

*Quang Ninh, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

**REPORT**  
**STATE OF CONSERVATION OF HA LONG BAY-THE WORLD**  
**NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Name of Natural Heritage:** Ha Long Bay-the World Natural Heritage

**Member Country:** Vietnam

**Number sign of the Heritage:** N672s

**I. Overview**

The World Heritage Center issued a Note no. CLT/WWHC/APA/19/083 on April 15th, 2019 requesting Vietnam, a member country, to respond the comments of the third party on rubbish and tourist management on Ha Long Bay-the world natural Heritage. Accordingly, report no. 163/BC-UBND dated July 12th, 2019 prepared by Quang Ninh Province was submitted to the World Heritage Center.

Following, on November 15th, 2019, the World Heritage Center issued a Note no. CLT/HER/WHC/APA/FJ/19/246 requesting Vietnam, a member country, to provide a report on state of conservation of Ha Long Bay, focusing on tourist issues, development of infrastructure works, establishment of general management plan, research & evaluation of loading capacity as well as implementation of recommendations of IUCN Advisory Mission (for environmental management and stable tourist development) as suggested in July 2018.

Per the requests above, Quang Ninh province prepared a report on state of conservation of Ha Long Bay- the World Natural Heritage. The report, excluding the overview, consists of 7 contents as follows: State of management; Conservation of Ha Long Bay- the World Natural Heritage; the outcome of implementation of the requirements on conservation of Ha Long Bay Heritage as specified in the Note no. CLT/HER/WHC/APA/FJ/NH/19/246 of the World Natural Heritage; other conservation; information on projects expected to be undertaken that may affect the outstanding Universal value of the Heritage (pursuant to the Paragraph 172, Guidelines of Convention); free access to the report on state of conservation; proposals and comments; authorized signature.

In which, Part III details the outcome of implementation of the requirements on conservation of Ha Long Bay Heritage as specified in the Note no. CLT/HER/WHC/APA/FJ/NH/19/246 of the World Heritage Center, including environmental management (such contents related to the third party's feedback and IUCN experts' advices in their mission in July 2018); stable tourist management (including development of infrastructure works related to the third



party's feedback and IUCN experts' advices in their mission in July 2018); Management of the Heritage under the general approach, construction of general management plan and research & evaluation of loading capacity.

## **II. State of management and conservation of Ha Long Bay, the World Natural Heritage.**

### ***2.1. Management Policy and mechanism of the Heritage***

During the past time, construction and supplementation of management and conservation policy and mechanism of Ha Long Bay Heritage have been concerned from Center levels/sectors to local government on the basis of strictly respect of the Convention on Cultural and Natural Heritages 1972. Based on Law on cultural heritage, the Government of Vietnam issued Decree no. 109/2017/NĐ-CP dated September 21st, 2017 regulating the protection and management of the World Cultural and Natural Heritages in Vietnam. Besides, People's Committee of Quang Ninh Province issued the planning, statutes, general management plan of the Heritages and other essential issues, contributing to enhance efficiency of heritage management (Statutes no. 06/2019/QĐ-UBND dated January 29th, 2019 regarding management, protection and development value of Ha Long Bay- The World Natural Heritage; Decision no. 2633/QĐ-UBND dated July 7th, 2017 issuing a Plan of Ha Long Bay Management for period from 2017 to 2021, Decision no. 6196/QĐ-UBND dated May 31st, 2017 regarding the provisional regulations on management of small tourist-service boats on Ha Long Bay). The management model and mechanism of the Heritage that have been revised was brought into play to improve the role and responsibility of authorities and the managerial validity: Ha Long Bay management Unit is assigned by Quang Ninh Province to take responsibility to carry out the conservation, repair, embellishment and development of the value of Ha Long Bay Heritage; People's Committee of Ha Long City is in charge of general state management of socioeconomic activities on Ha Long Bay; other departments, authorities and local governments are in cooperation to manage Ha Long Bay pursuant to their functions, missions and responsibilities set forth in the Statutes of Ha Long Bay management.

### ***2.2. Research and conservation of the Heritage value***

The value of Ha Long Bay was concentratively researched through about 10 scientific topics that have been being undertaken since 2017; whereby, it has proven and affirmed the great value of Ha Long Bay that is grounds to establish solutions of management, conservation and development of Ha Long Bay effectively. Management model 24/24h has developed its efficiency on protection and supervision of heritage resources. In the mean time, Quang Ninh province has initiative and breakthrough methods to demonstrate his priority determination for the whole conservation of the value of Heritage, protection of biological diversity, namely removal of fishing villages on Bay to land for residence from 2014, ensuring the social security and welfare for residents, probation of fishing within the absolutely protection area of the Heritage from 2018, if any breach shall be strictly handled as required; to commence constructing planned locations of aquaculture outside the absolutely protection area of the Heritage; completely



removed 03 stone embanked works under unused situation that were constructed illegally before Ha Long Bay was recognized as the World Heritage; and documents and procedures are under completion to further demolish the remaining works in order to revert the environment and landscapes of Ha Long Bay to the original state.

