

# STYROFOAM CHOKING BAI



**T**he Bai Tu Long National Park in Quang Ninh province was established under the Prime Minister's Decision No. 85/2001/QĐ-TTg of June 1, 2001. It has a total area 15,783 ha, of which 9,658 ha is the sea and 6,125 ha is composed of the floating islands. The buffer zone of the National Park is 16,534 ha, located in five communes: Van Yen, Minh Chau, Ha Long, Ban Sen and Quan Lan. It has a population of 24,141.

In the area of Bai Tu Long National Park boundary, there are 109 aquaculture households in aquaculture areas as planned. These are the households that are permitted by the management board to develop their livelihoods and increase incomes. At present, the aquaculture households in Bai Tu Long NP are primarily mollusk (clam) and using mainly plastic and Styrofoam materials as protection and nursing cages.

Recently, some households have used cement ships for protection work. There are 50 protected rafts, in which 35 are raft houses (area of each cage is 40 m<sup>2</sup> using about 40-50 Styrofoams with size of 1m x 80 cm and 15 cement ships. There are 100 nursing rafts (each cage uses 10 styrofoams with size of 60 cm x 40cm).



# TU LONG NATIONAL PARK

BY HOA TRAN, GREEN HUB (VIETNAM)



Ba Mun island, Minh Chau commune is in the core zone of the NP. Because of their location, households on the Minh Chau commune mainly catch fish. Total number of styrofoams of three households are about 330 floats, half of buoys are 70cm \* 50 cm, the other half is 2m\*1m.

In 2016, after the first coastal clean-up co-organized by Centre of Supporting Green Development (GreenHub), International union of Nature conservation (IUCN) and partners, the Ha Long City People's Committee issued Decision No. 349/TB-UBND banning the use of polystyrene in floating structures in Ha Long Bay.

To continue this effort, the Quang Ninh province people's committee issued Decision No. 4760 / UBND-NLN1, dated 3 July, 2017 restricting the use of foam buoys and materials in aquaculture to affect the environment in the province.

According to this decision, the Management Board of Bai Tu Long National Park conducted propaganda for people involved in aquaculture activities in the region on the harm and impact of the use of foam buoys in aquaculture.

When people participate in aquaculture in the NP, they should secure a license from the Park. They must also sign a commitment to protect aquaculture in Bai Tu Long National Park and restrict the use of styrofoam in aquaculture activities.”

### Artwork from plastic and Styrofoam waste

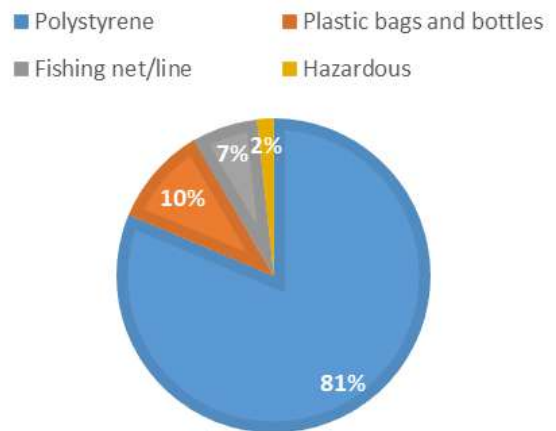
From May 29 to June 8, 2018, GreenHub together with IUCN and partners staged ‘Artwork from plastic and Styrofoam waste - I love sea and island - Born to be wild,’ a program that included activities such as coastal clean-up, trash sorting training, and art performance.

About 100 participants, including pupils in Minh Chau school, participated in the coastal clean-up. Within an hour, they

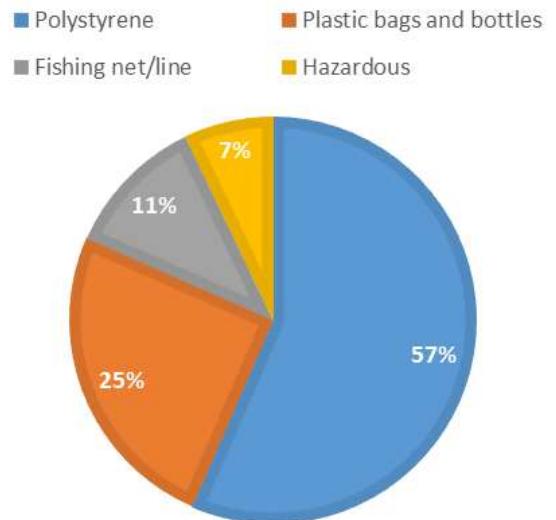
collected 141.5 kg of inorganic waste.

The waste collected was used to create artworks, which attracted a lot of tourists and locals and informed them about Styrofoam waste and the impacts of plastic/

### WASTE COMPOSITION BY VOLUME



### WASTE COMPOSITION BY WEIGHT







*(Top) Inorganic waste collected during the coastal clean-up. (Bottom) Artwork created out of the inorganic trash. Photos courtesy of IUCN.*

polystyrene on marine animals.

Compositions of the waste is shown in the following charts:

As we can see, although there are decisions to limit the use of Styrofoam in floating aquaculture cages/rafts in cities and provinces, polystyrene still forms more than a half of the total waste both by volume or by weight.

The Ba Tu Long NP Management Board plans to review the use of Styrofoam in aquaculture activities and better communicate the idea of polystyrene restriction. We find that the aquaculture farmers need technical and financial support,

guidelines, and feasibility solutions. GreenHub, IUCN, and our partners continue to work with local government and communities to provide such.

*HOA TRAN is the Executive Director of Green Hub. She may be reached at [hoa.tran@greenhub.org.vn](mailto:hoa.tran@greenhub.org.vn).*