



ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018

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INTRODUCTION

Founded in late 2009 under Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA), Center for Environment and Community Research (CECR) assembles dedicated scientists and officers to research topics and implements projects on environmental protection, with a view to helping improve the environmental quality and socio-economic conditions of Vietnam.

At CECR, we believe in community-based solutions to current environmental issues, which means these solutions should be actively developed and embraced by local people. This will lead to positive changes in the attitudes and behaviors of communities as well as individuals when it comes to environmental protection.

VISION

Surface water sources (rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, canals, wetlands, coastal waters) of Vietnam are not polluted.

MISSION

Promote and support organizations, business, and community participation in the protection and sustainable management of surface water sources via (1) Capacity Building (2) Research on and Advocacy for Policies (3) Provision of Information and Knowledge on Water Pollution Source Control (4) Model Building for Community Participation in Protecting Local Surface Water Sources.

PREFACE

In 2017 – 2018, CECR implemented many projects contributing to the field of environmental protection in Vietnam. To protect the marine environment and prevent water pollution, CECR continues its coordinating role in Coalition to Advocate for Water Pollution Prevention and Control Policies (Coalition for Clean Water) and Plastic-Free Ocean project. In cooperation with Coalition for Clean Water, CECR promoted the implementation of and supervised the enforcement of water pollution control policies at 6 pollution pilot sites and continued advocating for policy changes by legislative bodies. Plastic-Free Ocean project conducted training workshops on plastic waste recycling and reduction for people in Son Tra and Thanh Khe districts, published research on the current situation of waste, and shared communication publications with other coastal cities.

In terms of climate change adaptation, CECR implemented Red River Delta Adaptation and Youth (READY) and Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast ASia (UCRSEA) projects. In both projects, CECR focused on imparting knowledge and skills for climate change adaptation to local people, especially youths and students. In READY project, CECR assisted the execution of 11 initiatives for climate change adaptation. In UCRSEA, CECR published its research on Truong Yen district, Ninh Binh province and organized courses on school- and district-level environmental protection in three secondary schools in Hoan Kiem district.

On this occasion, I would like to thank our sponsors, partners, scientists, colleagues, and students for having cooperated effectively with CECR. Such successful cooperation is a significant testament to the power of all stakeholders' participation in environmental protection. We hope this cooperation will continue to be expanded in both depth and breadth.

CECR Director

Ly Ngoc Nguyen

2017-2018 ACTIVITY SUMMARY



WATER AND OCEAN

Coalition to Advocate for Water Pollution Prevention and Control Policies continued to promote the supervision and implementation of water pollution controlling policies.

Plastic-Free Ocean project: Plastic waste collecting, classifying and recycling program for a healthy community and a green city.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Red River Delta Adaptation and Youth (READY) project
Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia (UCRSEA)



EDUCATION

VCCI conference on tourism

Communication program on environmental protection in Hoan Kiem district

Collaboration program with DOW

CSR program for small- and medium-sized enterprises

COALITION TO ADVOCATE FOR WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICIES



Project Overview

The project was implemented by Coalition for Clean Water and CECR as a coordinating body.

Promote the implementation of and oversee the enforcement of water pollution control policies.

Piloted at Dai Nam Tu Liem pond, Tho Quang ship lock, Cam Thanh mangroves, Bung Cu river, Son La city, Bon Xa canal.

Advocate for water pollution control and prevention policies.



Phase 1/2016 – 3/2017:

National consultation on policies and the enforcement of water pollution control in Vietnam

1. Goal

Local level: Promote the implementation of and oversee the enforcement of water pollution control policies.

Central level: Develop policy lessons to assist advocacy work.

2. Main Achievements

Organized overseeing activities based on communities near polluted water bodies and workshops raising public awareness and acquired water quality data in the contaminated areas.

Coordinate with authorities to discuss the application of reform and water pollution prevention plans:

- In Quang Nam: Provisions of commitment to implementing water monitoring and protecting plans with community participation..
- In Da Nang, the local government strengthened sanctions on polluting facilities and means of transport, installed surveillance cameras, provided waste dischargers with guidelines for waste management, installed additional trash bins at wharves and fish markets, provided trash bins for shipowners, issued plans to collect wastewater and waste from fishing vessels for the ship management board, and organized production facilities, vehicle owners, and fish market small traders to sign their commitment to environmental protection.
- In Bac Ninh: determined to implement the plan to process and restore wastewater management system in Khac Niem noodle village.



