

PART I

INTRODUCTION TO HA LONG BAY - A WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE

1. State Party: Viet Nam

2. Name of property: Ha Long Bay

3. No of the property: N672bis

4. Geographical coordinates to the nearest second: 106°59'24"-107°20'30" longitude and 20°43'24"-20°56'12" latitude

5. Date of inscription on the World Heritage List:

- 17th December 1994 for its aesthetic value according to criteria vii.
- 29th November 2000 for its geology and geomorphology value according to criteria viii.

6. Date of the report: 30 November 2013.

7. Retrospective Statement Outstanding Universal of Ha Long Bay: adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (2012)

"The outstanding value of the property is centered around the drowned limestone karst landforms, displaying spectacular pillars with a variety of coastal erosional features such as arches and caves which form a majestic natural scenery. The repeated regression and transgression of the sea on the limestone karst over geological time has produced a mature landscape of clusters of conical peaks and isolated towers which were modified by sea invasion, adding an extra element to the process of lateral undercutting of the limestone towers and islands.

Criterion (vii): Comprised of a multitude of limestone islands and islets rising from the sea, in a variety of sizes and shapes and presenting picturesque, unspoiled nature, Ha Long Bay is a spectacular seascape sculpted by nature. The property retains a high level of naturalness, and despite its long history of human use, is not seriously degraded. Outstanding features of the property include the magnificent towering limestone pillars and associated notches, arches and caves, which are exceptionally well-developed and among the best presented of their type in the world.

Criterion (viii): As the most extensive and best known example of marine-invaded tower karst in the world Ha Long Bay is one of the world's most important areas of Fengcong (clusters of conical peaks) and Fenglin (isolated tower features) karst. Abundant lakes, occupying drowned dolines, are one of the distinctive features of the Fengcong karst, with some appearing to be tidal. Possessing a tremendous diversity of caves and other landforms derived from the unusual geomorphological process of marine invaded tower karst the caves are of three main types: remnants of phreatic caves; old karstic foot caves and marine notch caves. The property also displays the full range of karst formation processes on a very large scale and over a very long period of geological time, possessing the most complete and extensive example of its type in the world and providing a unique and extensive reservoir of data for the future understanding of geoclimatic history and the nature of karst processes in a complex environment".

8. Factors affecting the property and management measures:

No	Factors	Measures have been taken	Planning control for the property concerned
1	Urban and industrial development: solid and liquid waste and the development of industrial zone.	- Issuing the Resolution to minimize increasing urban total area by land – fill; Banning to reload of goods on Ha Long Bay. - Periodically monitoring the environment quality of Ha Long Bay. Collecting coastal wastes. Investing in another three waste-water treatment stations. - Developing the Master Plan for the environmental protection for Quang Ninh Province and for Ha Long Bay up to 2020, vision to the year 2030; Master plan for water use for Quang Ninh Province in the period 2010-2020, orientation up to the year 2030; Master Plan for the environmental improvement for Quang Ninh Province up to 2020; Master Plan for the water drainage and urban waste water treatment in Quang Ninh Province up to 2020, vision to 2030 and Plan for the response of oil spilt in Ha Long Bay. - Strengthening the monitoring of potential risks to the environment of Ha Long Bay. - Improving communication and requesting the community to protect the environment.	- Continuing to communicate and call for community to protect the environment of Ha Long Bay. - Investing software and hardware for the collection and treatment of urban and industrial wastes in order to collect 100% of wastes; Adding three more waste-water treatment stations to dispose of 100% waste-water of coal mining. - Establishing environmental monitoring stations. - Investing the collection and treatment of urban waste water for Cam Pha and Ha Long by the capital of ODA - Japanese Government. - Strengthening the capacity and efficiency of monitoring activities and developing the program to prevent the negative impacts to the environment of Ha Long Bay.
2	Tourism development: transportation, and services.	- Issuing legislative documents relating to the management of tourist boats, visitors, excursion routes, tourist wharves...Adjusting the operation time of tourist boats and issuing licensing for permission of operation; Pilot using of bio-diesel for tourist boats on Ha Long Bay in order to minimize of impacts to the environment. - Installing GPS, VHF to manage the location, speed, number of tourists of tourist boats operating on the Bay.	- Developing the Plan to renovate the operation of tourist boats on Ha Long Bay; Plan for the tourist wharf system and tourism routes; Developing the tourism products and strengthening the capacity of the staff, who working on the boat. - Developing the Master Plan for the development of in-land waterway traffic in Quang Ninh Province up to 2020, with the vision to 2030. - Continuing to monitor the socio-economic activities operating on

