

Action 2.4 Status and management of ETPs

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Task: Learn more by gathering information to determine impact of the fishery on ETP species and define mitigation measures as inputs into the development of the FMP

CONTEXT

The national digital transformation program was initiated by the Vietnamese Government in mid-2020. Accordingly, Vietnam will fundamentally and comprehensively innovate the Government's management and administration activities with the goal of improving national competitiveness. Digital transformation was believed not to be a technological revolution but an institutional revolution. According to data from the Ministry of Information and Communications, by the end of March 2022, the whole country had 22/22 ministries, branches and 63/63 localities establishing a Steering Committee on digital transformation; 17/22 ministries, branches and 57/63 localities issued digital transformation programs/plans/projects for the 5-year period. This needs to be mentioned here, because access to information on FIP-related issues has become possible, and this enables the building up of public private partnership.

On the other hand, the role of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) on issues related to biodiversity (including habitats and ETP species) was not included in the environmental rapid assessment report in 2019-2020. MONRE is the Government agency performing the state management function in the fields general management of natural resources and environmental protection of sea and islands. MONRE is the national focal point responsible for implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and administers laws relating to environment protection and biodiversity management. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is a governmental agency for management of biodiversity issues related to the forestry, fisheries and agricultural sectors. So at the central level, responsibilities for the state management of biodiversity are shared between MONRE and MARD.

This action is completed because the ultimate goal of this action is met. Impact of the fishery on critical habitats is known. Mitigation measures have been developed, implemented and reported. Inputs for the development of the FMP are sufficient.

CONTENT:

PI 2.3.3 ETP species information:

According to the report 'Study and proposed list of threatened marine species in coastal waters and nearshore areas of Ba Ria - Vung Tau province' published by Pham Quoc Huy and colleagues of the Southern Research Institute of Marine Fisheries in October 2022, among the 10 main occupational groups participating in exploitation in coastal and inshore waters of Ba Ria - Vung Tau province, there were 6 types of occupations that encountered endangered and rare aquatic species that needed to be protected according to the evaluation and classification criteria of IUCN (2021) and CITES (2021). These occupations include fish trawl, hooks and lines, traps and pots, stationary bottom nets, bottom trawl and floating gillnets. In which, fish trawl caught 3 near-threatened species (NT, including: *Brevitrygon walga*, *Hemitrygon akajei* and *Scomberomorus commerson*) and 5 endangered species (VU, including *Breritygon imbricata*, *Gymnura poecilura*, *Narcme tinglei*, *Pampus argenteus* and *Pateobatis jenkinsii*). The report proposed adding 71 marine species to the endangered group that need to be protected in coastal and inshore waters of Ba Ria - Vung Tau province but no evidence that it has been approved by the authorities. Among the 71 proposed species, there is 1 species at CR level (*Elops hawaiiensis* - Regan, 1909), 1 species at

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EN level (*Cymbiola nobilis* - Lightfoot, 1786), 12 species at VU level and 57 species at NT level. Sampling results from June to the end of December 2023 show that with 81 vessels were sampled, with raw material caught by trawlers, 65% of the cases found (in small amounts) 2 Near Threatened species (*Chiloscyllium punctatum*, *Brevitrygon walga*) and 6 Vulnerable species (*Brevitrygon imbricata*, *Okamejei cairae*, *Telatrygon zugei*, *Okamejei hollandi*, *Chiloscyllium indicum* and *Narcine tinglei*). Thus, the results of research and actual sampling show that trawling in BRVT does not have a significant impact on ETP species.

According to report No. 81 of the People's Committee of BRVT province to MONRE published in February 2024, the Con Dao marine ecosystem is home to 7 critical endangered species, 67 endangered and will be endangered species (according to Vietnam Red Book, 2007) and over 300 species of hard coral falls under the CITES category. Critically Endangered (CR) species are: Giant top shell snail (*Tectus niloticus*), Triton's trumpet (*Charonia tritonis*), eyed cowrie (*Cypraea argus*), chambered nautilus (*Nautilus pompilius*), Four-eyed sleeper (*Bostrichthys sinensis*), Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Dugong (*Dugong dugong*). There are 3 species of marine animals: Dugong, Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Decree No. 37/2024/ND-CP dated April 4, 2024 of the Government: 'Amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8, 2019 of the Government regulating detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law' has also issued a list of endangered and rare species. According to this list, Con Dao sea has species of giant top shell snail (*Tectus niloticus*), Triton's trumpet (*Charonia tritonis*), eyed cowrie (*Cypraea argus*), chambered nautilus (*Nautilus pompilius*) and over 300 species of hard coral.

