

Securing Viet Nam's threatened Great Green Corridor in Quang Nam and the well-being of its people



The landscape and its people

The Quang Nam landscape in central Viet Nam is part of the Green Corridor that houses some of the country's richest biodiversity. The 1,043,837 hectares landscape stretches south of the Annamite mountains. It has three distinct ecosystems: pristine wet evergreen forests, high mountains and coastal areas. They are home to diverse, endangered and newly discovered species, including the threatened Asian elephant and tiger, more than 20 species of flora nearing extinction and 832 medicinal plant species. Thirty-three ethnic groups depend on forests for their livelihoods and culture. They manage nine percent of Quang Nam's forests. This threatened landscape is important to the communities, the region and the world. It contains Cu Lao Cham-Hoi An, a UNESCO biosphere reserve and cultural world heritage site. An investment destination hosting economic zones and industrial parks, Quang Nam Province over the years has become a central point for international trade, important for Viet Nam's economic development. Protected and healthy forests in the highlands of Quang Nam can secure the watersheds of rivers, sources of water for the millions who live in the lowlands downstream.

Entry points for investment to achieve the SDGs

- 1 Supporting forest landscape management to increase the sustainable supply of forest products and adapt to climate change
- 2 Promoting indigenous products, eco-tourism and inclusive forest-based business opportunities for sustainable rural development
- 3 Strengthening forest governance practices to include non-state actors and marginalized voices

