



# Dong Chau–Khe Nuoc Trong Forest

Our Carbon Balanced  
project in Vietnam



**Country:** Vietnam

**Partner/Organisation:**  
Viet Nature Conservation  
Centre

#### Biome

Tropical and subtropical moist  
broadleaf forests

#### Ecoregion

Northern Annamite rainforests

#### Global prioritisation

The project area borders the Bac Huong Hoa nature reserve along its southern edge, and falls within the Truong Son Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and Important Bird Area (IBA), one of four IBAs in Vietnam.



#### Project summary

The project aims to protect biodiversity by reducing illegal wildlife hunting, while also supporting natural regeneration of degraded areas within the 52,210-acre (21,127 ha) Khe Nuoc Trong forest through its establishment as a nationally recognised protected area. The project aids research into biodiversity and supports rangers to carry out joint law enforcement activities with the local authorities and other stakeholders that include patrolling, surveying hunting practices and illegal wildlife supply chains, monitoring and snare removal. These protection activities reduce pressures on the forest, preventing degradation and allowing degraded areas to revert to high-quality forest producing a climate benefit of 41,686 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually.

#### Main threats to the area

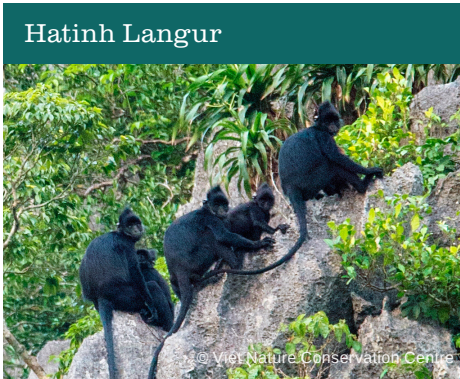
Threats to the forest include illegal forest degradation for small volume, high value timber by local communities. In the absence of the project the forest would remain in a steady but lower carbon state, due to ongoing forest degradation. Poaching of biodiversity through hunting and snaring has hit high levels and without project intervention it is expected these activities would continue to increase.

#### Habitats

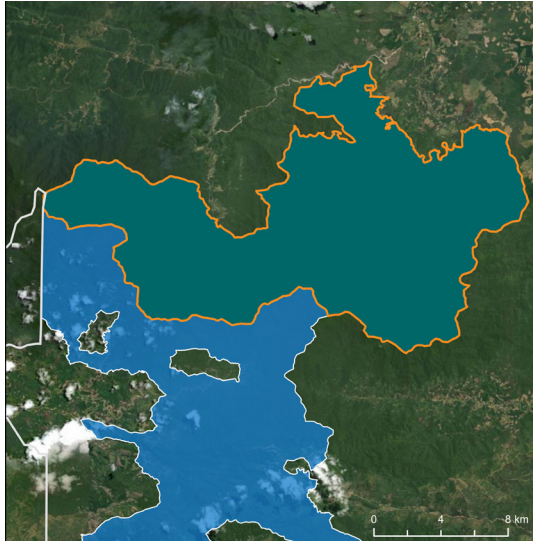
Located in central Vietnam, the Khe Nuoc Trong forest straddles the transition between flat coastal plains and the steep, rugged, mountainous terrain of the interior. The forest forms part of the partially protected north-south forested corridor that follows the western spine of the north central coastal area. The project area contains some of the largest remaining tracts of Annamese Lowland Forest, comprising a mix of pristine forest and degraded logged secondary forest habitats. The region surrounding the project area is mainly degraded and logged natural forests with acacia plantation forestry to the east.



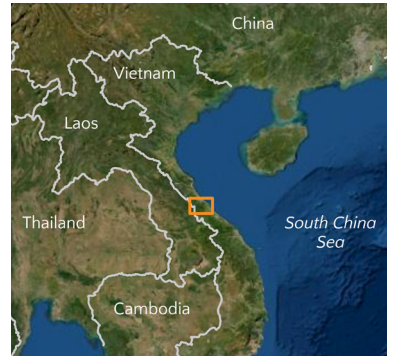
Sunda Pangolin



Hatinh Langur



- Carbon Project Area
- Khe Nuoc Trong
- Bac Hung Hoa
- International Borders



### Biodiversity

The project area is one of the least disturbed areas of lowland tropical moist forest remaining in central Vietnam. Khe Nuoc Trong contains a number of globally iconic species including the Crested Argus, White-cheeked Crested Gibbon and the Red-shanked Douc Langur. It has also been identified as a suitable location for the reintroduction of Edwards's Pheasant (*Lophura edwardsi*, CR).

### Key species<sup>1</sup>

Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*, CR), Large-antlered Muntjac (*Muntiacus vuquangensis*, CR), Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*, CR), Bourret's Box Turtle (*Cuora bourreti*, CR), Red-shanked Douc Langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*, EN), Hatinh Langur (*Trachypithecus hatinhensis*, EN), Southern White-cheeked Gibbon (*Nomascus siki*, EN), Big-headed Turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*, EN), Keeled Box Turtle (*Cuora mouhotii*, EN), Four-eyed Turtle (*Sacalia quadriocellata*, EN), Crested Argus (*Rheinardia ocellata*, EN), Annamite Striped Rabbit (*Nesolagus timminsi*, DD), Annamite Muntjac (*Muntiacus truongsongensis*, DD).

<sup>1</sup> The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species includes categories of Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC)

### Local communities

The predominately forested region surrounding the project area is largely managed by big state-owned forest enterprises. East of the project area bordering the densely populated and intensively cultivated coastal plains, acacia plantation forestry is the main industry, with households engaging in small-scale plantation forestry alongside state actors. To the north and west of the project area, state-owned forest enterprises hold timber harvesting concessions in secondary native forest, although the Vietnamese Government has recently suspended logging in natural forests. Communities in the northern region of the project area are mainly composed of marginalised ethnic minorities. The poverty rate is relatively high here, with small land holdings and poor agricultural prospects providing few livelihood opportunities. Individuals from these communities are often encouraged to enter the forest by illegal timber and wildlife traders, who will pay for poached animals and felled trees.

### Partner/NGO

The mission of Viet Nature Conservation Centre is to research and apply sustainable solutions to nature and biodiversity conservation; to maintain and restore ecosystems; to manage natural resources sustainably; and to make appropriate responses to climate change. Viet Nature is a national NGO that evolved from the BirdLife Vietnam Programme, inheriting a prestigious 20-year portfolio and conservation track record. WLT first partnered with Viet Nature in 2012, to protect the Watershed Protection Forest of Khe Nuoc Trong. The Carbon Balanced programme is central to this and WLT continue to work with Viet Nature on this project alongside a new restoration project in Bac Hung Hoa that commenced in 2019.

## UN Sustainable Development Goals advanced by this project

