

# Bauxite mining in Vietnam

An Inconvenient Truth



# A Dumb Idea: Bauxite Mining in Vietnam

- What is bauxite?
- The environmental impact
- India's experience
- Hanoi government's policy
- Tây Nguyên: Vietnam's Central Highlands
- What you can do





# What is bauxite?

- The primary ore for producing aluminum
- Bauxite is processed through a toxic process into alumina, which is then converted into aluminum

# How is bauxite mined?



Bauxite is mined in an open pit



# How is bauxite processed?



bauxite + toxic chemicals + lots of electricity  
= alumina + waste product

# How is bauxite processed?

- For every ton of alumina produced, three tons of waste product is generated
- The waste (“red sludge”) is very hard to manage: harming the local eco-system and contaminating water supplies





# Gravel to the Grave

India's Experience





Orissa, India





Having considered bauxite mining part of its development strategy, India now faces harsh criticism due to devastation of the environment





The sun-baked sludge contains heavy metals and other pollutants, causing devastating impact on the environment and surrounding eco-systems





It is a soil that sustains no life;  
nothing survives, nothing grows





Pollutants also seep into the ground water;  
bauxite dust from processing fills the air



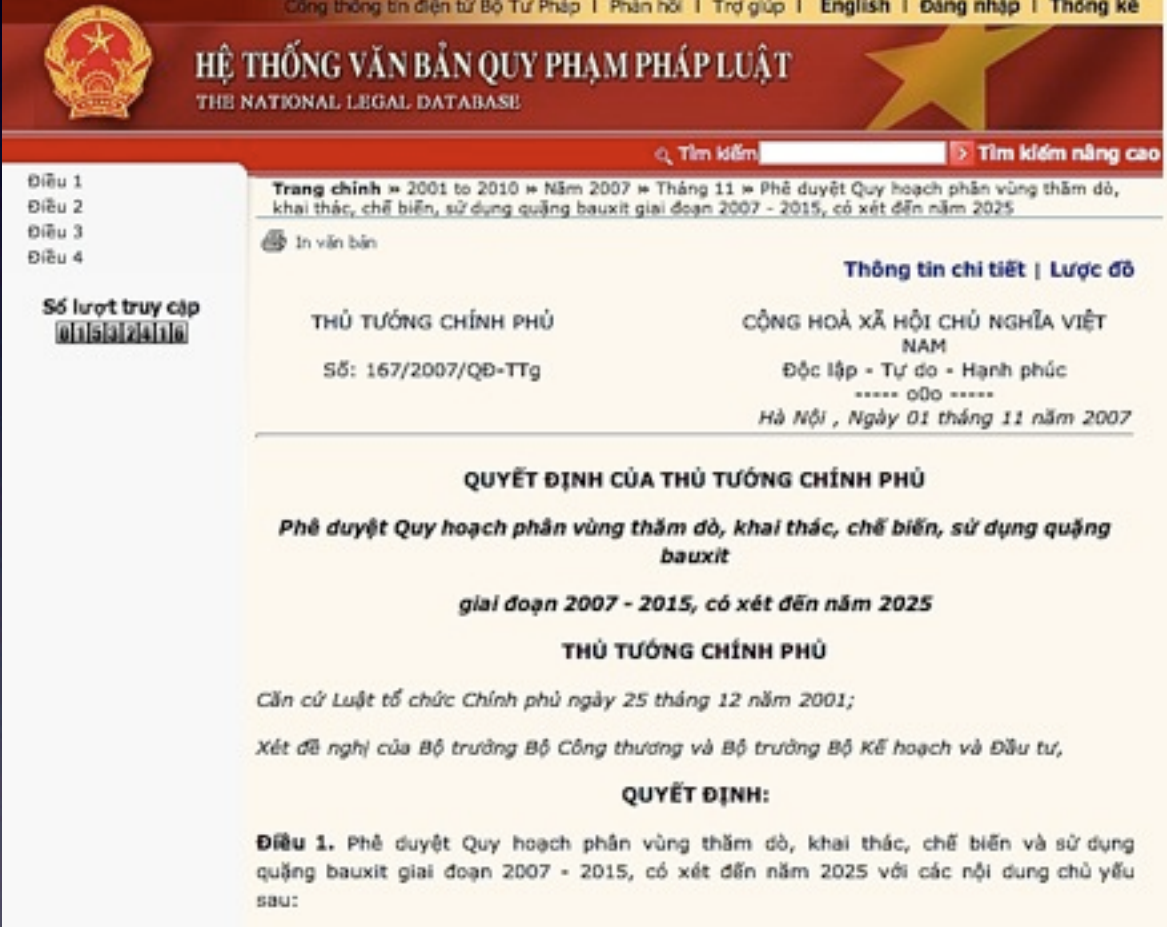
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# Bauxite mining in Vietnam

