



Message

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



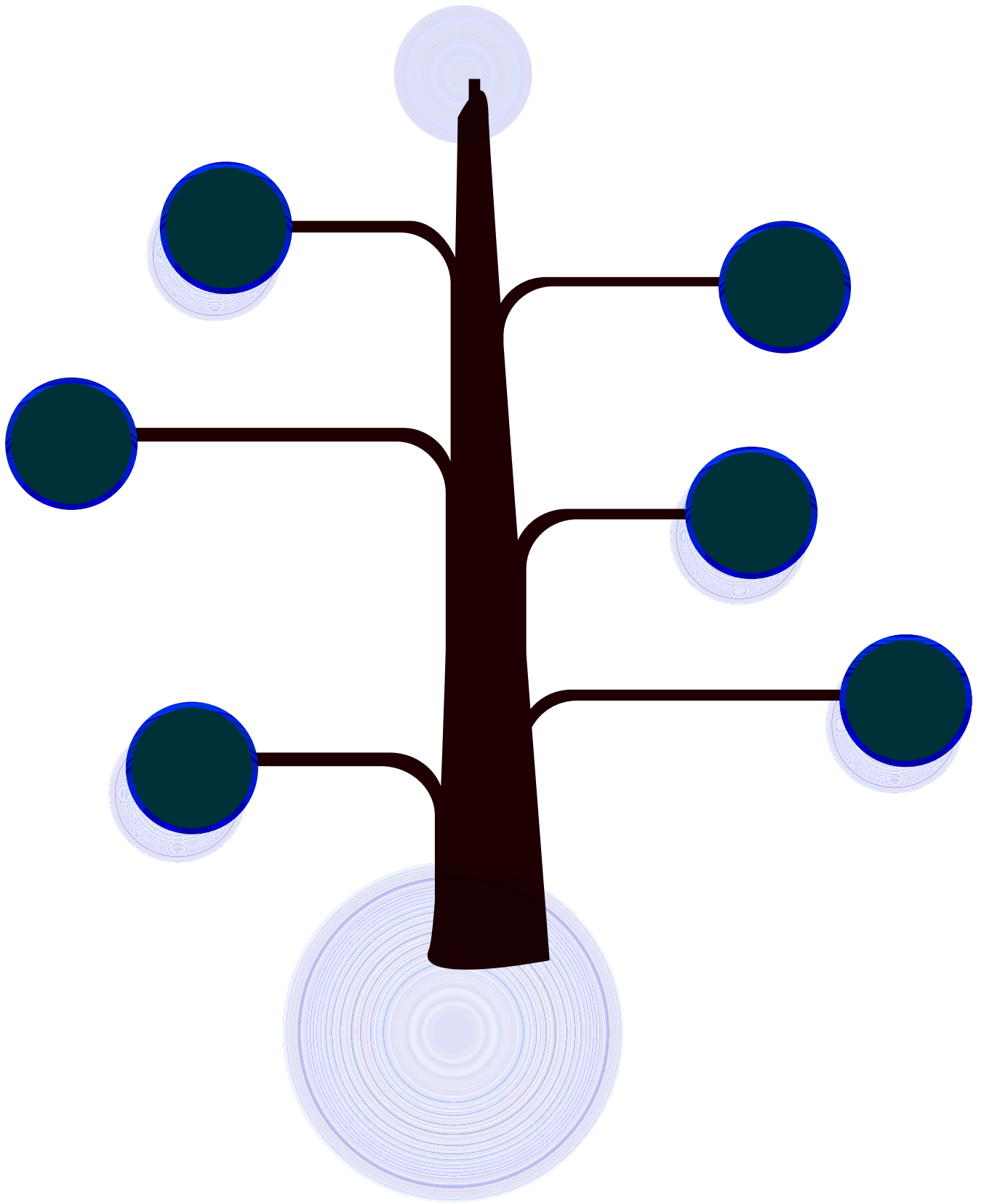
If 2018 showed anything, it showed the value of partnership. Because of its broad membership, technical capacity, and status as an international organization, IUCN is in a position to contribute to significant advances at the policy and field levels. But these are only possible if we partner with others.

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.

