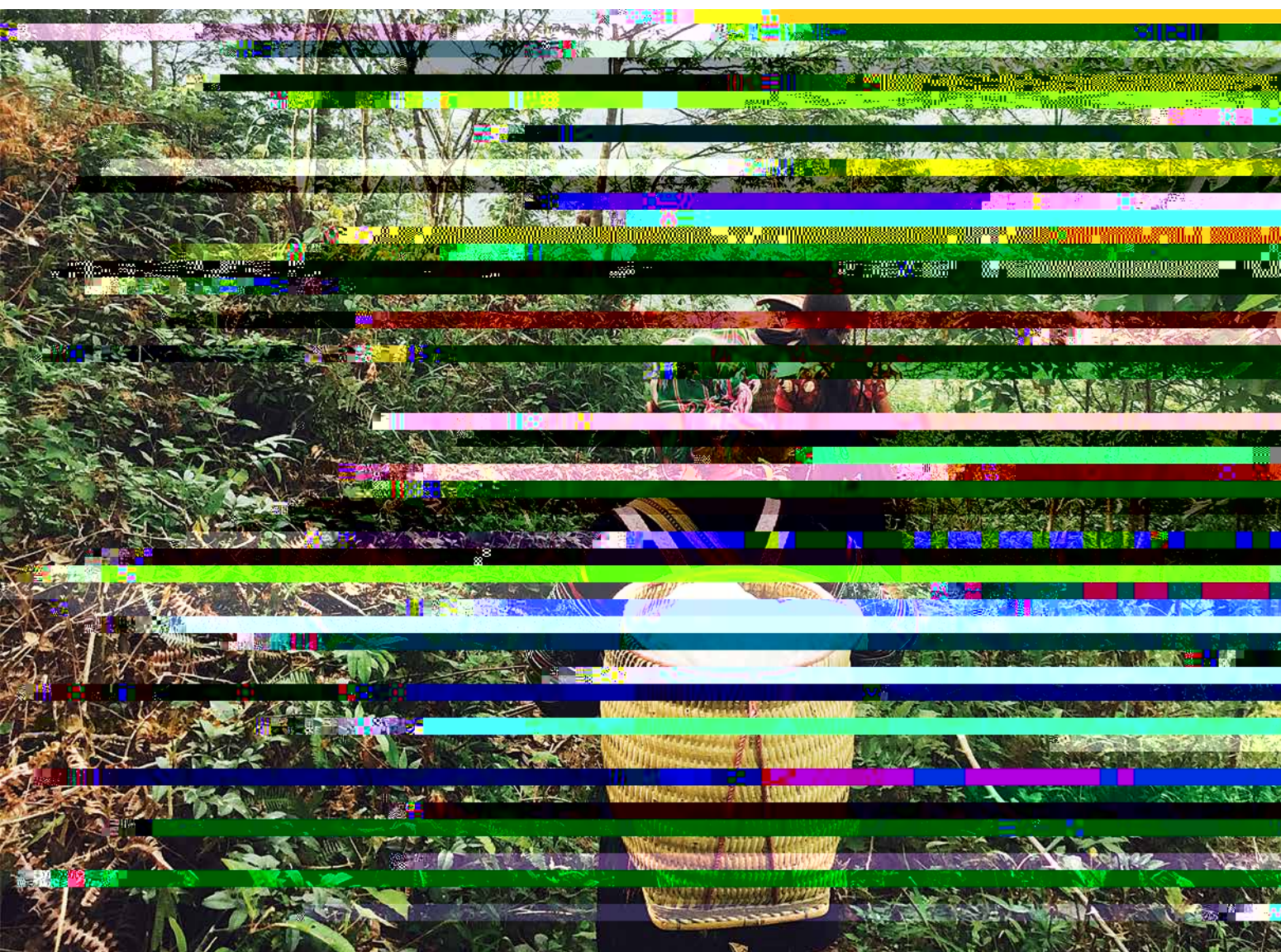




ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

VIET NAM COUNTRY OFFICE



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

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

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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

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

IUCN Viet Nam in Numbers

www.iucn.org/vietnam



Project Locations

Updated December 2019

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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. The initiative is a joint effort of IUCN Viet Nam, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

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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 fm tt(ean4ng)18s8.8 (t,)0.6 (en)16.6 dom Thn (emea and(.4 (a w)11.4 mee)ir)16tsharing environment

