



Helping People, Wildlife, and Forests in Viet Nam

WWF's Partnerships with USAID Advance Major Investment in Viet Nam's Biodiversity



Decades of illegal logging and wildlife trade, poaching, and agricultural conversion in Viet Nam—one of the most biodiverse countries in the world—threaten vital ecosystems and exacerbate poverty in vulnerable communities.

WWF first began working on a national conservation strategy in Viet Nam in 1985. Since then, WWF has worked closely with the Government of Viet Nam and local partners on a diverse range of environmental conservation initiatives. Today, with the support of USAID, WWF is working with government leaders, local communities, and conservation partners to advance shared natural resource policy commitments through the Biodiversity Conservation and Saving Threatened Wildlife projects. These investments are helping protect wildlife, forests, and the communities that depend on them.



\$38 MILLION
USAID's investment in the Biodiversity Conservation project from 2020 to 2025, alongside \$5 million from WWF and partners



\$15 MILLION
USAID's investment in the Saving Threatened Wildlife project from 2021 to 2026



7 TONS OF IVORY
Amount seized at Hai Phong Port in March 2023—equivalent to the tusks of over 700 elephants—after the Saving Threatened Wildlife project supported enhanced customs officer training



1.5 MILLION ACRES
Size of protected forests under improved management thanks to the Biodiversity Conservation project (slightly larger than Grand Canyon National Park)



6,700 INDIVIDUALS
Number of people from local and Indigenous communities who learned about the risks of wildlife consumption, illegal trade, and poaching at events supported by the Biodiversity Conservation project



Engaging Law Enforcement and Local Communities to Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade

WWF works under both the Biodiversity Conservation and Saving Threatened Wildlife projects to bring together Vietnamese government leaders, the private sector, and local as well as international organizations to prevent illegal wildlife trade activities. This engagement involves strengthening law enforcement with enhanced training resources and supporting the establishment of 42 community-led patrol teams as of late 2023 to monitor illegal activities. These patrol teams have successfully dismantled at least 21,128 illegal wildlife snares and camps.

Through public awareness campaigns targeting citizens and foreign tourists, the Saving Threatened Wildlife project is working to reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products, including those trafficked into Viet Nam from other countries and locally poached game—a potential source of zoonotic illnesses like COVID-19.



Promoting Sustainable Income Sources in Forest Communities

Under the Biodiversity Conservation project, WWF is working with 40 communities across Viet Nam to help citizens—many from marginalized communities—develop new ways of increasing their incomes while reducing pressure on the environment. Promoting community-based ecotourism is a major part of this work, along with the sustainable cultivation of agricultural products such as passion fruit, mushrooms, honey, and medicinal plants. By the project's end in 2025, it is expected to help 7,000 people in targeted areas identify alternative income sources.



Promoting Effective Protected Area Management

The Biodiversity Conservation project works across 21 protected areas over eight provinces, primarily in the Central Annamites mountain range, to preserve Viet Nam's remaining natural forests, home to wildlife like Sunda pangolins and red-shanked douc langurs. The project team installed nearly 1,200 camera traps in the largest biodiversity survey ever conducted in Viet Nam, which confirmed that several key wildlife populations are at risk of extinction. As of late 2023, at least 3,289 individuals have received training in sustainable natural resource management under the project—exceeding the target—with the number expected to grow as the project team receives and verifies more documentation from the field.

Building on this initiative, WWF's Nature-Based Solutions Origination Platform will support additional investments in the Central Annamites—one of the last and biggest contiguous primary forests in continental Asia—by scaling up, aligning, and mobilizing public and private investments in high-quality, nature-based solutions to deliver significant benefits for the climate, nature, and people.



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