

[Form 6]

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THE NIWANO PEACE FOUNDATION
THE FINAL REPORT OF ACTIVITY GRANTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Title of the project:

Support solidarity of multiple religious through mangrove reforestation in Lang co lagoon area of Vietnam

Organization/official title:

Centre for Community Research and Development (CCRD), Thua Thien Hue province Fishery Association, Vietnam

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1. The context and project purpose

Lang Co lagoon in Thua Thien Hue province, Vietnam, had been rich of coastal wetland resources and mangrove with great potentials for fishing, aquaculture development and conservation. Therefore the lagoon provide important resources for local socio-economic development and community livelihoods. Some decades ago there was a large area of mangrove in the lagoon banks which connected to the inter-tidal area of approximately 100 ha. Due to poor management and increasing needs (for fire wood, aquaculture development and other constructions) area of mangroves has been reduced. At present (in 2010) there is only 5 ha remained with poor conditions in danger of being destroyed. The reduced mangrove area together with other problems such as over-fishing, aquaculture and tourism development have made losses to the biodiversity and the coastal-marine ecosystem services. These reduced rapidly the role and function of the lagoon system in local community livelihoods and in against impacts of environmental changes such as increasing sea levels and tropical typhoons.

In the situation that the mangrove and other biodiversity is threatened, conservation has been paid attention by local, national and international organizations and agencies. Studies, planning activities and other efforts have been carried for mangrove rehabilitation. In 2013 the pilot “community-based management and conservation of mangrove” in Lang Co lagoon was developed with supports from the Mangrove For Future (MFF) program. This effort (among others) included enhanced awareness and capacity of the local communities for mangrove reforestation; defined the community organizations (e.g. the fishery association) who take direct roles in the mangrove management; and formalized the zoning plan for mangrove planting areas. The pilot community-based management and conservation of mangrove provided appropriate mobilization and legal supports for increasing local people participating in mangrove management and conservation. However, participation of local communities in mangrove protection and reforestation is still low though they have direct benefits associated with mangrove.



Mangroves in Lang co lagoon area (CCRD 2011)

The local communities surrounding the Lang Co lagoon include 5 villages. The villagers are mixed of religious groups e.g. Catholic, Buddhist, and non-religious. but they share the lagoon as common resources for their livelihood activities such as fishing, aquaculture, tourism and other use of ecological values. Number of local labors associated the lagoon resource use is more 2,000. The people share similar livelihood resources such as marine and lagoon fisheries, farm lands, and coastal landscapes for tourism those connect more or less with mangroves which had been extensive area and rich species in the lagoon areas. The mangroves provide the communities not only the main livelihood sources but also protection from the risks of natural disasters such as typhoon and floods, and also play very important roles in maintaining biodiversity and coastal ecosystems which are high value for local and global conservation. However, in the last decades, the mangrove area reduced rapidly due to competition for land use in various developments such as aquaculture, urbanization, and new economic zones. As parts of mangrove degradation

consequence, the negative impact of the climate change as is more and more serious. In addition of the global challenges in the face of insecurity from climate changes the communities already perceive the needs for mangrove protection and reforestation which requires community participation regardless of the religions and groups. Therefore a practical activity/ project for mangrove protection and reforestation is valuable to support community solidarity in learning common practices for community-based actions and in building capacity for mangrove reforestation.



In this context, the mangrove reforestation activities (2015-2016) implemented by Centre for Community Research and Development with support of NIWANO involved the villagers from various religious groups into learning and actions toward strengthening the community consolidation in common practices and actions to response to the local and global needs. Particularly the project activities brought in increased participation of the religious and community groups in the mangrove reforestation and associated community activities, built community course of actions for mangrove reforestation, and improved technical capacity for mangrove planting and protection

2. The project activities

A summary of overall activities, contents and methods implemented

Time	Activity & content	Participants	Method
27-29 September 2015	Training workshop: (1) Mangrove values and needs for reforestation, (2) common practices and course of actions for mangrove reforestation toward community solidarity	20 villagers from religious groups and 10 from other stakeholders	Participatory training workshop to work out the community cost of actions (action plan) toward community solidarity
7-8 November 2015	Training workshop on planning for mangrove reforestation: Defining/zoning the planting area, species, activities, required materials and participants, role allocation among groups	15 core villagers from religious groups and 5 from other stakeholders	Participatory training workshop to plan for activities to be implemented for mangrove reforestation
10 days (one day/month) from September 2015 to July 2016	Technical training on mangrove forestation in the field: (1) Nursery gardens, seed collection and seedlings, (2) Mangrove planting, care and protection, (3) Aquaculture and fishing in mangroves	30 core villagers from religious groups plus others to be involved on ad-hoc basis	Farmer-field- school approach, provide hand on training in field. One day per month during 9 months to provide guidance followed by learning by doing
November 2015-July 2016	Operating the mangrove nursery garden to produce mangrove seedling	15 core villagers from various religious groups	Community-based nursery garden led by Fishery Association
23-24 April 2016 & 8-9 July 2016	Organizing community events for mangrove planting and toward community solidarity	50 people (140 person-days) from religious groups and stakeholders	Convening the community action days to mobilize participation of community members