Marine and Coastal Conservation



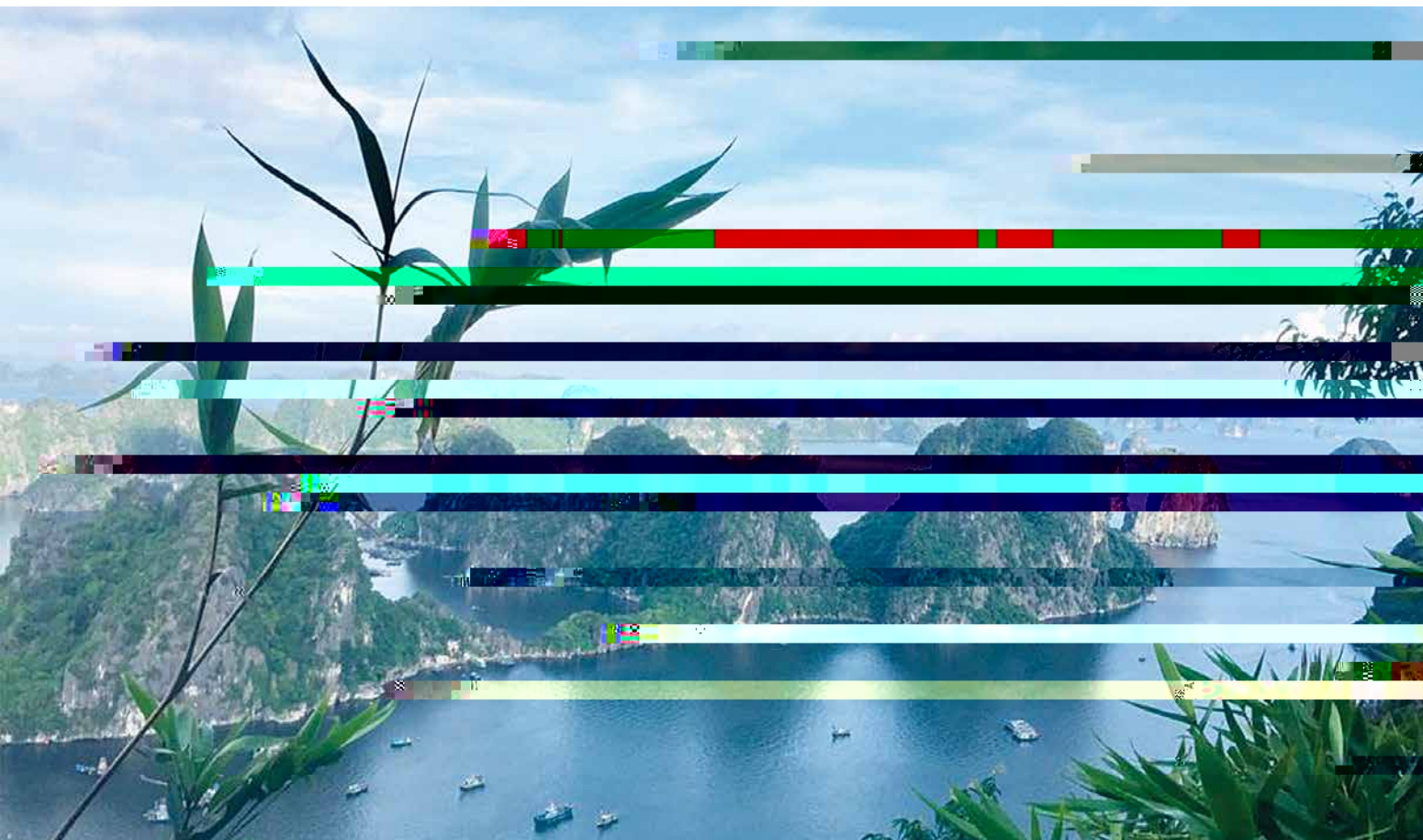
Ha Long – Cat Ba Alliance

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.

