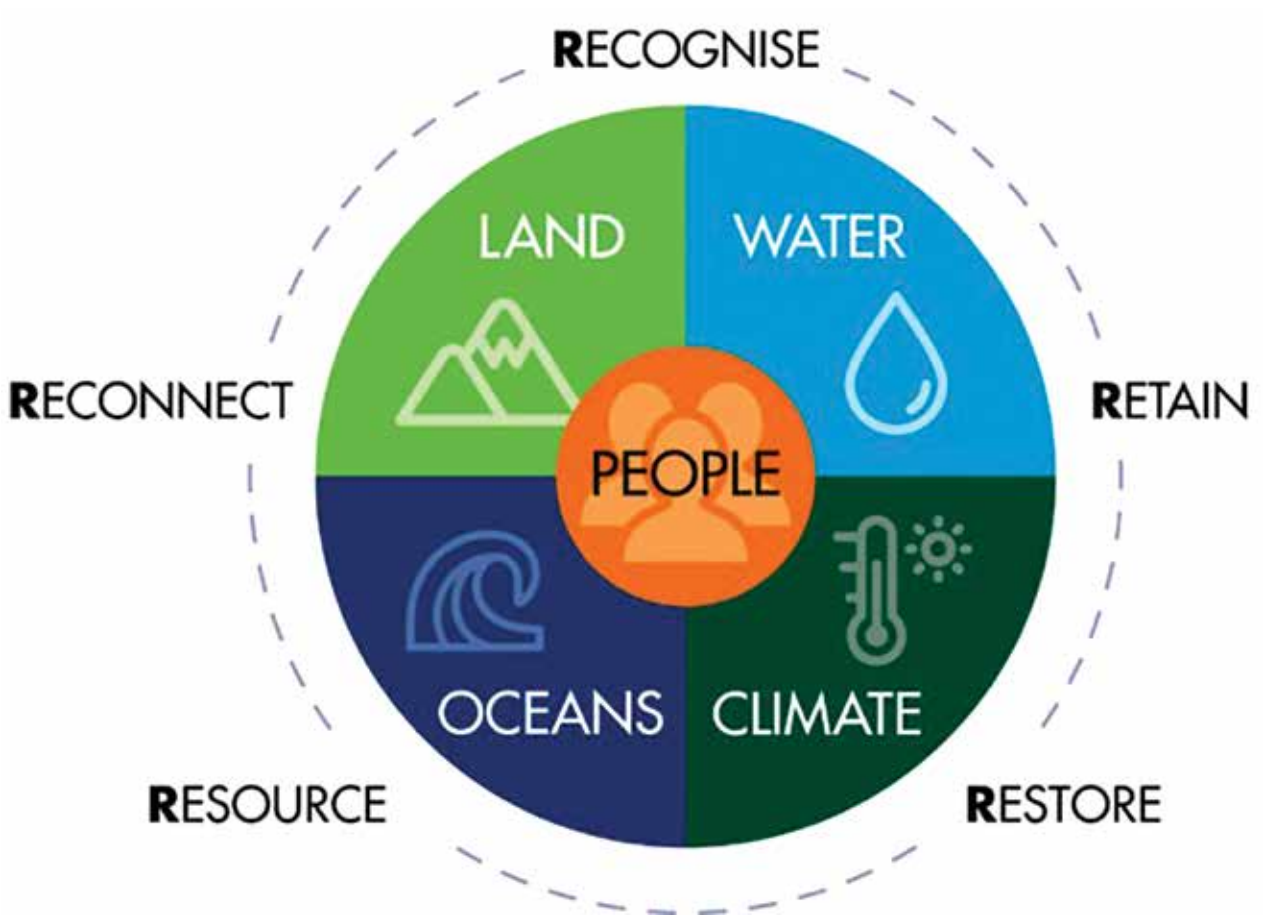
Finally, in 2024, IUCN led a scoping phase of Nature for Health (N4H), a global initiative to prevent pandemics by strengthening the environmental aspects of One Health, in Viet Nam. This included three national workshops and the preparation of a situation analysis. The result was a draft proposal for a 3-year implementation phase. The key result from the scoping phase was the need to invest in upstream or primary prevention by reducing the poaching of wildlife and improving the handling of trafficked wildlife in rescue centers.

