



IUCN Viet Nam  
Strategic Framework 2007-2010  
Finding the balance in a changing world

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## Forewords

### Dr. Pham Khoi Nguyen

Vice Minister  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

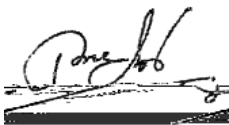
IUCN has a long association with the Government of Viet Nam. This began in the early 1980's when IUCN provided technical assistance in the preparation for the first National Conservation Strategy (NCS) in 1984-1985. Since then, IUCN Viet Nam has been making significant contributions to the environmental protection and nature conservation of Viet Nam, especially with respect to the development of policy and law. The important documents which IUCN Viet Nam has supported in the past or presently include the National Biodiversity Action Plan (issued in 1995), the National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development (NPESD) for the period 1991-2000, and the Biodiversity Law.

Apart from supporting developing countries in establishing national law and policy related to natural management and environmental protection, IUCN also has strong experience in conservation work in the field. IUCN is a highly respected global organization which has a close relationship with Government and NGO's, a wide network of members, and reliable global knowledge and technical expertise.

On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), the focal point agency for the environment of Viet Nam, I would like to congratulate IUCN Viet Nam for this Strategic Framework 2007-2010. Finding the Balance in a Changing World, which defines the focus of the assistance they will provide in natural resources protection and management in Viet Nam. In this Strategic Framework, IUCN explains new approaches and orientations. This document reflects an in-depth understanding of the current situation in Viet Nam and highlights the need to address climate change and mainstream environmental factors into social and economic development to harmonize development and conservation.

I am confident that this Strategic Framework will guide IUCN Viet Nam to further success for the coming years.

Once again, congratulations!



Dr. Pham Khoi Nguyen

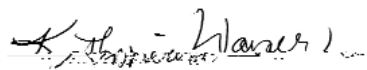
### Katherine Warner, Ph.D.

Country Group Head - 1  
Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Cambodia

Viet Nam is a very beautiful country, made up of mountains, forests, lush river deltas and wide expanses of coasts and beaches. But what of the future? With one of the fastest growing economies in the world, Viet Nam is undergoing major changes. The Viet Nam of the future will be very different from that of today, not only because of its rapid economic growth, but also due to the high vulnerability of its river deltas and coastlines to climate change.

It is in response to these challenges that IUCN Viet Nam has prepared its Strategic Framework 2007-2010: *Finding the balance in a changing world*. IUCN welcomes the opportunity to continue to work in partnership with the Government and people of Viet Nam in identifying new approaches that will assist in meeting the opportunities and challenges of the future. Utilising a collaborative process of consultations with Government, national institutions, members and international organisations, its *Strategic Framework* reflects IUCN's commitment to the conservation of Viet Nam's natural resources for future generations while bringing benefits to those in poverty today and addressing its emerging economic and environmental pressures.

I am very pleased with IUCN Viet Nam's Strategic Framework and believe that it will provide its programme with the correct path in *Finding the balance* in Viet Nam's changing world.



Katherine Warner, Ph.D.







JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KEG	Knowledge, Empowerment and Governance
KP	Kyoto Protocol
KRAs	Key Result Areas
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOFI	Ministry of Fisheries
MOI	Ministry of Industry
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NCS	National Conservation Strategy
NEA	National Environment Agency
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEX	National Execution
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NP	National Park
NPESD	National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development
NSEP	National Strategy for Environment Protection
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Products
NTFPRC	Non-timber Forest Product Research Centre
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PA	Protected Area
PARC	Protected Area for Resources Conservation
RAMSAR	RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands
SBPRP	Safeguarding Biodiversity for Poverty Reduction Project
Sida	Swedish International Development Agency
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
SEA	Strategic Environment Assessment
UCAR	University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
VCCI	Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
VEPA	Viet Nam Environment Protection Agency, MONRE
VFEJ	Viet Nam Forum of Environmental Journalists
VNFS	Viet Nam National Forest Strategy
WB	World Bank
WHS	World Heritage Site
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature







## 2. IUCN Viet Nam's Strategic Framework 2007-2010: *Finding the balance in a changing world*

To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that the use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

To influence, encourage, and assist Viet Nam's biodiversity conservation and equitable sustainable use of natural resources for improving its people's quality of life.

