



Resilient Urban Centres and Surrounds (RUCaS)

MISSION SUMMARY REPORT – VIET NAM (29–31 MAY 2023)

Background

RUCaS aims to improve the value generated by investment in urban infrastructure by better integrating conventional large ‘grey’ infrastructure (e.g., levee banks, pipelines, treatment plants, roads, railways) with nature-based solutions (e.g., wetlands, mangroves, catchment protection, green walls, multifunctional parks and transport corridors). RUCaS program outputs will include case studies demonstrating application in different urban contexts and scales, as well as training in the tools and principles applied, and strategies to upscale NbS.

RUCaS mission 4 was undertaken to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam to advance collaboration arrangements with government, civil society and multilateral agencies. Ground truthing case study sites with local stakeholders was a core focus.

Purpose

This Vietnamese mission had 3 objectives:

- Meet with stakeholders from Hanoi University, and confirm the case study site for Hanoi
- Define the RUCaS activities for the case study
- Advance relationships with Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) stakeholders and overall analysis for RUCaS and each case study.

Activities

The mission included meetings with potential case study partners and GEDSI stakeholders. Meetings were opportunities to explore the current issues and pressure points affecting urban development in Vietnamese cities, especially increased vulnerabilities created by extreme weather events (exacerbated by climate change) and wider catchment level developments. The site visit informed our understanding of the Hanoi case study and allowed us to gather perspectives from local stakeholders.

- Meeting with Hanoi University of Civil Engineering (HUCE) – The university wants to embed NbS to address issues at its main campus – heat, flooding, and access. RUCaS will join ICEM, the Asian Development Bank and HUCE in convening a student-led design competition to refurbish a disused section of the campus and retrofit old buildings to make them cooler and more functional. We’ll work from the student designs to upscale concepts and extend NbS solutions to the rest of the campus, including highlighting values for people living with disabilities and general amenity for campus users and local residents.
- Meeting with Vietnamese non-government organisations Oxfam and Action to the Community Development Institute (ACDC) – We learned about their work and discussed how we can best incorporate inclusion principles into conceptual plans, using local case studies to test ideas and identify barriers and needs. From this we discussed participation in RUCaS project processes for

identifying opportunities for upscale for broader application throughout Viet Nam, and potential for linkages as we progress the project.



HUCE C4 disused buildings to be refurbished incorporating NBS



Meeting with HUCE faculty members

Next steps in Viet Nam

The mission consolidated valuable relationships with stakeholders and deepened our knowledge and understanding of case study sites. The immediate next steps are summarised below:

| Action | Timing |
|--|---------------------|
| RUCaS (ICEM) and DFAT team to continue advancing formal agreement for Focal Point Ministry with Ministry of Construction | July 2023 |
| RUCaS team to engage in design competition and prepare agreement between Monash University and HUCE Department of Architecture and Planning. | Mid-July 2023 |
| RUCaS team to prepare Can Tho case study preliminary document for Regional Conference (not discussed on this mission) | End of August 2023 |
| Regional Conference (online) | 14–15 November 2023 |
| Training and capacity building | November 2023 |