

# Van Long Nature Reserve, Vietnam



Towards global action for  
Indigenous and Community  
Conserved Areas,

WCC Barcelona

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# History and Status

- “*Dragon Flying in Clouds*” - near ancient Vietnamese capital of Hoa Lu, 10<sup>th</sup> Century. Local use and management has been ongoing for centuries.
- In the last decade, the dynamic shifts in fortunes and economy, as Vietnam’s development accelerates.
- Van Long is now recognised as a protected area at the provincial level. The Van Long communities are sharing the protection work and involved in ecotourism operations.
- Van Long is now a popular destination for ecotourism, which is driving rapid change at the site



# Effectiveness & Sustainability



- Van Long is thriving both in terms of conservation and tourism development, but power and influence is moving away from the community level



- The population of the Delacour's langur has reached more than 100 individuals in 2008, from the 20 individuals surveyed in 1993, yet new threats are emerging.

**•Ecotourism brings cash benefit to local people, but control of revenues is with the Province.**



# Threats

- Cement - a factory is newly located next to the reserve. This factory is destroying the limestone range contiguous with the Van Long Reserve.
- Rapidly growing tourism
- Invasive species (snails, weeds)



# Challenges and Future Needs

- Decision making power-shift back to the community
- Benefit sharing to reward conservation with community development
- As a consequence, better planning (land-use, tourism development)
- Government and external support to support community stewardship and keep Van Long away from major development threats