IUCN Nature 2030 – One nature, one future!

Five priorities shape the Programme



Five pathways to transformative change

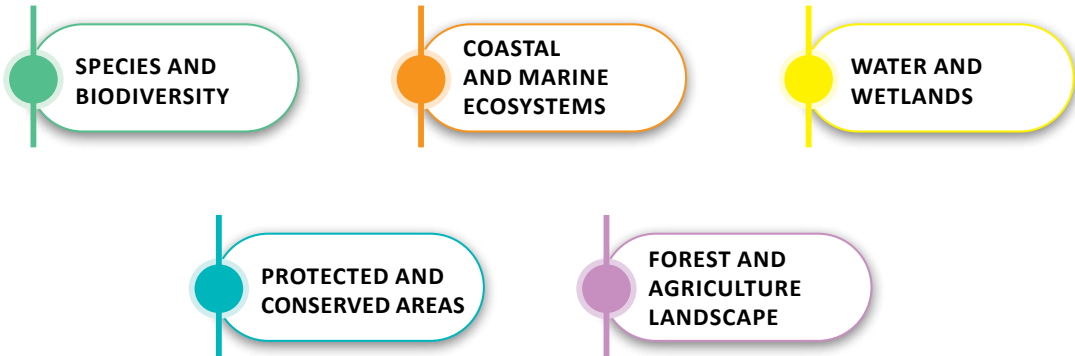


IUCN Asia Regional Programming

03 STRATEGIC THEMES



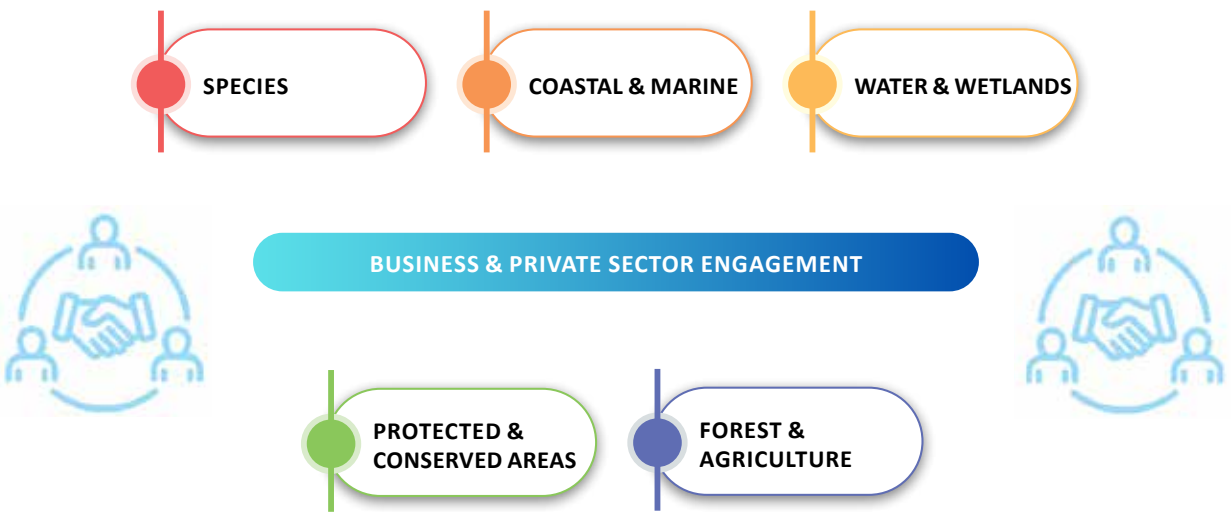
05 PROGRAMME AREAS



IUCN Viet Nam Programming

IUCN programme and projects in Viet Nam underpin the above five thematic areas in which business and private sector engagement is emerging as a cross-cutting theme.