- “A major policy of the party and government”
- Costing \$15.6 billion to construct bauxite facilities and supporting infrastructure
- Work has begun in two provinces, causing protests from scientific community and concerned citizens



The image shows a screenshot of the National Legal Database website. The header includes the text "HỆ THỐNG VĂN BẢN QUY PHẠM PHÁP LUẬT" and "THE NATIONAL LEGAL DATABASE". The main content area displays a government decree titled "QUYẾT ĐỊNH CỦA THỦ TƯỚNG CHÍNH PHỦ" (Decision of the Prime Minister) regarding the approval of a plan for bauxite mining in Vietnam. The decree is dated November 1, 2007, and is signed by the Prime Minister. The text of the decree includes the following key points:

- THỦ TƯỚNG CHÍNH PHỦ** (Prime Minister)
- SỐ: 167/2007/QĐ-TTg** (Number: 167/2007/QĐ-TTg)
- CỘNG HOÀ XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM** (Socialist Republic of Vietnam)
- Độc lập - Tự do - Hạnh phúc** (Independence - Freedom - Happiness)
- Hà Nội, Ngày 01 tháng 11 năm 2007** (Hanoi, November 1, 2007)
- QUYẾT ĐỊNH CỦA THỦ TƯỚNG CHÍNH PHỦ** (Decision of the Prime Minister)
- Phê duyệt Quy hoạch phân vùng thăm dò, khai thác, chế biến, sử dụng quặng bauxit giai đoạn 2007 - 2015, có xét đến năm 2025** (Approval of the plan for bauxite mining in Vietnam, 2007 - 2015, with consideration for 2025)
- THỦ TƯỚNG CHÍNH PHỦ** (Prime Minister)
- Căn cứ Luật tổ chức Chính phủ ngày 25 tháng 12 năm 2001;** (Based on the Law on the Government of Vietnam, December 25, 2001)
- Xét đề nghị của Bộ trưởng Bộ Công thương và Bộ trưởng Bộ Kế hoạch và Đầu tư,** (Considering the proposal of the Minister of Industry and Commerce and the Minister of Planning and Investment)
- QUYẾT ĐỊNH:** (Decision)
- Điều 1. Phê duyệt Quy hoạch phân vùng thăm dò, khai thác, chế biến và sử dụng quặng bauxit giai đoạn 2007 - 2015, có xét đến năm 2025 với các nội dung chủ yếu sau:** (Article 1. Approval of the plan for bauxite mining in Vietnam, 2007 - 2015, with consideration for 2025 with the following main contents:



# Bauxite mining in Vietnam

- Low to negative economic benefit from an overall national standpoint
- Significant environmental risk
- Lack of a cleanup solution
- Heavy burden on many people
- National security concerns





# Tây Nguyên

- Known as Vietnam's Central Highlands
- Serves as an important watershed for the Mekong River and other rivers in southern part of Vietnam
- 5 provinces are home to 5 million residents
- Bauxite mining commenced in Dak Nong and Lam Dong provinces



