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MEETING SUMMARY

NATIONAL WORKSHOP

REVIEWING THE POTENTIAL AND WAY FORWARD FOR OECMS IN VIET NAM

HA NOI, JUNE 30, 2023

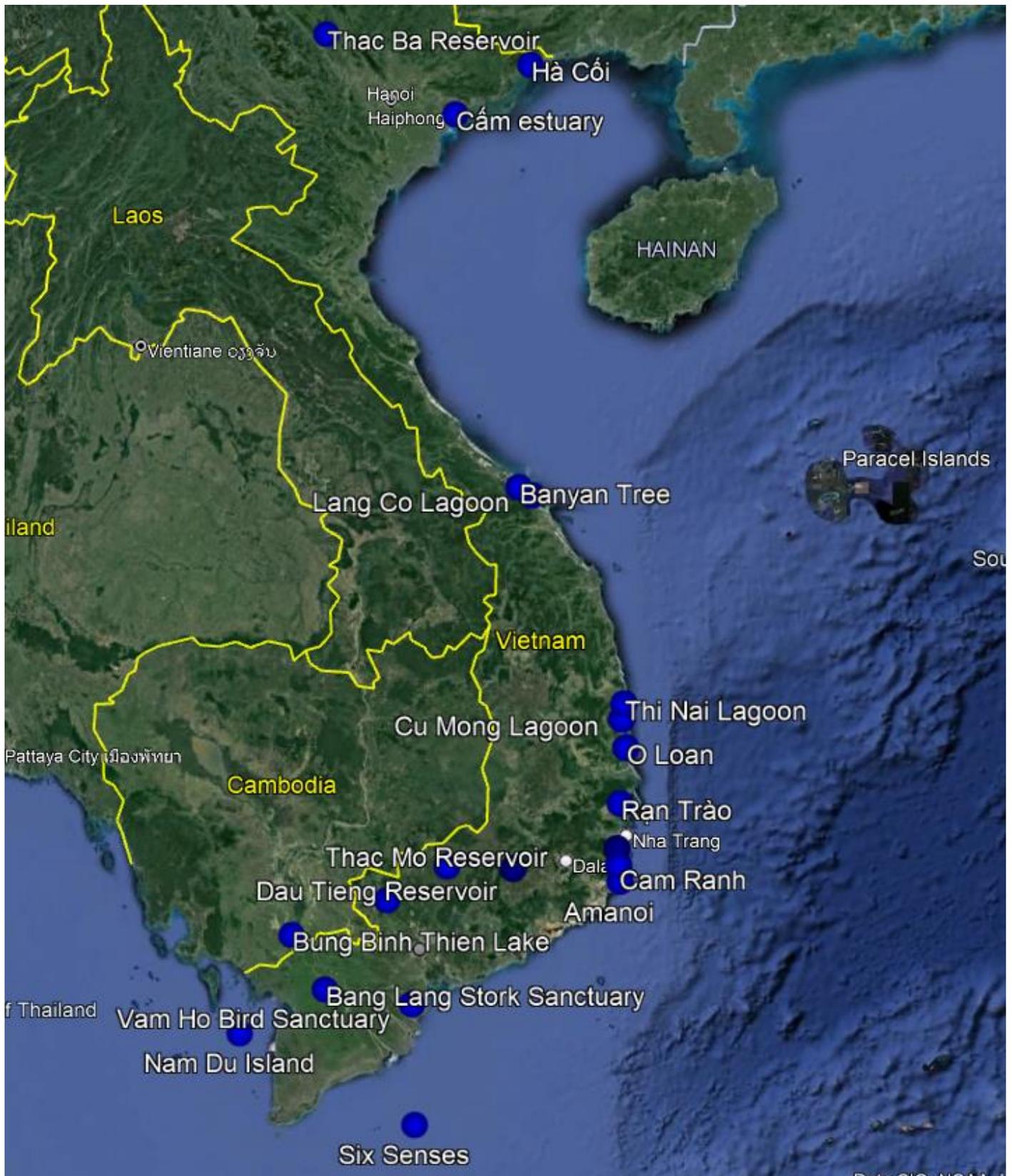
Background

- At the CBD COP 15 in December 2022, the State Parties, including Viet Nam, approved the 30x30 commitment to protect 30% of its land and sea area by 2030. In addition, Viet Nam joined the UK-led Global Ocean Alliance (GOA), which aims to protect at least 30% of the global oceans by 2030.
- Other effective area-based for conservation measures (OECMs) are a new conservation designation to incentive conservation outside of protected areas; they provide new opportunities for countries to achieve conservation targets.
- Recognizing the increasingly important of the areas outside protected areas in the contribution to the effective in-situ biodiversity conservation, in 2019 IUCN issued [technical guidelines for recognizing and reporting OECMs](#).
- This workshop was organized by IUCN as a technical discussion of how OECMs can help meet Viet Nam's 30x30 commitment. It was an opportunity explain what OECMs are and what they are not, provide examples of OECMs regionally, and discuss the legal and technical steps needed to institutionalize OECMs in Viet Nam.

Results

- There was great interest in using OECMs to recognize effective conservation outside of protected areas.
- The Vietnamese translations of the guidelines for recognizing and reporting OECMs and the 2023 [site-based tool for identifying OECMs](#) were presented. Special attention was paid to the four criteria, A-D, which must be met for a site to be eligible for OECM designation.
- Operationalizing OECMs in Viet Nam will require legislation that provides the legal basis for recognizing OECMs and clarifies institutional roles and responsibilities. Technical terms in the guidelines need to be adapted to the Viet Nam context before being included in legislation.
- Potential OECMs areas were proposed for three ecosystems taking into account land ownership, biodiversity values, management gaps, and other factors.
- For [freshwater ecosystems](#) these include:
 - a. Hydropower reservoirs: Dau Tieng, Thac Ba, Thac Mo, Dong Nai 3, Pleiku Krong.
 - b. Natural lakes and privately managed wetlands: Bung Binh Thien, Bang Lang Stork Sanctuary, Vam Ho Bird Sanctuary.
- For [forest landscapes](#) these include:
 - a. Protection forests.
 - b. High biodiversity forests managed by communities.
 - c. Natural forests managed by State Forest Companies.
- For [coastal and marine areas](#) these include:
 - a. Provincial fisheries protection areas.
 - b. Lagoons: Lang Co, Thuy Trieu, Thi Nai, Cu Mong, O Loan.
 - c. Sea grass beds: Nam Du, Van Phong.
 - d. Estuaries: Ha Coi, Cam, Gianh.
 - e. Military areas: Cam Ranh, Truong Sa Islands.
 - f. Privately managed resorts: Six Senses, Amanoi, Banyan Tree.

See map.



Priority actions

1. Establish the legal and institutional basis for OECM implementation in Viet Nam.
2. Map and describe potential OECMs.

Next steps

1. MONRE's Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency (NBCA) will be the national focal agency for OECM development and will submit a proposal for government approval in 2024.
2. NBCA will host a national consultation on OECMs later in 2023.
3. To promote learning and cooperation, a national OECM network should be established.
4. OECMs will be piloted; internationally supported projects can assist this process.