



PETITION

Regarding the Establishment and Protection of the Species and Habitat Conservation Area for the Delacour's Langur in Kim Bang, Ninh Binh Province

To:

- The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;
- The Minister of Agriculture and Environment;
- The Chairperson of the People's Committee of Ninh Binh Province.

The Delacour's Langur (*Trachypithecus delacouri*) is one of Vietnam's rarest and endemic primate species. It is currently classified as Critically Endangered (CR) in both the 2023 Vietnam Red Data Book and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. This species is also afforded the highest level of protection under Government Decrees No. 06/2019/ND-CP and 84/2022/ND-CP.

The limestone forest area in Kim Bang (formerly of Ha Nam Province, now merged into Ninh Binh Province as of July 1, 2025) is currently home to the world's second largest population of Delacour's Langur, estimated at 120–150 individuals, second only to the population in the Van Long Nature Reserve. Moreover, this limestone forest also possesses exceptional biodiversity value. It harbors species emblematic of the Red River Delta's limestone forest ecosystem, many of which are national conservation priorities, including the Pygmy Slow Loris, the Indochinese Serow, the Huong Son Gecko, Venus Slipper Orchids, and the Golden Camellia. Additionally, the Kim Bang limestone forest is contiguous with Van Long, Dong Tam, Huong Son, and Tam Chuc, forming one of the most critical conservation landscapes in the Red River Delta, connecting Ninh Binh, Hoa Binh (now Phu Tho), and Hanoi.

Since 2016, conservation organizations in Vietnam, the Fauna & Flora International (FFI), and relevant authorities have proposed the establishment of a Species and Habitat Conservation Area for the Delacour's Langur in Kim Bang. The People's Committee of Ha Nam Province conducted surveys, compiled dossiers for the reserve's establishment, and consulted with relevant departments and agencies. By 2023, the proposed core area of approximately 3,182 hectares had been finalized. The proposal was subsequently integrated into the National Forestry Planning for the 2021–2030 period with a vision to 2050 under Decision No. 895/QĐ-TTg. However, to date, the conservation area has yet to be formally established. Management of the forest is still delegated to the Kim Bang–Thanh Liem Forest Protection Station, which operates with extremely limited capacity (only four rangers currently work at the station).

In the current context, threats such as hunting, trapping, and illegal timber harvesting continue to exert pressure on the survival of the Delacour's Langur and regional biodiversity.

At the same time, their habitat is increasingly shrinking due to quarrying activities, noise pollution, and dust emissions that severely affect both wildlife and nearby human communities.

We, the undersigned environmental and conservation organizations, respectfully petition the national and provincial leadership to urgently take the following actions to protect the Critically Endangered Delacour's Langur population and the exceptional biodiversity of the Kim Bang limestone forest:

(1) Urgently establish the Kim Bang Species and Habitat Conservation Area for the Delacour's Langur

We respectfully urge the People's Committee of Ninh Binh Province to issue a formal decision establishing the Kim Bang Species and Habitat Conservation Area for the Delacour's Langur in accordance with the previously proposed boundaries and as recognized in the National Forestry Planning for 2021–2030 with a vision to 2050. Establishing this conservation area would affirm the province's commitment to biodiversity conservation and to protecting the Delacour's Langur in particular. Furthermore, it would contribute to expanding the national protected area network, fulfilling Vietnam's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Delays in the reserve's establishment have already allowed continued degradation of this high-value ecosystem through hunting, illegal logging, and mining.

In addition to its outstanding ecological and conservation value, the Kim Bang area has great potential for developing nature-based ecotourism. With majestic karst landscapes and a unique ecosystem featuring the Delacour's Langur, the reserve would not only safeguard natural habitats but also attract green investment, promote public-private partnerships, and facilitate international cooperation in conservation and sustainable development. This would support ecotourism initiatives, create sustainable livelihoods for local communities, and enhance Ninh Binh's profile as a leading province in sustainable, green development.

(2) Restore the post-mining environment and secure ecological connectivity

At present, the Kim Bang forest area (including parts of the newly designated Tam Chuc and Ly Thuong Kiet wards) hosts numerous limestone quarries, many of which have either ceased operations or are nearing closure. We call upon the Ninh Binh Provincial People's Committee to direct the relevant authorities to review all quarries that have ceased or are about to cease operations and ensure they fulfill their legal obligations for environmental restoration under the 2024 Law on Geology and Minerals and the 2020 Law on Environmental Protection. Specifically, quarry operators must develop, submit, and implement mine closure plans that include land rehabilitation and ecosystem restoration.

Restored sites should be prioritized for investment in ecosystem recovery and gradually integrated into the Species and Habitat Conservation Area to expand its core zone, strengthen ecological connectivity, and enhance the ecosystem's resilience to climate change and human disturbance.

For currently operating quarries, we urge the provincial authorities to enhance monitoring of environmental impacts, including dust, noise, and wastewater, to ensure that both local communities and nearby wildlife are not negatively affected by pollution.

(3) Review and assess other development projects that may threaten the conservation area

We also call on the Ninh Binh Provincial People's Committee to pay special attention to other development projects in the area, such as golf courses, ecotourism zones, and new road construction, which may encroach on or adversely affect protected areas. To mitigate their impacts on nature and wildlife, the province should consult relevant environmental authorities and conservation organizations in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process before considering project approvals.

Economic development must be balanced with environmental protection and the conservation of wild flora and fauna. Disturbing or fragmenting natural ecosystems will inevitably lead to long-term biodiversity loss across the region.

(4) Mobilize and coordinate resources for biodiversity conservation efforts

We urge the provincial authorities to appropriately integrate nature conservation programs into the province's socio-economic development and environmental protection plans. These efforts should also align with national initiatives such as the Primate Conservation Action Plan, the National Biodiversity Strategy, and the Global Biodiversity Framework's 30x30 commitment—Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which calls for effective protection and management of at least 30% of the world's land, inland water, marine and coastal areas by 2030.

Environmental and conservation organizations in Vietnam stand ready to accompany and support Ninh Binh Province in mobilizing international resources and applying conservation expertise to make local conservation efforts more impactful and sustainable.

The establishment and effective management of the Kim Bang Species and Habitat Conservation Area for the Delacour's Langur is not only an urgent action to safeguard one of Vietnam's most endangered primates but also a strong testament to the Government's and Ninh Binh Province's commitments to nature conservation, biodiversity, and climate targets, including Net Zero.

We respectfully request the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, and the People's Committee of Ninh Binh Province to consider, direct, and promote the implementation of the important recommendations outlined above.

For further information, please contact:

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Respectfully,

Hanoi, August 1st, 2025

On behalf of the petitioning organizations

Participating Organizations and Signatories

**Center for Nature Conservation and
Development (CCD)**

(signed)

Representative: Dr. Nguyen Manh Ha

**Center for Highland Natural Resource
Governance Research (CEGORN)**

(signed)

Representative: Dr. Ngo Van Hong

**People and Nature Reconciliation
(PanNature)**

(signed)

Representative: Trinh Le Nguyen

**Green VietNam Biodiversity
Conservation Center (GreenViet)**

(signed)

Representative: Tran Huu Vy

WildAct Vietnam

(signed)

Representative: Dr. Nguyen Thi Thu Trang