IUCN PROGRAMME AREAS



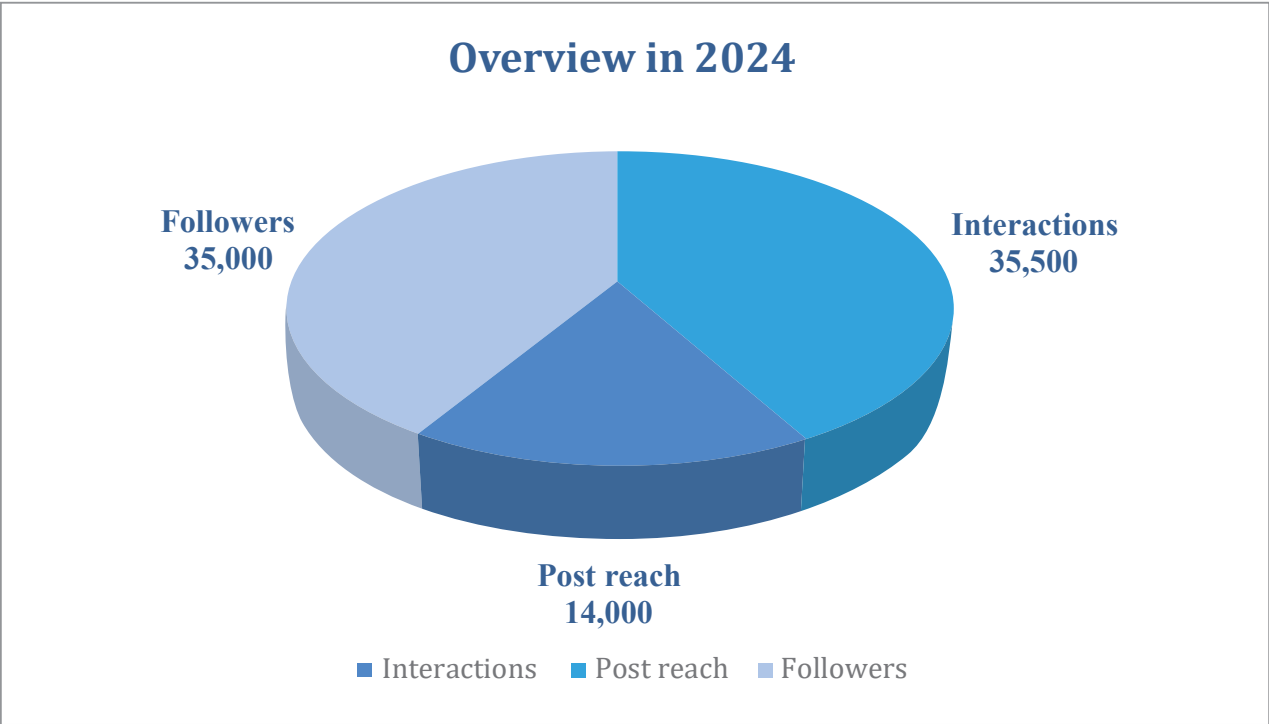
Some figures in 2024

IUCN Global and Viet Nam



Social media

- IUCN Viet Nam facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/557105371033183>
- IUCN Vietnam Sea turtle Volunteer facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/iucnvietnamseaturtle>
- Viet Nam Business for Environment (VB4E) facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/VietnamB4E>



