

Project Update: October 2014

Conservation of endangered species of conifers in Xuan Nha Nature Reserve

In September 2014 the first thematic seminar on conifer conservation was held in Kho Hong village, Chieng Xuan commune, Van Ho district (Son La province). Ten villagers and three forest rangers participated in the seminar. The seminar introduced information on importance of conifer species and their occurrence in the area around Xuan Nha Nature Reserve for the participants. During the seminar seven villagers has been registered to form Xuan Nha Conifer Club.

A survey to confirm occurrence of *Cunninghamia konishii* in Xuan Nha was conducted. However, the trees found in the previous survey have been cut recently by illegal loggers and it destroyed the population of *Cunninghamia konishii* in Xuan Nha. The critical situation with *Cunninghamia konishii* was highlighted with Management Board of Xuan Nha Nature Reserve and additional measures were applied to increase protection of remained individuals of the species in Xuan Nha. The project also supported in the field work a team of Van Ho district television in making a video report on the new pine found in Xuan Nha *Pinus armandii*. The video was broadcasted in Son La TV in October 2014.

In October 2014, the second thematic seminar on conifers was organized in Kho Hong village. Seven villagers together with project staff went on a field trip to the population of *Pinus armandii* and collected 20 kg of ripened cones of the pine. In the seminar the project team has guided the club members to process the collected cones to get seeds and presented about practical propagation methods for endangered conifers. A place for a small nursery was chosen by the club in Kho Hong village for further propagation activities.

The survey and seminar also interested students and teachers from Northwest University. Two teachers and two students of the University took part in the filed collection of pine cones and the propagation seminar in the village.



Left: Club's thematic seminar on conifer propagation in Kho Hong village. Right: Joint conifer survey of Kho Hong villagers, PanNature, teachers and students of Northwest University.



A crew of Van Ho TV recording Xuan Nha pine.