



# Vietnam Business for Environment – VB4E

**Project title:** Biodiversity monitoring for effective management actions

**Project duration:** 5 years

**Geographic area of the proposed project:** Ha Long Bay and Cat Ba Archipelago

**Project idea:**

Ha Long Natural World Heritage Site and Cat Ba Biosphere Reserve play a significant role in terms of biodiversity and economic contribution for Quang Ninh province and Hai Phong City. With the karst system of isolated islets, the landscape provides a habitat to many endemic species. It is regarded as a huge “natural lab” to observe species evolution, hence having very high biodiversity values.

Quang Ninh and Hai Phong are preparing a renomination dossier to extend the natural World Heritage Site to include Cat Ba Archipelago, which includes additional criteria on biodiversity outstanding universal values, which requires the management authority prove effective management measures to preserve these values. However, tourism activities are booming in the area, causing many potential impacts of biodiversity. Therefore, it is necessary to have a biodiversity monitoring system in place so as to measure the potential impacts of tourism and other development activities on endanger species as well as areas of high biodiversity value.

The previous project results of Ha Long – Cat Ba Alliance, completed in 2019, have built capacity for management staff of Ha Long Bay Management Board and Cat Ba National Park. However, the government state budget has not yet been allocated to run the biodiversity monitoring programme, which was initially supported by the project.

The project aims to support the monitoring of species that have a high biodiversity value which are potentially impacted by tourism activities. This will provide inputs for management interventions in the areas as well as preserving the potential outstanding biological values of the natural World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve.

**Relevance to VB4E thematic areas**

The project would contribute to two focus themes of biodiversity conservation, and marine and coastal conservation.

**Management structure:**

Ha Long Bay Management Board and Cat Ba Heritage Management Board will be engaged as key partners for the project implementation.

The field work monitoring activities will be conducted by management officers of Ha Long Bay Management Board and Cat Ba National Park with technical advice by IUCN experts. IUCN will coordinate other joint activities between Ha Long and Cat Ba as well as organize monitoring, evaluation and learning (MLE) trips for the National Coordinating Body member who would supervise the project progress.

**Total Budget:** US\$80,000/year \* 5 years on rolling basis

**Co-financing:** IUCN would mobilize funding from other sources to co-finance the project

Please contact coordinator at [VB4EAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:VB4EAlliance@gmail.com) for further information if you are interested in the project idea.