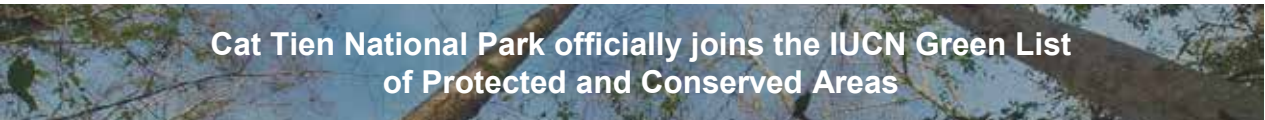
Communications

Installation Art Exhibition: 1001 ceramic sea turtles– PHIÊU

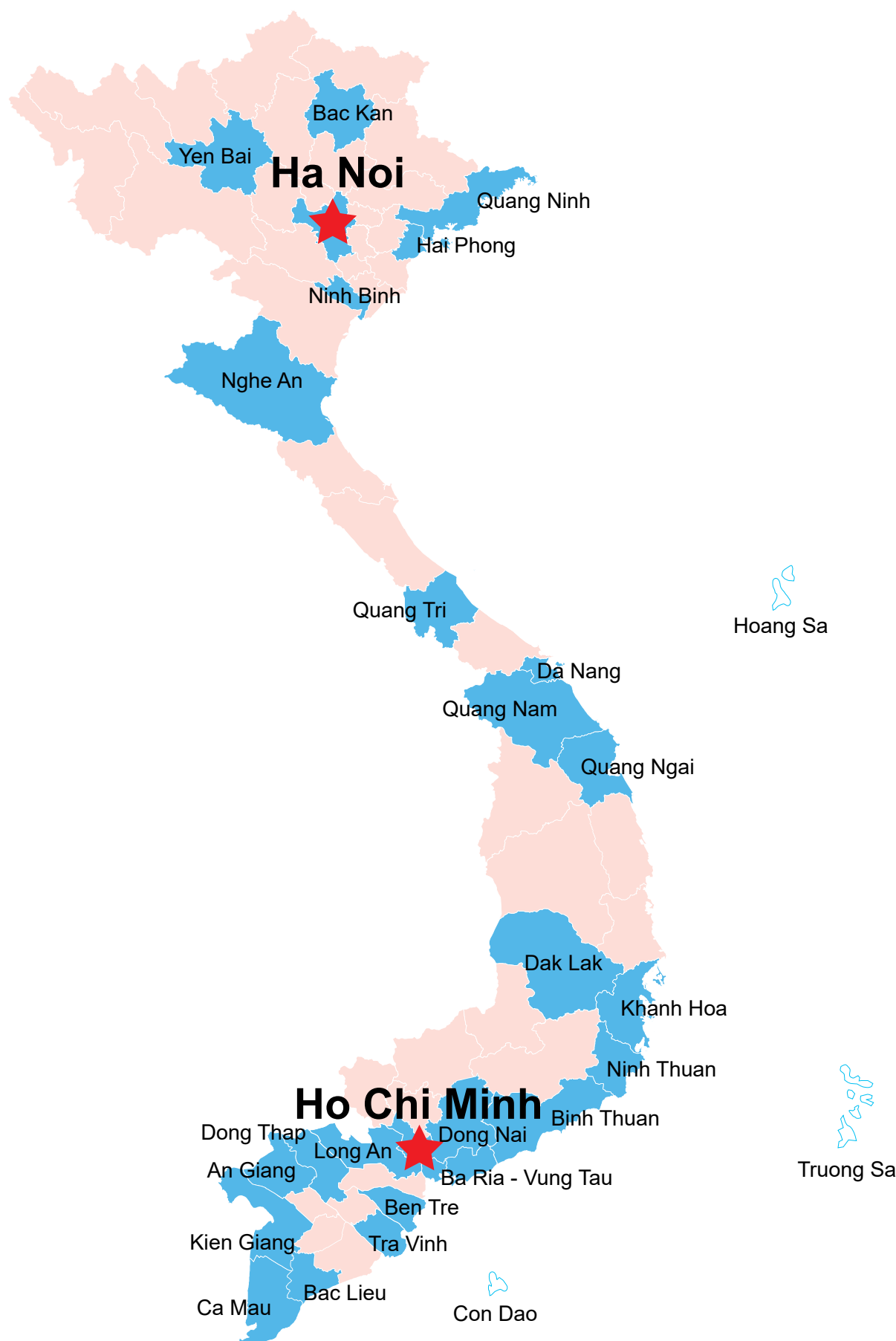


TARGET		RESULTS
20	Newspapers and TV stations covering the event	54
20	News/articles on online and print media	67
03	TV reports and broadcast features	20
1,200+	Social media interactions	5,400+
25,000+	On-site event reach	35,000+
402,500+	Social media reach	1,350,047+
350	New fanpage followers	464
20	KOLs sharing content	32
05	Seeding posts	05
30	Seeding groups list	55