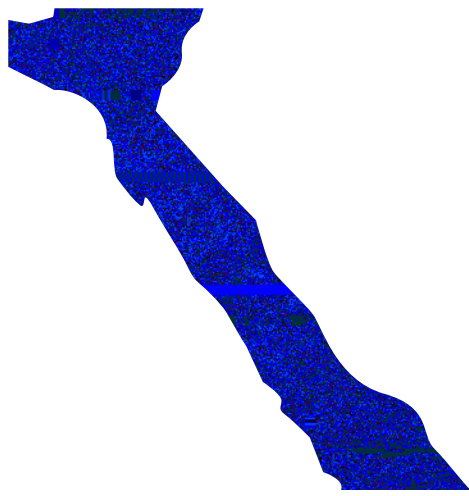
Finally, Van Long Nature Reserve in Ninh Binh Province has been one of Vietnam's great success stories. Long-term support from the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) has resulted in the recovery of the Critically Endangered Delacour's langur population. The challenge now is to expand the nature reserve 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



Our Activities in Numbers





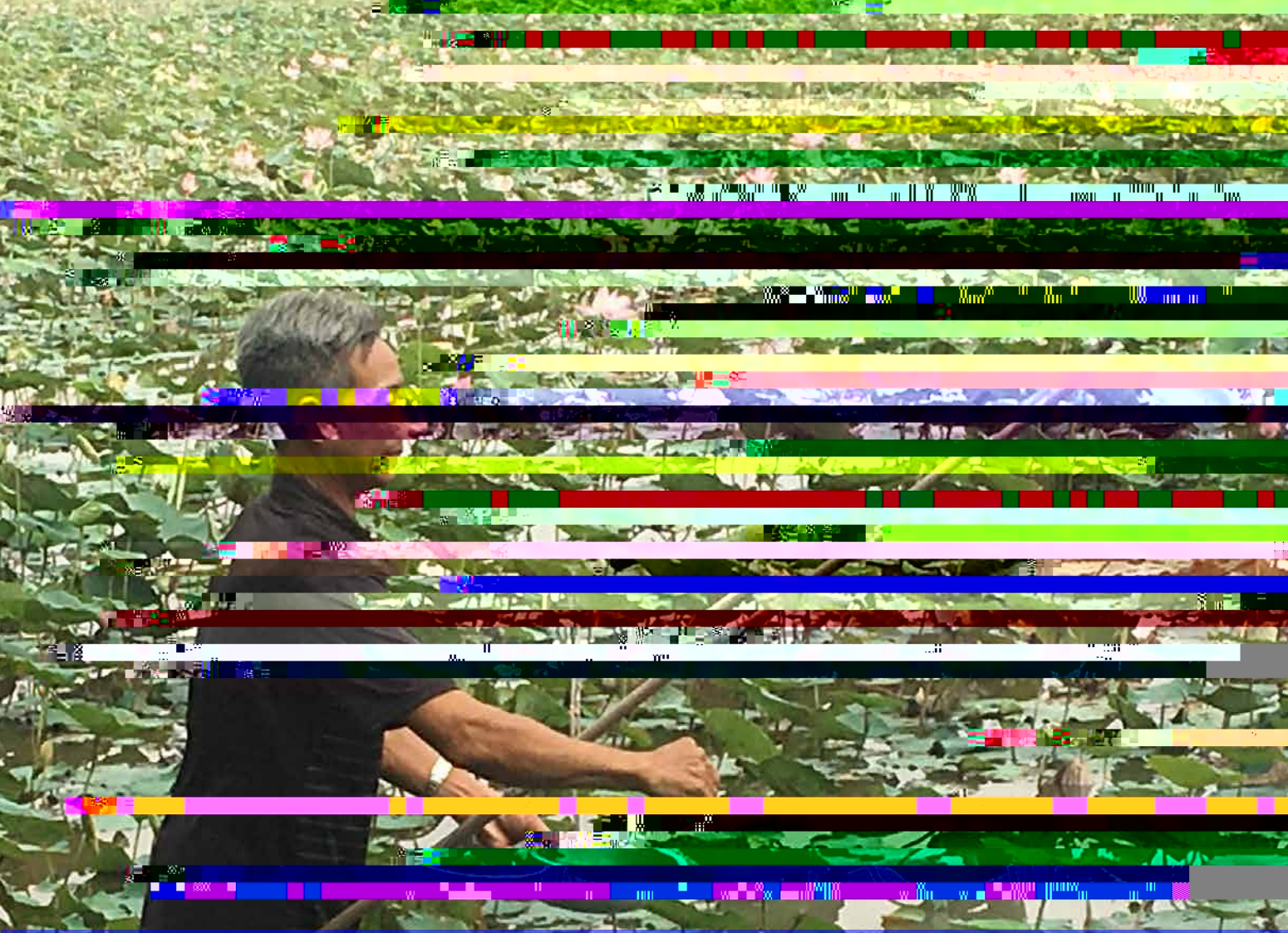


Membership

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.



Highlights Business and Biodiversity

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



Forest Conservation

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,



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.