Earth Day 2017

3. Next plans

On a local level, Coalition will continue to promote the implementation of water pollution control policies, with a focus on the monitoring aspect and the transparency of information on water pollution.

On a national level, Coalition will continue to advocate for water pollution control policies, with a focus on activities that assist the drafting and implementation of laws.

PHASE 2/ 2017-2018: ADVOCACY FOR WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICIES



1. Activity

Conference organized in coordination with VUSTA, Da Nang's Department of Natural Resources and Environment aimed to present three papers:

- Current situation and inadequacies in water pollution management in Vietnam
- Foreign countries' experiences in enforcing water pollution laws (United States, South Korea, Japan, China)
- The necessity of enacting water pollution control legislation in Vietnam and introducing the framework of water pollution control legislation.

Research report: "Water pollution and the necessity of developing water pollution control legislation in Vietnam" was submitted to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Justice, and all members of the 14th National Assembly.

2. Main achievements

Received feedback from authorities and their delegates inside and outside Vietnam.

Professional opinions and support from law enforcement agencies including: UB KHCNM, MONRE, VUSTA, strengthen researching capacity of NGOs and the state.

Proposed policy recommendations and contributed considerably to national- and local-level environmental plans.

Research report “Water pollution and the necessity of developing water pollution control legislation in Vietnam” was welcomed and accepted by lawmakers.

3. Next plans

Complete the report and make copies to be transferred to legislative and executive agencies, research organizations and environmental experts.

Coordinate with VUSTA to introduce policy recommendations to state agencies.

4. Financial Report: 496.260.899 VND

RED RIVER DELTA ADAPTATION AND YOUTH (READY) PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project was implemented by Marine Life Conservation & Community Development (MCD) and other NGOs including CECR, sponsored by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Objective Overview promote effective ideas for climate change adaptation and creativity in Red River Delta



1. Current Situation

Red River Delta has become more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than ever, which are exacerbated by other problems, such as poor solid waste management and water pollution. Meanwhile, the identification, implementation and replication of climate change adaptation initiatives are still inadequate. There is a lack of opportunities for young people to participate in climate change adaptation activities, as well as a lack of good practice demonstrations.

2. Goal

Promote initiatives for effective climate change adaptation and creativity in Red River Delta.

Implement action plans for climate change adaptations in which young people and NGOs play a pioneering role.

3. Main achievements

- 4 training programs with the participation of 257 youths from 3 localities Giao Thuy - Nam Dinh, Tien Hai - Thai Binh, Cat Hai - Hai Phong and students from Nam Dinh's, Thai Binh's and Hanoi's universities.
- Prompted youth groups to come up with 72 initiatives for climate change adaptation to solve local issues.
- 11 initiatives were supported by CECR, with 2427 people directly participating in the initiatives.
- The initiatives implemented by youth groups in localities were highly viewed and continue to be replicated across the whole community like in Quat Lam, Giao Thuy.

4. Next plans

- Continue to support local communities in implementing students' initiatives for environmental protection and climate change adaptation.
- Organize training workshops and expand effective models to more localities.
- Connect to experts, sponsors to raise funds to organize capacity building activities in localities and support the implementation of initiatives suggested by students in such programs.



Visit agricultural field models suitable for the climate and learn about the role of earthworms in Hai Hau and Nam Dinh

URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA PARTNERSHIP (UCRSEA)

Project Overview

The project was sponsored by Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership (UCRSEA).

The project aimed to raise public awareness and promote community participation in urban climate adaptation via two main activities:

- A. **Publishing research on the impacts of climate change on Trang An Landscape Complex, Ninh Binh**
- B. **Publicize air quality data by using portable air quality testing device (airbeam)**

A. Research on the impacts of climate change on Trang An Landscape Complex, Ninh Binh

1. Research objectives and content

Research focuses on answering two main questions:

- *What changes in Truong Yen have contributed to the impacts of climate change and what factors have accelerated the processes?*
- *How have local people approached and adapted to such changes? What factors facilitate or limit their adapting capacity?*



2. Achievements

Factors contributing to the impacts of climate change in Ninh Binh:

- Geographical and natural factors: Geographical location heavily affected by storms and floods in the rainy season.

- Socio-political factors: Focus on developing urbanization projects.

In Truong Yen, beside positive socio-economic changes, the development of tourism has caused agricultural soil to deteriorate, the environment to be polluted by human and animal waste, and clean water sources to be on the decline.

Truong Yen has been indirectly affected by human activities: Storms and floods increased by hydroelectric discharge, solid waste polluting clean water and air, the use of pesticides in cultivation, and other polluting human activities.

