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***European Union funds VND 15 billion
for biodiversity conservation in Vietnam***

Da Nang, December 4, 2020 - GreenViet, GSI to launch a new VND 15 billion programme on establishing a conservation fund for biodiversity conservation

GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Center (GreenViet) and GSI are jointly organizing the launching of the project **“Establishing a funding foundation for biodiversity protection and environmental sustainability in Da Nang City, Vietnam”**. The project aims to strengthen Civil Society Organization (CSOs) in Da Nang and in the Central - Central Highland provinces of Vietnam in the field of environmental protection by diversifying financial sources. Total budget of this project – VND 15 billion - is fully funded by European Union Delegation in Vietnam. The project is expected to last for 42 months from July 2020 to the end of December 2023.

“The EU is pleased to join today’s launching of this project on establishing a funding foundation for biodiversity conservation. The event is held at the time when the COVID-19 pandemic has again shown us the importance of living in harmony with nature. We are convinced the project will bring tangible results on biodiversity conservation through effective operation of the foundation”, said Mr Jesús Laviña, Deputy Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Vietnam.

“We believe that this project will motivate and support local CSOs in initiating practical projects to help the government to effectively address issues related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable environmental protection in Da Nang and the Central - Central Highlands region” said Mr. Ha Thang Long, Chairman of the GreenViet Center's Founding Council. *“Resolving the problem of finance and improving technical capacity and financial management to local CSOs is an effective method to sustain the contribution of local conservation organizations to the city and the region.”*

This project aims to diversify financing sources for Vietnamese Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on biodiversity and environmental sustainability. The project will launch a conservation fund and build capacity for 50 groups and organizations working in biodiversity conservation and environmental protection, and fund 21 biodiversity conservation initiatives. Raising awareness and promoting cooperation with businesses and individuals to provide sustainable funding for conservation CSOs in the region are keys to achieve these objectives. Communication and

education, patrolling and monitoring are solutions to successfully protect the population of the red-shanked douc langurs in Son Tra peninsula.

Ms. Bui Thi Minh Chau, representative of Gustav-Stresemann-Institut (GSI), co-coordinator of the project affirmed *“This project contributes a unique initiative to the city, that is to research and develop feasible mechanisms for businesses, local community and tourists (domestic and international) to participate in the conservation of nature and environmental protection of Danang and the Central-Central Highland region. This initiative not only helps conservation CSOs to have more diverse financial resources from the private sector and community, but also brings a new and innovative direction for businesses, individuals and tourists to directly contribute to protect the environment of the city in a more sustainable way”*.

The project is jointly implemented by GreenViet and the Gustav-Stresemann Institute (GSI, Germany) in partnership with the Vietnam Nature Conservation Fund, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Da Nang City (VCCI Da Nang), the Da Nang City Tourism Department, the Management Board of the Son Tra Peninsula and Da Nang Tourism Beaches, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

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