To become the leading knowledge-based conservation and environmental organisation working in partnership with the Government of Viet Nam, civil society and the private sector - to promote best practice for sustainable development; maintain environmental integrity; and support sustainable livelihoods for its people.

IUCN Viet Nam's vision is reflected in its Strategic Framework, which demonstrates a commitment to a better future in which Viet Nam's natural resources are valued and well managed for the livelihoods of its people. The IUCN Strategic Framework is aligned with the GoV plans and strategies for the period 2006 - 2010 which in turn reflect the Government's commitment to poverty reduction within the high economic growth context anticipated for this period. There is an urgent need for improving environmental planning and management for maintaining sustainable ecosystem and environmental services for both current and future development. The Strategic Framework also reflects the spirit of the Hanoi Core Statement to support Government ownership, alignment with national priorities, harmonisation of approaches, and to assist improved coordination to achieve measurable results and outcomes by 2010.

While this Framework provides strategic directions for IUCN Viet Nam, it is a living document with the flexibility to accommodate developments throughout implementation. It confirms that IUCN Viet Nam will serve as a convener in supporting the Government in addressing national priorities through continuing to work in close partnership with key stakeholders and supporting strate-

## 2.1. IUCN Viet Nam: Finding the balance in a changing world

IUCN Viet Nam's long term objectives:

1. Ecosystems, habitats and species are conserved and rehabilitated, as a basic need for the present generation and as a basic right for future generations.
2. Natural resources are managed and used on an equitable and sustainable basis and contribute to poverty alleviation, especially of women and the most vulnerable, and improve human wellbeing.
3. Sound environmental management principles and practices are incorporated into the policies and plans for social and economic growth.





IUCN Viet Nam's programmatic themes and objectives are summarised below:

**Governance**

Promote sustainable development that is measured by clear environmental indicators of the impacts economic growth has on Viet Nam's environment;

Develop incentive mechanisms that encourage sustainable management and use of natural resources and build capacity and commitment to enforcement of existing environmental laws and regulations;

Enhance and sustain coordination among government agencies on key policy and implementation issues;

Support meaningful participation of civil society and the private sector in the development of environmental laws and policies and in decision making which impacts the environment;

er Promote policy processes that build upon lessons learn582.493 c4es an193 c 0at .055 Cibupolenf development of in deteat .306.163

## 4. Governance

Governance is about more than government. It is about relationships between citizens, leaders and public institutions. (DFID White Paper 2006)

Governance covers a wide range of activities, including the development of legal frameworks, building capacity for government authorities and civil society, strengthening institutional arrangements, improving enforcement, and developing incentive mechanisms for environmental protection and natural resources management.

### 4.1. Why Governance? - Improving environmental management, sustaining biodiversity and empowering stakeholders

The Governance thematic programme incorporates all work related to strengthening institutional capacity to effectively manage natural resources. Governments, development agencies and the private sector widely recognise the importance of good governance to both long and short term management goals.

That sound natural resource management is linked to poverty reduction is also well recognised, but the question of how to ensure that natural resource management policies and practices support poverty reduction and do not result in creating further hardship on the rural poor remains a challenge. There is relatively little national



such as illegal logging is an important and specific multi-sectoral entry point where work can be done towards achieving sustainable forest management, improved livelihoods, and benefits for many stakeholders.

## 4.2. Governance in Viet Nam

The Government of Viet Nam is advancing across many policy and legislative fronts including the Five Year Plan for Natural Resources and Environment Sector 2006-2010, the National Forest Strategy, and laws on environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, water resource management, mineral exploitation and land allocation.

The Government is investing more resources than in the past on natural resources and environment management, with 1% of state budget expenditure allocated to spending on environmental protection. However, the mechanisms for disbursement of these funds need to be established with clear natural resource management and biodiversity targets and clear action plans. It is also vital that the funding will actually address the problem of overlapping functions among related agencies - for such an allocation would almost certainly result in improved natural resource management/protection. This will assist in the definition of clear roles, responsibilities, and priorities. There is also a need to go beyond policy and regulations to actual enforcement. Capacities for environmental governance urgently need strengthening at the provincial level. Furthermore, piloting of models of effective community-based management for the environment can demonstrate participatory governance in Viet Nam.

