



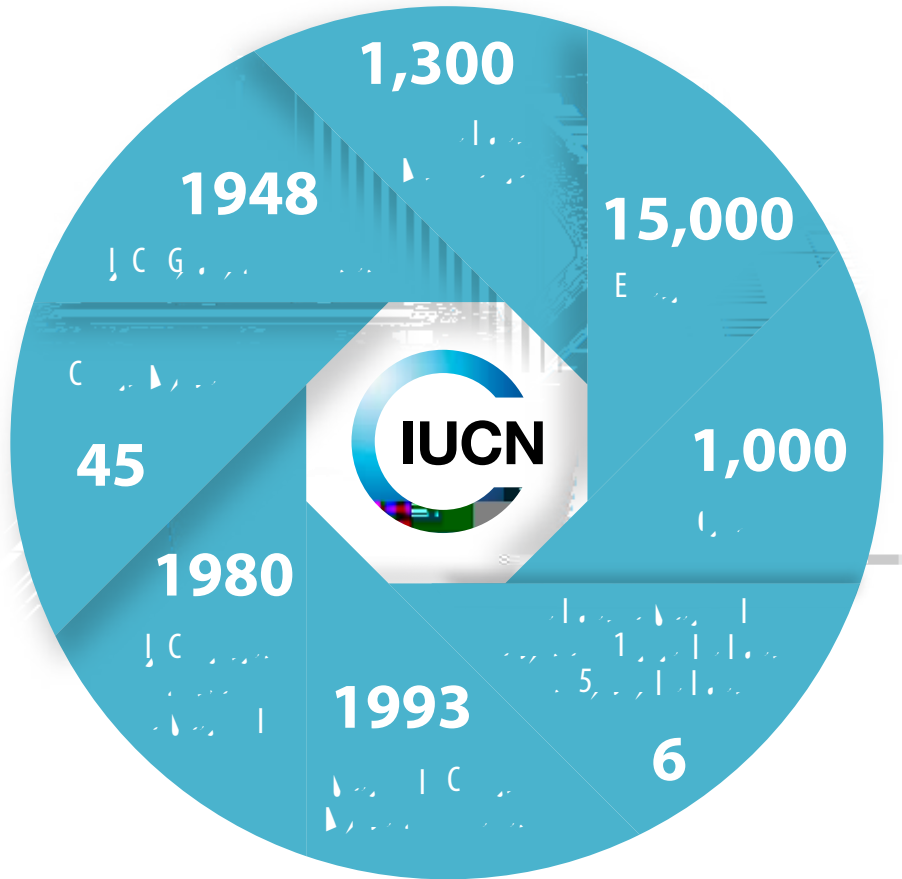
Annual Review 2016

Viet Nam Country Office

The designation of geographical entities in this report, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the

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IUCN Vietnam

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Membership



science for a changing world



IUCN Viet Nam has six members: one state member (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, MONRE) and five NGOs/research centres, including the Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES), the Institute of Ecological Economy (ECO-ECO), Action for the City (ACCD), the Centre for Marine Life Conservation and Community Development (MCD), and the Centre for Environment and Community Research (CECR).

In May 2015, the IUCN headquarters granted formal recognition to the Viet Nam National Committee of IUCN Members. Viet Nam National Committee (VNNC) includes all six members in which Dr. Hoang Van Thang (CRES) and Dr. Pham Anh Cuong (Biodiversity Conservation Agency/Viet Nam Environmental Administration - BCA/VEA) were appointed as Chair and Co-chair of VNNC respectively.

In September 2016, Viet Nam's National Committee members attended the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, USA, along with a delegation of MONRE. A positive impression of the Congress and of IUCN's unique position in the world was shared by all members, in particular that more than nine thousand participants working towards similar conservation goals could be gathered together.

During the Congress, all members joined the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony between BCA/VEA and United States Geological Survey (USGS) to cooperate in earth sciences and managing natural resources.

The forum sessions during the Congress created lots of interaction between speakers/field workers and members.

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The conservation system was appreciated by member organizations. They have the right to

A man with dark hair, wearing a white polo shirt, is smiling broadly. He is holding a pink plastic basket filled with large, fresh shrimp. He is outdoors, with green trees and a clear sky in the background. The image has a green semi-transparent overlay at the bottom where the text is located.