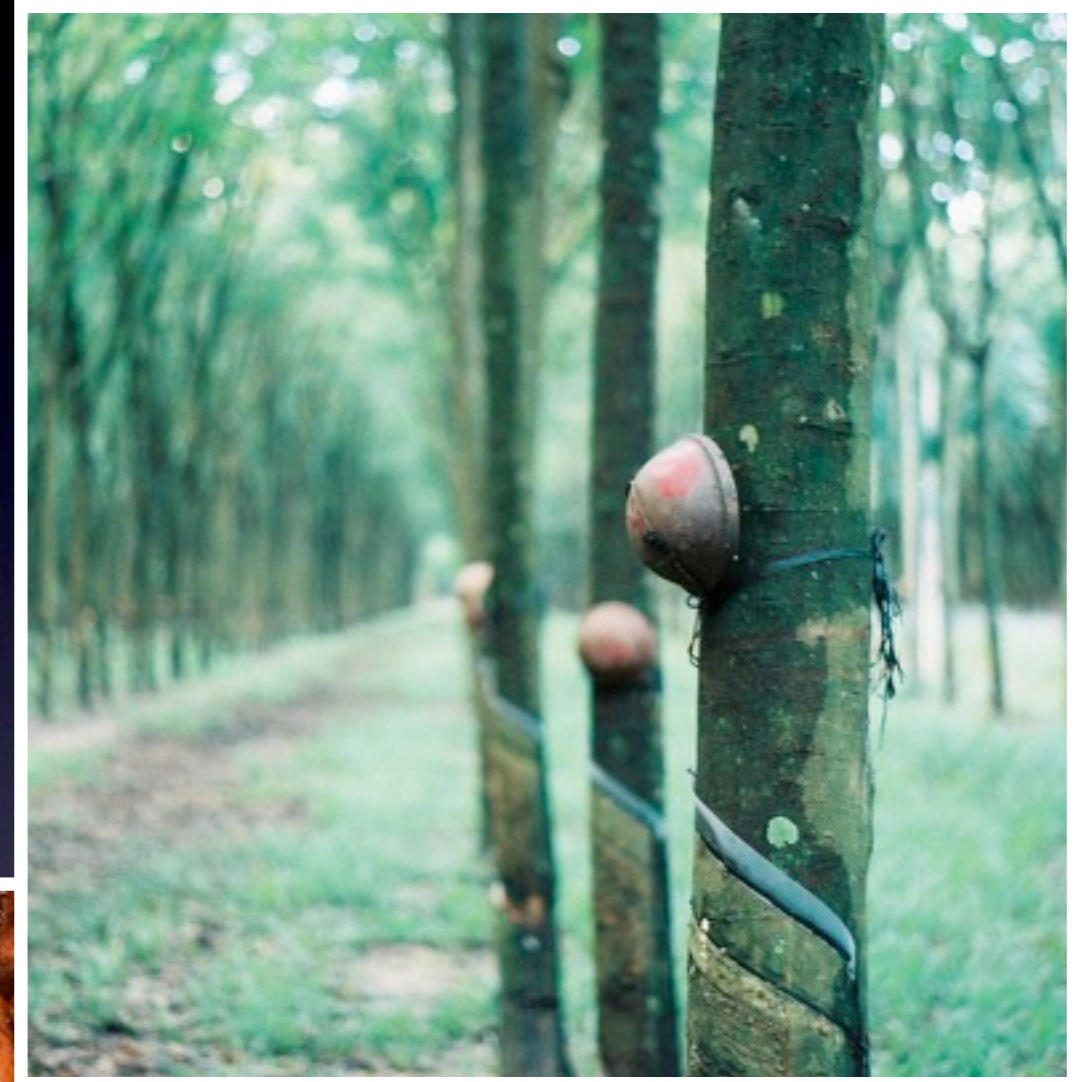


# What's at stake



Tea

Coffee



Rubber



The agricultural bounty of Tây Nguyên



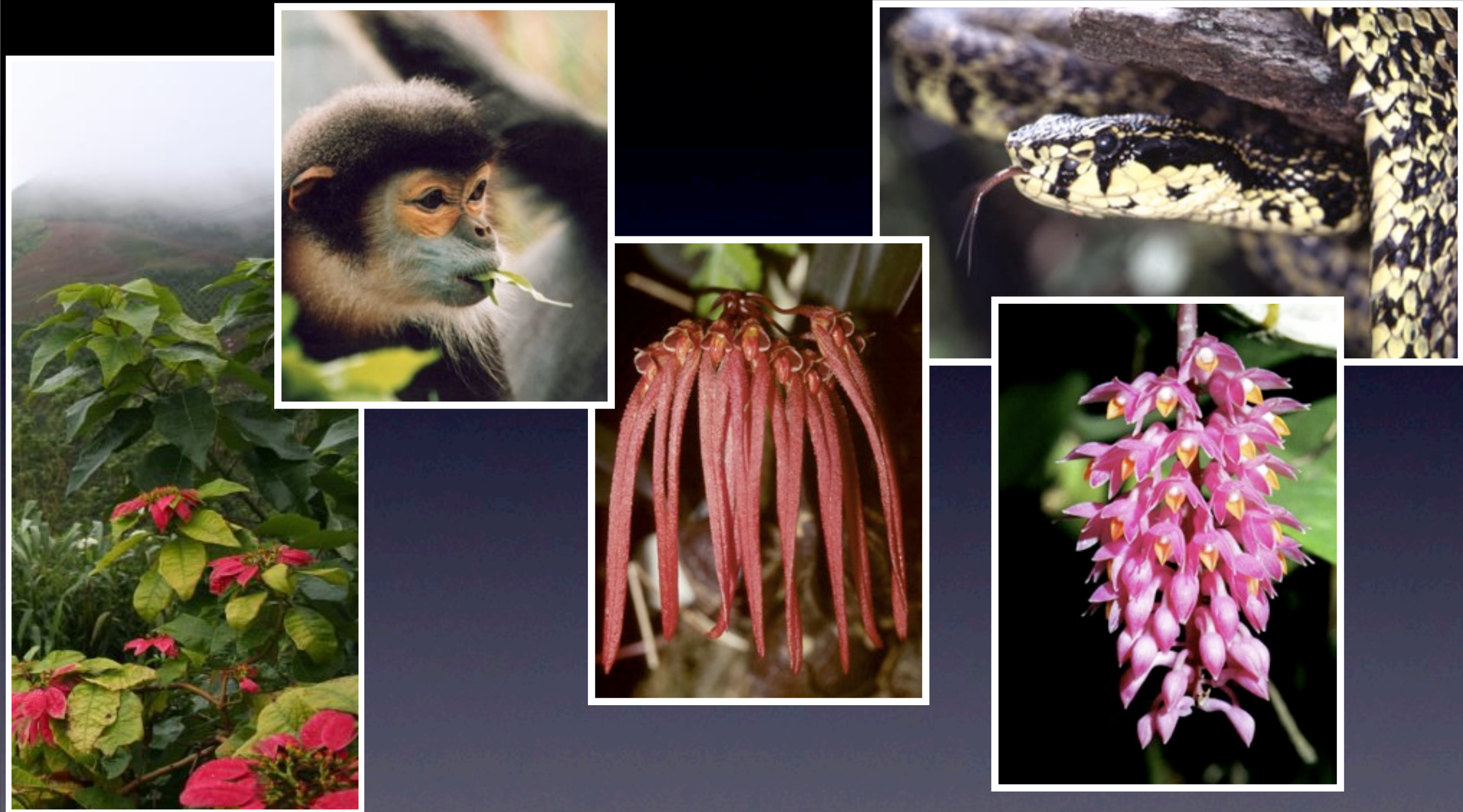
# What's at stake



The unique beauty of Tây Nguyên



# What's at stake



The rich biodiversity of Tây Nguyên



# What's at stake



The residents of Tây Nguyên



# What's at stake



The livelihood of Tây Nguyên



# China's encroaching presence: a threat to Vietnam's national security

- Ill-begotten scheme is another example of Hanoi government's dependence on China
- China increasingly turning to Vietnam to whet its hunger for natural resources





# What you can do

 Spread awareness



# What you can do

- ✿ Mobilize grassroots pressure against Vinacomin and Chinalco to exercise corporate social responsibility



# What you can do

- ✿ Support local NGOs and activists in Vietnam advocating for sound development policies



# For more information

 [www.viettan.org/savetaynguyen](http://www.viettan.org/savetaynguyen)

 <http://tinyurl.com/VTfacebook>



Thank you



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