Cat Tien National Park Green Listing



Project locations





Membership

The IUCN Vietnam National Members Committee Chair, MCD Standing Deputy Director, Ms. Ho Thi Yen Thu, attended the 2024 IUCN Asia Regional Members Committee (ARMC) Meeting on 9–10 January 2024 in Haikou, Hainan, China. The event, hosted by the Forestry Department of Hainan Province and the Biodiversity Committee of the Chinese Academy of Sciences with support from China’s Ministry of Natural Resources, brought together over 40 participants from 14 National Committees, IUCN Commissions, the IUCN Secretariat, Regional Offices, and relevant national agencies.

At the meeting, Ms. Thu presented the Viet Nam National Committee report, highlighting key achievements aligned with IUCN’s thematic strategies and programme areas. Participants agreed that future ARMC country reports should: (a) consolidate inputs from Members/NCs, Commissions, and the Secretariat; (b) include a comparative summary of NC organizational and operational structures; and (c) identify and mobilize expertise and resources from NCs/Members to strengthen policy engagement and influence.

During May and October 2024, IUCN Viet Nam National Committee organised three meetings for Viet Nam members and one member meeting with Lower Mekong Subregion countries. The meetings focused on programme update for possible collaborative actions, consultation on IUCN 20-year-vision and programme (2026-2029), briefing session of IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) and one networking event in Hoa Lac campus organised by CRES, a long-standing IUCN member.





Species conservation

Community-based marine turtle nesting conservation and bycatch reduction in Viet Nam

On 15-19 June, IUCN in collaboration with artist Cao Thanh Tha, an ex-IUCN sea turtle volunteer, organised an exhibition on sea turtle conservation in Hanoi. 1,001 ceramic sea turtles were exhibited with information about marine ecosystems, threats to sea turtles, and a call for action. The key message was the 1/1,000 survival rate of adult sea turtles because of human activities. More than 5,000 people visited and the event was covered by 77 local media channels.





Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

IUCN member GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Center implemented a CEPF project to protect CR Grey-shanked douc langurs in Quang Nam. The project set up a Species Champion Group made up of community members, commune officials and volunteer forest rangers. The SCG called for local commitment to protect the langurs and completed a study to assess local resource use and readiness to implement community-based tourism. Members from 15 households took part in study tours to see successful community-based tourism models nearby.

<https://iucn.org/story/202405/local-species-champion-group-work-save-grey-shanked-douc-langurs-viet-nam>

Increasing coastal resilience in the Mekong Delta through mangrove restoration and hybrid NbS.

On 5 July, IUCN organised a meeting in Bac Lieu to launch the project “Increasing coastal resilience in the Mekong Delta through mangrove restoration and hybrid NbS” with funding from The Coca-Cola Foundation. This 3-year project will test models to address the coastal squeeze in Bac Lieu and Soc Trang, provinces with the flattest and most vulnerable coastlines in the Mekong Delta. Sixty participants attended the meeting including representatives of DARD, Hoa Binh and Dong Hai Districts, coastal ecosystem experts, businesses, local media, CSOs, and 16 households. The discussion and farmer feedback will improve the project design of this ambitious NbS project.

<https://iucn.org/news/202407/kick-meeting-mangrove-restoration-and-hybrid-nbs-mekong-delta>



USAID Mekong Delta Coastal Habitat Conservation (MDC) Project

The project was launched on 15 Mar 2024 in Kien Giang Province. The \$2.9 million project, of which around \$1.8mil for project activities, will be used to reduce threats to coastal biodiversity and fisheries and strengthen coastal resilience in the Mekong Delta, in partnership with the Government of Vietnam, including provincial authorities; businesses; management boards of Marine Protected Areas; development partners; and fishing communities.