There is greater acceptance of the role of the private sector, especially with Viet Nam's recent accession to the WTO. Therefore, raising awareness, developing cooperation mechanisms, seeking compliance with environmental regulations and promoting best practice in the private sector will be increasingly important. Incentive mechanisms need to be developed that encourage environmentally-friendly enterprises and compliance with environmental regulations.

Public participation is a vital component of environmental management. The Grassroots Democracy Decree calls for participation with respect to issues such as land use planning. The revised Law on Environmental Protection (LEP) goes some way towards defining popular rights relating to monitoring environmental quality. However, the specification of rights relating to public participation in monitoring pollution, and in the formulation and development of these monitoring programmes (such as programmes that monitor the environmental impact of industrial development) may need to be included in legislation that is not exclusively environmental. Concrete

channels to enable the public to hold polluters accountable under the law are needed. In general, information needs to become more accessible to the public (a sentiment also articulated in the revised LEP).

## 4.3. IUCN Viet Nam and Governance

Governance is an area in which IUCN Viet Nam can make a difference. Since the early 1980s, IUCN has been working on governance issues in Viet Nam, supporting the formulation of laws, strategies and action plans including: the National Conservation Strategy

## 4.4. Governance objectives and strategic directions

IUCN Viet Nam will work to build capacity towards recognising the importance of *accountability* and *responsiveness* of public policies and institutions to the diverse needs of its citizens. It will:

**1. Promote sustainable development that is measured by clear environmental indicators of the impacts that economic growth has on Viet Nam's environment:**

Assist in the development of standard national environmental indicators able to measure impact of development on the environment, natural resource and biodiversity.

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## 5. Integrating environmental planning into economic growth

Viet Nam's economic development is remarkable:

"This progress has been achieved as a result of sustained reform efforts that started 20 years ago. It is the expectation that GDP per capita will reach US\$1,100 by the end of the SEDP 2006-2010 period, putting Viet Nam on the path to become an industrialized country by 2020. Challenges remain..... Ensuring sustainable development is also a challenge..."

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (Consultative Group meeting - Hanoi, 15/12/2006)

However, this growth has resulted in a significant impact on its environment as landscapes have been transformed and natural resources degraded. The future sustainable development of Viet Nam will require the integration of the maintenance of environmental services into economic development planning process.

### 5.1. Why integrate environmental planning into economic growth? - Harmonizing development and conservation

The Social Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2006-2010 promotes the development and expansion of the industrial, agro-forestry, fishing and tourism sectors. Industrial development relies upon the water supply, power supply, and other natural resources and services. As a result, demand on natural resources will continue to increase during the industrialisation and modernisation process. A growing population and urban development is also placing additional stress on the environment. Poor wastewater disposal is polluting rivers and water systems and creating challenges in the management of waste.

Often, it is the poor that are more affected by environmental degradation. Seventy percent of Vietnamese people are in rural areas, with many earning their living from the land, making them directly dependent on the quality and availability of natural resources. Forest management policies must take into account the livelihoods of forest workers, local people who depend on 'non-timber forest products', crop farmers and cattle herders. Conservation should not come at the expense of these people, many of whom are extremely poor. Local people need improved access to forests of various types, to sloping land for agriculture and to terraced land. Women and ethnic minorities in particular require more secure land tenure and better access to extension services and capital for livelihood development.

Some natural resources have been exploited to such a point that they cannot be restored. Utilisation of natural resources for economic development is often wasteful and destructive of the environment, with the cost of environmental improvement set aside to be addressed at a later stage in the development cycle. One of the primary reasons for environmental degradation is a lack of proper planning, monitoring and management of natural resources during economic development.

Viet Nam is prone to natural disasters, including river floods, cyclones, and drought. More than one million people require emergency relief each year. Global climate change is likely to result in more erratic incidence and intensity of cyclones, rain and drought. Plans must be developed to address these issues.