		- Issuing the Regulation for management of Ha Long Bay. Expanding excursion routes to the buffer zones. Developing the Master Plan for the development of tourism in Quang Ninh Province up to 2020, vision to 2030. The Management Plan for visitors on Ha Long Bay. - Investing in new facilities at the tourist wharf, and excursion sites.	the Bay.
3	Fisheries and aquaculture on Ha Long Bay: wastes.	- Approving 7 locations for aquaculture pens and cages in Ha Long Bay; the Planning of reservations, seasonal fishing ban zones, fishing zones demarcation on Quang Ninh Province, in which the Ha Long Bay Heritage area (39,770 ha) was designated as a year-round no-fishing zone for unsustainable methods to protect fishery breeding grounds and biodiversity. - Amending the Quang Ninh Province Aquaculture Master Plan to 2015, with orientations to 2020. - Actively encouraging the responsibility of the fishing community to protect the heritage, fishing resources, and banning the use of destructive fishing methods.	- Continuing to implement the the Quang Ninh Province Aquaculture Master Plan period 2010-2020. - Promoting community protection of heritage and monitoring the potential risks and violations to the fishery and aquaculture on Ha Long Bay.
4	People living on Ha Long Bay: wastes.	- Approving fishing villages on Ha Long Bay; Issuing the legislative documents for the conservation of traditional values and management of fishing community on Ha Long Bay. - Creating jobs and incomes for fishermen towards the sustainable economic development in harmony with the Heritage conservation. - Preventing the construction of new raft homes, limit mechanical population growth in the Bay area, step-by-step encouraging the people to live on land, pursue career, occupational change assistance policies for fishermen,	- Completing the plan for relocation of raft homes in Ha Long Bay; Arranging aquaculture location for fishermen according to their demands. -Strengthening the communication and education for public to protect the Heritage's values.

		the Provincial People's Committee adopted the plan for relocation of raft homes in Ha Long Bay.	
5	Climate change: sea level rise, causing negative impacts to the values of Ha Long Bay.	- Developing the Plan to respond to the climate change period 2010-2015, vision to 2020. - Inviting experts and scientists to research and evaluate the Ha Long Bay's values.	- Widely implementing the Plan to respond to the climate change period 2010-2015, vision to 2020.

PART II

STATE OF CONSERVATION OF HA LONG BAY

1. The agencies responsible for the management of the Property:

1.1. Ha Long Bay Management Department:

Soon after Ha Long Bay was listed by UNESCO as a World's Natural Heritage, Quang Ninh Province issued a Decision to establish the Ha Long Bay Management Department, which is directly responsible for the management, conservation and promotion of Ha Long Bay's values (including Bai Tu Long bay) with the total area of 1553 sq.km, of which 434sq.km was inscribed as World Heritage by UNESCO. Ha Long Bay Management Department is administered by the Quang Ninh People's Committee and professionally directed by Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism and Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO. Currently, the Department consists of 14 divisions with nearly 400 staff.

The main tasks of the Department are as follows:

1. Proposing Quang Ninh PPC to establish and implement protective legislation and measures to manage and promote the value of Ha Long Bay in accordance with laws of Vietnam.
2. Researching and making scientific dossier on natural and human values of Ha Long Bay.
3. Developing and implementing the Promotion Plan of Ha Long Bay's values; Coordinating with the relevant agencies to review and submit to Quang Ninh Province for adoption of the development program on Ha Long Bay.
4. Managing and monitoring socio-economic activities on Ha Long Bay; Coordinating with the relevant agencies in identifying and penalizing all violations to Ha Long Bay.
5. Widely communicating and promoting the values of Ha Long Bay and its relevant policies and regulations in order to enhance the public's awareness and responsibilities in conservation and promotion of Ha Long Bay's values.
6. Closely coordinating with relevant agencies to develop the Plan for prevention of natural disasters; search and rescue of emergencies on Ha Long Bay.
7. Selling excursion tickets to Ha Long Bay and efficiently using these fees. Arranging services for the socio-economic activities on Ha Long Bay.
8. Collecting and treating wastes and protecting the environment of Ha Long Bay.

9. Establishing and expanding international relations to improve heritage management capacity and attracting foreign investment for the management and conservation of Ha Long Bay property.

10. Managing organization system of the Department in accordance with tasks, assigned by Quang Ninh Province. Strengthen and build capacity for staff of the Department.

11. Managing finance, facilities in accordance with current laws.

12. Implementing others duties, requested by Quang Ninh Province.

1.2. Relevant associated departments:

1.2.1. Department of Cultural, Sport and Tourism: Coordinating with relevant departments in developing plans, regulations relating to tourism activities on the Bay; Reviewing and launching the standard tourism services and excursion routes ; Organizing training courses and building capacity for tourist guides and services staff; Checking and monitoring the quality of tourist services; Building and organizing the program to promote Ha Long Bay in-bound and out-bound.

1.2.2. Department of Transportation: Implementing the administrative management and using of wharfs and anchorage areas on Ha Long Bay; Checking, reviewing and granting licence for the operation of tourist boats on Ha Long Bay; Developing and adjusting the in-land waterway traffic routes in accordance with the excursion sites on the Bay; managing the number of boats at the wharf and excursion sites; encouraging responsibility of boat's staff to strictly obey the regulations.

1.2.3. Department of Environment and Resources: Implementing the administrative management of environment; proposing the measures for environmental protection of Ha Long Bay; Carrying out the environmental monitoring on the Bay; Building the Plan to respond to the climate change to the heritage values; encouraging responsibility of the individuals and organizations operating on the Bay have to protect the environment and respond to oil-spills; Inspecting, monitoring and punishing the violations of the environmental regulations.

1.2.4. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Building the Master Plan for aquaculture on Ha Long Bay; the Planning of reservations, seasonal fishing ban zones, fishing zones in Ha Long Bay; Studying and surveying the biodiversity of the Bay in order to efficiently protect the ecosystem; encouraging responsibility of the fishing community to protect the fishing resources, and not use destructive fishing methods.