Highlights: Marine and Coastal Conservation

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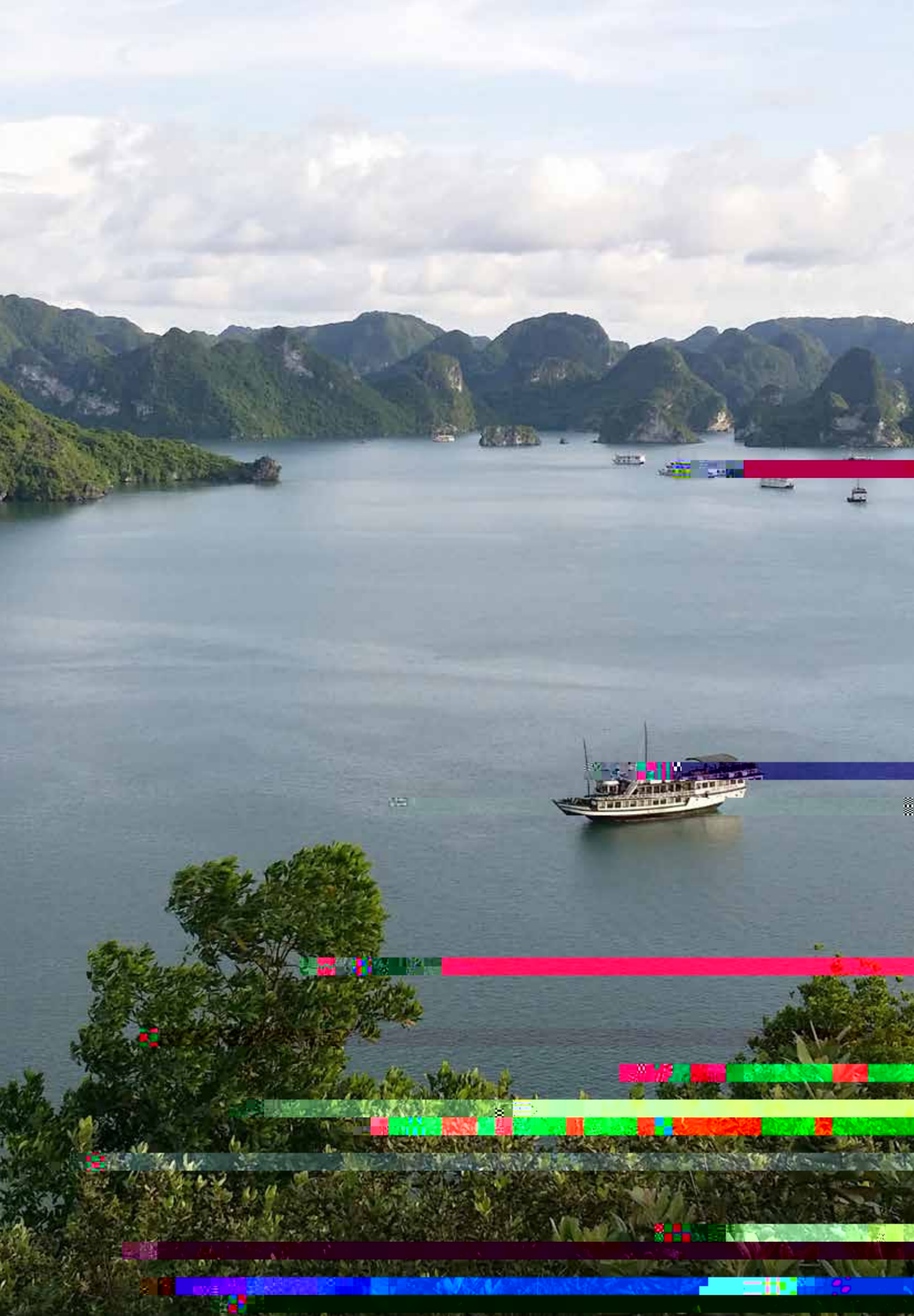
IUCN in partnership with SNV have worked with the Ca Mau People's Committee to *issue a decision that sets minimum standards for all certified organic shrimp farming projects* in the province. The decision recognizes that mangrove polyculture farmers are ecosystem service providers and therefore eligible for PES payments.

The project's phase 1 (2013 - 2016) review workshop was organised in Ho Chi Minh city to review the project results and lessons learnt. This was followed by a two-day trip to field sites in Ca Mau for 14 journalists and a delegation from Thailand's Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR). Journalists themselves saw the positive linkages between organic shrimp farming, environmental protection, and local livelihoods.

Phase 2 of this project (2016 to 2020) was launched in Can Tho with an extension to Ben Tre and Tra Vinh provinces.

Key points were raised during the launch: increased productivity through better Post Larvae (PL) selection and pond management offers a much greater financial incentive than the modest price premium that shrimp processors provide; and the type of certification suits the more fragmented mangrove forest landscape of Ben Tre and Tra Vinh where IUCN will work in the second phase.

<https://www.iucn.org/regions/asia/our-work/regional-projects/mangroves-and-markets-mam>



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An important *milestone of the Alliance is the re-nomination of the Ha Long Bay*





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Small Grant Facilities (SGF) is one of the important mechanisms of MFF to restore marine ecosystems, support sustainable coastal livelihoods in response to the impact of climate change. During 2016, MFF ran a training workshop for six SGF grantees. These SGF projects are all in and around Hoi An WHS and Biosphere Reserve. The training *gave participants practical skills in improving reporting through better monitoring of project outputs and results*. A key part of the training was to come up with a set of indicators to assess the impact of all six projects together.