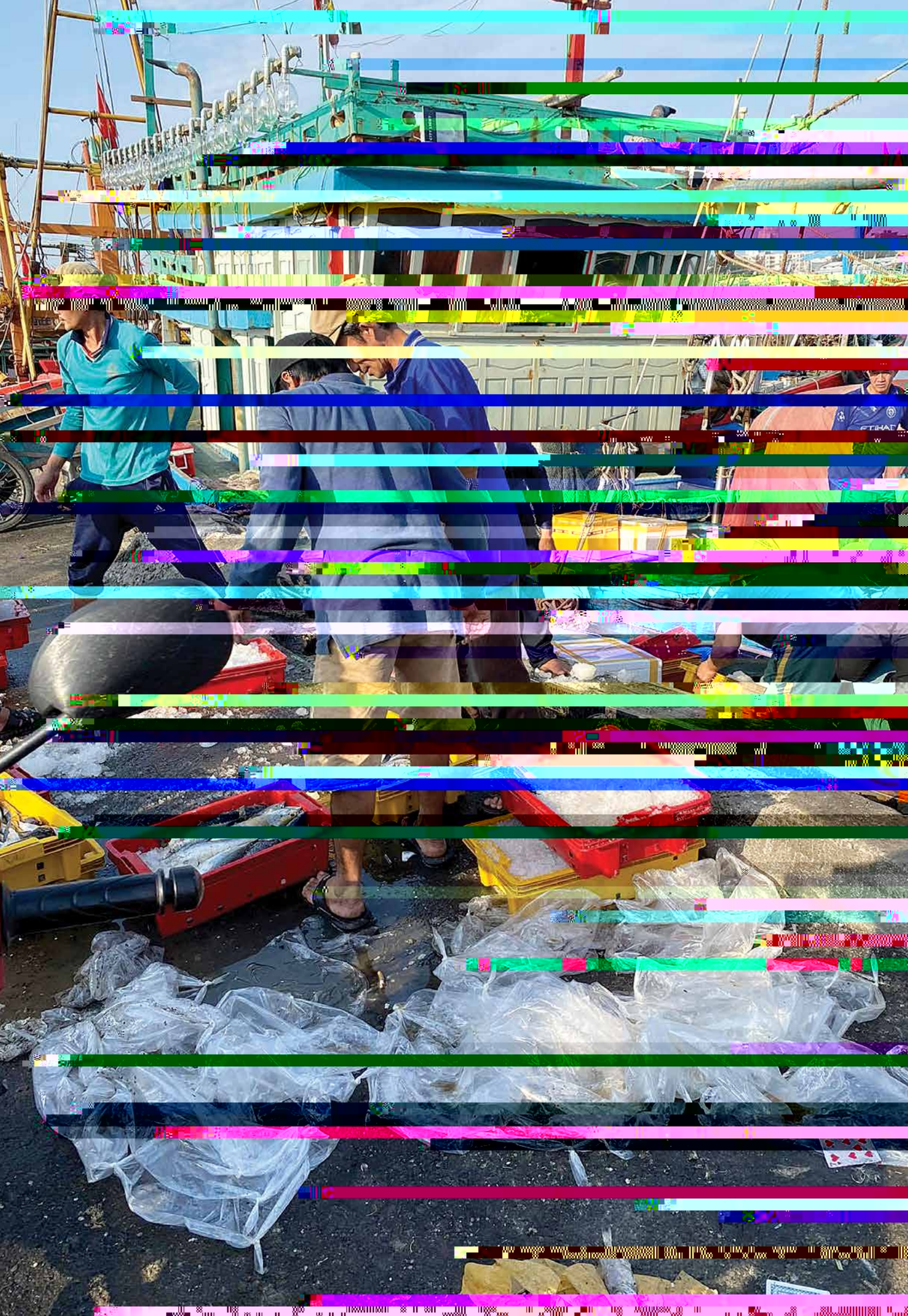
On January 9, IUCN met the Vice Chairman of Hai Phong City People’s Committee and the General Secretary of National Commission for UNESCO to discuss the Ha Long Bay/Cat Ba Archipelago re-nomination for World Heritage Status. After fruitful discussions, it was later decided that the final plans to extend 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



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. 7 (tly)-0T (and (y(4r significsd))-0.d 30r h

