

Title: **Sustaining Fisheries and Alleviating Poverty in Vietnam: A Socio-economic Review and Case Study**

Author(s): Keith Symington, Thuy Nguyen Thi Dieu

Abstract: Many fisheries in Vietnam have witnessed notable reductions in catch and fish size. Given the millions of Vietnamese who are dependent on marine resources, it is critical to not only develop more sustainable fisheries management practices, but also understand the links between vulnerability and other socio-economic and institutional factors, in order to remove obstacles and promote opportunities for sustainability and poverty alleviation. Poverty is the result of a combination of circumstances that limit livelihood opportunities. Poverty alleviation efforts must therefore recognize other circumstances which may contribute to the vulnerability of the poor, such as lack of access to - and control over - resources, and food insecurity. Because vulnerability in the fisheries sector is due to this combination of circumstances, sustainable use of marine resources will not be sufficient to alleviate poverty. Redistribution of access to fisheries resources, or to the benefits derived from fisheries, will be essential to alleviating poverty. The Fisheries Socio-economic Review project examined the obstacles and opportunities facing development of sustainable fisheries regimes that would support poverty alleviation in Vietnam. The analysis reviewed: " Existing threats to marine fisheries and fisheries-based livelihoods " Obstacles to implementation of a more sustainable and equitable system that would promote poverty alleviation; and " Opportunities and positive models for mainstreaming sustainable, equitable fisheries into development strategies. WWF will use this review to identify critical issues related to fisheries management and poverty alleviation in Vietnam as the basis for developing an integrated strategy for sustainable, equitable fisheries. These issues should be addressed through national poverty reduction plans and investments in fisheries sector management.