In parallel with activities of SGF projects, MFF and Directory of Fisheries (D-FISH) organised a workshop for staff from Vietnam's 10 MPAs *to review a Management of MP*

A photograph of two men standing in a lotus field. The man on the left is older, with grey hair, wearing a light blue polo shirt and grey trousers. The man on the right is younger, wearing a white bucket hat, a light-colored checkered shirt, and grey trousers. They are both looking at a large green lotus leaf that the younger man is holding. The background shows a vast field of lotus plants under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The image is overlaid with several horizontal, multi-colored digital glitch artifacts.

Water and Wetlands Management

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At the request of the Dutch Embassy, IUCN participated in a workshop in Can Tho for senior central and provincial government officials on adaptive delta management. The main output was a set of recommendations ***delivered to the Deputy Prime Minister when the Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment visited Hanoi at the end of March on the Mekong Delta management plan.*** Several recommendations drew on IUCN's experience in the Mekong Delta under IP and the World Bank Technical Assistance.

The IP project held an Advisory Body meeting in Can Tho whereby the Advisory Body agreed that ***national government policies supporting the third rice crop in the Mekong Delta have begun to change, but pressure needs to continue at the provincial and local levels.*** More importantly, farmer supported alternatives to the third rice crop are needed. The study of lotus farming alternatives suggests one possible feasible alternative that is resilient to both floods and drought while having biodiversity and ecosystem benefits. The outcomes of the studies will be presented at a second Mekong Delta Forum.

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IUCN spoke at a BRIDGE-funded workshop organised by PanNature at which the Stimson Center, a think tank in Washington DC, presented a new study on strategic hydropower planning in Lao. The key message is that *Lao is getting a bad deal from hydropower because it lacks a national grid that allows it to move supply across the country in response to changes in demand. And as power demand from Thailand flat-lines, there are doubts over who will buy Lao hydropower. This gives Vietnam the opportunity to significantly increase its (currently minimal) imports of Lao hydropower and seek a veto over dams that threaten the Mekong Delta, Vietnam's rice, fruit, and aquaculture basket.*

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



An aerial photograph of a lush green forest with several white birds in flight. A horizontal brown band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'Forest Conservation'.

Forest Conservation

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This is a 4-year BMUB funded project to help promote and strengthen **h**. The project launch was organised in Ha Noi involving visitors from IUCN headquarters and partner organizations in France, Korea, and China. The three-day workshop in Ha Noi was followed by a three-day field trip and follow up discussion in Cuc Phuong National Park. This included a visit to Van Long Nature Reserve, a stronghold of the Critically Endangered (CR) Delacour's langur, whose global range is confined to the nature reserve and nearby hills. Van Long will probably be one of the project's focal sites in Vietnam.

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

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As part of the global program on FLR, IUCN organised an inception workshop in Quang Tri to *discuss forest management and restoration opportunities* in the province *where acacia and cassava have expanded rapidly*. After the inception, IUCN met with partners in Hanoi to discuss the next steps based on the results of the workshop and their own FLR research.

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



Biodiversity conservation

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The workshop was funded by USAID and GIZ and aims to document the role of local communities in combatting the illegal wildlife trade (IWT). It follows previous ones in South Africa and Cameroon. This one covers Southeast Asia with a focus on the Lower Mekong countries.

Two overview papers and 22 case studies from 10 countries in South and Southeast Asia were presented on aspects of local community participation in the illegal wildlife trade.

Several themes emerged: the challenging nature of combatting the IWT given the region's rapid market integration and high levels of endemism; the fact that projects typically



Business and Biodiversity

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Fauna and Flora International (FFI) press release focussed on the results of an IUCN Red Listing workshop in Cambridge on mollusks and arthropods in karst hills in Kien Giang threatened by quarrying by cement companies including Holcim. The workshop concluded that *these hills contain the*

Photo credit

Cover page: O Loan Lagoon, Phu Yen Province © Tran Minh Phuong

Page 7: Director General of Biodiversity Conservation Agency/MONRE cum Co-chair of National Committee - IUCN Viet Nam signed MOU with a representative of USGS on managing natural resources in Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 8: Members and partners joined the MOU signing ceremony in WCC © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 9: A farmer collected organic shrimps from his farm in Ca Mau Province © IUCN Viet Nam

h · The beautiful landscape of Ha Long Bay © IUCN Viet Nam & AMDI

h · A newly-born-marine turtle in Con Dao National Park © IUCN Viet Nam

h · Planting mangroves in Quang Tri Province © Quang Tri Environmental Monitoring Center

h · Dr. Duong Van Ni is talking with a local farmer in Dong Thap about lotus farming © IUCN Viet Nam

h · Buon Koup hydropower © Hoang Minh Duc

h · Van Long Nature Reserve @ Le Khac Quyet

h · A local farmer in the forest © Tung Pham/TRAFFIC

h · Silver langur in Lo Coc island © IUCN Viet Nam

Page 25: Sarus crane in Tram Chim National Park © Nguyen Van Hung



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