15 July 2016	Evaluation and arrangement for followed up: (1) evaluating the mangrove reforestation, (2) review of course of community actions, (3) arrangement for followed up reforestation	35 from religious groups, and 15 from other stakeholders	Participatory workshop for learning and community arrangement
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****Participatory workshops:***

The project started with participatory workshop on mangrove reforestation to create room and opportunity for villagers from various religious groups to joint and discuss the related issues and needs. The training objective is to strengthen local capacity (community, fisheries association, government and forest protection officers) in participatory planning for organizing community-based actions for mangrove reforestation. There were two workshops organized on identified contents and subject matters. The first one was more generally for community awareness building through reviewing the mangrove situation, learning of values and needs for reforestation. The second workshop was more specific planning for the community-based mangrove reforestation such as locating and zoning appropriate planting area, designing field, preparation and scheduling the required activities. There were 30 core villagers from all villages (various religious groups) and local stakeholder involved in the workshop. The participatory workshop brought in improved community awareness but also worked out the common course of actions/activities for the mangrove reforestation. Particularly the villagers lead by the Fishery Association made planning and field designation for mangrove planting such as specifying and defining the planting area and zone, plan for seedling preparation, planting organization, protection and maintenance...

****Technical training:***

Together with the planning work as presented above, the project provided technical training for the community members. This training objective is to improve technical capacity of the community members and fisheries association for mangrove



Workshop & training on mangrove reforestation in Lang co (CCRD 2015)

reforestation including seed collection, nurseries, planting and evaluation of mangrove growth. The subject matters in the technical training were such as community nursery establishment and operation, seed collection, seedling, field design, planting and care of newly planted mangrove.... 15 key community members and officers from various religious groups were selected by the Fishery Association to participate in the training. These people later on took parts in the nursery operation to produce mangrove seedlings and providing technical assistance to other members for reforestation. Method for technical training was the "Farmer-field school". The training was organized in the field. On the date scheduled for training, the trainers (Technical staff members) provided guidance on the defined subject matters and practices (e.g. at nursery, planting areas and mangroves). In the following time (e.g. four weeks) the participants took practicum work to implement planned activities for "Learning by doing" this was led by FA. 10 training days were organized, one per month, during 9 months of the project implementation (September 2015 to July 2016). The technical training helped improve technical capacity of the core villagers and fishery association officers for mangrove seed collection, doing community-based nurseries, seedling care, and planting.

****Establishment and operation of the community nursery:***

This is to produce mangrove seedlings to be planted and continuous mangrove reforestation later on. The Establishment of the community nursery is essential to provide the locally originated seedlings. This assures good growth of mangroves after planting. The community nursery also important in creating the "material base" for community members to meet, share and act together for common practices and needs. Together with the training, the project made a contract with the community represented by its fishery association for preparation of the mangrove seedlings to be planted (3,000 seedlings). The project covered the partly costs of materials and labor's food allowance. The project also contributed additional materials costs for maintenance of nursery garden (to produce 1000 seedling) after the project completion. The fishery association involved its member participation and contribute locally materials and labors for producing seedlings.



Mangrove nursery in Lang co lagoon (CCRD 2016)

The fishery association organized two small groups to do gardening, one was maintained after the project completion. The small groups prepared the garden, organized seed collection and seedling. The continues care of garden was operated by the person in charge with ad hoc participation by other members in schedule.

****Organizing community action days for mangrove planting:***

Two community-day events were organized for mangrove planting. One includes the field preparation and a day for planting. The field preparation includes the evaluation and mangrove seedlings, transportation, field design and bamboo stick to fix the new planting tree. The action days also include viability for awareness raising and communication for mangrove reforestation.