### ***2.3. Propaganda, diffusion and education community to protect the Heritage***

Propaganda and diffusion activities for Ha Long Bay have been taken place under diversified types, with plentiful contents and high efficiency of propaganda; the role of effective propaganda of social network has been exploited and utilized maximum; expansive development of propaganda printed materials; focusing on cooperation in public communication and advertisement in the country as well as abroad, directing to various of tourists, especially for foreign tourists. Information on Ha Long Bay are provided for tourists before and during their sightseeing trips on Ha Long Bay through tourist guides, staff of tourist boats, boards and panels system and CD & VCD discs etc. Propaganda and community awareness improvement for protection of the heritage have been fulfilled for various people such as pupils, international/local students, inshore residents, tourists, and organizations & individuals having socioeconomic services on Bay together extracurricular and actual activities regarding protection of landscapes, environment and value of the heritage.

### ***2.4. Management and supervision of socioeconomic activities on Ha Long Bay.***

The socioeconomic activities taken place on Ha Long Bay are managed strictly. Personnel are arranged on duty 24/24h to catch information. An interdisciplinary team that was established and then strengthened by the province is in charge of inspection and solving any breach of the regulations on Bay regularly; focused on solving a number of noticeable issues in respect of tourism, fishing and aquaculture etc. Functional industries actively inspect the operations in their fields in the socioeconomic activities on the Bay. In the fact, violations occurred on the Bay have been reduced. In 2018, the violations were only 96% in comparison with 2017 and only 86% in comparison with 2016.

***2.5. Infrastructure works at sightseeing locations and overnight stays*** on the Bay have been planned, repaired and embellished complying with the Planning of conservation and development of the value of Ha Long Bay Heritage and other related regulations, with a view of close management of projects and adjustment of unsuitable plans immediately, directing to respectability of natural landscapes and the value of heritage, guarantee of stable environment in order to minimize bad influence on Ha Long Bay, otherwise, to create safety and convenience for tourists.

***2.6. Prevention of natural calamity, fire, explosion and rescue***, safe conditions and security for tourists are always paid attention to, especially for prevention: In 2017, a Standing interdisciplinary sea rescue team was established on Ha Long Bay, including Ha Long Bay Management Unit, Provincial Military Headquarters, Headquarters of Provincial Borderland Security, in which,



Provincial Military Headquarters is assigned to be a lead body in cooperation with departments/authorities and People's Committee and other relevant offices to draw out a collaboration plan and organize implementation of assignments. The Standing interdisciplinary sea rescue team shall be on duty 24/24h, maintains seriously information watch, solve any circumstance timely to ensure safety and efficiency. Besides, rescue vehicles and equipment are furnished additionally together provision and application of technological science such as GPS, VHF, camera, viba etc. to enhance the efficiency of prevention, rescue. Funtional industries often provide propaganda campaigns, inspection, supervision and assistance for professional issues as well as in-site training courses for companies trading in tourist services on Ha Long Bay in order to improve awareness & skills of safety and prevention of fire and exploision. To 2018, incidents has been reduced by 45% in comparision with 2017 and by 28% in comparision with 2016.

### ***2.7. International Cooperation***

Quang Ninh Province maintains close relationship with the World Heritage Center, IUCN organization, the world sea heritage managers network and other international organizations; always attempt to fulfill well its role and missions in meetings of the World Heritage Center as well as for activities of the Heritage networks and clubs. Through such relations, Quang Ninh province improves coordination and exchange experience, technology and attracts many projects regarding environmental protection of Ha Long Bay funded by JICA; Initiative Project of Ha Long-Cat Ba Union funded by USAID; efficiency accessment project of the world natural heritage management-Ha Long Bay funded by the World Heritage Committee; Waste management project in Ha long City. Furthermore, Ha Long Bay often receives assistance, consultancy from IUCN, UNESCO specialists for the heritage management.