Reasonable Policies:

- Build a good defence system
- Impart skills necessary for a transition from agriculture to tourism
- Treat solid waste
- Prepare local people for climate change adaptation

B. Portable air quality testing device project (UCRSEA)

1. Project objective

Increase primary and secondary students' basic awareness of environmental protection at schools as well as in Hoan Kiem district.

Practise using portable air quality testing device - airbeam.

2. Main activities and achievements

Organized environmental courses at 3 secondary schools in Hoan Kiem district and taught students how to use portable air quality testing devices at school.

Organized courses and games raising environmental awareness for 45 minutes at Nguyen Du secondary school with the participation of 2,264 people.

Financial report: 49,280,000 VND ~ 70,062 baht



Discuss the impacts of climate change on Ninh Binh with local people

PLASTIC-FREE OCEAN PROJECT



Plastic waste under the sea. Photo courtesy: National Geographic

Project Overview

The project was sponsored under USAID's Municipal Waste Recycling Program (MWRP) and through an agreement signed between Center for Environment and Community Research and Development Innovation Group.

The project sought to raise public awareness, change waste recycling behaviors and keep the ocean from being polluted by plastic waste.

1. Project Objective

Raise public awareness and change recycling behaviors, keep the ocean from being polluted by plastic waste, promote a community-based recycling program, communication programs, and programs to encourage ships not to dump their waste into the sea.

2. Main activities

The main activities of the project include (1) building and promoting community-based models for waste reduction, classification, collection, and recycling, with a focus on Son Tra and Thanh Khe districts (2) communication programs, training to raise awareness and promote models for waste reduction, classification and collection among hotels,

restaurants, service establishments, shipowners, youth groups, and schools (3) large environmental events and policy forums on plastic waste management.



Model for Resource Waste Recycling



Conference Summarizing the Project "Non-plastic Ocean" and Sharing the Results and Good Practices with the Central Coastal provinces

OTHER COOPERATIONS

Overview of 4 Projects

VVCI conference sought to promote Corporate Responsibility in the tourism industry to achieve sustainable development goals.

Communication program for environmental protection in Hoan Kiem district wanted to raise students' awareness of environmental protection

CECR cooperated with DOW Chemical in developing community communication materials on the ecology of West Lake and proposing policies to protect lake water sources.



CSR project for small and medium-sized enterprises wanted to raise awareness on environmental laws to facilitate participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP).



VCCI Conference on Tourism

Goal: Support tourism enterprises in Thua Thien Hue in increasing their awareness and improving their human resources to design a sustainable and smart business development strategy through the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility.

Conference Content

The conference featured three presentations:

Presentation 1: Corporate Social Responsibility for enterprises: Strategy for a Smart and Sustainable Development

Presentation 2: Legal Risks for Vietnamese Tourism Enterprises when it comes to Environmental Regulations

Presentation 3: Several Models for Implementing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the Tourism Industry in the World and in Vietnam



2. Communication Program for Environmental Protection in Hoan Kiem District:

Venue: Nguyen Du Secondary School and Trang An Secondary School, Hoan Kiem district, Hanoi.

Goal: Raise students' awareness of the environment, garbage classification, water sources protection, and energy saving.

Content: Organize games such as The Golden Bell and other supporting games related to garbage classification, water sources protection, and energy saving.



3. Cooperative Program with DOW

Goal:

- *Develop research* on the ecology around the lake and the water quality of West Lake, identify direct and indirect pollution sources by mapping data using GIS.

- *Propose policies* protecting and restoring

the ecology of the lake to the West Lake Management Agency and Hanoi City People's Council.

- *Improve the community's knowledge* of the ecology of West Lake.

4. CSR project for small- and medium-sized enterprises in Bac Ninh

Goal: Promote the participation of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) by raising awareness of Vietnamese and international laws on environmental protection and sustainable development.

Activities and Main Achievements:

- Complete research on the inadequacies of small- and medium-sized enterprises in following environmental protection laws.
- Develop training programs on environmental law compliance for enterprises.

- Conduct training on compliance with laws on environmental protection and sustainable development for small- and medium-sized enterprises to raise awareness and improve skills in implementing environmental protection plans.
- 31 leaders and environmental officers of 29 small- and medium-sized enterprises in Bac Ninh attended training courses on the basic knowledge of, implementation of and compliance with environmental laws.
- Cooperate with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Vietnam to establish training courses on environmental protection laws for agricultural enterprises.