On November 2024, as part of USAID Mekong Delta Coastal Habitat Conservation (MDC) Project, IUCN and MARD’s Department of Fisheries organised a conference on environmental protection in the fisheries sector. It was a chance to review implementation of Decision 911/QĐ-TTg of July 2022 on environmental protection in the fisheries sector. The conference showed that some provinces are implementing Decision 911 effectively while others are still at the planning stage. It was proposed to issue guidelines to develop provincial action plans and organise regular capacity building activities. On November 19-21, as conference side events, IUCN organised technical workshops and training for the MPA network.



Community-based marine turtle nesting conservation and bycatch reduction in Viet Nam

From 15-17 May 2024, IUCN in collaboration with the Vietnam Fisheries Association, the Directorate of Fisheries and the Fisheries Resources Surveillance (MARD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WWF-Viet Nam, and GreenHub, organised a “Consultation meeting and integrated capacity-building training for the Marine Protected Area (MPA)/National Park (NP) network and Sub-Departments of Fisheries” in Mui Ne, Binh Thuan Province. The meeting focused on:

- Five-year review of beach and coral reef plastic waste monitoring;
- MPA network meeting and updates on new regulations and policies that support effective MPA management;
- Sustainable financing for MPAs/NPs with marine components;
- Current status of bycatch and guidance on data collection for bycatch monitoring; and
- Training on sea turtle and marine animal rescue in cases of incidental capture.

This is an annual event to facilitate information exchange, knowledge sharing, and hands-on practice among participants and experts; especially strengthen management capacity and collaboration across the national MPA/NP Network and Sub-Departments of Fisheries, contributing to the successful implementation of Viet Nam’s Strategy for Sustainable Marine Economic Development to 2030, with a vision to 2045.





Wetlands and Water Conservation



Fostering Water and Environmental Security in the Ma and Neun - Ca Transboundary River Basins and Related Coastal Areas, Viet Nam and Lao PDR

On 21 June, MONRE organised a conference in Hai Phong chaired by Vice Minister Le Cong Thanh with 140 provincial and central government participants to disseminate the new Water Resources Law and implementing regulations, discuss challenges in managing transboundary water, and introduce new GEF IW “Fostering Water and Environmental Security in the Ma and Neun - Ca Transboundary River Basins and Related Coastal Areas, Viet Nam and Lao PDR” project.



Enhancing sustainability of the transboundary Cambodia - Mekong River Delta Aquifer

The inception workshop was held online on 26 June, marking the official start of the GEF IW Cambodia Mekong Delta Aquifer (CMDA) project. It was an opportunity to introduce the Regional Project Steering Committee, Regional Project Management Unit, and Joint Technical Committee and provide an update on the detailed work plans being developed by IUCN, MERFI and UNESCO.

Planting Special Use Forests in Lang Sen Nature Reserve

On November 22, IUCN, PAN, and CP Viet Nam Group handed over 17 hectares of replanted melaleuca forest in Lang Sen Nature Reserve as a part of PAN/CP-funded project. After two years, the project planted 340,000 melaleuca trees, which will provide habitat for aquatic species, reptiles and especially water birds. Communication activities were conducted for 500 students in the buffer zone of the reserve. At the closing workshop, experts discussed opportunities for carbon storage and carbon credits.



Protected and Conserved Areas



IUCN Green List implementation

On 29-31 May, through the USAID Biodiversity Conservation Activity (BCA) and GIZ Laos, IUCN and GIZ organised a workshop in Dong Hoi with participants from Phong Nha-Ke Bang WHS in Viet Nam and Hin Nam No National Park in Lao PDR using the Green List as basis to develop a transboundary action plan between the two sites.

<https://iucn.org/story/202406/using-iucn-green-list-strengthen-transboundary-protected-area-management>



On 18 January, as part of the USAID Biodiversity Conservation Activity (BCA), IUCN and WWF organised a meeting in Cat Tien to review IUCN Green List (GL) implementation in Viet Nam. Van Long Nature Reserve was the first protected area in Viet Nam (and Southeast Asia) to receive GL certification in 2020. Under USAID BCA, IUCN is supporting eight PAs to achieve GL status of which Cat Tien NP is the closest to GL certification.