The social and economic elements of sustainable development are closely linked to the health of the environment. However, the consequences of development on the environment are often ignored. Over recent years, the environment has gained additional attention; the creation of the National Council on Sustainable Development has been an important part of this process. The continued integration of the environment into development planning is essential for such a fast-growing country as Viet Nam.

## 5.2. Viet Nam and environmental planning for economic growth

The Government's focus areas in relation to natural resources and the environment have been set out in the SEDP 2006-2010. These include the development of:

Law on Biodiversity and revised Biodiversity Law; revision of the Law on Water Resources;

Decree providing guidance on solving issues related to the issuing of specific land-use-rights certificates; on land reclamation; and, on procedures of land compensation and resettlement support when land is taken for use by the State; Master plan for a baseline survey of natural resources and natural minerals;

Master plan for water resources and river basins and inventory and assessment of water resources;

Master plan for a monitoring system for natural resources and the environment;

Master plan for solid waste collection and treatment;

Mechanisms and policies to support and implement Agenda 21 at ministerial, sectoral and local levels;

Programmes and projects for pollution prevention, environmental protection and sustainable development; and

Mechanisms and policies to encourage investment in natural resources and environment protection.

In addition, there are a number of sectoral plans being undertaken by sectoral agencies. These include:

**Marine and coastal:** The Government's coastal and

### 5.3. IUCN Viet Nam and environmental planning for economic growth

Since the 1980's, IUCN has been providing assistance in the development of a variety of policies and plans in Viet Nam. These have included National Environmental Action Plans, a Biodiversity Action Plan, and a range of other initiatives. This will remain an important focal area of IUCN Viet Nam's country programme.

IUCN Viet Nam has also provided assistance in the development of approaches to aspects of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) through its partnership efforts with NOAA and the Ministry of Fisheries over the past eight years. It is proposed that this approach is integrated with MONRE's efforts for ICZM and comprehensive technical support is provided to addresses the key challenges in the coastal environment.

Additionally, IUCN Viet Nam has been promoting the use of an integrated water resources management (IWRM) strategy to address the issues of water management and to ensure that the concepts of environmental flows are incorporated into the planning process for water resource management. The concept of E-flows (environmental flows) will be critical for ensuring that rivers and wetlands maintain their ecological function and services.

IUCN Viet Nam participated in the process of development of the Viet Nam National Forest Strategy and provided technical support to the development of the National NTFP Sub-sector Strategy. IUCN Viet Nam will continue to support the implementation of the VNFS.

To date the IUCN Viet Nam Programme has focused on working with the public sector and local communities. However, there is recognition that the private sector is playing an increasingly important role in the development of Viet Nam. Similarly important, the private sector will play critical role in environmental protection and conservation. In the period 2007-2010, the IUCN Viet Nam Strategic Framework will seek to engage the private sector in a range of initiatives, including the promotion of best practices.

IUCN Viet Nam worked closely with the Government of Viet Nam and the subsequent work on the establishment of National Council for Sustainable Development and the implementation of Agenda 21. IUCN efforts have focussed on identifying the issues associated with poverty and the environment. It will seek to build upon these initiatives to attempt to identify approaches whereby environmental concerns can be integrated into the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS) and the Social Economic Development Plan (SEDP).

### 5.4. Environmental planning for economic growth: objectives and strategic directions

In line with Government priorities and in order to address future needs of the country, IUCN Viet Nam's strategic approaches are as follows:

#### 1. Integrate environmental concerns into the Social Economic Development Plan and other economic development and poverty strategies

In partnership with the Government and civil society, identify environmental indicators and indicators of ecosystem health;

Assist in the development of environmental baselines for important ecosystems and habitats and monitoring the impacts of the development process;

Promote successful approaches and draw experience from less successful approaches;

Assist in integrating obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) into the national development planning processes; and

Mainstream best practices into policy.

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Convene dialogue and cooperation between government and national and international organisations, NGOs and civil society on EIAs and SEA;

Assist in the development and implementation of suitable approaches to Strategic Environmental Assessment in Viet Nam to ensure SEA is implemented in a comprehensive manner; and

Continue to provide support in the review and refinement of the Protected Area System in Viet Nam to ensure that it achieves objectives and becomes a key tool in the conservation of biodiversity in Viet Nam.

