

The Education for Nature - Vietnam Bulletin

Issue 1

October - November 2004

The **ENV Bulletin** is produced monthly by Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV) and includes brief summaries of major activities, progress, and developments for the benefit of our friends and supporters.

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TRAINING

Training for Environmental Educators and Stakeholders in Thai Nguyen Province

In October, ENV carried out its 19th major training program for community-based environmental educators. The two week training course focused on communities in Dai Tu District bordering Tam Dao National Park was carried out in cooperation with the Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP), and involved 18 participants including local teachers, park rangers, the district Youth Union, AFAP project staff, and representatives from the Dai Tu district DET (Department of Education and Training).

In addition to receiving basic introduction to the theoretical aspects of environmental education, the trainees were exposed to participatory teaching methods, and gained practical knowledge and experience in preparation for carrying out a program in Dai Tu District. During the course of the training, a six-lesson draft program was designed for students from grade 6 and field tested in schools in Khoi Ky commune. ENV plans to continue to work closely with the Dai Tu district project as the program develops during the coming months.



Figure 1. Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP) training in Tam Dao National Park

Rangers to Implement Awareness Program at Van Long Nature Reserve



Figure 2. Van Long Nature Reserve staff receiving certificates for participating in the training course.

In November 2004, ENV carried its 20th major training initiative aimed at helping Van Long Nature Reserve (Ninh Binh Province) develop and implement an awareness program focused on adult residents of local communities. Ten rangers and nature reserve staff participated in the ten-day intensive training course during which trainees worked with ENV counterparts to design and develop a community based conservation awareness program which was then field tested in two villages bordering the reserve. Van Long Nature Reserve, which encompasses a large emergent wetland and exposed limestone hills is particularly important for its resident populations of Delacour langurs (*Trachypithecus delacourii*), one of the world's most critically endangered primates. The training was carried out under agreement between ENV and Hoa Lu - Van Long Nature Reserve Management Board, with financial support provided by Capacity Building International (InWent) and facilitated by Fauna and Flora International's Pu Luong-Cuc Phuong Conservation Project.

AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ENV to Initiate Brown Issue Program in Hanoi

ENV is taking its experience from the forests of Vietnam and hitting the streets of Hanoi in a new environmental education program in Hanoi schools, set to begin in early 2005. ENV will work with ten local schools to establish nature clubs for middle school students that will focus mainly on raising awareness about urban environmental issues. Eight draft lesson plans have been developed for the program which will include a program administered in classrooms, clubs, and through special activities for students. Training for the principal staff coordinating the program is slated to begin in early December. ENV's new urban initiative is supported by the Asia Foundation and USAID.

ENV - Tam Dao National Park Cooperates Environment Education

Since October 2004, ENV has been working closely with local partners in Tam Dao National Park to establish a community - based EE in the buffer zone of the park.

Modelled after the community-based awareness program at Cuc Phuong National Park, the Tam Dao program will include 13 lesson plans for middle school students in grades 6 and 7, and be administered through nature clubs at schools. Adult-focused awareness activities will be carried out through village-level meetings and special events and activities in local communities. ENV recruited four staff for the new initiative. Training is scheduled to begin in early December.

The project is supported by the Government of Australia through the Regional Natural Heritage Program (RNHP) and facilitated by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust.

News from Cuc Phuong

The Cuc Phuong National Park Conservation Awareness Program is the first and longest running community-based awareness program in Vietnam. Developed under a project administered by Fauna and Flora International, the program was transferred to the national park in 2002 with ongoing technical support and guidance provided by ENV. Presently, the program, now in its eighth year, is active in 43 schools in four districts bordering the national park. About 15,000 students currently participate in the program, which carries out about 110 school programs each month, in addition to puppet shows, and adult-focused awareness activities in local villages.

In October, ENV concluded its training and certification phase, and transferred responsibilities for training over to the national park. ENV continues to provide technical inputs to the program, and remains responsible for evaluation and monitoring, and coordinating external training programs carried out at Cuc Phuong National Park.



Figure 3. Puppet show in Cuc Phuong National Park.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Bear Protection Public Service Announcement (PSA)



Figure 4. My Linh, pop singer, calls upon people to stop using bear bile.

In August, ENV produced a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for television illustrating the plight of Vietnam's bears, captured from the wild and maintained in captivity in order to exploit bile for the growing commercial bear bile trade. The PSA featured the well-known pop singer, My Linh, who urged the public not to use bear bile or products made from bears. In October, the PSA was distributed to 63 provincial television stations nation-wide. In November, a total of 40 provinces have begun to air the 30 second spot, including the major urban centers of Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Hai Phong, Da Nang, and Hue.

