

User Guide

Purpose

The purpose of the sourcebook is to improve access to information about Vietnam's existing and proposed protected areas. The first edition of the sourcebook was published in February 2001 by the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), with generous financial support from the European Union, through the Tropical Forests budget line (BirdLife International and FIPI 2001). In the intervening three years, a lot of new data have been generated about protected areas in Vietnam, through surveys by government institutions, donor-funded projects and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs); the status of a number of protected areas has changed; and a number of additional protected areas have been proposed. It is to reflect these new data and changes in status that a second edition of the sourcebook has been prepared.

The second edition has been compiled by BirdLife International in *Indochina* and MARD, with generous financial support from the World Bank and the Royal Netherlands Government. As well as providing a comprehensive and up-to-date guide to the information currently available on existing and proposed protected areas in Vietnam. The second edition is also designed as a working tool to support implementation of the Vietnam Conservation Fund (VCF). In particular, the editors anticipate that the sourcebook will provide:

- reliable information on the location, status and values of Vietnam's protected areas, as a resource for planners and decision-makers at international, national and provincial levels;
- baseline data for monitoring the impacts of national and provincial policies and plans on protected areas;
- a resource for training, awareness and educational activities, of particular potential value at the provincial, district, site and project levels; and
- a tool to support the implementation of the VCF.

Structure

The sourcebook contains site cards for 208 existing and proposed protected areas in Vietnam. Each site card summarises the existing information available about the site, and directs the reader to more detailed sources of information. The site cards are grouped into eight sections, by agro-ecological zone; within each section, the site cards are arranged alphabetically.

The site cards are preceded by a background chapter, which contains an overview of protected areas in Vietnam, as well as a summary of changes since the publication of the first edition of the sourcebook. In addition, there is a chapter on the VCF, which explains how the information contained within the sourcebook can be used to support its implementation. Finally, there are colour maps, which show the location of existing and proposed protected areas in relation to 2001/2002 forest cover.

Data sources

The sourcebook is the result of an attempt to collate all published and unpublished information on protected areas in Vietnam. The first edition was based on a literature review of over 800 documents, including scientific papers and reports, protected area feasibility studies and investment plans, and newspaper articles. During the preparation of the second edition, an additional 275 documents, many published since February 2001, were collated and reviewed. In addition, all government decisions regarding the national Special-use Forests system issued since February 2001 were collated and reviewed.

In order to cross-check and supplement the results of the literature review, the site cards from the first edition of the sourcebook were sent to provincial forest protection departments (FPDs), departments of agriculture and rural development (DARDs) and Special-use Forest management boards, with a request that they provide updated information, correct any inaccuracies, and complete a questionnaire on

current management status. Responses were received for 101 sites in 41 provinces. In addition, where there was a donor-funded project or international NGO active at a protected area, the relevant site card was sent to them for review.

Although the information contained within the second edition of the sourcebook represents a significant improvement over that in the first edition, in terms of accuracy, comprehensiveness and relevance, there remain a number of limitations:

- information on many, if not most, protected areas, whether existing or proposed, is incomplete; in many cases, virtually no information is available; comprehensive information exists for only a small number of protected areas, mainly those that have been the focus of major donor-funded conservation projects;
- in many cases, where survey information is available, it is out of date or the source is not clear; in these cases, further survey work is required to obtain accurate and up-to-date information;
- the boundaries of many protected areas have never been precisely defined, as a result of which, accurate information on the location and extent of these protected areas is unavailable; and
- in some cases, information included within survey reports and other documents (such as investment plans) is disputed by some authors and experts. In other cases, information from different sources is inconsistent.

The sourcebook draws attention to any information that is unclear, inconsistent or potentially inaccurate. Undoubtedly, however, there will be instances where the editors of the sourcebook have included information that is not entirely accurate, or have overlooked important existing information. We appeal to readers to highlight such gaps and inaccuracies, and to supply us with any new information on protected areas that becomes available. In this way, future editions of the sourcebook can be improved further.