PI 2.3.1 ETP species outcome:

According to report No. 81/BC-UBND of the People's Committee of Ba Ria - Vung Tau province to the MONRE dated February 6, 2024 on 'The situation of integrated management of and protection resources and marine environment and islands in Ba Ria-Vung Tau province in 2023':

- In 2023, sea turtles successfully laid 2,262 nests, with a total of 212,644 eggs, 392 mother turtles with tags, 2,159 hatched nests, controlled release into the sea of 166,168 baby turtles, and a hatching rate of 81.46. %.
- A coordinated plan to restore and preserve sea turtle breeding grounds at Dat Doc beach, Con Dao district for the period of 2021-2025 has been implemented. As of November 30, 2023, the mother turtle went to Dat Doc beach to successfully lay 06 nests with 708 eggs, hatched and released 653 baby turtles back to the sea; Rescued and relocated from remote beaches to Dat Doc beach incubation 110 nests with 7,454 eggs; Hatched and released into the sea 6,644 baby turtles, hatching rate reached 89.13%.
- Monitoring and supervising the spread of fingerlings of the giant clam (*Tridacna spp.*) zoned in the Dam Tre bay area, there are 68 adult individuals growing and developing normally.

[Vietnamnet](#) newspaper on April 24, 2024 reported that every year, Con Dao National Park receives more than 2,000 green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) to nest and lay eggs.

PI 2.4.2 ETP species management:

National level:

Resolution 05/2018/NQ-HDTP dated November 5, 2018 of the Council of Judges of the Supreme People's Court guiding the application of Article 234 on violations of regulations on wildlife protection and Article 244 on crimes violating regulations on protecting endangered, precious and rare animals of the Penal Code.

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The Fisheries Law stipulates in Article 8 the Regime for management and protection of endangered, precious and rare aquatic species. Decree 38/2024/ND-CP of the Government issued on April 5, 2024 increased the level of penalties for violations of regulations on management of endangered, precious and rare aquatic species but not yet level of criminal prosecution.

Provincial level:

In 2023, the authorities inspected and discovered that the restaurants were raising 89 individuals of golden giant clams and 129 individuals of giant top shell snails. The restaurant owners handed them over. They were then released into the marine conservation component of Con Dao National Park.

[Tuoi Tre Online](#) newspaper on May 6, 2024, reported that the People's Court of Con Dao district, BRVT province heard the case of buying, selling, storing and transporting four green sea turtle eggs. Accordingly, two defendants on the selling side received 1 year in prison, one defendant - a taxi driver and broker - received 1 year in prison but was given a suspended sentence, and two female tourists who bought green sea turtle eggs were fined 550 million VND. Penalties apply according to the provisions of the Penal Code.

[The Vietnamnet newspaper](#) reported on April 24, 2024, Con Dao National Park announced that it had discovered a green sea turtle laying eggs at Bay Canh island. This green sea turtle comes from Malaysia, weighs about 90kg, and laid 108 eggs.

Scientific research

- Topic: Assessing the current status of sea-cow (Dugong) populations and seagrass ecosystems in Con Dao, proposing management and conservation solutions. The research commissioned by the Institute of Marine Resources and Environment. The project has been implemented since May 2021. Currently, phase 4 is being implemented. Content: Collect, analyze, and evaluate all existing documents related to natural conditions, socio-economic and environmental and biodiversity conditions affecting Dugong populations and seagrass beds in Con Dao; Investigate, and collect information about the current status of the Dugong population in Con Dao; Investigate the current status of seagrass beds, develop data on seagrass in Con Dao; Research the causes affecting the activities of Dugong populations, the causes affecting the development of seagrass beds in Con Dao; Proposing effective management and conservation solutions for Dugong populations and seagrass beds in Con Dao.
- Topic: Research on artificial reproduction of Giant top shell snail (*Tectus niloticus*) in Con Dao National Park is led by the Institute of Oceanography, implemented in November 2023. Content: Investigation to determine the distribution area of Giant top shell snail in Con Dao National Park, as a basis for collecting seed sources as parents; Determining the reproductive season and first reproductive size of Giant top shell snail (*Tectus niloticus*); Building a production process for Giant top shell snail (*Tectus niloticus*); Testing the growth model of Giant top shell snail (*Tectus niloticus*)

Sources:

1. Report No. 81/BC-UBND of the People's Committee of Ba Ria - Vung Tau province to the MONRE dated February 6, 2024 on 'The situation of integrated management of and protection resources and marine environment and islands in Ba Ria-Vung Tau province in 2023'
2. Pham, Huy. 2022. 'Study and proposed list of threatened marine species in coastal waters and nearshore areas of Ba Ria - Vung Tau province'. Agriculture and Rural Development Magazine.

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3. Decree No. 37/2024/ND-CP dated April 4, 2024 of the Government: *'Amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8, 2019 of the Government regulating detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law'*
4. Resolution 05/2018/NQ-HDTP dated November 5, 2018 of the Council of Judges of the Supreme People's Court.