



# Environmental Pollution Programme

## Reducing Pollution Through Partnership in Vietnam

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Title: Reducing Pollution through Partnership in Vietnam

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## Take home messages

- Two workshops, with over 100 attendees, have helped to validate and improve awareness around pollution threats in Vietnam, as well as highlighting opportunities for country-wide action to mitigate pollution impacts.
- Local partners proposed further studies on pollution impacts on environmental and human health and, with the consensus of all workshop participants, will present this for approval to the Vietnamese authorities.
- Future work on sustainable agriculture in Vietnam was funded to build on the partnerships built during this project.

## Brief Summary

Defra and JNCC partnered with the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) and their local partners, the Vietnam Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment (VACNE), to analyse and collate information on pollutant prevalence, threats, and management in Vietnam. Through engaging with a range of local experts, and drawing upon literature, partners have identified **climate change**, **air** and **agricultural pollution**, and **industrial and domestic wastewater** as major drivers of biodiversity loss that need to be mitigated in Vietnam. Future research building on the JNCC's global analysis should build in **pollution point sources**, **local databases** and analysis of **communities at risk**. Recommendations include investment in community projects to involve citizens directly in decisions on the use and treatment of natural resources.

## Workshops

VACNE convened two hybrid stakeholder workshops to disseminate, interrogate and develop recommendations based on the country-level pollution data supplied by JNCC, as well as presenting research outputs on other impacts of pollution, such as the impact on air quality and human health and the use of Vietnam's national environmental information and database. Despite challenges due to Covid-19 and technical issues preventing the attendance of many participants, over 300 people attended from across the country. These hybrid workshops had online participants as well as in person attendees gathered in three main cities across the country, Hanoi, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City. Participants from NGOs, academia, state and domestic government, independent experts and media outlets attended, with feedback drawn from responses to questions during the workshops and questionnaires following the events.



**Figure 1.** One of several pre-workshop interviews with Vietnamese experts held by VACNE (© Vietnam Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment (VACNE))

## Lessons Learned in Vietnam

Local partners felt that conducting workshops in country was the right approach to obtain meaningful analysis of the information presented by JNCC, but that more time to organise specialised/regional seminars ahead of the workshops would have greatly increased the results produced. Organising the workshops and the communications around its results, which were disseminated through central and local newspapers and radio stations had an additional benefit of acting to raise public awareness of pollution issues.

## Future Development

Research will be conducted in Vietnam into the environmental impacts of pesticide use and agricultural open burning as key pollution issues identified during the scoping year. Sustainable agricultural practices will be developed with local farmers and researchers, with outreach projects to inform and involve local citizens and policy makers.