<https://iucn.org/story/202401/iucn-green-list-progress-viet-nam>

In June, Cat Tien National Park was recognised as a GL site. This followed a comprehensive assessment, supported by the USAID BCA. It is the first national park in Viet Nam to achieve GL status and the second conservation area in Viet Nam. The award ceremony attracted wide media attention.





National consultation on OECMs in Viet Nam

In December 2023, MONRE’s Nature Biodiversity Conservation Agency (NBCA), GIZ, IUCN, and WWF organised a national OECM workshop in Hanoi with participants from government agencies, researchers, non-state agencies, and development partners. This was a follow up meeting to a technical workshop in June 2023 organised by IUCN and GIZ on how OECMs can help meet Viet Nam’s GBF commitments.

<https://iucn.org/news/202404/national-consultation-oecms-viet-nam>



Viet Nam Nature 4 Health Scoping Phase

IUCN led a scoping phase of [Nature for Health \(N4H\)](#), a global initiative to prevent pandemics by strengthening the environmental aspects of One Health, in Viet Nam.

In 2024, IUCN Viet Nam organised three consultation workshops in Da Nang and Ha Noi to present the N4H goals, discuss N4H opportunities, and identify gaps and priorities as input to the Implementation Project Document (IPD). These consultations brought together more than 100 participants and including a field trip before/after each workshop.

A key input to the workshops was the N4H situation analysis that was carried out by two independent consultants on wildlife conservation and wildlife disease. These consultations followed N4H's systemic and participatory approaches whereby input from stakeholder was cross-checked with other inputs to understand how the entire system related to zoonotic disease risk operates and where the risks lie. Based on this analysis, key gaps were identified that N4H should fill as part of the implementation phase.

See the summary report of three workshops at <https://nature4health.org/vietnam>





Forest and Agriculture Landscape

Viet Nam Nature-based Solutions for Adaptation in Agriculture through Private Sector Transformation (VN-ADAPT)

In 2020, IUCN published the Global Standard for NbS that scores NbS using eight criteria and associated indicators. Criterion 4 covers the economic viability of NbS and this criterion is often the hardest of the eight to respond to because comprehensive data on NbS costs and benefits are rarely available. Yet donors challenge us to improve the economic case for NbS. Two fundamental economic barriers to scaling up NbS are temporal and spatial.

<https://iucn.org/story/202406/scaling-nbs-economic-barriers>

Developing a sustainable value chain of products from lotus silk in Vietnam to support the flood storage strategy for the Mekong Delta, Vietnam

In February-March, IUCN organised a training program for 60 women in three upper Mekong Delta provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap, and Long An to produce high value silk yarn from lotus stems. During the training, local women learned how to use fiber extracted from leftover lotus stems on their farms to make a high-quality silk-like fabric. The trainees produced about 300 g of fiber at a market price of 30,000,000 VND or \$1,200/kg. Many trainees committed to continue production next year.

<https://iucn.org/story/202407/lotus-fiber-new-women-led-flood-friendly-value-chain-mekong-delta>



First technical consultation workshop in the Mekong Delta for Green Climate Fund (GCF) MERIT proposal

On 16 August, IUCN, MARD/ICD, and WWF organised a consultation workshop on GCF proposal “Scaling up agriculture Nature-based Solutions to support a more climate resilience transformation of the Mekong Delta” in Can Tho. The workshop brought together 90 participants from eleven Mekong Delta provinces to prepare a GCF concept note to invest in NbS. This grant will complement the World Bank Climate Resilience and Integrated Transformation of the Mekong Delta (MERIT) loan.

<https://iucn.org/news/202410/first-technical-consultation-workshop-mekong-delta-gcf-merit-proposal>





Business and private sector engagement



IUCN – PRO Viet Nam Strategic Partnership

Consultation on the role of informal waste workers on solid waste management and EPR implementation

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) could bring about significant improvements in solid waste management, particularly for informal waste workers (IWWs) in the collection and recycling of waste if effectively implemented. On 8 March, IUCN through the IUCN-PRO Vietnam Strategic Partnership Program and UNDP through the National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Technical Working Group organised a meeting on the role of IWWs in implementing EPR.