Taxonomy and nomenclature

Mammal names (scientific), systematic order and species limits follow Corbet and Hill (1992), with the exception of primates, which follow Groves (2001); common names follow Duckworth and Pine (2003). Bird names (common and scientific), systematic order and species limits follow Inskipp *et al.* (1996), with the exception of globally threatened and near-threatened species, for which BirdLife International (2001) is followed. Plant names (scientific), systematic order and species limits follow Pham Hoang Ho (1991), with the exception of globally threatened species, for which IUCN (2002) is followed.

Geographical information

Diacritical marks are omitted from Vietnamese names due to typographical limitations. Locality names follow Department of Cartography 1:250,000 scale maps from a variety of dates. Protected area names and areas follow a list of Special-use Forests to be established by the year 2010, prepared by the FPD of MARD (FPD 2003); names and areas for protected areas not on this list follow a variety of sources. Alternative site names are given where known.

The sourcebook contains a map of protected areas in relation to forest cover. Protected area polygons have been digitised from a number of sources (see Table 1). Where site maps were available, these were used. Where site maps were unavailable, maps or boundary descriptions from investment plans were used. Where neither source was available, maps from other reports, including survey reports and feasibility studies, were used. Where no adequate boundary information was available for a protected area, the likely location and extent were estimated from existing information, including coordinates supplied by provincial FPDs or Special-use Forest management boards, administrative boundaries, physical features and 2001/2002 forest cover data. Where no information was available about the location or extent of a protected area, it was plotted as a point in an approximate location. Protected area polygons and points were then overlaid onto a forest

cover map of Vietnam, based upon 2001/2002 data provided by MARD.

Glossary of terms

327 Programme refers to the national forestry programme established in accordance with Decision No. 327/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on use of open land, bare hills, forest, coastal alluviums and water bodies.

661 Programme refers to the national forestry programme established in accordance with Decision No. 661/TTg of the Prime Minister, dated 29 July 1998 on objectives, tasks, policies and organisation for the establishment of five million hectares of new forest. The 661 Programme is commonly known as the 5 Million Hectare Reforestation Programme.

Administration and services area refers to a designated area within a Special-use Forest, where construction of protected area infrastructure and tourism development are permitted.

Biosphere Reserve refers to a site designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Programme, the purpose of which is the conservation of ecosystems and the species they contain, and which is integrated into its social, economic and cultural environment.

Buffer zone refers to a designated area contiguous with but outside of a protected area, the management objective of which is to reduce human pressure on the natural resources of the protected area.

Conservation needs assessment (CNA) refers to a rapid assessment of threats biodiversity and opportunities for conservation at a Special-use Forest. CNAs must be conducted by Special-use Forest management authorities that wish to get support from the VCF.

Convention on Biological Diversity, refers to an international convention, signed in 1992 and ratified by the government of Vietnam in 1994, with the objectives of conserving biological diversity, using its components sustainably, and sharing the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources fairly and equitably.

Cultural and historical site refers to an area including one or more natural landscapes having specific aesthetic, cultural and/or historical values, or being used for research. Cultural and historical site is one of the three management categories of Special-use Forest according to Prime Ministerial Decision 08/TTg, dated 11 January 2001.

Decreed protected area refers to a protected area whose establishment has been decreed by the government of Vietnam. The term excludes protected areas with established management boards and/or investment plans approved at the provincial and/or ministerial level that are not included on a government decision regarding the national protected areas system.

Endemic Bird Area refers to an area supporting at least two restricted-range bird species. A restricted-range bird species is one with a global breeding range of less than 50,000 km².

Globally threatened species refers to a species assigned a category of threat in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2002); the term excludes species listed as near threatened or data deficient.

Feasibility study refers to an official document that assesses the costs and benefits of establishing a protected area at a site, thereby assisting decision-makers to decide whether a site should become a candidate for protected area establishment.

Forest rehabilitation area refers to a designated area within a Special-use Forest, which is protected and managed for forest rehabilitation.

Important Bird Area refers to a site of international importance for bird conservation at the global, regional or national level, based upon standard, internationally recognised criteria.