1.2.5. Department of Construction: Implementing the administrative management in construction, in accordance with the tasks assigned by Quang Ninh Authority with the aim of maintaining the natural landscape and coastal topography of Ha Long Bay; protecting the historical relics and other infrastructures; Coordinating with relevant agencies in building regulations and standards for tourism infrastructure construction projects in coastal areas of Ha Long Bay.

1.2.6. Department of Police: Coordinating in checking and monitoring the violations to the socio-security on the Bay. Encouraging public to protect the heritage and ensure the safety of inland waterway traffic regulation. Processing the immigration procedures for international visitors on the Bay.

1.2.7. People's Committees of Ha Long City, Cam Pha City and Van Don District: Implementing the administrative management of socio-economic activities

and residential properties within its management area; Coordinating with Ha Long Bay Management in communicating and educating the public to protect the property and its environment.

1.3. Relation to Central Government agencies:

1.3.1. Ministry of Cultural, Sport and Tourism: Issuing guidance in the management of World natural and cultural Heritage sites in Viet Nam.

1.3.2. Cultural Heritage Department is an agency of Ministry of Cultural, Sport and Tourism, responsible for the administrative management of heritage sites in Viet Nam. Giving instruction to the management and conservation of World natural and cultural properties within Viet Nam.

1.3.3. Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO is responsible for international relations regarding management of World natural and cultural Heritage sites in Viet Nam.

1.4. Relation to the international organizations in Viet Nam:

1.4.1. Office of UNESCO in Ha Noi.

1.4.2. Office of IUCN in Ha Noi.

2. Outcomes of the management and conservation of Ha Long Bay:

2.1. Scientific and technical studies and research:

Coordinating with universities, institutes and local and international experts in surveying and researching Ha Long Bay's values. Carrying out nearly 50 scientific studies on Ha Long Bay, such as: "Surveying and assessing the state of archeological sites on Ha Long Bay", "Pilot planting of Bong Moc tree on Ha Long Bay"; "Researching the geological and seismotectonic process for monitoring changes of caves and islands on Ha Long Bay"; "Assessing the capacity of excursion sites on Ha Long Bay"; "Moving the location of Ha Long Bay Fan Palm from Hang Trai Island to Ti Top Island"; "Supplementary surveying of natural and human resources of Bai Tu Long Bay"; "Surveying and zoning for conservation of endemic plants, unique ecosystem and mangrove on Ha Long Bay". Preparing a dossier for Ha Long Bay to join the Global Geopark Network.

2.2. General policy development:

- Issuing legislation documents for the management and conservation of Ha Long Bay, including: Master Plan for Conservation and Promotion of Ha Long Bay up to 2020; Resolution No.09 on the management, conservation and promotion of Ha Long Bay's values; Instruction No. 07 on the strengthening the eco-environmental protection of Ha Long Bay; Resolution No.68 on the management, conservation and promotion of Ha Long Bay period 2013-2015, vision to 2020; Resolution No. 07 on the development of tourism of Quang Ninh Province period 2013-2020, orientation to 2030; Ha Long Bay Management Plan during the 2011 - 2015 period; Ha Long Bay Management Regulation; Regulation of inter-departments in monitoring and inspecting of violations to the environment on Ha Long Bay and other related legal documents. The Master Plan for conservation and promotion of Bai Tu Long Bay, Master Plan for promotion of Ti Top Island and Master Plan for conservation of fishing villages on Ha Long Bay are being developed; Currently, Quang Ninh Province is considering a proposal to the Viet Nam Government to issue the specific Regulation for management of Ha Long Bay.

- Expanding three new tourist routes to Bai Tu Long, additional to the total current routes are 7 routes and 12 excursion sites and 6 overnight-stay locations in order to create new tourism products on Ha Long Bay and minimize the pressures from tourists to the heritage values.

2.3. Education, information and awareness building:

- Publishing 30 books, 5 maps and a series of DVD, VCD, CDROM, documentary films on Ha Long Bay. Re-publication of the digital map of Ha Long Bay at a scale of 1:25.000 và 1:50.000. A resource document for educating of environmental protection of Ha Long Bay for teachers and students. Communicating and promoting Ha Long Bay in the mass media. Installing the Ha Long Bay promotion boards in Noi Bai airport, Bac Ninh Province, Uong Bi Town, Mong Cai International bordergate. Installing the heritage symbol boards in Cong Dong, Ba Ham and Dau Do in Ha Long Bay. Organizing an overseas promotion program for Ha Long Bay.

- Educating young generations: apply education on heritage protection to schools; hold educational programs on heritage environment through the project of Eco-boat for more than 7000 students, university students, teachers, and members of youth union at domestic and foreign schools, hold contests to learn about the heritage of Ha Long Bay.

- Educating communities living in coastal areas of Ha Long Bay: organize activities to promote and educate about heritage protection to fishermen, and businesses, social activities in coastal areas of the Bay, tourists, students, university students etc.; organize to sign commitment of heritage protection to 1,022 fishermen households (604 on Ha Long Bay and 418 on Bai Tu Long Bay), establish freelance groups to attend in heritage protection, these groups include fishermen of floating villages on the Bay.

2.4. Collecting and treating of wastes to protect the environment of Ha Long Bay:

- Collecting and treating waste: invest in facilities and vehicles; improve human resources, employ more than 50 people (including members of fishermen households) to collect and treat waste at attractions, and floating villages on the Bay, instruct fishermen households and tourist boats to have collection bins and to separate garbage; guide boat owners to pre-treat food on land before taking it to boats in order to reduce garbage; apply chip technology to barges to manage and control the dumping of waste sludge into the Bay. Collection and transportation of 100% of the waste at attractions and floating villages on the Bay for treatment on land.

