

Project Update: July 2021

We are continued to implement the framework of activities. In August 2020, the research team of Center for Nature Conservation and Development (CCD) in collaboration with experts and staff of Xuan Thuy National Park (XTNP) implemented a training class to raise awareness for local people about the role of mangrove and mangrove restoration techniques. The training class had 30 local people who were members of the Women's Union, the Red Cross Society of Giao and commune (one of 5 buffer communes) practiced at field belong to Con Lu islet, XTNP. The expertise of CCD and staffs of XTNP provided knowledge and information to participants about values and benefits of mangrove for community. At the same time, the participants were also given detailed instruction on nursery, planting techniques by the lecturers for *Rhizophora stylosa* and *Sonneratia caseolaris* which were selected species to restore degradation forest.

Also, during this time, the project team has implemented a mangrove restoration model with an area of 1,000 m². The seedlings of two species 12 months old were nursed by the CCD research team from September 2019 to August 2020. One bamboo stake (length of 1m, diameter of 3 cm) was tied to the trunks by nylon strings in order to keep seedlings stable in the wind, high wave energy, tidal flow and plastic bags. After seedlings were planted, all of solutions had applied such as tending, protecting and monitoring the model carried out by the research team and collaboration one time each month, for 6 months (from September 2020 to April 2021). The data on growth characteristics of the model were measured by the research team to write a detailed report. The initial result showed that, survival rate was around 80 %, seedlings grew very well. The data on survival rate, growth characteristics at the planting plot will be used to evaluate the effectiveness project and continuing mangrove restoration and mangrove conservation in next activities.

Study results has presented by the research team at scientific conferences to share knowledge and experience conservation between experts, including:

Rufford Small Grants Conference – Malaysia 2020:

- Objectives: (1) Exchange knowledge, ideas, and experience between the Rufford grantees; (2) Create invaluable networking opportunities; (3) Enhance communication and information sharing between The Rufford Foundation and its grant recipients; (4) Discuss current research issues/ conservation challenges in Southeast Asia.
- Time and location: 10th-13th January 2020, Penang, Malaysia
- Report title: Current status of mangrove forest degradation in Xuan Thuy National Park, Vietnam

Exchanging mangrove rehabilitation with project experts “*Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*” and “*Mekong Delta Climate Resilience Project*”, GIZ projects, Viet Nam:

- Objectives: Sharing results and encourage discussion on potentials and challenges of mangrove rehabilitation taking ecological as well as governance questions into account.
- Time and location: 11th December 2020, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Report title: Effectiveness of mangrove conservation and mangrove planting models at Xuan Thuy National Park, Nam Dinh province.



Figure 1. Participants joined training class on value of mangrove forest



Figure 2. Laborers filled plastic containers at the nursery site



a



b

Figure 3. Seedling cultivated in a nursery in September 2019
(a - *R. stylosa*; b – *S. caseolaris*)



Figure 4. Project member guided mangrove planting techniques for the community



Figure 5. Women's union members followed methods of planting trees



Figure 6. Participant was planting trees at the mangrove restoration model



Figure 7. Model of mangrove restoration model after completion



Figure 8. Collecting data on growth characteristics of seedlings



Figure 9. Mangrove restoration model after planted 6 months



Figure 10. The project team were joined the Rufford small grant conference at Penang, Malaysia in 2020



Figure 11. The project team were exchanged mangrove conservation experience between GIZ project experts