Indochina refers to the biogeographic region of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

Investment plan refers to an official document that outlines the justification for establishing a protected area and requests funding for its establishment and/or management.

Management board refers to the staff of a protected area. In the case of Special-use Forests, the

staff comprise forest guards, administrative staff and support staff.

Management plan refers to an official document prepared after the establishment of a protected area, which details the management objectives of the site, and the management actions that must be taken in order to attain them.

Marine protected area refers to a site containing a marine component that has been proposed for recognition at the national level with a protected area status other than that of Special-use Forest. To date, the institutional and legislative arrangements for marine protected areas have not been finalised, and there are no decreed marine protected areas.

National park refers to a natural area established to conserve one or several ecosystems for the long term that is valuable for science, education and tourism. National park is one of the three management categories of Special-use Forest according to Prime Ministerial Decision 08/TTg, dated 11 January 2001.

Nationally threatened species refers to a species assigned a category of threat in the Red Data Book of Vietnam, Volume I: Animals or Volume II: Plants (Anon. 1992, 1996).

Nature reserve refers to a natural area established to ensure natural evolution. Nature reserve is one of the three management categories of Special-use Forest according to Prime Ministerial Decision 08/TTg, dated 11 January 2001. According to the Prime Ministerial decision, there are two sub-categories of nature reserve: strict nature reserve and species/habitat conservation area. However, as no nature reserves have yet been decreed following these sub-categories, they are not used in the sourcebook.

Operational management plan (OMP) refers to a document prepared by a Special-use Forest management board that sets out the management objectives of the site and the management actions that need to be taken to achieve them. An OMP is prepared in a participatory manner, in consultation with representatives of all relevant stakeholders.

Production forest refers to a management category of forest land, with the principal objective of supplying forestry products to meet domestic demand

in combination with environmental protection. Production forests are usually managed by forest enterprises, individual households or other organisations.

Proposed protected area refers to a protected area whose establishment has not been decreed by the government of Vietnam. The term includes protected areas with established management boards and/or approved investment plans that are not included on a government decision regarding the national protected areas system, and sites that have been proposed for protected area status, whether officially or unofficially.

Protection forest refers to a management category of forest land, with the principal objectives of watershed protection, soil erosion control, natural disaster amelioration, climate regulation and foreshore protection. Protection forests include watershed protection forests and coastal protection forests. Protection forests are usually managed by individual households or management boards, under the management of the relevant provincial FPD.

Ramsar Site refers to a site designated as a wetland of international importance under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention).

Special-use Forest refers to a management category of forest land with the principal objectives of biodiversity conservation, scientific research, protection of sites of historical and cultural importance, and tourism development. Special-use Forests comprise national parks, nature reserves and cultural and historical sites. Special-use Forests are usually managed by management boards, under the management of the relevant province or MARD.

Strict protection area refers to a designated area within a Special-use Forest, where all activities that alter the natural landscape are prohibited.

Tracking tool refers to an analytical tool used to monitor performance of the VCF, which provides a quick overview of the effectiveness of management of a Special-use Forest. The tracking tool used by the VCF is adapted from the Management Effectiveness

Tracking Tool developed by the World Bank and WWF.

Vietnam Conservation Fund (VCF) refers to a new financing mechanism that will provide, on a competitive basis, small grants to initiate and improve management of up to 50 Special-use Forests supporting biodiversity of international importance; the VCF is a component of the Forest Sector Development Project.

World Heritage Site refers to a site inscribed as having outstanding cultural or natural values by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Abbreviations & acronyms used

In general, abbreviations and acronyms are given in full at first usage. In the site cards, however, the following common acronyms are never given in full: DARD, FPD, GEF, IUCN, MARD, MOSTE, NGO, SNV, UNDP, UNESCO, VCF and WWF.