The community days for mangrove planting in Lang co lagoon (CCRD 2016)

On the planting day, the community members/villagers were promoted to attend a short training then doing planting. Number of local people participating in mangrove planting was 50 making a total 140 person (for preparation and planting). As a result, these strengthened capacity for implementation of community actions (e.g. defined target participants, event process and actions, associated activities, prepared messages and communication materials) and improved community engagement in mangrove reforestation e.g. number of participants of mangrove planting was 50. Number of the new planting mangrove is 3,000 over 1,5 hectares

****Evaluation and arrangement for followed up:***

This was participatory workshop involving 35 core villagers from all villages (various religious groups) and 15 local stakeholders. The workshop purpose is to evaluate the results of the mangrove reforestation and arrangement for followed up monitoring and care of new planting mangroves. At the workshop the fishery association made a

review on the project mangrove reforestation followed by discussion and endorsement by the local government. The main discussions were made on community arrangement for maintenance of the nursery garden and taking care of new planting mangroves after project completion. The workshop reached agreement as follows:

- The Lang Co fisheries association and its membership from all villagers/ religious groups (e.g. fishers, aquaculture farmers, and tourist service providers) take direct responsibility to monitor the planted mangrove as parts the community-based management and conservation of mangroves in lagoon that was established. The fishery association will makes annual report to the local government and the province fishery association
- The forest protection office (at district level) is to provide technical guides for mangrove monitoring and law enforcement supports on the forest protection
- The local government having jurisdiction on the lagoon resource management e.g. the Lang Co Town is to review and endorse the FA reports regarding mangrove development
- In support of the monitoring and care of the new planted mangrove this project provided (partly) materials and labor costs for the fishery association to continuously maintain the community mangrove nursery garden. This also helps involve the community members to continue their monitoring, care of the newly planted mangrove and learning of mangrove reforestation

Key partners for project implementation is Lang Co Fisheries Association (FA), local government, and the district forest protection office. Lang Co FA is community-based organization having membership of the lagoon resource users e.g. fishers, aquaculture farmers from different villages. The FA executive board have 5 members who coordinated identification and involvement of appropriate participants from different villages/ religious groups in the project activities. For the mangrove reforestation FA was supported to undertake the central roles in planning and organizing the community action days/ events for mangrove planting. The local government and the forest protection office provide legal supports to the project activities and coordinate involvement of different stakeholders. The local government

will also endorse the project results and following mangrove reforestation after project completion

3. Achievements of the project activities

*** *Short-term results:***

The participatory workshops were able to bring people from various religious to work together on their common interests related to resource decline and climate change impacts. These improved awareness of the mangrove values and needs for mangrove conservation. Participation in workshop also helped enhance the community planning capacity for community activities, especially for mangrove reforestation such as specifying and defining the planting area and zone, plan for seedling preparation, planting organization, protection and maintenance...

Technical capacity of the community members, especially the fishery association was also much improved through the "Famer-field-school" program. This not only helped villagers to undertake technical sides such as mangrove seed collection, nurseries, seedling care, and planting... but also to organize community actions such as define target participants, event process and actions, associated activities, prepare messages and communication materials...

The project results on mangrove reforestation include (1) Number of newly planting mangroves was 3,000. Initial growth rate of new planting mangrove (after one month) is good with approximately 90% alive trees. (2) a community nursery garden is operating to produce 1,000 seedlings for following care with material supports provided by the project. The community mangrove nursery garden is maintained as parts of project outcomes after the project is completed

Plan and associated arrangements for continued monitoring, protection and care of new planting mangrove is set up in place. A formal allocation of the new mangrove area to the Lang Co Fisheries Association has been made (with defined rights, responsibility, legal support, and partners involved...); The new planting mangrove area is within the zoning plan for mangrove development approved by authorized government that is formally protected by laws enforced by the district office of forest protection

*** Long-term results and social effects:**

The project activities improved participation of the community members in community activities, especially in all stages of mangrove reforestation. Number of participants in action days for mangrove planting was high with 50 people and 140 person-days. The participants were from various religious groups strengthened the consolidation of community for adaptation and/or problem resolution in new challenges associated with livelihood resource decline and climate change impacts

The project activities on mangrove reforestation in Lang Co lagoon area helped develop common practices and course for community actions in front of specific problems or need ex. the mangrove reforestation toward strengthened community consolidation. These helped improved the cooperation and/or collective actions among the community members from various religious groups without conflict with the religion practices

The mangrove reforestation in Lang co lagoon maintained the ecosystem services that help improved aquaculture development (in the mangroves) and reduced climate change impact. These benefit directly 150 households who currently rely on the lagoon resources for their livelihoods.

The project also improved engagement of local stakeholders including religious groups e.g. the commune government, district forest protection office, and catholic church, in mangrove reforestation. The community arrangement for mangrove reforestation after project completion specified responsibility of the community actors e.g. fishery association and the lagoon resource user groups in protection, care and monitoring of the new planting mangroves. These also got commitments for legal and general supports from local stakeholders e.g. the commune government, district forest protection office, and catholic church