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





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

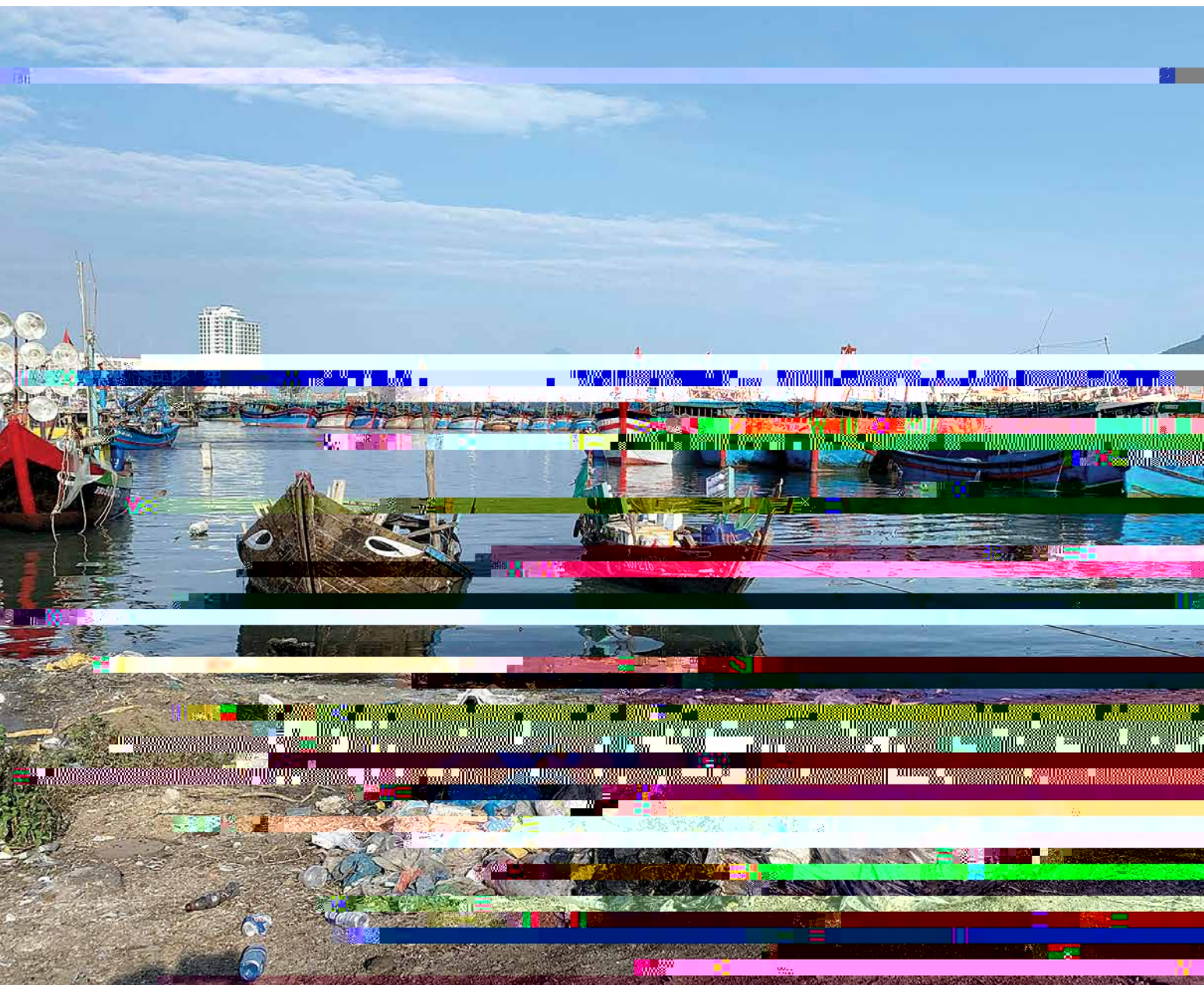
In October, facilitated by SIWI and IUCN, a group of experts from the Resources and Waste Advisory (RWA) Group conducted the first quantitative and qualitative assessment on S2S solid waste flows in Vu Gia-Thu Bon river basin. The assessment aims to apply the three steps of the S2S framework for this 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