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMNH	American Museum of Natural History
AREA	Association for Research and Environmental Aid
CPCP	Cuc Phuong Conservation Project
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DOSTE	Department of Science, Technology and the Environment
EBA	Endemic Bird Area
EPRC	Endangered Primate Rescue Centre
EU	European Union
FFI	Fauna & Flora International
FIPI	Forest Inventory and Planning Institute
FPD	Forest Protection Department
FPRD	Forest Protection and Rural Development
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HNU	Hanoi National University
IEBR	Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources
IUCN	World Conservation Union
KNCCN	Korean National Council for Conservation of Nature
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MOFI	Ministry of Fisheries

MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOSAIC	Management of Strategic Areas for Integrated Conservation
MOSTE	Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NTFP	non-timber forest product
PARC	Creating Protected Areas for Resource Conservation Using Landscape Ecology
SFNC	Social Forestry and Nature Conservation in Nghe An Province
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VCF	Vietnam Conservation Fund
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Literature sources

All references for literature cited in the text are given in full in the literature sources section of the site card. However, the following common references are never given in full: Cao Van Sung (1995), FPD (1998), FPD (2003), MARD (1997), Stattersfield *et al.* (1998) and Wege *et al.* (1999).

Disclaimer

The representation of geographical entities in this sourcebook does not imply any expression on the part of the editors, BirdLife International, MARD, the World Bank or the Royal Netherlands Government concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or concerning the delineation of its frontiers and boundaries.

The opinions expressed within this sourcebook are those of the editors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of BirdLife International, MARD, the World Bank or the Royal Netherlands Government. The editors take full responsibility for the accuracy of the information presented within the sourcebook.

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Table 1: Sources of digitised protected area boundaries used in the sourcebook

Site Name	Data Source	Notes
A'Vuong	6	
A Yun Pa	3	Tran Quang Ngoc <i>et al.</i> (2001)
Ai Chi Lang	5	Boundary of Chi Lang commune
An Toan	1	
An toan khu Dinh Hoa	1	
Ba Be	3	Kemp <i>et al.</i> (1994)
Ba Na-Nui Chua	1	
Ba Vi	1	
Bac Hai Van	3	Eve (1996)
Bac Lieu bird sanctuary	6	
Bac Me	1	1:50,000 site map
Bac Plei Ku	4	Plotted on 1:250,000 map

Site Name	Data Source	Notes
Bach Ma	1	1:50,000 site map
Bai Chay	5	Shoreline of Bai Chay peninsular
Bai Tu Long	3	Bai Tu Long Bay Biodiversity Awareness Project (2002)
Ban Dao Son Tra	2	Anon. (1989)
Bao Thang	1	
Bat Dai Son	4	
Ben En	3	Tordoff <i>et al.</i> (1997)
Bi Dup-Nui Ba	2	Anon. (1995)
Binh Chanh	6	
Binh Chau-Phuoc Buu	2	Anon. (1993)
Bu Gia Map	2	Anon. (1994)
Cac Dao Thac Ba	5	Shoreline of Thac Ba lake
Cac Dao Vinh Ha Long	3	ADB (1999)
Can Gio	3	Anon. (1998)
Cao Muon	1	
Cat Ba	1	
Cat Tien	1	
Cha La bird sanctuary	6	
Cham Chu	1	
Chang Riec	5	Forest cover in northern Tan Bien district
Chien khu Boi Loi	6	
Chu Hoa	1	1:100,000 site map
Chu Mom Ray	1	1:50,000 site map
Chu Prong	3	Tran Hieu Minh <i>et al.</i> (2001)
Chu Yang Sin	2	Anon. (1997)
Con Dao	5	Coastline of Con Dao archipelago
Con Dao (marine)	3	ADB (1999)
Con Son-Kiep Bac	6	
Copia	1	
Cu Chi	6	
Cu Lao Cham	5	Coastline of Cu Lao Cham archipelago
Cu Lao Cham (marine)	3	ADB (1999)
Cu Mong	3	ADB (1999)
Cuc Phuong	1	1:50,000 site map
Dak Mang	1	1:100,000 site map
Dakrong	2	Anon. (2000)
Dam Doi bird sanctuary	1	
Dao Bach Long Vi	3	ADB (1999)
Dao Cat Ba	3	ADB (1999)
Dao Co To	3	ADB (1999)
Dao Con Co	3	ADB (1999)
Dao Ho Song Da	5	Shoreline of the Black River reservoir
Dao Ly Son	3	ADB (1999)
Dao Phu Quy	3	ADB (1999)
Dao Tran	3	ADB (1999)
Den Ba Trieu	6	
Den Hung	6	
Deo Ca Hon Nua	4	
Deo Ngoan Muc	6	
Do Son	5	Boundary of Do Son district
Dong Phuc	3	Le Trong Trai <i>et al.</i> (2001)