### ***2.8. Training, improvement for workforce of heritage management***

Together with training and improvement of knowledge and experience in heritage management for leaders of provincial departments/authorities and local governments, Quang Ninh Province give priority to provide training courses of professional knowledge, actual experience for employees who directly work for Ha Long Bay Heritage everyday. At the meantime, improvement of quality of workforce and community involving in tourist services such as stay businesses, tourist boats, companies are concerned properly by the Province (for only 2017, 3,668 people were trained for firefighting and rescue). International coordination in training and improvement of knowledge were strengthened. Quang Ninh province has been assisted in training and knowledge improvement regarding the heritage and environmental protection by UNESCO Hanoi Office, IUCE Organization, JICA.

**Overall assessment:** Together efforts of the government, community and solutions undertaken, the Ha Long Bay Heritage has been managed and protected properly in compliance with the requirements. The regulations and policies of the heritage management are timely reviewed, amended and updated to be conformable with the actual requirements. The value of natural landscapes,



geology-geomorphology and history-culture of the Heritage are also protected strictly. Management of socioeconomic activities, guarantee of tourist business environment and security on the Bay have been conducted simultaneously and positively. Propaganda, advertisement and education campaigns have gained positive outcomes. The Environment of Ha Long Bay is managed tightly, directing to good control of discharge, regular survey and inspection of quality of water environment; Human resource is trained intensely to improve quality; Total amount of Halong Bay sightseeing fund is increased year by year, creating essential finance source for management and conservation of the Heritage. International cooperation has been speeded up; Development of Ha Long Bay Tourism is carried out parallel with the conservation of the Heritage, ensuring safety and enhancing experience for tourists.

In the near future, it is determined that Quang Ninh province continues supplementing to mechanism with its special particulars in order to manage, control closely multi-sector activities on Ha Long Bay complying with the actual facilities and be balanced between and harmony of the conservation and development, aiming at protection of the perfection as well as outstanding universal value of Ha Long Bay Heritage. Specially, the workforce for environmental protection and stable tourist development are high priority. The outcomes, solutions and orientations of two issues above are stated in Section III detailedly.


### **III. Solutions, outcome of Conservation of Ha Long Bay Heritage mentioned in the Note no. CLT/HER/WHC/APA/FJ/NH/19/246 of the World Heritage Center.**

#### ***3.1. Environmental Management***

##### ***3.1.1. State***

##### ***3.1.1.1. Wastewater management***

- *Wastewater collection and treatment:* Almost industrial zones have wastewater collection and treatment systems before the wastewater are discharged to the environment. Coal industry has constructed completely 45 mining wastewater treatment stations which were put into operation, ensuring enough capacity of mining wastewater treatment during its production; installed 36 automatic survey systems of wastewater. To continue to implement Ha Long City wastewater treatment and drainage project (total cost of USD 154 million), to early 2019, the project's Pre-feasibility Study Report was approved, basic designs were appraised by MOC (presently, in Ha Long Bay area has 5 wastewater treatment plants with total capacity of 17,277m<sup>3</sup>/day; it is expected that Ha Long City Wastewater treatment will construct 3 wastewater treatment plants more for 2015-2021 period with total capacity of 37.800m<sup>3</sup>/day). 100% tourist boats on Ha Long Bay have installed oil & water separation system; solutions of wastewater collection and treatment on tourist boats are researched. Projects of wastewater treatment and pollution minimization at sightseeing locations on Ha Long Bay are being carried out by Jokaso technology (Titop Island was installed).





- *Control to ensure water environment quality*: Actions coping with the oil overflow incident on Ha Long Bay are being actively fulfilled; Permit of discharge to Ha Long Bay for organizations and/or individuals will not be granted if wastewater of their business activities does not meet the Standard, type A, pursuant to the National Specifications of daily wastewater (QCVN14:2008); Wastewater environment state of Ha Long Bay at 41 survey locations on Ha Long Bay have been surveyed and supervised quarterly (absolutely protection area: 19 locations; buffer zone: 10 locations; surrounding area: 12 locations); 02 inshore automatic survey stations of wastewater environment were installed and put into operation; Implemented projects: Smart City; construction of Environmental technique standards of Quang Ninh Province, including specific environment criteria that are suitable with ecosystem, particular activity in Quang Ninh Province as well as Ha Long Bay (presently, surveying opinions of residents); 100% production & business utilities with capacity of wastewater discharge of 1,000m<sup>3</sup> per day have automatic survey systems of wastewater to directly transmit data to Provincial Department of Natural Resource and Environment (DONRE).