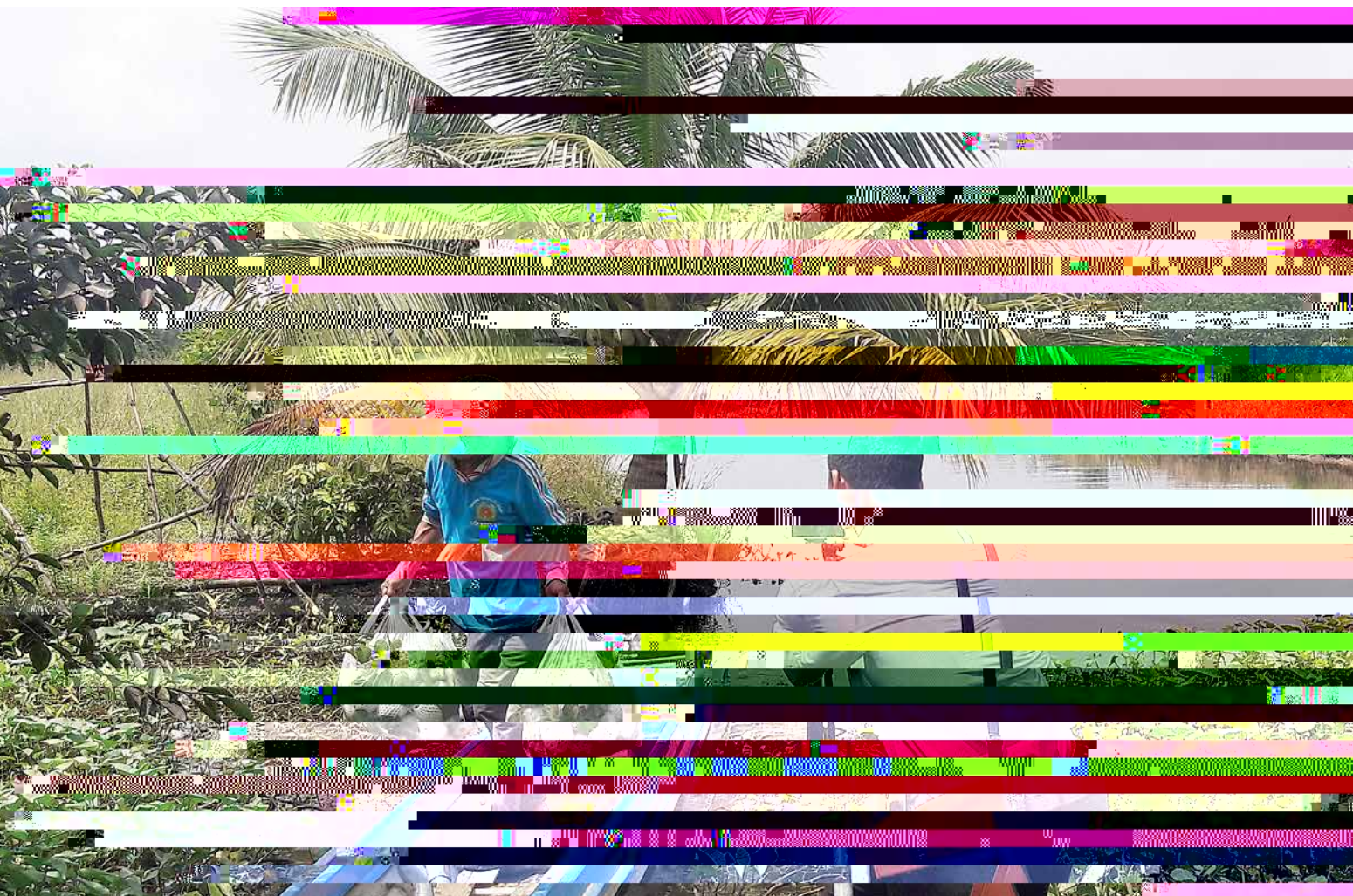
Funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the “Mekong WET: Building Resilience of Wetlands in the Lower Mekong Region” project aims to build climate resilience by harnessing the benefits 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:

