Building coastal resilience in Vietnam

*Integrated approach to mangrove management, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation contributing to climate change mitigation*

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Outline

- Background
- Overview of project site
- Project’s timeline
- Success factors
- CARE’s integrated approach
- Challenges
- Key lessons learnt
- Recommendations
Background
Total area: 11,116.3km²
Population: 8424 inhabitants
2074 households
10 villages
Climate Change and Perceived Impacts in Vietnam and in Da Loc

- Growing intensity of storm, typhoons (Damrey typhoon 2005)
- More extreme and unpredictable weather conditions (storm, flood)
- Saline intrusion
- More cold fronts
- Abnormal rainfall

➔ Exacerbate hardship
Climate Change Vulnerabilities

Exposure and sensitivity

- Along coastline
- High population concentration
- Low elevation area: 0.8 – 2 m above sea level
- High poverty rate: 25% in 2011
- Out migration of young labour (40% men leaving)
Timeline

1982  The Government begins to construct a sea dike in Da Loc commune.

1989  The Japanese Red Cross and partners launch a mangrove afforestation project on 350 hectares of land.

Pre-2005 Only 15 to 20% of the mangroves from the Red Cross project survive.

2005  Typhoon Damrey strikes, causing widespread destruction to the commune, damaging the sea dike.

2007–2008 CARE leads establish a mangrove nursery, spanning approximately 150 hectares: survival rate ~ 70-80%.

2009 The Government signs a five-year agreement for Community-Based Forest Management.

2010 This model was replicated to other communes (Nga Thuy): total of approximately 500 hectares.
Factors contribute to the success of the project

- Local people awareness
- Participation of local people in the project: community organisations and individuals of all ages
- Make use local knowledge: selecting seedlings, planting, caring and managing
- Social activities: camping, integration mangrove protection issues in social contests/ festivals
- Involvement of government in allocating rights for the community
- Benefits of the mangroves to the community
Success Factors

Local Consensus
- Common Goal

Community support
- Support of local authorities

Showing not telling
- Combing external facilitation and local expertise

Active facilitation
- Transparency

The Integrated Approach

- Restore and establish new institutions for community-based management of mangrove forests
- Build capacities for disaster risk reduction
- Enhance understanding and local support
- Promote resilient livelihood strategies

- A greater labor force
- A greater knowledge base
- Greater protection force
- Lower costs
Participation and local knowledge

Campain

Selection of local seeds/ seedlings
Local knowledge in planting mangroves and removing barnacles
Participation of youth union in caring mangroves: removing barnacles and wastes
Organising contests at schools for children to learn about roles of mangroves and how to protect mangroves.
Management mechanism:
- Rights to manage (5 years duration)
- Forming management regulations, MB
- Village representative do patrolling: all villagers involving in management & protection
- Every 3 months allow people to collect aquatic resources: fishes, crabs, mollusks, shrimp,…
- Contribute 5% of harvest for MB

Community benefits:
- Collecting aquatic resources
- Duck keeping
- Be protected from disasters
- Reduced waste dispose into the community
- Better environment
Challenges

Short term rights over the forest management board
Long term management, protection strategy of the forest
Related policies on coastal land use
Development of aquaculture activities in the area
Key lessons learnt

• This project illustrates the potential for adaptation activities and mitigation goals to be mutual reinforced (mangroves capture 4 times more carbon than tropical rainforests – Donato et al, 2011)

• Long term official recognition of community management rights over the mangroves need to be in place

• Equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms are ensured and participatory decision-making processes are incorporated for the well-being of vulnerable community members

• Trade-offs have emerged that may threaten the project ➔ need careful analysis on costs and benefits of both adaptation and mitigation action

• Locally adapted knowledge and awareness can be highly beneficial to projects
Building Coastal Resilience in Vietnam
An integrated, community-based approach to mangrove management, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation.

Experiences from CARE in Da Loc and Nga Thuy Communes, Thanh Hoa Province, 2006-2014
Recommendations

- **National level**
  - Policies should enable an integrated approach to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
  - New policies on Coastal Forestry, currently under development, must support long-term community-based management of mangroves
  - National programs and policy on climate change should support the role of communities, particularly in managing coastal resources as an adaption strategy
  - Coordination among government agencies horizontally and vertically should be ensured
  - Carbon rights and benefits need to be addressed to ensure the community support
  - Policy makers should identify models of successful mitigation – adaptation initiatives and scale up where appropriate
Recommendations (cont.)

• **Local level**
  - Local governments operating in coastal communities can work with external experts and learn innovative management approaches from other provinces.
  - At provincial and district levels, officials can promote sustainability of community-based management systems by decentralizing decision-making authority and resources.
  - At the commune levels, officials and communities can apply the CMMB, CVCA, and PLUP models to facilitate effective management and benefit sharing.
  - By working together, DARD and DoNRE can be more effective in promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
Recommendations (cont.)

• **NGOs and Mass-organizations**
  - Provide technical and facilitation support for communities
  - Incorporate local knowledge to increase the effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation practices
  - Support and educate constituents on integrated approaches to adaptation: poverty alleviation, livelihood development are critical to secure the community support
  - Ensure accountability and community participation in management institutions
  - Local communities need financial and non-financial incentives for forest protection (i.e.: forest inventory)
Thank you very much for your attention!