<b>Description</b>	<b>Coal industry</b>	<b>On Ha Long Bay</b>	<b>Ha Long City, off-shore area</b>
Environment survey system/location	36	41	02
Wastewater treatment station/plant	45		05

*Table 1: Summary of wastewater survey and treatment*

### *3.1.1.2. Management of solid waste*

- *Collection and treatment of solid waste*: Focused workforce and equipment to collect floating rubbish on coast, areas of socioeconomic activity on the Bay, daily solid waste of population areas; Gave priority to collect solid waste along coast and water discharge points to Ha Long Bay, tourist/service locations, sightseeing routes, tidal area, base of islets and sand-banks on the Bay. Replacement of soft float of floating works on the Bay by stable materials and environmentally friendly materials (rate of the replacement reaches 91% at present). Classification of solid waste at the sources and transport of re-cycle waste to collection stations for recycling; installed 19 floating rubbish bins at the areas of socioeconomic activity on the Bay; Furnished compartmental bins at urban area, tourist/sightseeing locations. All waste collected shall be transported within day to the solid waste treatment Center in Hoanh Bo District for treatment.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Menpower</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>
On Ha Long Bay	62	23
Inshore of Ha Long Bay	20	12

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Table 2: Data of manpower and vehicles used for collection of waste on Ha Long Bay

- *Implementation of measures to minimize plastic waste at Ha Long Bay Heritage*, The measures are supported, concurred and responded actively by community: 236 tourist boat companies and businesses; 15 companies and business of kayak and rowboat services and 51 companies & individuals of aquaculture services signed the Undertaking of not using disposable plastic products for tourist services on the Bay. Accordingly, since September 1st, 2019, organizations, individuals have not use disposable plastic products for tourist services on the Bay.

3.1.1.3. *Prevention of arisen waste source*

- Quang Ninh Province instructed the local governments adjacent to Ha Long Bay to control strictly waste matter sources; local authorities, organizations, individuals are required to ensure environment sanitation, collection and discharge of waste to proper points, particularly for industrial/tourist operations and populations areas on the coast of Ha Long Bay.

- Strengthen inspection, check and supervision closely waste discharge from socioeconomic activities undertaken on the coast and on Ha Long Bay; Established a functional team to inspect and solve any illegal waste discharge; Frequently supervise execution of the regulations regarding the environmental protection of projects for both performance and operation period; to suspend and revoke Licence of any organizations/individuals who have any violation of the environmental protection regulations.

- Do not establish new industrial utility; do not grant Permit of operation for any factories to be liable to cause bad impacts on Ha Long Bay's environment; Removed utilities caused pollution (coal preparation factory and coal ports) and carried out measures of environmental improvement (Nam Cau Trang Coal Preparation Factory was closed from August 1st, 2019); Terminated loading/unloading activity and transit of Clinke, cement and shavings in bulk, and limestone with dimension of  $\leq 4 \times 6$  on Ha Long Bay.

- Quang Ninh Province initiatively exchanges and cooperates closely with Hai Phong City to speed up join actions of environmental protection, close control of management, treatment of wastewater, solid waste in production/business activities, residents zones located in bordering areas of Ha Long Bay, Lan Ha Bay and Cat Ba Island. Furthermore, DONREs of Quang Ninh province and Hai Phong City constructed a cooperation plan on environmental protection between two locals and brought it into play.

3.1.2. *Upcoming measures*

- To continue implementing regular survey, inspection and supervision of quality of environment of Ha Long Bay.

- To implement collection and treatment of wastewater of socioeconomic activities on Ha Long Bay, focusing on tourist boats (it is expected the collection and treatment of 100% daily wastewater of tourist boats on Ha Long Bay in 2021), servicing locations, sea vessels. Ending of 2020, the Jokaso Technology





will be applied for treatment of wastewater at all sightseeing locations on the Bay.

- To continue implementing Ha Long city Wastewater Treatment and Drainage Project, ensuring that to 2021, 100% daily wastewater of Ha Long City meets the required standard before being discharged to environment. To speed up construction progress of wastewater treatment stations in locals located at the coast such as Cam Pha, Van Don, Quang Yen, Hoanh Bo.

- To implement removal route for utilities caused environmental pollution of Ha Long Bay; To 2030, completely remove cement companies where presently have operation at the coast of Ha Long Bay; to stop exploitation and close mines in exploitation and processing of minerals caused bad impacts on environment and landscape.

- To issue the specific environment standards of Quang Ninh Province in order to have better management of quality of water environment on Ha Long Bay.

