

Governance

Improving environmental management
and empowering stakeholders

IUCN Viet Nam Programme Theme



Governance

Why Governance? Improving environmental management and empowering stakeholders

Natural resource governance is about the way the government, leaders, civil society and private sector interact for effective natural resources management.

The theme of Governance incorporates all work related to strengthening governance over the management of natural resources. Governments, development agencies and the private sector widely recognize the importance of good governance for achieving both long and short term management goals.

Viet Nam has a multitude of laws and regulations, many of which apply to natural resource exploitation. Efforts to improve the governance for the environment include the Viet Nam National Forest Strategy and the Law on Biodiversity currently under development. However, it is important to link from the national level to the local level. Livelihoods of the rural poor are closely linked to natural resources. Thus, well intended policies and plans for sustainable natural resources use that support poverty reduction need to be well tested in the field. The experience gained from the field then needs to be reviewed in the context of the policy development. Public participation in governance must be strengthened, access to information improved, and channels of redress for violators of pollution and other laws developed and enhanced.

IUCN Viet Nam and Governance

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 (1984-1985), the National Biodiversity Action Plan (1993-1996), the National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development (1991-2000), and the five-year National Environmental Action Plan (2001-2005). Building on its long term experience and engagement with the government, IUCN Viet Nam will promote effective multi-stakeholder approaches and partnerships to

maintain and improve management of natural resources. A special concern is to ensure that those who are dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods are given a stronger voice in natural resource management. IUCN Viet Nam will promote environmental governance that shares rights and benefits with the poor and is sensitive to the dependency of the poor - especially women and minorities - on natural resources.

Objectives

1. Support meaningful participation of local communities, civil society and the private sector in developing and implementing environmental laws, policies and decision making
2. Promote policy dialogues and decision-making processes that build upon lessons learned
3. Provide technical advice in drafting of environmental management strategies, policy and law
4. Provide support for enforcement and compliance mechanism for natural resource management in Viet Nam

Principle Partners

IUCN Viet Nam's key partners at the Government level include the Viet Nam Environment Protection Agency, the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (especially with regards to development of the Law on Biodiversity), the Forest Protection Department and Department of Forestry of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Agency of Aquatic Resources Protection of the Ministry of Fisheries, and the Ministry of Planning and Investment (especially to promote best practices in the private sector). IUCN Viet Nam will coordinate with, and support, TRAFFIC's work in strengthening wildlife trade laws and policies, and will seek to build the capacity of agencies responsible for MEAs.