Site Name	Data Source	Notes
Dong Thap Muoi	6	
Du Gia	2	Dinh Van Manh (1994)
Dung Quat	6	
Duong Minh Chau	6	
Ea So	2	Anon. (1998)
Earal	6	
Ghenh Rang	1	
Hai Van-Hon Son Tra	3	ADB (1999)
Ham Rong	6	
Ho Cam Son	5	Shoreline of Cam Son lake
Ho Lak	5	Parts of Lien Son, Lak Giang Tao, Dak Lien and Bong Krang communes
Ho Nui Coc	2	Anon. (1995)
Hoa Lu	1	
Hoang Lien	3	Decision No. 90/TTg of the Prime Minister dated 12 July 2002
Hoang Lien Son-Lai Chau	6	
Hoang Lien Son-Van Ban	5	Boundary of Nam Xe, Nam Xay and Minh Luong communes
Hon Ba	4	
Hon Cau-Vinh Hao	3	ADB (1999)
Hon Chong	5	Limestone outcrop near Hon Chong town
Hon Khoai	1	
Hon Me	5	Coastline of Hon Me island
Hon Me (marine)	3	ADB (1999)
Hon Mun	3	ADB (1999)
Huong Son	2	Anon. (1992)
Huu Lien	2	Anon. (1990)
Kalon Song Mao	3	Le Trong Trai and Tran Hieu Minh (2000)
Ke Go	2	Le Trong Trai <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Khanh Giang	6	
Khe Net	3	Le Trong Trai <i>et al.</i> (2001)
Khe Ve-Minh Hoa	6	
Kien Luong	3	Buckton <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Kim Binh	5	Boundary of Kim Binh commune
Kim Hy	3	Tordoff <i>et al.</i> (2000)
Kon Cha Rang	2	Anon. (1999)
Kon Ka Kinh	2	Le Trong Trai <i>et al.</i> (2000)
Krong Trai	2	Anon. (1990)
Ky Thuong	3	Tordoff <i>et al.</i> (2000)
Lam Ca	5	Boundary of Lam Ca and Dong Thang communes
Lam Son	6	
Lam Vien	1	
Lang Sen	3	Buckton <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Lo Go-Xa Mat	1	
Lung Ngoc Hoang	3	Buckton <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Mo Re-Bac Son	6	
Mu Cang Chai	1	
Mui Ca Mau	5	The former Dat Mui Nature Reserve and Bai Boi proposed nature reserve
Muong Nhe	2	Anon. (1993)
Muong Phang	5	Boundary of Muong Phang commune
Muong Sai	4	Plotted on 1:250,000 map
My Bang	5	Boundary of My Bang commune
Na Hang	3	Cox (1994)