#### **4. Promote private sector engagement in adopting best practices for sustainable business**

Promote private sector participation in planning to develop best practice in environmental management;

Develop incentive mechanisms for compliance with existing legislation to minimise impacts on the environment; and

Promote dialogue between government and private sector on environmental issues.

## **5.5. Principle partners: Environmental planning for economic growth**

IUCN Viet Nam has been working with a range of agencies to develop a strategy to promote environmental planning for economic growth. IUCN Viet Nam will maintain partnerships with related departments of the respective ministries including:

MONRE (relevant to the Biodiversity Law, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, water management, and the National Wetlands Support Programme);

MARD (relevant to the implementation of the VNFS, the development of the NTFP Sub-Sector Support Programme, to forest fire management and the management of Special Use Forests, and to the Water for Food and Ecosystems Programme)

MOFI (relevant to the Marine Turtle Conservation National Action Plan, the National MPA system and the promotion of ICZM);

Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) (relevant to Agenda 21 and to the integration of environmental concerns into development planning and sustainable development);

Continue to work with provinces to promote provincial level environmental planning for field activities. Provinces include Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Ha Tinh, Kien Giang, Thua Thien - Hue, Long An, Hai Phong, Dong Nai, and Dong Thap and Khanh Hoa. New partnerships will also be explored;

Expand IUCN Viet Nam's partnership to include other agencies and organisations such as the VCCI and the private sector; and

Build a stronger membership base of IUCN members in Viet Nam while continuing to work with current national and international NGO members.



such as wood and NTFPs to support rural community livelihoods and contribute to local and national economies. Forests also provide environmental services





## 7. Climate change - an adaptive approach

Whatever happens to future greenhouse gas emissions, we are now locked into inevitable changes to climate patterns. Adaptation to climate change is therefore no longer a secondary and long-term response option only to be used as a last resort. It is now prevalent and imperative, and for those communities already vulnerable to the impacts of present day climate hazards, an urgent imperative.

A Conceptual Framework Paper Prepared by the Task Force on Climate Change, Vulnerable Communities and Adaptation, 2006

### 7.1. Why Climate change? - "An inconvenient truth"

The evidence of warming of the climate system is unequivocal. The climate appears to be changing with 11 of the last 12 years (1995-2006) measured as among the 12 warmest years on record (IPCC 2007). Patterns of seasons, widespread melting of snow and ice, and a rising global average sea level (IPCC 2007) are just a few of the changes that have already been observed. The most severe impacts of climate change are limited to a relatively small number of countries. It is unfortunate that Viet Nam is one of those countries.

Over the last 10 years, the sea level is estimated to have risen 3.1 mm per year (IPCC 2007). Continued growth of greenhouse gas emissions and associated global warming could well promote a sea level rise of up to 1m-3m in this century, and an unexpectedly rapid breakup of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets might produce a 5m SLR. Any rise in sea level will have severe impacts on the Mekong and Red River Deltas of Viet Nam.

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has been committed to addressing climate change through international agreements such as the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC). Viet Nam was one of the original countries to sign this agreement in June 1992. The Kyoto Protocol (KP) is an agreement made under the UNFCCC, launched at the Third Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997. Viet Nam signed the KP on 3 December 1998, ratified it on 25 September 2002 and this came into force on 16 February 2005. The KP proposes mechanisms to help developed countries achieve the objective of restricting greenhouse gas emissions through International Emission Trading (IET) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

## 7.2. Viet Nam and Climate change

Viet Nam, with a coastline of 3,260km and two of the largest low-lying deltas in the world, is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change.

A minimal 1 metre rise in sea level would potentially impact on the livelihoods of 10.8 % of Viet Nam's population - especially in these deltas. If, as some of the long term projections for the next century (see Figures 1 and 2 below) suggest, sea level rises by 5 metres, Viet Nam may lose 16 % of its land area. About 35 % of the population and 35 % of GDP may be affected (WB 2007). This is a critical issue for Viet Nam both over the medium and the long term.

