

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Van Long Nature Reserve – the first area in Vietnam on the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conservation Areas



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The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas is the first global standard of best practice for area-based conservation. It is a programme of certification for protected and conserved areas – national parks, natural World Heritage sites, community conserved areas, nature reserves and so on – that are effectively managed and fairly governed.

A protected or conservation area that reaches the IUCN Green List Standard is certified and recognised as achieving ongoing results for people and nature in a fair and effective way. Any site can join, and work its way towards achieving verified success, and then maintain the Standard or further improve.

Any protected and conserved area that gains 'Green List' status demonstrates:

- Respect: for the local community through fair and meaningful engagement of rights-holders and stakeholders
- Design: planning that identifies the needs to secure the important values of the area
- Effective management: monitoring of the status of these important values
- Successful conservation results: for nature and for people
- Clear contribution: to climate change responses, health and well-being and other challenges

The IUCN Green List was piloted in eight countries from 2012 to 2014. Following the completion of the pilot programme, the IUCN Green List Standard has been revised and an IUCN Green List User Manual and associated information management systems are now in place. Currently, 49 protected areas in 15 countries have been included in the IUCN Green List (Fig. 1), and another 44 protected areas are candidates for inclusion after fulfilling the established criteria.

The focus of the 'Vietnam Primate Conservation Program' of the Frankfurt Zoological Society was the protection and conservation of the Delacour's langur, one of Vietnam's endemic and critically endangered primates. The largest and only viable population in the Van Long Area was granted the status of Nature Reserve in 2001. With the establishment of a 'Community Protection Unit' consisting of 30 guards, who were recruited from the surrounding communities of the protected area, the work of the Management Board of the protected area could be actively supported. With the involvement of the communities in the protection and development of the area into a tourist highlight, poaching and habitat destruction in the area came to a halt. This is reflected in a remarkable development of the Delacour's langur population. Over a period of 20 years the population quadrupled from originally about 50 animals to currently about 200 animals. This positive development of the population of one of the world's rarest primates, the involvement of the local population in the protection and conservation activities and the development into a tourism highlight that also benefits the local population was recognized after the conditions were met with the inclusion of the area in 2020 in the IUCN Green List.

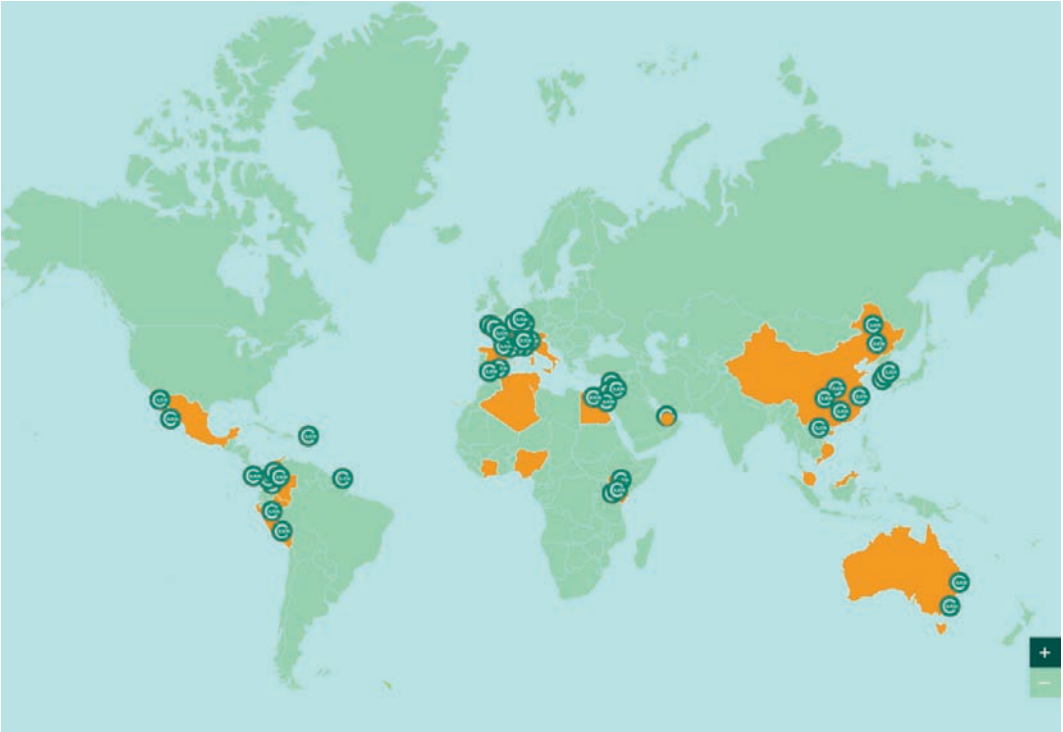


Fig.1. Green listed protected and conserved areas and countries with candidates for the listing.