- Treating wastewater and waste oil: research and apply Bio-fast technology to treat domestic wastewater at attractions on the Bay; use of a device to quickly separate oil and water - VTOW to treat oil-contaminated bilge water for boats on the Bay; implement trial installation of Bio-toilet using Japanese technology; issue regulations to Vietnam National Coal - Mineral Industries Group on treating solid waste and wastewater flowing from mines to Bay, plant trees to recover environment. Since 2012, Quang Ninh province has stopped projects from dumping soil for landfill around the World Heritage area.

- Co-operating with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): implement projects on environment protection, such as: "Circulation of resources with

participation of Ha Long residents”, the technical cooperation project on Ha Long Bay environment protection, propagate fishermen to use acrylic bags to reduce surface waste; implement training courses to treat organic waste into microbial fertilizer; plant an additional 3000 mangrove trees; conduct trial research on use of Bio-diesel fuel for tourist boats and establish waste collection and transportation driven by a boat using bio-diesel on Ha Long Bay.

- Developing a plan to protect the coastal area and Ha Long Bay environment. Prepare an action plan to deal with impacts of climate change and sea-level rise on the values of Ha Long Bay and Bai Tu Long Bay. Establish a plan to survey and evaluate the mangrove ecosystem and inter-tidal areas without mangrove on Ha Long Bay. Build a plan to cope with oil spill incidents on Ha Long Bay; implement to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts at 41 monitoring sites in the core zone and the buffer zone of the property.

2.5. Monitoring: In addition to installing monitoring stations 24/24 on Ha Long Bay, measure and record many fields on the whole bay more than 200 times. Develop urban areas, industry, tourism, residential areas, fisheries and agriculture, to prevent harmful activities to values of Ha Long Bay. Promote links among regions, and World Heritage; enhance management of the tourism business. Guarantee security, safety, search and rescue on the Bay. Establish an interdisciplinary inspection team on Ha Long Bay and Bai Tu Long Bay. Sign the coordinated regulation for management, conservation, and promotion of Ha Long Bay, Cat Ba Island and the Cat Hai district - Hai Phong city.

2.6. Promotion of heritage values:

- Implementing programs and projects on conservation and protection of Ha Long Bay outstanding universal value strictly in accordance with the implementation guide of the World Heritage Convention 1972. Prepare a master plan to conserve and promote heritage values in Ha Long Bay until 2020 and current regulations of Vietnamese Government, in order to guarantee quality, protect natural values, and increase the value and attraction to tourists contributing an important part in serving conservation and promotion of Ha Long Bay values.

- Attracting foreign investment for conservation and promotion of heritage values. In 2001, implement the pre-feasibility project: “Ha Long Ecological Museum” sponsored by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and UNESCO. From 2006 to February 2012, implement the project ecology boat Eco-boat sponsored by Fauna and Flora International (FFI), from 2007 to 2010, implement the project “Capacity enhancement to Ha Long Bay Management Department” sponsored by World Heritage Fund. The main result of these projects was to establish a plan to manage the Ha Long Bay property in the period 2011-2015.

2.7. Measures to prevent disasters and implementing rescue activity on Ha Long Bay: Strengthening the operation of the Rescue Center on Ha Long Bay; investing in facilities, vehicles, GPS techniques, and a VHF communication system to respond to emergencies. Building a disaster prevention plan and rescue response program. Organizing training courses on rescue activities for organizations, individuals doing business, crews of tourist boats and fishermen on Ha Long Bay.

2.8. International co-operation and fund raising: Maintain a close relationship with the World Heritage Center, International Union for Conservation of Nature

(IUCN), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Marine Protected Area Network (MPA), Asia - Pacific world natural heritages network, (MBA) network; expand partnership with new international organization as: Queensland University, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Osaka Prefecture University (OPU) – Japan, Global Geo-parks Network (GGN), Asia Pacific Geo-parks Network (APGN), Marine World Heritage Managers Network and so on. Through relationship, having created cooperation, experience exchange, investment of materials, techniques, specialization to serve management of conservation and promotion of Ha Long Bay values.

2.9. Training:

- Frequently send staff to training courses, workshops and seminars on heritage management such as: training courses for heritage managers at UNITAR University, the Workshop on Marine Protected Areas, Marine World Heritage Managers Network, Annual Session of World Heritage Committee, and Program on Integrated Management of Coastal Zone.

- Hold scientific seminars on heritage management and conservation, such as: the Seminar on capacity improvement for the Ha Long Bay Management Department, the Seminar on Biodiversity of Ha Long Bay, the Seminar on Ha Long Ecological Museum.

3. Orientation of heritage management in the future:

- Better implementing heritage conservation; develop tourism services in the coastal zone and buffer zone in order to reduce pressure on strictly protected areas of the property. Give priority to nature and culture tourism inside the property.

- Orienting agriculture toward conservation and exploit seafood in sustainable ways . Strictly manage fishermen living on Ha Long Bay, prevent establishment of new households, and relocate fishermen to live on the mainland in June, 2014.

- Continuing to invest in science research on heritage values for better management. Requesting to UNESCO to additionally recognize cultural and biodiversity values.