East Asia: Population impact

In Viet Nam the impacts of climate change will initially be realised through changes in the seasonal climate in different areas of the country. Rainfall and seasonal patterns will change, perhaps with longer annual drier periods in some places. . While this may provide benefits in

resulting in loss of crops. This may in turn lead to changes in the ability of rural communities to meet the needs for their livelihoods.

Climate change will also impact on the biodiversity of Viet Nam. The ecosystems of Viet Nam and the protect-

a specific seasonal pattern. Changes in the seasonal pattern will affect the ability for plant and animal species to cope and will change the habitats within particular ecosystems. The small areas of individual protected areas will make it difficult for biodiversity to adjust to these changes in h 4hgrange and species will be lost. It may have a more specific and detrimental impact on wetland046coral reefs and 2 Thg

The greatest challenge will, h wever46co4hgfrom the rise in sl level. This will first be seen as an increase in floods and temporary inundation during storms and typhoons with storm surges challenging coastal barriers, water bodies and low-lying rice fields. As water level increase046inundation from the ocean may occur more frequently until permanent inundation occurs. H wever46it ishalso recognised that physical barriers may be developed to protect valuable farmland from inundation. This will also have severe implications on the ecology of the coastal areas.

Over recent year046climate change initiatives have been developed in Viet Nam with many focused on disaster preparedness. Additionally46 4hggovernment agencies have been charged with the responsibility to coordinate climate change related initiatives. Dialogues are beginning to be initiated. H wever46the full gravity of the situation ish yet to be recognised.

### 7.3. IUCN Viet Nam and Climate change

The processes of adaptation in the face of climate change will be a major focus of IUCN Viet Nam. It will be integrated into all programmes and activities of the country programme and will also be the focus of specific efforts. This will build upon the work that IUCN Viet Nam has undertaken with the GoV over the last 20 years in the development of various plans and strategies, and specific studies.

At the global level, IUCN will continue to develop leading edge knowledge on the potential impacts of climate change with a particular focus on both biodiversity and the links to poverty. Often it is those with the least resources who are least able to adapt in the face of change.

IUCN Viet Nam will continue its efforts to support the transfer of knowledge generated by the global scientific community to all levels of government and the wider community. It will seek to identify areas of vulnerability to climate change and to support the development of strategies and policies that enable adaptation. IUCN Viet Nam will also draw on the whole IUCN network to bring relevant experiences gained all over the world to incorporate into the national initiatives.

IUCN Viet Nam will work with rural communities, potentially affected by climate change, to identify solutions to local issues and problems. Experiences garnered through this process will be fed into provincial, regional and national policy and planning processes, providing opportunities for local voices to be heard in the adaptation process.

## 7.4. Climate change objectives and strategic directions

IUCN Viet Nam's strategy for the 2007-2010 will focus on strategies for adaptation to the potential impacts of climate change. IUCN Viet Nam will work with a range of government partners to initially understand the potential impact of climate change and to develop response strategies in line with GoV priorities that address the future needs of the country. IUCN Viet Nam will:

### **1. Identify potential impacts and promote local initiatives to identify adaptation strategies**

In collaboration with the government and other partners, identify the potential impacts of climate change in Viet Nam in coastal and mountainous areas, together with rural communities, with a particular focus on disadvantaged and marginalised groups;

Maintain existing partnerships and develop new partnerships with agencies dealing with climate change to identify mechanisms to address key adaptation issues; and Establish baselines for particular ecosystems that can be used to identify potential impacts of climate change.

### **2. Integrate climate change considerations into existing planning mechanisms and tools**

Integrate climate change into approaches for ICZM and assist in ensuring that appropriate information reaches decision makers at all levels;

Promote the integration of climate change considerations into water resource use and planning for environmental flows to ensure a comprehensive approach to water allocation; and

Promote the harmonisation of climate change adaptation with the Social Economic Development Plan of the Government.

### **3. Bring knowledge, understanding and best information on the potential impact of climate change**

Convene on issues related to climate change with relevant agencies, NGOs, and the private sector. Conduct communication outreach to a wide audience on climate change, including environmental journalists and educators; and

Draw on IUCN's international networks and knowledge generated with IUCN as a global knowledge organisation to provide knowledge on the impacts of climate change.

