

Climate change

An adaptive approach

IUCN Viet Nam Programme Theme



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Why Climate change? Now a reality

Whatever happens to future greenhouse gas emissions, we are now locked into inevitable changes to climate patterns. 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. A minimal 1 meter rise in sea level would potentially impact on the livelihoods of 10.8% of Viet Nam's population.

In relation to climate change, the greatest challenge will come from the rise in sea level; livelihoods associated with coastal ecosystems, natural freshwater bodies and low-lying rice and crop fields are all at risk from storm damage and eventual saltwater inundation. Yet it is widely recognized that adaptation – making behavioral, management and policy adjustments that will reduce the vulnerability of society to climate change on both a short-term and a long-term scale – can greatly reduce the potentially harmful impacts of climate change on Viet Nam. Adaptation is not just a solution: it is also an opportunity.

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is committed to addressing climate change. It is a signatory of international agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. In its next Social Economic Development Plan the Government of Viet Nam should emphasize the need to integrate climate change adaptation. The GoV is in the process of identifying priority areas. These include water resources and coastal zone management, forest protection, and agriculture and fisheries. Information and capacity building are crucial to this process.

IUCN Viet Nam and Climate change

Supporting the processes of adaptation in the face of climate change will be a major focus of IUCN Viet Nam. Building on IUCN Viet Nam's strengths in technical expertise, training, and capacity building, work under this theme will include integrated coastal zone management, integrated water resource use and planning for environmental flows, and the collection of data to establish baselines for particular ecosystems which can be used to identify potential impacts of climate change.

Objectives

1. Potential impacts of climate change identified and local climate change adaptation strategies promoted
2. Climate change considerations integrated into existing planning mechanisms and tools
3. Knowledge, understanding, and reliable information on the potential impact of climate change disseminated

Principle Partners

The Programme's key partners are the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Ministry of Fisheries. IUCN Viet Nam will work on the delivery of sound knowledge to contribute to climate change adaptation processes in the nation and region and will facilitate dialogue with NGOs and civil society to develop comprehensive approaches to adaptation. In addition, climate change will be addressed at the local level through efforts with provincial administrations and communities.

The World Conservation Union in Viet Nam

Photo: VEPA

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