- Implement a development plan for urban areas and economic sectors of surrounding areas in, Bai Tu Long Bay and promptly adjust unsuitable plans toward respecting natural landscape, and heritage values, guarantee sustainable environment to minimize damaging impacts on the property.

- Continuing to implement integrated management, cooperate with other sectors, provinces and cities involved to deploy development cooperation programs serving environmental protection, and investment in Ha Long Bay areas.

- Establishing and expanding new tourist routes; adding interpretation signboards; identifying diversity value of islands by scientific researches and developing functional areas for tourists in accordance with the plan approved by Government.

PART III GENERAL EVALUATION

Because of Ha Long Bay is located in a developing socio-economic zone, since it was recognized as a World Natural Heritage, its management has met many difficulties, especially for environmental protection. However, the objectives of completely conserving Ha Long Bay natural values, heritage management and conservation were deployed effectively and gained important results. Many policies, mechanisms, programs and plans on heritage management were issued; there was investment in facilities serving tourists. Development and expansion of attractions were encouraged in the buffer zone in order to reduce tourism pressure of the core zone. The quality of tourism products, and services improved to meet the demands of tourists. Investigation, survey, and scientific research of heritage values provide the basis for programs, plans, management solutions in heritage conservation. Promotion and education to improve awareness and participation in heritage protection were implemented. Socio-economic activities taking place in the core and the buffer zone were managed strictly to limit negative impacts on heritage values. Strict protection for the natural landscape, geology and geomorphology, along with typical characteristics of limestone islands and caves.

Long-term orientations to Heritage management focus on: completely maintaining the OUV of the property; continuously revising policies and measures; manage and monitor strictly socio-economic development taking place on Ha Long Bay; apply science and technology to heritage management; enhance research to identify heritage values; and improve management capacity and community awareness, and encourage them to manage and protect heritage.

PART IV

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 37th SESSION ON HA LONG BAY

Following the recommendations of World Heritage Committee at its 37th session on the state conservation of Ha Long Bay, the Quang Ninh Province addressed the recommendations in complying strictly to the World Heritage Convention 1972 and to the legislation of Vietnam. The response to each recommendation are as follows:

1. Cua Van Floating Culture Center:

Cua Van Floating Culture Center (located on Hang Trai Island, Ha Long Bay), is one of 12 component projects of Ha Long Ecological Museum. It was built in 2003 with the sponsorship of the Norwegian Government and began operation on May 19th 2006 with total used area of 420.5 m².

Since establishing documents of Project Cua Van Floating Culture Center, construction, design drawing and the operation plan of the Center have been advised by agencies involved, and more than 500 fishermen of the Cua Van Ba Hang and Vong Vieng floating villages.

For the purpose of using Center effectively and sustainability contributing to implement management, conservation and promotion of values of World Natural Heritage Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh Province prepared a plan for sustainable use of the Cua Van Floating Culture Center 2013 – 2015. Basic measures were deployed in

the beginning of 2013 in order to guarantee sustainable utilization of Cua Van Floating Culture Center and limit impacts from tourism. This required:

- Consolidating the management system and improving the capacity of staff, including staff from floating villages (now, there are 9 staff from floating villages in the Center); establishing plans to educate, train, hold study tours to similar museum models and eco-tourism development models, with the aim of transferring management to the communities.

- Improving and promoting regular activities of the Center:

- + 100% of tourists visiting Cua Van Floating Culture Center gain information about Cua Van Floating Culture Center through a system of direction signs, regulation, tour diagram (1 regulation sign and 1 tour diagram of the Center were added) and listen to guidance demonstration, “Giao duyen singing” performed by fishermen. The number of tourists to Cua Van Floating Culture Center was 8,112 in 2010, 6,578 in 2011 and 6,299 in 2012.

- + 100% of objects are inventoried and preserved; and an additional collection of objects is on display in at the Cua Van Floating Culture Center; typical artists of Cua Van floating village are honoured (*Mr. Nguyen Van Huu – a fisherman of Cua Van floating village was recognized as a “Giao duyen” artist with merit of conservation, maintenance and transmission of “Giao duyen singing” to young generation in 2012 by Vietnam Folk Art Association.*)

- + Community of fishermen are encouraged to participate in activities of the Center; hold community activities once per month at the Center.

- In 2013, there were 20 live promotions to Cua Van households through the system of loudspeakers twice per week; people signed a commitment to heritage protection; and education programs on heritage conservation were provided for Cua Van students.

- Developing community tourism:

- + Boost activities of community tourism in Cua Van, the service of rowing boats to carry passengers visiting the Center and village (deployed since 2010). This service has created jobs for 40 residents here.

- + Continue to co-operate with Quang Ninh Fishery Association to deploy the project “Support communities of floating villages on Ha Long Bay to adapt with climate change”, select 4 households to pilot this project (This project has been implemented since 2011)

- + Implement measures to develop eco-tourism in the village; connect the floating village and the Culture Center sightseeing with cultural, ecological attractions in surrounding areas; increase the ability of fishermen households to change from simply catching and growing fisheries to conducting tourism activities in order to increase their income and improve the living standards.

- 100% of items are preserved, repaired and restored periodically. A large maintenance facility is tentatively planned for 2014. Since it began operation, the Culture Center has had no added infrastructure.