## 7.5. Principle partners: Climate change

IUCN Viet Nam will maintain and strengthen cooperation with key concerned partners in the country and seek to assist in accelerating the climate change adaptation process. IUCN Viet Nam will:

Cooperate closely with government ministries such as MONRE, MARD, and MOFI and other related ministries such as Ministry for Transport & Communication, MOF, and the Viet Nam Administration of Tourism in building capacity to address climate change adaptation; and Assist donors in the delivery of appropriate, sound, and reasonable approaches to addressing climate change adaptation issues.

In the region, IUCN Viet Nam will:

Collaborate on climate change issues with regional multilateral institutions and initiatives including ADB-GMS, Mekong River Commission (MRC), the Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), UNDP, UNEP, GEF, FAO and other key organisations; and Facilitate cooperation and knowledge exchange with the IUCN commissions and IUCN Global and Asian Regional Office programmes.

## Overview

Asia is the largest regional programme of the World Conservation Union and hosts some 12% of the global membership.

The Secretariat of the Union operates seven Country Offices, two regional Ecosystems and Livelihoods groups based1(orld). Tc( F)T56 65.2p.-

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The development of this strategic framework was undertaken over a period of 10 months. It involved consultations, discussions, international and external reviews, and internal reflection. The process is briefly outlined below:

November 2006 - January 2007: Internal discussions held to identify our strengths and weaknesses as well as to identify opportunities and challenges

January - March 2007: Government Partners consulted to review past cooperation, understand current initiatives and identify potential areas of cooperation

January - April 2007: IUCN Global Donor Survey (2006) reviewed with a special focus on specific feedback on the IUCN Viet Nam Programme

January - April 2007: Agencies providing support to the development sector in Viet Nam consulted, enabling a review of the current priorities and strategies of donor and multi-lateral development agencies and also providing a greater understanding of the sector-wide approaches being adopted by many agencies

April - May 2007: Draft developed for circulation to participants in the above process

May 2007: IUCN Viet Nam Strategic Framework finalised

This process revealed the following perceptions of IUCN Viet Nam.

*Strengths* included: (i) good partnership with government; (ii) unique role as a Union; (iii) strengths in the field of legal and policy advice; (iv) access to a strong network of technical expertise; (v) enthusiastic, dedicated and well respected staff; and (vi) solid framework for programmes development.

*Weaknesses* included: (i) limited visibility and perceived unclear role; (ii) being reactive, rather than pro-active, to the needs of Government; (iii) not meeting expectations in the provision of leadership in the conservation and environmental management sector; (iv) project dependent financing; (v) gaps in programme technical expertise; (vi) traditional direct execution (DFY); (vii)

*Opportunities* include developing programmes in environmental governance, focussing on development-conservation-link programmes, trans-boundary and regional initiatives, emerging areas such as agro-biodiversity, PES, and Business and Biodiversity Partnerships. Other opportunities included bringing new approaches into the environment and development dialogue through coordinating and convening with IUCN members, NGOs and other agencies in Viet Nam.

*Threats* included shifting of IUCN's traditional niches, changes in donor funding approaches, present reliance on project funds, growing competition, limited partnerships with the private sector, and the need to build the technical capacity of the programmes.

In summary, there were over 50 separate internal and external interviews, meetings and discussions with various stakeholders in this process. IUCN would like to thank all those who participated and provided support. These agencies include:

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

AusAid

Birdlife International

Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES)

Danish International Development Agency (Danida)

Department for International Development (DFID), British Embassy

Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)

Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)

Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)

Development Cooperation Section, Irish Embassy

Department ment (MONRE)

European Union (EU)  
Fauna and Flora International (FFI)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
Forest Protection Department (FPD), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)  
Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)  
Institute of Ecological Economy (Eco-Eco)  
Ministry of Fishery (MoFI)  
Scientific Cooperation Section, French Embassy  
Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)  
The Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)  
TRAFFIC Southeast Asia  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)  
Viet Nam Environment Protection Agency (VEPA)  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)  
Winrock International  
World Bank (WB)  
World Wide Fund (WWF)





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