### **3.2. Tourist Management**

#### **3.2.1. State**

*3.2.1.1. Management of tourist boats and other tourist services on Ha Long Bay.*

Presently, on Ha Long Bay there are 505 tourist boats, of which 492 ones of these are under operation and the remaining 13 boats are under repair process. 315 tourist boats are used to transport passengers for sightseeing, the other 188 ones are used for overnight stay and two floating restaurant boats with total 15,059 seats and 4,506 beds, 2,149 bed rooms. In addition, there are 2,766 kayaks and rowboats, tenders to transit tourists for sightseeing. Activity of the tourist boats and tourist services have been managed strictly by Quang Ninh Province.


- Construction of a comprehensive management mechanism: issuance of regulations on tourist boats management, Plan of improvement of quality of tourist boats, regulations on management of tourist service means on Ha Long Bay, management of kayak and rowboat routes. Since 2016, we have decreased quantity of tourist boats and increased their capacity ( in 2016, there were 533 tourist boats under operation, since 2017, 28 tourist boats had been decreased so far, 505 boats are remained). Quang Ninh province is now implementing a replacement method for tourist boats on Ha Long Bay through decreasing quantity and increasing quality, safety and exploitation capacity; 01 wooden boat shall be replaced by 01 steel boat or by the similar materials; For overnight boats, number of beds are retained, it is encouraged to replace 02 boats with small capacity by one with higher capacity to ensure safety but still meet demand of tourists ( number of beds of new built boats is permitted to be higher than total beds of former boats and not excess of 30% plus). After study and assessment of loading capacity of Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh Province will continue adjustment of quantity of tourist boats.



- In order to improve the criteria of safety, firefighting and explosion for tourist boats, it is required that the tourist boats have its safety factor from 1.5 to 2, higher than the national general standard; invest in safety, fire and explosion prevention equipment/furniture; install equipment for prevention of environmental pollution; install supervision camera for both sides of the boats. Inspection, assessment, classification of quality of the tourist boats regarding aesthetics, safety, firefighting conditions are carried out annually. Only the tourist boats meet the standards, requirements are granted License of passengers transport on Ha Long Bay. It is required that 100% tourist boats sign an Agreement of operation with Ha Long Bay Management Unit in order for their activities to be managed, inspected and supervised; if any breach occurs, the Agreement shall be terminated and the order of leaving port shall not be granted; Regarding the contents of the Agreement, in 2019, it is supplemented responsibilities of boats owner for environmental protection on minimization of plastic waste, daily wastewater treatment, in the mean time, enhancing responsibilities of captain, sailors for services. A set of norms of Ecologic Label "Green Sail" has been applied since 2018 for the tourist boats on Ha Long Bay to encourage them to strictly follow the criteria of environmental protection and stable development. So far, the Ecologic Label: "Green Sail" has been granted to 36 tourist boats, that is the premise to lead to the International Ecologic Label. It is required that all tourist boats on Ha Long Bay shall sign a Commitment of environmental protection of Ha Long Bay. Activities of tourist boats in Tuan Chau Port are managed and instructed directly by Ha Long Bay Management Unit. For entertainment means, companies trade in such means are required to have regular check, supplementation to their operation methods to ensure safety for tourists; inspections are organized regularly and suddenly; professional training programs are provided for rowing staff and service guides.

- Quality of services of the tourist boats, organizations and individuals involving in tourist services on Ha Long Bay has been improved. Hotline system of Ha Long Tourism is on duty 24/24h. The Rules of conduct "Tourist civilization", "Ha Long Smile" are propagandized and distributed to tourist companies. All the tourist boats on Ha Long Bay signed a Commitment with Ha Long Bay Management Unit in respect of improvement of conduct skills with tourists, service quality, safety guarantee for tourist boats and tourists on Ha Long Bay. For above, awareness, responsibility, skills, conduct and service have been improved and we received many positive feedback.

- Regarding accommodation of tourist boats: Check and issuance of permit for the tourist boats in & out the port for sightseeing/overnight on Ha Long Bay shall be conducted by Authority in compliance with the current regulations (for the tourist boats, they transport tourists for sightseeing daytime shall register their daily schedule, in case, there are many tourist boats register to transport tourists for sightseeing to one route, a change of the registered route shall be done to avoid the partial jam as well as enhance quality, experience for tourists. For overnight boats, they shall register the sightseeing route and area of overnight stay. Specially, activity of sea vessels, tour companies shall notify their schedule before visiting Ha Long Bay.





### 3.2.1.2. Route, locations, tourist products on Ha Long Bay

- Presently, there are 5 sightseeing routes daytime with total of 28 landscapes, sightseeing locations and 5 areas of overnight on Ha Long Bay, with capacity of 190 overnight boats.

