



## VCCI – IUCN Viet Nam

### Memorandum of Understanding

*on*

### Business for Sustainable Development in Viet Nam

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This Memorandum of Understanding hereinafter referred to as MOU between two parties namely:

**The Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (*hereinafter called "VCCI"*)  
9 Dao Duy Anh, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

and

**The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) in Viet Nam**  
(*hereinafter called "IUCN VN"*)  
44/4 Van Bao, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

*Whereas:*

VCCI is an independent, non-government and non-profit national entity convening and representing the business community, employers and business associations in Viet Nam. VCCI has a mandate to develop and support business community in the cause of sustainable socio-economic development of the whole country.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is paid increasing attention from VCCI for several years, with the purpose of raising awareness of this new concept to business community, especially those getting involved into global value chain, and ensuring its implementation at the workplace. Among others, VCCI has, in cooperation with Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL), Viet Nam Leather and Footwear Association (LEFASO), Viet Nam Textile and Garment Association (VITAS) and ActionAid Vietnam, been organizing the CSR Award in 2005, 2006 and 2007 in the textile and footwear sectors. The Award promotes the improvement of working condition, employees' lives, environment protection and employees' participation in the corporate planning process. The Award therefore contributes to the sustainable development and enhances businesses' competitiveness in order to succeed in international economic integration.

*Whereas:*

IUCN is an intergovernmental organization that brings together 82 states, 112 government organizations, over 800 NGOs, almost 40 affiliates, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries. IUCN sees the importance of business and has been a partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) for a long time. On April 21, 2005, IUCN and the WBCSD entered into a MOU for framework cooperation on the Business and Biodiversity Initiative, which focuses on enhancing the role of market and business in supporting ecosystem stewardship, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of the ecosystem services.

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**IUCN VN** has the mission: *“To influence, encourage, and assist Viet Nam’s biodiversity conservation and equitable sustainable use of natural resources for improving its people’s quality of life”.*

IUCN VN has committed to support sustainable development process in Viet Nam. This is clearly reflected in its Strategic Framework 2007-2010. In essence, it works closely in partnership with the Viet Nam Agenda 21 Office (VA21) to strengthen capacity in developing and implementing the Local Agenda 21 in provinces. In line with IUCN’s Global strategy, IUCN VN recognized and paid increasing attention to the role of the business sector in the sustainable development cause. In addition to direct partnerships with companies in biodiversity conservation projects, IUCN VN has been working together with VCCI to promote best CSR practices and environment protection and ecosystem conservation in Viet Nam. Recently, IUCN VN joined VCCI and other organizations in organizing the CSR Award 2007.

In order to further promote business for sustainable development in Viet Nam, both parties agree as follows:

1. The MOU will serve as a framework for cooperation between two parties.

2. The VCCI and IUCN VN will work together to:

*2.1. Establish the Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD) with the following functions:*

- (i) Facilitating policy dialogues among the business sector, Government and civil society on sustainable development;
- (ii) Networking and promoting good practices across business sector;
- (iii) Educating and raising awareness on environment and biodiversity issues among the business community;
- (iv) Providing technical assistance to corporate on integrating environmental protection and biodiversity conservation into corporate plans;
- (v) Demonstrating pilot Business and Biodiversity Programme (BBP) models applying IUCN global experience.

*2.2. Create and maintain the Business Trust Fund for Sustainable Development (BTFSD) in order to mobilize and sustain corporate financial support for VBCSD’s sustainable development initiatives/projects in Viet Nam.*

The design, structure and operational regulations of the VBCSD and the BTFSD will be determined at later stage by both parties and upon consultation and discussion with other involved stakeholders.

### **3. Responsibilities of IUCN VN:**

3.1. Support VCCI in initiating, designing, mobilizing supports and establishing the VBCSD;

3.2. Provide financial support to VCCI for:

- Organizing 2 workshops (kick-off and consultation), 1 roundtable discussion and annual meeting of the VBCSD in 2008;
- Hiring a short-term international expert (maximum one month) for setting up the VBCSD; and
- Supporting initial fund raising activities for the BTFSD in 2008.

3.3. Introduce the Business and Biodiversity programme (BBP) to the business community and help them integrate environment protection and biodiversity conservation into corporate plans;

3.4. Act as technical advisor to the VBCSD on environment and biodiversity related issues;

3.5. Help the VBCSD establish and manage the BTFSD in an effective and transparent manner;

- 3.6. Bring in new concepts, approaches and share international knowledge and experience with VCCI and members of the VBCSD.
- 3.7. Convene IUCN VN members and civil society organization in dialogue and partnership with the business sector on sustainable development;
- 3.8. Connect and engage members of VBCSD with relevant IUCN VN members and initiatives;
- 3.9. Develop pilot models for sustainable business development applying IUCN's global experience.

**4. Responsibilities of VCCI:**

- 4.1. Take lead and convene efforts in the establishment of the VBCSD and the BTFSD;
- 4.2. Be responsible for registration and operating procedures with the respective Government agencies related to the VBCSD and the BTFSD;
- 4.3. Promote sustainable development (SD) related issues, including but not limited to environment protection, biodiversity conservation and CSR best practices, among business community in Viet Nam;
- 4.4. Work in partnership with IUCN VN to organize dialogues between the business sector and government as well as the civil society on sustainable development;
- 4.5. Support IUCN VN in introducing BBP, disseminating its global expertise and experience to the business community and integrating environment protection and biodiversity conservation into corporate plans;
- 4.6. Support and engage IUCN VN in related initiatives and/or projects;
- 4.7. Keep IUCN VN updated on progress as well as involve and consult IUCN VN on relevant issues;
- 4.8. Lead the fund raising process and mobilizing resources for the BTFSD;
- 4.9. Encourage and facilitate the development and implementation of pilot models for sustainable business development among business community;
- 4.10. Support Chambers of Commerce in other countries including Laos in promoting sustainable business development.

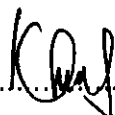
5. This MOU will become effective upon signature by the two parties represented by one authorized person from each party and will remain in effect until December 30, 2010;

6. This MOU may be extended by prior written agreement of both parties;

7. This MOU may be terminated by either party, by giving the other three months written notice;

8. This MOU is a commitment of cooperation and does not legally bind either party.

**For VCCI**




**Dr. Doan Duy Khuong**  
Vice Executive President

Date of signing

*December 30, 2007*

**For IUCN Viet Nam**



**Dr. Vu Van Trieu**  
Country Representative

Date of signing

*December 30, 2007*