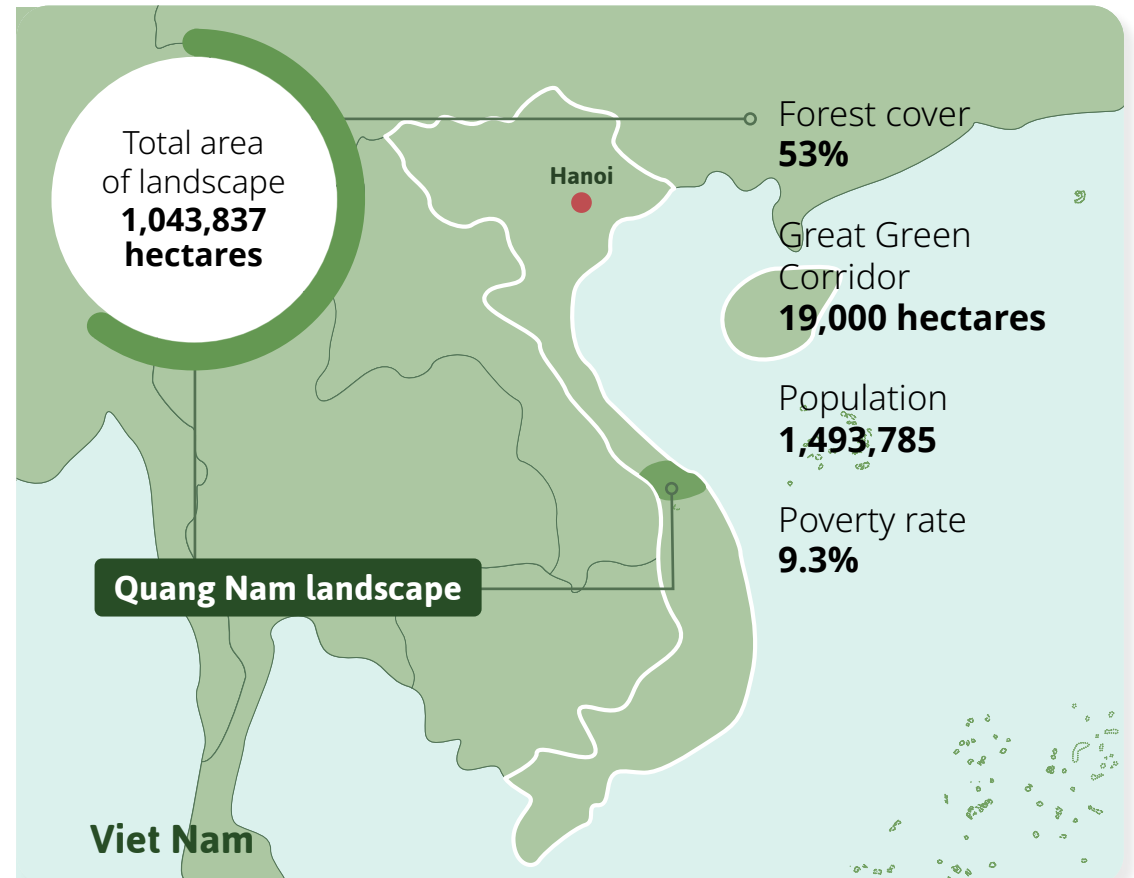


The Quang Nam landscape in Viet Nam and the people and biodiversity it shelters are threatened by deforestation, natural disasters and weak forest governance. Empowered local communities must lead the sustainable development and the protection of the landscape and at RECOFTC we have the vision, skills, relationships and experience to support their leadership. Since 1998, we have helped the people of Quang Nam build their capacity to secure their land tenure and resource rights, govern and manage their lands and improve their livelihoods. Today, there are tremendous new opportunities in Quang Nam to further support local communities, government, civil society and private sector to overcome these threats. We offer three entry points for action that will foster prosperous communities and a thriving landscape by capitalizing on the ambitions of communities, our experience in Quang Nam and Viet Nam and the work of many other organizations. Through investments in Quang Nam we can contribute directly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. By 2030, we can lift 7,000 people out of poverty, empower women to take active roles in decision-making and increase their participation in forest management by 30 percent, strengthen the capacity of 2,000 people to adapt to climate change and foster sustainable management of more than one million hectares of forests. And by securing land rights, we can enable Viet Nam to foster good forest governance and mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Challenges

- Climate**
 - Changes in the global climate have exacerbated the frequency and intensity of natural disasters.
 - Local communities that are most vulnerable to climate change disasters have low capacities to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- Governance**
 - Government institutions play a leading role in managing Quang Nam's forests, and non-state actors have limited influence in forest governance.
 - The low capacity of forestry officials limits the planning and implementation of forest governance laws.
 - Population increase, intensity of natural disasters and increased demand for timber puts pressure on the allocation of land.
- Social inclusion**
 - Women hold three percent of leadership roles in local governance and along with ethnic minorities they have limited involvement in decisions on allocation and management of natural resources.
- Livelihoods**
 - Annual income per capita is 2,400 US dollars.
 - Poor infrastructure and lack of market access are barriers to pursuing alternative livelihoods.

Quang Nam by numbers



Partners

- Local communities**
 - Quang Nam's 33 different ethnic groups practice shifting cultivation, managing nine percent of the area's forests.
- Government**
 - National, subnational and district government agencies manage 82 percent of Quang Nam's forests for protection, production and special use.
 - Thirty-six point five percent of forests are under the responsibility of commune-level People's Committees and have yet to be allocated to local communities.
- Private sector**
 - Companies manage 7,639 hectares of forest for producing and trading wood and non-timber forest products.
 - Imports of raw materials are growing as the internal market is shrinking and pressure on forests increases.
- Civil society**
 - Quang Nam University, local unions and the Forest Inventory and Planning Sub-Institute for Northern Central Vietnam support stakeholders in sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and alternative livelihoods.

Hien Tu
Dak Pre Commune, Nam Giang District

Without protecting the forests, we will fail to retain water and save the environment for our children and grandchildren.

Pham Van Phuoc
Chairman, Phuoc Nang Commune People's Committee, Phuoc Son District

Forests are the source of life for our peoples. Without forests we have no drinking water, no timber for building houses and no livelihoods.

Hoang Minh Tri
Tien Lanh Sustainable Forestry Cooperative, Tien Phuoc Commune

Our newly established cooperative produces and trades forest products. We need to build our capacity to strengthen the value chain at this level, meet the legal requirements and market ourselves in a new context.

Nguyen Thi Thuy Hang
Communication Manager, PanNature

The data-based discussions we support can strengthen forest protection and improve policies and help overcome the limitations and challenges to forest governance.

Our experience in Quang Nam and Viet Nam

Since 2017, we have supported civil society organizations and local communities in Quang Nam to set up participatory monitoring systems for good governance of forests. We have:

- Increased the capacity of 150 civil society stakeholders on forest tenure, land use, social inclusion, gender equity and transparent forest management
- Trained 30 non-state actors on how to use and improve information-sharing platforms for forest governance
- Provided 33 partners and media organizations with support on good forest governance

We are well established in Viet Nam. In 1998, the Government of Viet Nam signed our charter. Through our work we have become a leading voice in community forestry, recognized and trusted by local communities, government agencies, local authorities and civil society. We have:

- Raised awareness about community forestry in nine of the country's provinces
- Trained 874 people, more than 30 percent of them women, in the sustainable management of natural resources
- Supported the revision and enactment of four legislative instruments
- Partnered with 15 organizations and local communities to establish platforms for stakeholders to share information, concerns and experiences on community forestry



At RECOFTC, we believe in a future where people live equitably and sustainably in and beside healthy, resilient forests. We take a long-term, landscape-based and inclusive approach to supporting local communities to secure their land and resource rights, stop deforestation, find alternative livelihoods and foster gender equity. We are the only non-profit organization of our kind in Asia and the Pacific. We have more than 30 years of experience working with people and forests, and have built trusting relationships at all levels. Our influence and partnerships extend from multilateral institutions to governments, private sector and local communities. Our innovations, knowledge and initiatives enable countries to foster good forest governance, mitigate and adapt to climate change, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Our sponsors



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

RECOFTC's work is made possible with the continuous support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).