

Global ICCA database
Van Long, Vietnam

Basic data

Site Name (in local language and in English)	Khu bao ton thien nhien dat ngap nuoc Van Long (Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve)
Country (include State and Province)	Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	3,000 ha
GIS Coordinates (if available)	
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no)	Yes, it includes freshwater areas
Marine (Y or N)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	Van Long touches upon the administrative boundaries of Seven communes: Gia Hung, Lien Son, Gia Hoa, Gia Van, Gia Lap, Gian Tan and Gia Thanh; with about 46,700 people, all of whom can legally use and benefit from the Reserve. However, within these many villages, a select group of individuals, families, groups and other 'communities' really maintain usufruct rights and are directly concerned with the Reserve on a daily basis.
Is the community considering itself an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	All are Kinh people (Kinh is the majority in Vietnam) that have been living in the area for generations.
Is the community considering itself a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	They are not a minority, although there is a Catholic community in the Van Long area.
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Yes, the communities are permanently settled, practicing wet rice cultivation.
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	The local per capita income is inferior to the national value. The information is very confident. However, for a rural farming community, it is actually quite typical. Tourism incomes do provide an economic

	buffer.
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognized?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	Yes, it was formally established by the Provincial level on 18 th December 2001 according to the Decision 2538 by the Ninh Binh Provincial People's Committee
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	Some border disputes with the neighbouring province. The Government has brought up the issue to the Parliament but it is not yet solved.
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)	The management objectives are natural resources conservation for ecotourism, education and livelihood as well as culture and historical conservation.
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	IUCN Category IV b2: habitat/species management

Additional qualitative information

Main ecosystem type	Wetland, limestone forests, wet rice fields, traditional village ecosystem
Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	Wetlands and limestone ecosystems are the main ecosystems conserved. Delacour's langur is a flagship species of the reserve. The wetland is also a functional system for the wet rice cultivation for years, it is a place for flood water relief and also water reservoir in drought for wet rice cultivation.
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	Vietnamese language
Broad historical context of the CCA	Van Long has both wetland and limestone forests. The local people living in and around the areas use both wetlands and forests for natural resources. Van Long plays an important in wet rice cultivation in the area as its wetlands serve as a system for regulating water in and out of rice fields. Its wetlands also provide local people important protein sources such as freshwater fish and plants. In 1993, the discovery of the Delacour's langur, a globally endangered primate species made Van Long

	<p>famous for its biodiversity value. Van Long was then an important species sanctuary for this threatened species. The need to officially conserve the area became the interest of the local communities and the local authorities. Tourism started with interest groups who wanted to see the Delacour's langur, since then it becomes a popular tourist destination for tour operators from Hanoi and other provinces.</p>
<p>Governance structure for the CCA (who takes management decisions, how?)</p>	<p>There is currently two major decision making structures in Van Long. Conservation and protection of the reserve is managed by Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve's management board. This sector is representative of all the local communities surrounding Van Long to uphold official law and locally applicable institutions and regulations, through the Commune administrative system.</p> <p>The other sector is tourism management. This is under the management of the Provincial Tourism Department.</p>
<p>Length of time the governance model has been in place</p>	<p>Formally, for eight years</p>
<p>Land and resource ownership in the CCA</p>	<p>As per Vietnam, all land belongs to the State. Households are allocated plots (household, agricultural) on 99-year leases which can be traded. Van Long is a mosaic of public commons, State land (the reserve and wetland), and private freehold land.</p>
<p>Type of land use in the CCA</p>	<p>Wet rice cultivation, forestry, gazing, residential and long term cultivation</p>
<p>Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA</p>	<p>Five year management plan</p>
<p>Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)</p>	<p>Maps attached</p>
<p>Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)</p>	<p>Attached</p>
<p>Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rapid development of the cement factory right next to the reserve is a major threat to its environment and its endangered species.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism operations/ benefit sharing from tourism: Van Long is increasingly a popular destination for tourists. The management of tourism needs to be managed well to present any negative impacts. Benefit sharing is currently a major concern between the stakeholders and an equal system of benefit sharing is needed to sustain Van Long.
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	Van Long is relatively new in conservation management. The local communities have been always using it for resources for generations, especially wetland resources. Since conservation of Van Long, ecotourism has become the major income source for the local people.

Contact individuals and organizations: please add contacts directly related to the community governing the CCA

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References : please list any available references describing the conservation, cultural and socio-economic values of the CCA

Report on biodiversity conservation and management in Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve from 2001-2007. February 2008 (in Vietnamese).