The major output is to produce a policy brief on the challenges and opportunities of IWWs in EPR implementation and recommendations on integrating IWWs into the EPR system.



Closing workshop of IUCN-PRO Viet Nam Strategic Partnership

On December 16, IUCN and PRO Vietnam organised a workshop in Hoi An to review the project and to test the use of volume-based waste fees in Cam Nam Ward with technical assistance from local NGO Building and Promoting Sustainable Development (BUS). Cam Nam is the first ward in Viet Nam to successfully pilot volume-based waste fees. Based on the results of the pilot, Hoi An City People’s Committee approved expanding the program city-wide, according to Decision No. 135/TB-UBND.



Photo credit

- Cover photo:** Indian spot-billed ducks in Tram Chim National Park, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam / Nguyen Manh Hiep
- Page 9:** Mr Jake Brunner, Head of Lower Mekong Subregion / Viet Nam Country Office © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 16:** National Committee Chairs at the IUCN Asia Regional Members Committee meeting in Haikou, Hainan, China, January 2024 © Ho Thi Yen Thu / MCD
- Page 16:** Ms Ho Thi Yen Thu, Standing Deputy Director of MCD, delivering a presentation at the IUCN Asia Regional Members Committee meeting © MCD
- Page 17:** Ceramic sea turtles displayed at an installation art exhibition organized by IUCN © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 17:** Ms Bui Thi Thu Hien (far left), IUCN Marine and Coastal Coordinator, cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the sea turtle installation art exhibition © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 18:** Grey-shanked douc langurs in Son Tra Peninsula, Da Nang City © GreenViet
- Page 19:** Coral reef fishes in Nam Du Archipelago, Kien Giang Province © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 20:** Mangroves in Soc Trang Province © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 21:** Polychaetes in Nam Du Archipelago, Kien Giang Province © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 21:** Staff from marine protected areas (MPAs) and protected areas (PAs) practising a lesson on marine animals rescue in Hon Cau MPA, Binh Thuan Province © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 22:** Melaleuca forest in Lang Sen Nature Reserve © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 23:** Vice Minister Le Cong Thanh delivering a opening remark at a workshop supported by IUCN © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 24:** An experience trip to Son Doong cave organised by Oxalis Adventure © IUCN Viet Nam/ Jake Brunner

- Page 25:** A peacock in Cat Tien National Park © IUCN Viet Nam / Nguyen Manh Hiep
- Page 25:** Mr Jake Brunner (left) awarding the IUCN Green List certificate to Mr Pham Xuan Thinh (right), Director of Cat Tien National Park © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 26:** Sambar deers in Cat Tien National Park © IUCN Viet Nam / Nguyen Manh Hiep
- Page 26:** Participants at the OECM national consultation organised by GIZ, IUCN, WWF, and NBCA / MONRE © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 27:** Monkeys around Linh Ung Pagoda, a popular tourist attraction in Da Nang City © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 27:** A tourist interacted directly with a monkey at Linh Ung Pagoda, Da Nang City © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 28:** A lotus silk farm—a flood-based livelihood—in Dong Thap Province © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 29:** Local farmers in An Giang Province participating in a training on lotus stem extraction organized by IUCN © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 29:** Representatives from WWF, ICD / MARD, and IUCN (left to right) chairing the technical consultation workshop on the GCF proposal © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 30:** Handicraft products made from unused fabric by a social enterprise in Hoi An City © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 30:** Informal waste workers sorting waste for recycling at Cam Ha landfill, Hoi An City © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 31:** A poster on the Volume-based Waste Fee programme and a three-compartment bin for waste separation in Hoi An City, supported by IUCN © IUCN Viet Nam
- Back cover:** A sambar deer and peacocks foraging in Cat Tien National Park © IUCN Viet Nam / Nguyen Manh Hiep



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