

GEF Small Grants Programme Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI) VIETNAM

Global Context

With the adoption of the 2010 CBD 2020 Aichi targets, attention has been focused on recognizing and supporting the vital role of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in conserving biodiversity outside the framework of formally-gazetted and managed government protected areas. To this end, the Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI) was formed in 2014 to broaden the diversity and quality of governance types and protected areas (PAs) and conserved areas (CAs) which contribute to the CBD Aichi Targets.



Cao Bang Geo Park, Viet Nam

The ICCA-GSI is a multi-partnership initiative delivered by the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in 26 countries, with \$16.3m funding provided by the Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) International Climate Initiative (IKI). Key partners include the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), Global ICCA Consortium, IUCN's Global Programme on Protected Areas (IUCN GPAP) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC).

Goals

ICCA-GSI's central goal is to improve the recognition, support and overall effectiveness of ICCAs for biodiversity conservation through sustainable livelihoods and self-strengthening of ICCAs. Its work focuses on **Aichi Target 11** (increasing PA coverage), **Aichi Target 14** (safeguarding ecosystems and increasing the effectiveness of its services), and **Aichi Target 18** (Protecting traditional knowledge). ICCA-GSI support is provided at three levels thru:

- (i.) Direct financial and technical support to community-based action and demonstration for the self-strengthening of ICCAs leading to ecosystem protection, legal empowerment, sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.
- (ii.) National legal, policy and other forms of support to enhance ICCA recognition and conservation, including governance assessments of protected and conserved areas; and
- (iii.) Global and regional networking, knowledge production and exchange support between national CSO initiatives.



Young IP women exchange knowledge on conservation of traditional herbal medicines, Quan Ba, Ha Giang, Viet Nam

Country Programme Strategy

Viet Nam is one of the world's ten most biologically diverse countries – it contains about 10% of the world's species while covering less than 1% of global land area. Viet Nam hosts a diversity of marine, coastal, wetlands, forests and mountain ecosystems. The country's terrestrial ecosystems hosts more than 13,200 floral species and about 10,000 faunal species. Its tropical marine ecosystem is home to more than 11,000 sea creatures, and in its interior wetlands, more than 30,000 aquatic creatures have been identified.

Viet Nam's population consists of 53 ethnic groups, with 50 ethnic groups (10 million) living in the mountainous upland area. For many centuries, the

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ethnic minorities have lived adapting to their environment and natural conditions for their survival. Their traditional knowledge (TK) and practices are greatly varied, incorporating diverse geographic areas and the different needs of individual groups including nature conservation, health protection, farming systems, and biodiversity utilization and management. The use of plants for medicinal treatment of illness and diseases are especially well developed among some of the minority groups. In the recent years, research institutions, private pharmaceutical companies and NGOs have recognized the importance of conserving this traditional knowledge, but benefits they have gained have not always been equitably shared with the minority groups.

To this end, the ICCA-GSI portfolio of projects in *Viet Nam* aims to increase the recognition and promote institutionalisation and strengthening of ICCAs and best practices contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, preservation of traditional knowledge in natural resource management and utilisation, and maintenance of intangible cultural values of indigenous communities. A series of activities have been conducted so far including (i) establishing a national learning group (VN-ICCA LG) and strengthening a national ICCA network; (ii) increasing awareness and common understanding on Viet Nam's ICCAs through various communication channels including meetings, workshops, leaflets and social media; (iii) developing Viet Nam's initial ICCA database; (iv) undertaking a legal review of laws, policies and institutional frameworks on ICCAs; (v) developing of strategic plan for Viet Nam's ICCAs.

Project Portfolio

Project Name	Implementation Period
Strengthening understanding, promoting institutional process and enhancing of indigenous people and community conserved areas (ICCA) in Viet Nam	July 2016- Dec 2018
Strengthening forest protection and improving livelihoods for Thai ethnic communities in Que Phong district, Nghe An province. (West Nghe An Biosphere Reserve & Pu Hoat Nature Reserve).	Mar 2018- Sep 2020
Promoting empowerment and capacity building for local communities in management, protection and sustainable use of marine resources contributing to conservation of coastal ecosystem in Ham Thuan Nam district, Binh Thuan province	Mar 2018- Sep 2020
Empowering local community in conservation and sustainable use of Nya Palm ecosystem in Cam Thanh commune, Hoi An city, Quang Nam province (WHS & biosphere reserve)	Mar 2018- Sep 2020
Legal Analysis to assess the impact of laws, policies and institutional frameworks on Indigenous peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas	Mar 2018- Sep 2020
Strengthening capacities to preserve forest resources and biodiversity and promoting sustainable livelihood for ethnic minorities in Sao La Nature Reserve, Thua Thien Hue province	Mar 2018- Sep 2020

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