- Mitigate impacts of activities of the Culture Center village on heritage values of Ha Long Bay:

- + Control and collect waste sources from daily activities and tourism activities: collect 100% of waste of households, weekly collect waste along the foot of mountains; monitor water quality of the village every 3 months.

- + Control means of transportation carrying passengers to visit the village and Culture Center: anchor large ships far outside, then use tenders or small boats to carry passengers to visit the floating village and Culture Center

- + Boost management, and supervision through management staff, community members and a network of collaborators.

- Research to evaluate the capacity of the Culture Center, which can be the base of sustainable management, conservation and promotion of values of the World Natural Heritage– Ha Long Bay.

- While researching, constructing and operating, due to experts' and communities' ideas, it can be seen that the current location of Cua Van Floating Culture Center is completely suitable because this location is sheltered from wind, can be safe on stormy days; the area is enough for the Center to anchor (12 anchors on a surface of 200 m²) and ancillary works; the distance from the Center to neighborhoods and school is suitable; activities of Cua Van Floating Culture Center have no affect on Heritage.

2. Integrated management of the property and its buffer zone:

For years, the Vietnamese Government has directed the Quang Ninh Province and local departments involved to deploy many measures to solve the multidisciplinary pressure affecting on the property. Integrated management of heritage is considered an important method to manage, conserve and promote values of the World Natural Heritage– Ha Long Bay. In 2002, the Prime Minister of Vietnam approved the plan of conservation and promotion of Ha Long Bay values until 2020. The main purpose of this was to conserve and promote sustainable development in a unified plan. This was the first step to approach integrated management of Ha Long Bay which Vietnamese Government committed to implement. It is also the base to establish and deploy other plans involved in Ha Long Bay such as transportation, tourism, fishery, and construction. In 2010, the plan to manage the World Natural Heritage Ha Long Bay in the period 2011-2015 was issued. In 2012, Resolution No. 68 on values management, conservation and promotion of World Natural Heritage in period 2013-2015, vision to 2020 was issued. All these documents can be considered steps toward integrated management in solving the many pressures on heritage.

2.1. Conservation and promotion plan of Ha Long Bay values to 2020: identifies factors of a heritage management system: opinions, plan targets; direct research; indirect research; plan objectives; conservation; promotion of heritage values; and environmental protection. Measures, programs and solutions to implement plans: programs of conservation, exploitation, promotion, programs of consolidated management of the Ha Long Bay environment, improve awareness of heritage values protection; institutions and policies.

2.2. The plan to manage the World Natural Heritage- Ha Long Bay in the period 2011-2015 includes 11 groups of duties: build institutions, policies; research; implement the plan of values conservation and promotion of the World Natural Heritage- Ha Long Bay to 2020; promote, educate; enhance the capacity of management, tourism management; ecosystem management; residents, floating

houses management; environment management; science and technology application; facilities and techniques investment; increase of patrol and supervision of socio-economic activities on Ha Long Bay.

2.3. Resolution No. 68 on values management, conservation and promotion of World Natural Heritage in period 2013-2015 and an action program to implement Resolution No. 68 of Provincial People's Committee included these contents: evaluate results, advantages, disadvantages, difficulties in heritage management; identify targets and detailed norms on management, conservation and exploitation activities to promote heritage values in the period 2013-2015, vision to 2020; provide detailed solutions to implement targets and norms proposed and improve heritage management and promotion, step by step solve pressures from many development, residents, and tourism.

Although these documents above cannot satisfy all requests of a integrated approach to heritage, they are an important legal base to values management, conservation and promotion of Ha Long Bay. Today, management, conservation and promotion of the World Heritage values of Ha Long Bay are conducted according to the national laws of Vietnam and the Convention on World Heritage. The outstanding universal values and integrity of the property are managed and protected completely.

Results of solutions to the multiple development pressures were presented in report No. 20/BC-UBND dated February 6th 2013 of the Quang Ninh Province on Ha Long Bay conservation, sent to World Heritage Committee on March 28th 2013.

3. Request international assistance to undertake a Management Effectiveness Evaluation for the property, in line with the 'Enhancing our Heritage' tool kit:

Based on recommendations in the 33th and the 35th session of World Heritage Committee about the Ha Long Bay conservation situation, the World Heritage Committee recommended member countries to research and use the model "Enhancing our Heritage" to evaluate effectiveness of heritage management, and develop a 3 year-program to implement it and assess the results.

However, it is a new methodological model and this is the first time it has been applied to evaluate effectiveness of heritage management in Vietnam. Evaluation steps are complicated and mention many fields of heritage, even the management demarcation between the World Natural Heritage – Ha Long Bay and other adjacent seas, including Cat Ba Island – Hai Phong. Therefore, to implement well this methodological model, the Quang Ninh Province and the Ha Long Bay Management Department wish to request International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to support experts and techniques and to supplement the funding for this evaluation.

4. Provide Environmental Impact Assessments on the impacts of the landfill and other major developments recently completed within the buffer zone of the property

On March 28th 2013, the Quang Ninh Province submitted Report No.20/BC-UBND dated February 6th 2013 on Ha Long Bay conservation to the World Heritage Center attached with environmental impact reports of projects: the project of Lan Be marine boundary road – Cot 8; the project of Lan Be marine boundary road – Bai Tho Mountain; the project of expanding Cai Lan Port and the project of constructing the

Cam Pha cement plant. Basic information of these projects along with solutions to environment problems were mentioned in the report.