Sightseeing route	Sightseeing tours daytime	Overnight Locations, areas
Route 1	Tourist harbour – Van Canh Park (including Thien Cung Cavern, Dau Go Cave, Dog Islet, Ba Hang Cave, Dinh Huong Islet, Trong Mai-Fighting Cocks Islet.	
Route 2	Tourist harbour - Caves Park, including Soi Sim Beach, Titop Island, Sung Sot Cave, Me Cung Cavern, Bo Nau Cave, Luon Cave, Cock Cave, Trinh Nu Cave, Ho Dong Tien Cave.	Nha Lat zone- Luon Cave, Ho Dong Tien –Trinh Nu Cave, Lom Bo point
Route 3	Tourist harbour– Sea Culture Conservation Center, including Cua Van Floating Culture Center, Tien Ong Cave, Ba Ham Lake, Ba Men Temple, Ang Du	Area of Tien Ong Cave
Route 4	Tourist harbour – Sea Entertainment Center, including Co Cave, Thay Cave, Cong Do, Cap La Cave, Vung Vieng, Tung Ang Cong Do Ecologic Area, Hon Xep Park	Cong Do Area
Route 5	Tourist harbour – Gia Luan Port (Cat Ba, Hai Phong City), including Thien Cung Cavern, Dau Go Cave, Cho Da Islet, Ba Hang Cave, Dinh Huong Islet, Trong Mai-Fighting Cocks Islet.	

Table 3: Sightseeing and overnight stay locations on Ha Long Bay

- Tourists coming to Ha Long bay for sightseeing tendentially have been increased in the past years and to be arranged in all 5 sightseeing routes above:

	2017	2018	to November 2019
Domestic tourists	1,214,390	1,280,297	1,468,036
International Tourists	2,709,653	2,854,922	2,594,179
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>3,924,043</b>	<b>4,135,219</b>	<b>4,062,215</b>

Table 4: Number of tourists to Ha Long Bay for sightseeing from 2017 to 2019

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Seq.	Sightseeing location	2017	2018	to November 2019
1.	Thien Cung Cavern	1,346,704	1,137,936	1,237,159
2.	Dau Go Cave	224,674	189,934	202,347
3.	Ba Hang Cave	277,007	228,461	218,082
4.	Sung Sot Cave	1,099,096	1,357,231	1,288,843
5.	Me Cung Cavern	229,848	221,190	208,442
6.	Titop Island	1,796,430	2,116,959	1,925,869
7.	Luon Cave	1,172,711	1,485,894	1,109,760
8.	Tien Ong Cave	19,135	50,740	26,355
9.	Conservation Area of Cua Van Fishery Village	62,693	70,425	42,386
10.	Vung Vieng	146,955	165,946	121,653
11.	Co Cave	152,674	183,358	167,124

*Table 5: Total tourists to sightseeing locations on Ha Long Bay from 2017-2019*

In order to maximize potentiality of tourist resource of Ha Long Bay and encrease experience, slacken tourists at some locations to avoid overloaded circumstance at some locations, Based on the detailed planning, the conservation and development of the heritage value, Quang Ninh Province has been developing new sightseeing routes, locations, tourist products and services more such as test commencement of cruiser activity for 03 particular luxury tours; Set-up a general project of sea/island tourist product development on Ha Long Bay- Bai Tu Long Bay- Van Don- Coto to build special tourist products for each region; increase connection and slackening tourists at the Heritage area; Construct more beaches, directing to friendly, in harmony with the landscapes; extend the tourist products relying on consevation, development of cultural history value of fishing village, archaeological culture, biologic diversification on Ha Long Bay; community tourism.

#### *3.2.1.3. Infrastructure works at the coast and on Ha Long Bay*

- On Ha Long Bay: Receiving and serving tourists for over 10 years, infrastructure works of key sightseeing locations on Ha Long Bay have been downgraded, resulting in unsafety for tourists, causing bad impacts on the Landscapes of Ha Long Bay such as Titop, Tien Ong, Me Cung locations. To overcome said downgraded status, road systems, harbours, reception items have been repaired, embellished by Quang Ninh Province pursuant to the planning of value management, conservation and development of Ha Long Bay- the world natural heritage, ensuring technic/art requirements, in harmony with natural the landscapes of Ha Long Bay-the World Natural Heritage.



