



Viet Nam



Basic Data in a nutshell

Area	329,560 sq km
Coastline	3,444 km (excludes islands)
Administrative division	59 provinces (tinh) and 5 municipalities (thanh pho)
Capital	Hanoi
Population / habitat density	85,262,356 = 259 habitants / sq km
Population growth rate	1.004%
Languages	Vietnamese (official), English (increasingly favored as a second language), some French, Chinese, and Khmer; mountain area languages (Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)
Economy	<u>Agriculture products:</u> paddy rice, coffee, rubber, cotton, tea, pepper, soybeans, cashews, sugar cane, peanuts, bananas; poultry; fish, seafood <u>Industries:</u> food processing, garments, shoes, machine-building; mining, coal, steel; cement, chemical fertilizer, glass, tires, oil, paper
Terrain	low, flat delta in south and north; central highlands; hilly, mountainous in far north and northwest
Climate	tropical in south; monsoonal in north with hot, rainy season (May to September) and warm, dry season (October to March); humidity averages 84 percent throughout the year; annual rainfall ranges from 1,200 to 3,000 millimeters
Natural Resources	phosphates, coal, manganese, bauxite, chromate, offshore oil and gas deposits, forests, hydropower, gold, iron, silver, zinc
Biodiversity hotspots (according to Conservation International)	Indo-Burma
Read more:	
- CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/	
- Human Development Reports: www.undp.org	
- biodiversity hotspots: http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx	
- Library of Congress/Country Study of Viet Nam: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/vntoc.html	



(Source: CIA World Factbook)

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; Biodiversity hotspots of Conservation International; Library of Congress, Washington/USA)



Selected indicators of development status	
HDI *)	0.733 (rank 105 of 177)
Life expectancy at birth	<i>male</i> : 68.27 years <i>female</i> : 74.08 years
GDP per capita (UNDP, 2005)	3,071 US\$/year
GDP composition by sector	<p>38,30% 19,40% 42,30%</p> <p>■ agriculture ■ industry □ services</p>
Infant mortality	24.37 deaths/1,000 live births
Adult literacy rate (15 years and older)	90.3%
Population using an improved water source 1990/2004	65% / 85%
Children underweight for age (under age 5)	27%
Population below poverty line (2 US\$/day)	No data available
Gini-Index for income distribution **)	0.344
Official Development Assistance (ODA) received	
Total amount / per capita (UNDP, 2005)	1,904,900,000 US\$ / 23.0 US\$
% of ODA in GDP 1990/2005	2.8% / 3.6%
Read more:	
- Human Development Reports: www.undp.org	
- UNDP Statistics for Vietnam: http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_VNM.html	

(Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2007; CIA World Factbook)

*) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative index of social development status. The HDI is calculated on the basis of life expectancy, the literacy rate and real purchasing power per capita. The HDI is expressed as a value between 1 (high) and 0 (low)

***) The Gini coefficient is a measure of personal income distribution within a country or region. It is expressed as a value between 0 (distribution fully equitable) and 1 (distribution fully inequitable)



Biological Diversity in Vietnam is ...

...the diversity of ecosystems:

Ecozones of Viet Nam:

- the highlands and the fertile Red River Delta in the north
 - the narrow and barren landscape with forests and mountains in the median part of the country
 - Gai Truong Son (Central mountains, or the Chaîne Annamitique, sometimes referred to simply as the Chaîne), the coastal lowlands, and the fertile Mekong River Delta in the south
- ➔ Wetlands are found in many parts of the country but mainly in the Mekong and Red River deltas
 - ➔ Coral reefs are scattered from northern to southern coast of the country, but more abundant in the south
 - ➔ Mangroves exist in the Mekong and Red River deltas
 - ➔ forest area (2005): 129,300 sq km (39.23% of the national area)
 - ➔ 100% of the total land area was naturally covered by forests

...the diversity between and within species:

- 15,986 plant species (including 4,528 lower plants and 11,458 vascular plants) of which 10% are endemic species
- 7,750 insect species, 260 reptile species, 120 amphibian species, 547 species of fresh water fish, 2,000 species of marine fish 840 bird species, 310 mammal species and sub-species, among them are 100 avian and 78 mammalian endemic species
- 300 species of hard coral, of which 62 species are able to make reef
- 802 domesticated plant species

Efforts to protect Vietnamese biodiversity:

- The National Environmental Agency, a branch of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment, is responsible for environmental protection
- 126 protected areas (2005) which cover 7.7% of the total land area
- 0.8% of total land area (2,650 sq km) are strictly protected (according to IUCN categories I and II in 2003)
- Since 2001, Ministry of Fishery (MOF) has developed the Regulations for Vietnam Marine Protected Areas Management, and called for investing in marine PAs establishment. By now, MOF has made proposals for 15 coastal and marine protected areas, covering about 226.400 hectares
- 2 Ramsar Sites (Xuan Thuy Natural Wetland Reserve, Bau Sau (Crocodile Lake) Wetlands and Seasonal Floodplains), 6 biosphere reserves (i.a. Cat Ba, Cat Tien) and 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (i.a. Ha Long Bay, Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park)

Important targets of the Vietnamese government:

- expansion of the area of nature conservation by 1.5 times;
- increase forest coverage from 39.23% to 43% in 2010 by planting five million new hectares of forest together with protecting the existing forest area;
- expand the mangrove forest coverage to 80% of the level of 1990;
- afforest 40% of its bare land;
- control illegal wildlife trade, Vietnam has developed laws and put in place mechanisms for this purpose

On average, 20-30% of total ODA expenditures for environment protection are spent on biodiversity conservation



Read more:

- biodiversity hotspots: <http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx>
- CBD Country Profile Vietnam: <http://www.cbd.int/countries/profile.shtml?country=vn>
- Global Environmental Outlook of the UNEP (GEO-4): http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf
- Vietnam Environment Protection Agency (VEPA): <http://www.nea.gov.vn/English/index.aspx>
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan NBSAB: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/vn/vn-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>
- Third National Report to the CBD: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/vn/vn-nr-03-en.pdf>
- WWF Vietnam: http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/asia_pacific/where/vietnam/index.cfm
- Earthtrends Country Profiles: http://earthtrends.wri.org/country_profiles/
- UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>
- UNESCO Man and Biosphere: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/>
- Ramsar Sites: <http://www.ramsar.org/sitelist.pdf>
- Biodiversity in German Development Cooperation: www.gtz.de/biodiversity

(Sources: Biodiversity hotspots of Conservation International; CBD Country Profiles; World Resources Institute – Earthtrends; UNDP 2005; Third National Report of Viet Nam to the CBD)

Vietnam's current environmental challenges are:

logging and slash-and-burn agricultural practices contribute to deforestation and soil degradation

water pollution and overfishing threaten marine life populations

groundwater contamination limits potable water supply

growing urban industrialization and population migration are rapidly degrading environment in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

sedimentation of rivers, flooding in the deltas

Inadequate waste treatment

illegal wildlife trade

alien invasive species

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; CBD Country Profiles)



Cultural diversity in Viet Nam is based on...

...different ethnic groups:

- Kinh (Viet) 86.2%
- Tay 1.9%
- Thai 1.7%
- Muong 1.5%
- Khome 1.4%
- Hoa 1.1%
- Nun 1.1%
- Hmong 1%
- others 4.1%

...different religions:

- Buddhist 9.3%
- Catholic 6.7%
- Hoa Hao 1.5%
- Cao Dai 1.1%
- Protestant 0.5%
- Muslim 0.1%
- none 80.8%

Read more:

- Library of Congress/Country Study of Viet Nam: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/vntoc.html>

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

Ecological Footprint	0,9 global ha/person
Biocapacity	0,8 global ha/person

Within the global comparison, Vietnam ranges on place no. 50 - see bar chart,
http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?country=VN&indicatorid=13

(Source: www.footprintnetwork.org)