The Quang Ninh Province will later send reports on evaluating these environmental impacts to the World Heritage Center.

5. Ensure visitor regulations are effectively enforced to limit impacts from tourists in key areas in order to reduce visitor pressure on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

Annually, Ha Long Bay welcomes more than 2 million tourists. Tourism activities include: visiting caves, sightseeing, entertaining, bathing, climbing mountains, kayaking, eco-tourism, and cultural tourism, including local fishing community culture.

To limit impacts from tourists to global outstanding values of Heritage issued by the Quang Ninh Province, it is necessary to provide comprehensive regulations on tourism, establish measures to guarantee implementation of regulations, conduct research, and develop tourism activities in adjacent areas and on land to reduce tourists in the core, improve services quality, and increase experiences for tourists.

5.1. Regulations to tourists issued:

- Law of Tourism
- Decree No.149 on administrative sanctions of tourism.
- Decree No.117 on administrative sanctions of environment protection.
- Regulations of Ha Long Bay management.
- Decision No. 2526 on issuing regulations of beach management in Quang Ninh; Decision No. 716/2011 on tourist boat management, both passenger transport and overnight stay on Ha Long Bay.

These regulations above and the system of signs, guidance regulations at ports, and attractions on Ha Long Bay are a legal basis for regulating tourism operations and tourist visitors and for administrative agencies to deal with violations, so they contribute to limiting impacts of tourism on heritage.

5.2. Conditions to guarantee implementation of tourism regulations:

- Enhance promotion, educate organizations, enterprises and tourists to improve their awareness of the need to obey regulations for visiting, protecting the environment, not violating heritage values.

- Enhance the effectiveness of inspection, control, supervision, treatment of violations; establish an inspection team consisting of staff from the departments of National Resources and Environment; Culture, Sport and Tourism; Construction; Provincial Police, and the Ha Long City People's Committee. To date this team has received and answered 227 recommendations and feedback messages from tourists; examined 91 accommodation and tourism services, fined 35 violations, and identified 255 violations within the business environment on Ha Long Bay and in Ha Long city.

- Establish a multidisciplinary inspection team on Ha Long Bay and Bai Tu Long Bay, including staff of Ha Long Bay Management Department and other departments: Culture, Sport and Tourism, Transport, National Resources – Environment, industry and Commerce, Agriculture and Rural Development, Quang Ninh Provincial Police and Provincial Coastguard.

- Establish representatives of inland waterway ports at attractions and overnight stay areas on Ha Long Bay. As a result, there has been examination and, monitoring of 149,944 tourist boat trips and 1,805,401 tourists visits at attractions on Ha Long Bay.

- Apply GPS, VHF technology to monitor the location, routes, speed, and number of tourist boats.

- Improve specialized capacity, management and supervision skills for heritage management staff.

5.3. Implement measures to reduce tourists at attractions, improve services quality, increase the experiences of tourists:

5.3.1. Measures of management policies and mechanisms

- Issue Decision No. 3018 regulating 5 sightseeing routes to mitigate pressure of tourists at several major attractions in the property.

- Approve 6 areas to stay overnight on Ha Long Bay.

According to statistics on the number of tourists at attractions on Ha Long Bay, tourists were regulated to most attractions in the property. In 2010, tourists focused on 6 major attractions, in 2011, there were 8 major attractions and in 2012, there were 9 attractions. Statistics also show that the number of tourists to Thien Cung – the major attraction with high density of tourists is now tending to decrease as more visitors are attracted to other sightseeing, ecotourism, culture and community experiences elsewhere, such as Cua Van, Tien Ong cave (route 3) Vong Vieng (route 4). See the table of the number of tourists at attractions on Ha Long Bay below.

Number of tourists at attractions on Ha Long Bay

No .	Year	Attractions								
		Thien Cung cave	Sung Sot cave	Me Cung cave	Titop Island	Cua Van Floatig Cultue Center	Vong Vieng floatig village	Ba Hang fishing village	Tien Ong cave	Luon cave
1	2010	1.211.683	497.652	10.066	489.228	8.112	0	0	0	996.946
2	2011	1.197.225	604.161	11.857	497.046	6.578	1.451	3.211	0	1.113.064
3	2012	935.095	1.009.239	15.526	953.647	6.299	60.908	44.379	13.683	1.978.412

- Issue Decision No. 1631 to recognize 3 tour routes on Bai Tu Long Bay to reduce the number of tourists focusing on the core of the property, and develop tourism in the buffer zone and adjacent zones.

- Invest in facilities and wharves, build measures to issue sightseeing tickets in order to put 3 routes on Bai Tu Long Bay into operation in 2014.

- Expand tourism to buffer zones and adjacent zones; connect, develop tourism activities to adjacent areas around Ha Long to establish 4 key tourism centers: Mong Cai - Tra Co, Van Don – Co To and Uong Bi - Dong Trieu.

- Apply modern science and technology to manage tourists, use a camera surveillance system for monitoring some major attractions; research and evaluate capacity of attractions; establish staff working at attractions and on Ha Long Bay in

order to protect heritage values, promote through the system of regulation signs at attractions (there are currently 247 signs at attractions), build and implement a well-regulated method of tourist boats operations.

- Implement the plan of managing tourists on Ha Long Bay in period 2013 – 2015; enhance security and safety of tourists.