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>

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:

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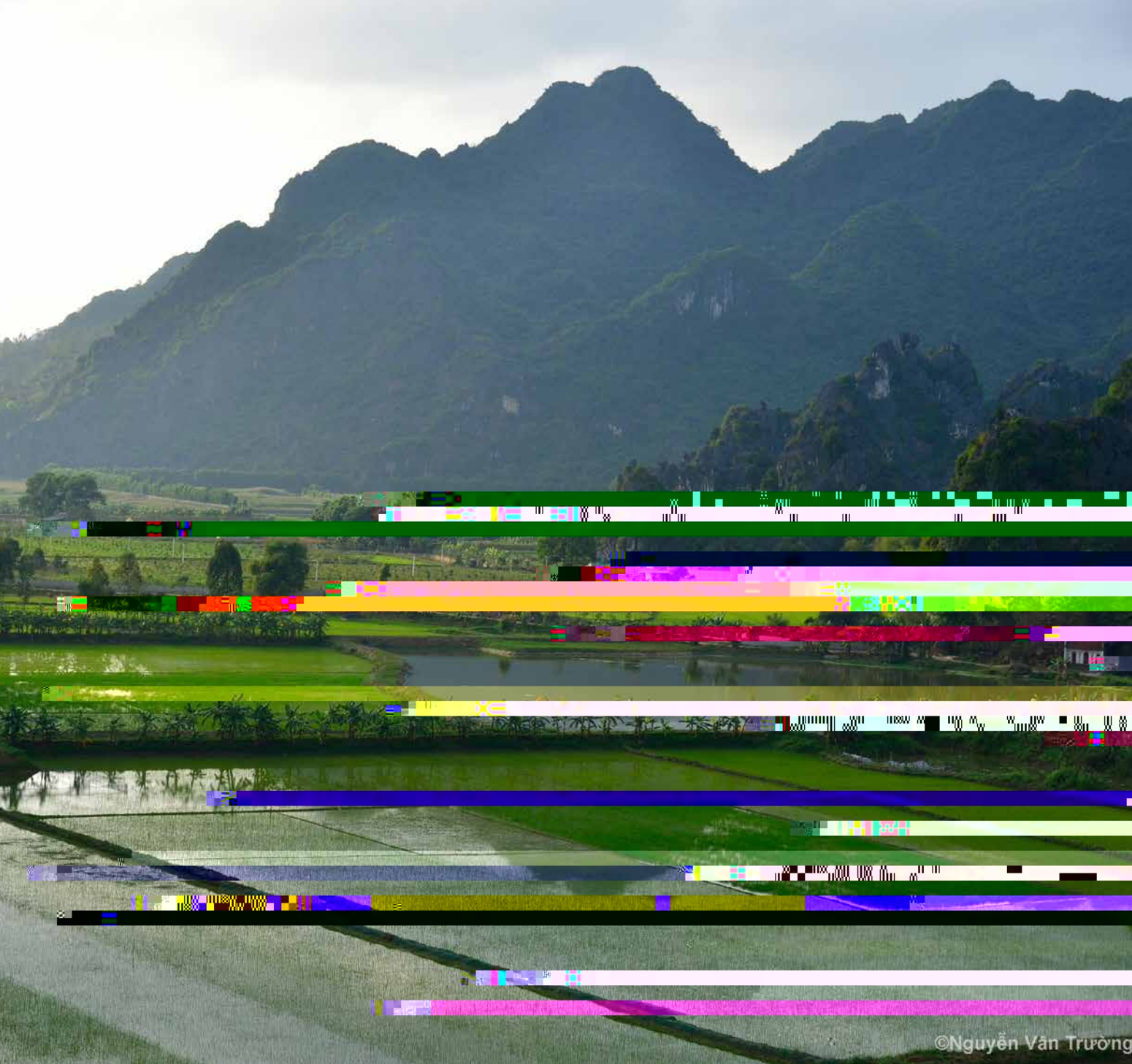


With the PA solutions project, IUCN aims to extend the protected area of Van Long Nature Reserve, home to the Critically Endangered (CR) Delacour's Langur. In January, a team from GRID-Arendal visited the area to collect GIS and field data in advance of a participatory mapping workshop in mid-2018.

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,



In April, the Expert Group for Assessment of Green List (EAGL) for Vietnam was launched at a training course for Eor Viesg(tr)2T7Ft in s.0.8lo.tmA.6 esg(tr8 (a particin)10.1 (8)11.3 .8 6 (s w)8.9 (er)14



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

More

than 20 participants from provincial agencies attended.



Marine and Coastal Conservation

In March, IUCN organised a 2-day workshop in Ha Long City for cruise boat companies and government departments

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



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

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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>

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

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

. 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#0HrTw47UTEH0eyce37>



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

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>





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



Water and Wetlands Management

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



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 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



IUCN, supported by the Stimson Center, participated in a series of meetings with government agencies in Phnom Penh, Vientiane, and Hanoi

. 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.



Photo credit