- At coast area of Ha Long Bay: The details on the repaired works and/or new constructed items in buffer and adjacent zones of Ha Long Bay was mentioned/reported in the Report submitted to the World Heritage Center regarding conservation of Ha Long Bay-the World Natural Heritage according to Decision no. 38 COM 7B.72 of the World Heritage Center (*it is attached to Letter no. 7853/UBND-VXI dated November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 of People's Committee of Quang Ninh Province*). In addition, Ha Long International Passenger Port has just been completed and put into operation, meeting the demand of luxury/quality tourist development and being a destination of international tourist vessels. The port has its maximum capacity of 300 boats of tour and overnight on Ha Long Bay.

### *3.2.2. Upcoming measures*

- To issue the regulations on the measures of operation management of domestic tourist means on Ha Long Bay, Bai Tu Long Bay and to amend, supplement the Plan of management quality improvement for the tourist boats on Ha Long Bay and Bai Tu Long Bay, directing to higher quality and capacity in order to reduce little by little quantity of tourist boats, tighten the regulations on technical safety conditions, environment protection closely; and add further management for entertainment means on the Bay.

- To construct and implement project of Ha Long Bay tourist management; To assess the loading capacity of Ha Long Bay.

- To construct smart city and smart tourism; to perfect the contents of intelligent management software for co-ordination of tourists transport by boats. To research a project of long-term booking system for tourist boats closely in order to satisfy capacity of each tourist locations and raise the initiative of tourist companies after obtaining assessment of capacity of sightseeing locations.

- To complete and carry out the General project of sea/island tourist products development for Ha Long Bay- Bai Tu Long Bay- Van Don-Co To. To commence operation of floating restaurants for 2 tours on the buffer zone of Ha Long Bay.

### ***3.3. Management of Ha Long Bay under the way of general approach***

Ha Long Bay is the heritage, having its special nature, with large sea/island space, with integrated socioeconomic activities, that creates much pressure and many challenges for management, conservation. Hence, to settle longterm integrated pressure on the heritage, Quang Ninh Province determined that access to the general management is an essential and longterm method in order to manage, conserve and develop the efficiency and value of Ha Long Bay Heritage. Accordingly, guidelines and policies on economic development of the Province also take factors related to Ha Long bay into account such as issuance of Resolution no. 18-NQ/TU dated October 2nd, 2019 regarding expansion of administration borderline, development space between Ha Long City and Hoanh Bo District to have join management of environmental protection of the Bay, reduce pressure on urban development at the coast area. Quang Ninh Province constructs and implements a plan of management, conservation, development of the value of Ha Long Bay to 2020, vision to 2030 and preparation of a new plan to 2030, vision to over 2050 according to the general direction is under progress




in order to create synchrony and consistence between the locals/sectors' development policies related and the Policy of Ha Long Bay Management, of which, the planning of Ha Long Bay Management shall be the central issue. In the mean time, Quang Ninh Province had a proposal and obtained concurrence of UNESCO to fund the project "Evaluation of management efficiency of the world natural heriatge, Ha Long Bay" with assistance and consultancy of professor Richard Mackay, an expert in science and technology of the world heritage center, UNESCO. Through evaluation and implementation of the Project, several measures of general management were established and integrated in the general management system in order to protect the heritage against potential effect on the Heritage, controlling and minimizing unexpected risks for the outstanding universal value of Ha Long Bay heritage, namely: using EoH tool (enhancing the value of the Heritage); to construct, supplement to the general management plan, Schedule/measures of tourist management and research, evaluation of loading capacity etc. Together with the Project performance, Quang Ninh province also take advantage of advices of international experts, specialists of UNESCO, IUCN (Mr. Peter Debrine- Specialist of stable tourist management; Ms. Robyn Bushell – specialist of evaluation of loading capacity and stable tourist development; Mr. Wim Vrins, specialist of solid waste management; Ms. Janet Mackay – specialist of tourism) on management, conservation, development of the value of Ha Long Bay through the exchange programs, consultancy meetings, working and site surveys in Ha Long Bay, participation in seminars on the Heritage.

*Regarding the general managment plan*

Since 2016, the general management plan of Ha Long Bay for a period of 2017-2021 has been constructed by Quang Ninh Province. Presently, the plan is under supplementation and update progress for its measures, actions to cope with unsufficient issues that may cause bad impacts and influence on the stability of the world natural Heritage-Ha Long Bay in new text. The supplementation and update to the Ha Long Bay Management plan were advised by IUCN Experts who worked in Ha Long in July 2018. During the update performance, Quang Ninh province appreciate advices, comments of speciality offices, organizations, international and national experts.