The PSA is part of an ongoing campaign by ENV to raise awareness about the need to protect Vietnam's wildlife, threatened by hunting and trade. Recent efforts focused on bears have included publication of a special issue of Green Forest magazine on bears, production of a short film of the bear bile extraction process, and completion of an attitude survey reflecting bear bile use amongst urban residents of Hanoi (to be released in

January).

Production of the PSA was made possible with technical assistance and support of the Environmental Justice Foundation, the Humane Society International, and WWF-US.

RESOURCES

New Publication: *Green Forest* Features the Marine Environment

In October, ENV released the 20th edition of the popular student nature magazine, *Green Forest*, focused on the marine environment. The marine issue includes 56 pages of lively illustrations, games and activities that involve its readers in a journey to mysterious sea beds and colourful coral reefs. Readers are also introduced to some special inhabitants of the sea such as dolphins and sea turtles. The Club Pages include articles by students and environmental educators from around the country voicing their concerns about the current state of the marine environment where they live, and some of their ideas about how we can help to protect our oceans. *Green Forest* is produced twice each year and distributed free to schools and environmental education programs within the national EE Family Network*. Each issue focuses on a specific environment theme and includes contributions from students from throughout the country.

*The EE Family Network is a support network established by ENV to support environmental educators and programs in Vietnam. More than 30 active programs, most in communities bordering parks and protected areas are involved in the network.

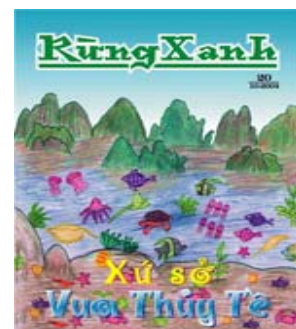


Figure 5. Latest Green Forest magazine on Vietnam's marine environment.

ENV HOME PAGE

Joining the Team

During October 2004, ENV warmly welcomed the presence of two new staff members; **Ms. Pham Phuong Thao** and **Ms. Nguyen Huong Giang**. Ms. Giang joins veteran Green Forest coordinator, Do Hai Linh on the resource development team, while Ms. Thao will provide badly needed administrative support to the overall operation.

During these busy days, ENV is also lucky to have **Ms. Samantha Citroen**, an Australian volunteer, on the ENV technical team for a few months. Samantha is helping coordinate lesson plan development for the urban awareness program, developing publicity materials, and providing inputs on a range of other ENV projects and activities.

About ENV

Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV) was established in 2001 as Vietnam's first environmental education-focused local organization, built upon the success and experience of the community-based Conservation Awareness Programme at Cuc Phuong National Park. ENV specialises in training environmental educators, and carries out a variety of educational programmes and initiatives aimed at raising awareness and understanding about the environment, and the need to protect nature and wildlife in Vietnam.

ENV Services

Training of environmental educators: Training programs range from one week to two months in length and are aimed at developing staff knowledge, skills, and practical experience in carrying out environmental education programs in school, community, and protected area settings.

Community-based Awareness Programs: ENV works with local partners to develop and carry out awareness programs in the field, with particular emphasis on national park and nature reserves.

Public Awareness: ENV has been working with journalists and interested partners for more than three years to raise public awareness about the growing threat to Vietnam's wildlife resulting from hunting and the illegal wildlife trade. Efforts have focused principally upon increasing coverage of wildlife trade issues in the national press, and species focused initiatives including bears, tortoises and freshwater turtles, and small carnivores.

Resource development: In addition to the student nature magazine, Green Forest, ENV produces a range of materials including lesson plan resources, posters, illustrated stories, nature club booklets for students, films other resources in support of educational programs and awareness campaigns

Technical support for community-based awareness programs: Program design, development, monitoring and evaluation.

Network support: ENV provides support to environmental educators and awareness programs throughout the country through the EE Family Network. Network support includes provision of Green Forest magazine, weekly VN language news bulletins highlighting major developments reported in over 25 national publications, full news article distribution for relevant or important stories, provision of educational materials and resources produced by ENV and other organizations in Vietnam, copies of environment and wildlife protection laws upon release from the government, other technical support as requested.

For more information, please contact:

Ms Nguyen Phuong Dung

Education for Nature - Vietnam (ENV)

No.2/C5 tap the Dai hoc Ngoai Thuong, pho Chua Lang, Ha Noi.

Tel/Fax: 04-775 3685

Email: env@fpt.vn, communication@thienhien.org