- Issue Decision No. 3527 for establishing a local rescue team for tourist boats on Ha Long Bay; Directive No. 11 on enhancing management, assuring tourism business environment.

- Complete facilities to welcome tourists at ports at attractions on Ha Long Bay: invest more in Tuan Chau Port; improve and enhance Bai Chay port; repair, improve the system of wharves at attractions on Ha Long Bay.

- Hold training courses and conduct study tours in order to improve management skills and capacity for organizations and individuals doing business in the tourism sector.

- Expand and develop tourism services and products for eco-tourism, cultural tourism and enhance community sustainably and environmentally friendly activities.

6. Inviting the Reaction Mission of IUCN to Ha Long Bay

On October 16th 2013, the State Party of Viet Nam sent an invitation letter to an expert of IUCN to visit Ha Long Bay from November 5th to 10th 2013 in order to support the State Party to develop an integrated management plan for the property and its buffer zone, and evaluate progress in implementing recommendations of World Heritage Committee at its 33th session (Seville, 2009) and 35th (UNESCO, 2011)

The expert inspected several places in the core zone of the property, and new tourist areas in Bai Tu Long Bay, as well as adjacent areas to examine the environment management in a coal mine, cement production plant, and sea port in order to evaluate harm from these activities to heritage values.

Based on the evaluations the expert commended the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the positive management and conservation measures for the property by the Quang Ninh Province. He also examined concerns expressed by the World Heritage Committee about impacts from development of urban areas, industry, environmental pollution, population growth, tourism, and construction of ring roads, and whether the marine transportation operations were strictly monitored and implemented by firm measures in order to maintain the OUV of the property. The plan to relocate the fishing community to the mainland was also commended as an example to share with other World Heritage situations.

The expert also advised the Quang Ninh Province about ways to improve Ha Long Bay conservation, including: the importance of protecting the buffer zone, especially the industrial zone; paying attention to commercial activities and the transportation of visitors on Ha Long Bay in order to prevent all the potential risks to the property; the relocation of fishermen to the land as a way to preserve their traditional cultural value as well as creating new jobs for them; and strengthening the capacity and decision making powers of the Management Board.

7. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party:

Besides the conservation issues, which mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 37 session, Quang Ninh Province is not identified any other impacts to the conservation of the property.

8. Information on the potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) within the protected area (core zone and buffer zone and/or corridors) that might be envisaged.

On 27/6/2013, Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO has sent the Ref: 393/BTK/2013 to the World Heritage Center, which requested to evaluate and consult on the detailed construction of Bai Dong Island, which is located on Ha Long Bay.

On 16/12/2013, The World Heritage Committee has transmitted to the State Party comments from IUCN concerning to the detailed construction of Bai Dong Island with the view that the proposed development should not be approved by its potentially damaging impacts on the World Heritage status of Ha Long Bay.

In the implementation of the comments from the World Heritage Center and IUCN, Quang Ninh Province has cancelled the proposed development on Bai Dong Island.

In the coming time, there is no potential major restorations and new construction(s), which potentially damaging impacts on the World Heritage status, implemented on Ha Long Bay

PART III COMMITMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Commitments

- Strictly implement the Convention 1972 on World Heritage Site protection; Law of Heritage and other laws involved of Vietnam and recommendations of World Heritage Committee on Ha Long Bay.
- Continuing to implement integrated management.
- Cooperating with other sectors, provinces and cities involved to deploy development cooperation programs for the conservation of the Property.
- Continuing to manage and monitor strictly socio-economic development taking place on the nominate area, buffer zone and Bai Tu Long Bay; Adjusting unsuitable plans toward in harmony with natural landscape to minimize damaging impacts on the property., in order to ensure sustainable conservation for the integrity and the OUV of the Property.
- Developing the integrated Plan for the property on the basis of the existed plans and program and the practical of the management.
- Carrying out the assessing of Heritage management by using “Enhancing our heritage” toolkit.
- Regularly update information and related documents on the current sate of conservation of Ha Long Bay and periodically report to the World Heritage Center.

2. Recommendations to World Heritage Committee

- Continuing to cooperate and support Quang Ninh province about professional and techniques for management, conservation and promotion of Property; support finance, experts and technique to evaluate the effectiveness of Heritage management based on the model “Enhancing values of our Heritage”
- Frequently up to date information and experience of Heritage management, experience of dealing with pressures to Heritage and issues involved in local residents.
- Request World Heritage Center to consider, support and introduce Ha Long Bay some dominated projects to propagate, educate, and involve communities in the

protection of Ha Long Bay's values and support residents on Ha Long Bay to change their jobs after moving to land.

To:

- Standing Provincial Party Committee, Standing Provincial People's Council;
- Chairperson, vice chairpersons of Provincial People's Committee;
- Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism;
- Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO;
- UNESCO Office in Ha Noi;
- IUCN Office in Ha Noi;
- Department of Cultural Heritages (Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism);
- Departments of: Culture, Sport and Tourism, Transport, Natural Resources – Environment, Industry and Commerce, Planning and Investment; Finance; Agriculture and Rural Development, Constructions;
- People's Committee of cities: Van Don, Cam Pha, Ha Long;
- V0, V1, V2, V3, V4, VX1, GT1,2, XD1,2, QH2, DL 2 ;
- Archive, VX1 ;

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**For Provincial People's Committee
Vice Chairwomen**

(Signed and sealed)

Vu Thi Thu Thuy