Supplementation Schedule of priority/key measures to solve a number of inadequate issues in management of the heritage have been defined and based on the Resolution of the 42th Meeting of the World Heritage Committee, EoH Tool (enhancing the value of the Heritage) in direction to the general approach, namely: regular supervision and assessment of management and conservation of Ha Long Bay-the world natural heritage on the basic of construction a set of specific criteria and indicators (for each criterion, indicator includes measurement unit, method of assessment, documents and demonstration data); solutions of the general management; environmental management and protection; stable tourist development; procedures and contents of assessment of effect on the Heritage; strengthening the effeciency of participation from relevant parties and local community in management of the heritage. The draft updated/revised plan has been finalized and forwarded to profesional authorities for comments and then submitted to the Government for approval.





### *Assessment of loading capacity of Ha Long Bay*

At the 42th Meeting, the World Heritage Committee requested countries to build a plan of tourists management in order to evaluate a suitable rate of tourists with the heritage and solve uncontrolled tourism. The Assessment of loading capacity is also one of advices of IUCN expertss mission working in Ha Long City in July 2018 and Professor, PhD. Richard Mackay- a expert in science and technology, the World heritage Center, UNESCO.

To implement the recommendations and advices above, Quang Ninh province is carrying out the assessment of loading capacity of Ha Long Bay and completion of relevant procedures. It is expected that the assessment will be started in 2020 and ended in 2021. Moreover, the assessment aims at building supervision programs and remedies, management strategy and tourist development matching with the loading capacity of Ha Long Bay. In which, the rate of loading capacity of Ha Long Bay is researched including: capacity of the society, environment and tourism. Based on result of the assessment, Quang Ninh Province will commence the management resolutions of tourism matching with the capacity rate of the heritage zone. Accordingly, Quang Ninh Province request the World Heritage Center to appoint Mr. Peter Debrine, Specialist of stable tourist management to participate in the coordination, at the mean time, in coordination with Kiran Group- an experienced group researching the tourist capacity of tourist areas and the world heritage zones.

#### **IV. Other conservation issues**

Except for the contents stated in the Note of the World Heritage Center, Quang Ninh province confirms that there has not occurred any problem causing impacts on the conservation of the heritage.

**V. Information on project expected to be implemented may cause impacts on the outstanding universal value of the Heritage (pursuant to Paragraph 172- Guidelines of implementation of the Convention).**

For the projects that are expected to be conducted in the near future have not been found any potential affects on the outstanding universal value of the heritage.

#### **VI. Free access to Report on conservation state**

Member Country, Vietnam agrees to share the Report on Conservation progress of Ha Long Bay Heritage to the Website of the World Heritage Center.

#### **VII. Proposals**

Quang Ninh Province honorably request the World Heritage Center to appoint its personnel in charge of stable heritage management to assist Quang Ninh Province on assessment of loading capacity and provide measures of stable tourist development

#### **VIII. Signature of Authority**

(signed)

**VU THI THU THUY**

**Vice-Chairwoman of People's Committee of Quang Ninh Province**





Tôi, Nguyễn Thị Tín, căn cước công dân số: Ngày 25 tháng 12 năm 2019(date)  
022177002168, cam đoan đã dịch chính xác nội (Bằng chữ: Ngày hai lăm tháng mười hai, năm hai nghìn mười  
dung của giấy tờ/văn bản này từ tiếng Tiếng chín)  
Việt sang Tiếng Anh.  
(In words: the twenty-fifth day of December in two thousand  
nineteen)

I, undersigned, Nguyen Thi Tin, Citizenship  
ID Card Number 022177002168, hereby  
undertake to translate the document attached  
accurately from Vietnamese into English.

Ngày 25 tháng 12 năm 2019

Date:

Người dịch/Translator

  
Nguyễn Thị Tín

Tại Trung tâm Hành chính công thành phố Hạ Long  
At the Public Administration Center of Ha Long City

Tôi, Phạm Quốc Phương,

Trưởng phòng Tư pháp thành phố Hạ Long.

I, the undersigned, .....Chief (deputy-chief) of  
Justice Department of Ha Long City.

### Chứng thực/Certify that


Bà Nguyễn Thị Tín là người đã ký vào bản dịch này.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Tin, has subscribed her name to this translated  
version.

Số chứng thực: 1931...Quyển số: 01/2019-SCT/CKND

Notarized number: Book no.: 01/2019- SCT/CKND

Ngày 25 tháng 12 năm 2019

 **TRƯỞNG PHÒNG TƯ PHÁP THÀNH PHỐ HẠ LONG**  
Chief (deputy-chief) of Justice Department of Ha Long City.



Phạm Quốc Phương