Site Name	Data Source	Notes
Nai	5	Coastline south of Nui Chua National Park
Nam Ca	2	
Nam Don	5	Boundary of Nam Don commune
Nam Du	3	ADB (1999)
Nam Hai Van	5	Boundary of Da Nang city and 100 m contour line
Nam Nung	2	Anon. (1994)
Nam Xuan Lac	1	
Nghia Hung	3	Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang (1996)
Ngoc Linh (Kon Tum)	2	Le Trong Trai <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Ngoc Linh (Quang Nam)	3	Tordoff <i>et al.</i> (2000)
Ngoc Son	6	
Ngoc Trao	1	
Ngu Hanh Son	6	
Nha Phu-Hon Heo	3	ADB (1999)
Nui Ba	1	
Nui Ba Den	5	Base of Nui Ba Den mountain
Nui Ba Ra	6	
Nui Cam	5	Forest cover on and around Nui Cam mountain
Nui Chua	2	Anon. (1997)
Nui Chung	6	
Nui Dai Binh	6	
Nui Giang Man	6	
Nui Ong	5	Nui Ong sector of the former Bien Lac-Nui Ong Nature Reserve
Nui Pia Oac	3	Tordoff <i>et al.</i> (2000)
Nui Sam	5	Base of Nui Sam mountain
Nui Thanh	6	
O Loan	3	ADB (1999)
Pa Co-Hang Kia	2	Duong Coi (1993)
Pac Bo	5	Boundary of Truong Ha commune
Phong Dien	2	Le Trong Trai <i>et al.</i> (2001)
Phong Nha-Ke Bang	3	Decision No. 189/TTg of the Prime Minister, dated 12 December 2001
Phong Quang	1	
Phu Canh	5	Forest in Doan Ket, Tan Pheo, Dong Chum and Dong Ruong communes
Phu Ninh	4	
Phu Quoc	3	Map provided by Kien Giang Provincial FPD (2000)
Phu Quoc (marine)	3	ADB (1999)
Phuoc Binh	1	
Phuoc Son	6	
Pu Hoat	2	Anon. (1997)
Pu Hu	2	Anon. (1998)
Pu Huong	3	Kemp <i>et al.</i> (1997)
Pu Luong	2	Anon. (1998)
Pu Mat	2	FIPI (2000)
Que Son	6	
Quy Nhon	3	ADB (1999)
Ru Linh	6	
Rung Thong Dong Son	6	
Sam Son	6	
Sao La	5	Forest cover in Nam Dong, A Luoi and Huong Thuy districts
Song Thanh	2	Anon. (1999)
Sop Cop	1	

Site Name	Data Source	Notes
South-west Lam Dong	6	
Ta Dung	3	Dang Huy Huynh <i>et al.</i> (1998)
Ta Kou	4	
Ta Sua	1	
Tam Dao	1	
Tam Giang-Cau Hai	3	ADB (1999)
Tam Quy	6	
Tam Tao	4	
Tan Phu	5	Boundary of Tan Phu commune
Tan Trao	5	Boundary of Tan Trao commune
Tay Con Linh	4	
Tay Nam Hue	6	
Tay Yen Tu	1	
Thai Thuy	2	Anon. (1997)
Than Xa-Phuong Hoang	5	Boundaries of Phu Thuong and Than Xa communes
Thang Hen	6	
Thanh Phu	2	Pham Trong Thinh (1998)
Tho Chu	6	
Thuong Tien	1	
Thuy Trieu	3	ADB (1999)
Tien Hai	4	
Tien Lang	3	Pedersen and Nguyen Huy Thang (1996)
Tien Phuoc	6	
Tra Su	3	Buckton <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Tram Chim	3	Buckton <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Trap Kso	6	
Trung Khanh	6	
Truong Sa	6	
U Minh Thuong	3	Buckton <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Van Long	1	
Vinh Cuu	2	Anon. (2003)
Vo Doi	4	
Vu Quang	2	Anon. (1993)
Vuc Mau	6	
Vuon Cam Nguyen Hue	6	
Xuan Lien	3	Le Trong Trai <i>et al.</i> (1999)
Xuan Mai	6	
Xuan Nha	4	
Xuan Son	1	
Xuan Thuy	4	
Yen The	5	Boundary of Yen The commune
Yen Tu	5	Forest cover in northern Dong Trieu district
Yok Don	2	Anon. (1998)

For full references of cited literature, refer to the relevant site cards.

Data source: 1 = site map supplied by provincial FPD, DARD or Special-use Forest management board; 2 = investment plan; 3 = feasibility study or other document; 4 = approximation based upon coordinates supplied by provincial FPD, DARD or Special-use Forest management board; 5 = approximation based upon administrative boundary or physical feature; 6 = no boundary available; protected area plotted as a point.