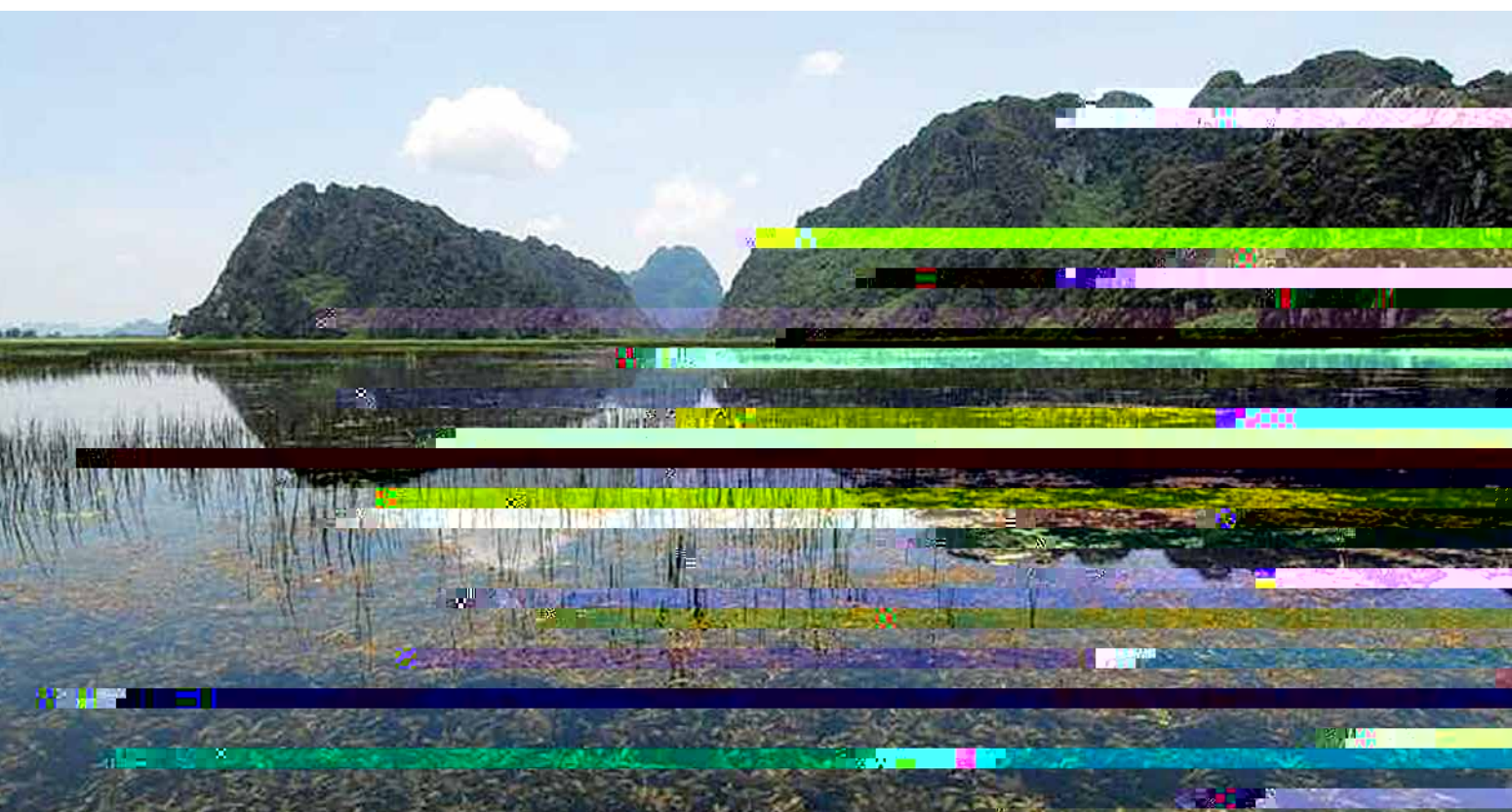
<https://www.iucn.org/regions/asia/our-work/regional-projects/mekong-wet>



Forest Conservation

Protected Areas Solutions

Through the AP7h tons



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

Photo credit

- Cover photo:** Indigenous villagers walking in Sapa, Lao Cai, Viet Nam © George Burke/IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 5:** Jake Brunner, Head of IUCN Indo Burma © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 9:** IUCN Viet Nam members took photo with IUCN Asia Regional Director at the 7th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) in Pakistan © MCD
- Page 10:** Mr. Pham Phu Binh – Director General of International Cooperation Department, MONRE presented at the 7th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) © MCD
- Page 11:** Van Long Ramsar Site Scenery © Nguyen Van Truong
- Page 12:** MOU signing ceremony of Vietnam Business for Environment © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 14:** A farmer is collecting hyacinths to prepare for a floating garden © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 16:** Cù Lao Chàm Islands Scenery © Nguyen Thuy Anh/IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 16:** View from Bai Tho Mountain Top, Quang Ninh © George Burke/IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 18:** Plastic waste from fishing boats at Au Thuyen-Tho Quang Fishing Quarf, Da Nang City, Viet Nam © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 19:** Baby Sea Turtle Hatching © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 21:** Staff of Bai Tu Long National Park participated in plastic waste monitoring and assessment programme © IUCN & Greenhub
- Page 22:** Two boys aboard a traditional fishing boat in the Sekong River © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 23:** Plastic waste found near the beach at Au Thuyen – Tho Quang Fishing Quarf, Da Nang city © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 24:** A local authority participated in a citizen journalism training at U Minh Thuong National Park © IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 25:** Traditional rice fields in Sapa, Lao Cai, Viet Nam © George Burke/IUCN Viet Nam
- Page 26:** Van Long Ramsar site © Mr. Le Khac Quyet
- Back cover:** River system in Sapa, Lao Cai, Viet Nam © George Burke/IUCN Viet Nam



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