



Vietnam Business for Environment – VB4E

Project title: Forest restoration to improve water resource conservation and community livelihoods in the Mekong Delta

Project duration: 5 years

Geographic area of the proposed project: Provinces upstream Mekong Delta

Project idea:

The Mekong Delta has faced increasing salinity over recent years. Thousands of hectares of agricultural land and households have suffered from a lack of fresh water due to salinity intrusion. Local livelihoods have been seriously impacted.

The government has spent a lot of money supporting Mekong Delta provinces to cope with salinity impacts as a short-term solution. A longer-term strategic approach is to be undertaken to reduce salinity downstream by planting forest in the freshwater upstream. This will have the following benefits:

- Wetland upstream forest will absorb and keep water in the flood season
- Dilute salinity in drought season downstream
- Promote biodiversity such as aquatic species and water birds
- Maintain soil quality and absorb carbon dioxide

Apart from forest replantation, it is also necessary to promote forest-based local livelihoods to improve income from timber and non-timber products as economic incentives for local community in forest protection and conservation. The project aims at restoring at least 50 hectares of wetland forest in upstream wetlands to bring co-benefits to local communities both upstream (income from forest products) and downstream (salinity reduction) Mekong Delta.

Relevance to VB4E thematic areas

The project would contribute to four focus themes of forest landscape restoration, water and wetland conservation, biodiversity conservation and climate change.

Management structure:

The project activities will be monitored and supervised by the VB4E's National Coordinating Body (NCB), who are experts on forestry, biodiversity, water resources and will provide technical advice and support during the project implementation. IUCN will play the role as secretariat to the NCB to organize monitoring, evaluation and learning (MLE) trips for NCB.

The Provincial People's Committee and relevant functional departments will be engaged as key partners for the project implementation.

Total Budget: \$100,000/year * 5 years on rolling basis

Co-financing: IUCN would mobilize funding from other sources to co-finance the project

Please contact coordinator at VB4EAlliance@gmail.com for further information if you are interested in the project idea.