

Project title: Promoting experiential learning activities in the natural environment at junior schools in Da Nang city

Project duration: 21/02/2022 – 21/12/2022

Geographic area of the proposed project: Da Nang city, Vietnam

Project idea:

1. Background

Experiential learning is organized and guided by teachers, among them, each student will attend directly to practical activities as a subject. If this method works effectively, students will develop practical capacity and apply the knowledge in their lives. Besides, these support the development of the community with a sense of responsibility and awareness to protect the habitat and natural resources. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and Training will add experiential learning to the new general education program.

Da Nang city with its abundant natural resources is suitable for organizing nature experiences and education. Thus, Greenviet organized experiential learning activities at Son Tra Peninsula for nearly 2.000 students at primary and secondary levels. In 2020, the document “Development of a guidebook for organizing nature experience education for junior high school students, Da Nang city” was accepted and highly appreciated by the Scientific Council of Da Nang University - University of Science and Education, in the framework of cooperation with the Greenviet organization. However, both students and teachers at secondary school have not been trained and familiarized with this teaching method.

DIM Club collaborates with the Building Up Sustainability Centre (BUS) to propose the project: “*Promoting experiential learning activities in the natural environment at junior schools in Da Nang city*” according to the compiled document. In the framework of the project, the experiential learning activity in the natural environment will be focused on organizing for students and teachers at 5 junior schools at Son Tra Peninsula. Doing approaches to developing content, monitoring, and assessing activities are performed in accordance with the model of behavior change with education. In this case, the process change is from knowledge, awareness, and attitude to the behavior of the student. Therefore, both students and teachers get acquainted with how to organize nature experiences and education activities that support raising awareness of nature and gradually develop a sense of nature conservation.

2. Objectives and expected results

2.1. Main purpose

- Experiential learning activities on nature are promoted at junior schools in Da Nang city, aiming to raise awareness of both teachers and students in protecting the environment and spreading it to the surrounding community.

2.2. Specific objectives

- **Objective 1:** A pilot of the experiential learning activities is implemented for 5 secondary schools in Da Nang city

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- **Result 1:** Organized the experiential learning activity at Son Tra Peninsula with over 100 participants, including students and teachers from 5 junior schools in Da Nang city
- **Objective 2:** Proposing solutions to replicate this model in junior schools
- **Result 2:** The product of the project would be the secondary document for teachers on organizing experiential learning activities in the local area. On the basis of that, strengthening the development of students and simultaneously develops the quality of teaching methods in the pedagogical school and secondary education.

3. Project Beneficiary

- **Direct beneficiaries:** 105 students and teachers from 5 junior schools in Da Nang city participate directly in experiential learning activities.
- **Indirect beneficiaries:** The result of the project will be transferred directly to the teacher at the secondary level in Da Nang, which will serve as a teaching module related to experiential learning. In addition, the result of the project will be transferred to the Department of Education & Training and Greenviet organization for practical implementation

4. Project implementation plan

Month	Description of activities	Implementing organization
1	The survey on the current status of implementing the experiential learning program at junior schools in Da Nang city is conducted, and simultaneously determine the pilot school to perform the project.	DIM Club Bus Centre
2	Collaborating with the experts to implement the activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building survey questionnaires; - Designing teaching materials; 	DIM Club Bus Centre
3	Organizing the training on how to approach, coordinate and connect students in experiential activities	DIM Club Bus Centre
4	Organizing the pilot activity of nature experience and education at 5 selected junior schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborating with Greenviet organization on implementing experiential learning at Son Tra Peninsula - Performing the reportage video on the student's experiential learning process - Making a report after the lesson aims to assess the students' cognitive and behavioral transformation 	DIM Club Bus Centre Mrs. Trang Mrs. Gai
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication in the form of video, spirit stories through the writing of science diaries activity of students and teachers - Communication of the stories in different formats on social media channels, such as the websites and fan pages of junior schools and partners of the BUS centre and DIM club 	DIM Club Bus Centre

6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the report on the evaluation of the project results - Adjusting the lesson plan and proposing the solutions aimed at strengthening the activity of nature experience and education at the secondary level in Da Nang city - Printing and publishing documents to be provided to secondary teachers in Da Nang (through cooperation with the Department of Education & Training). 	DIM Club Bus Centre
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5. Project Sustainability

This project completely deals with the research problem for the following reasons:

- *The clear and relevant objectives:* the objectives are set reasonably in line with the objectives of the project package. Besides, the project contributes to promoting innovation in teaching methods, in line with the new general education system in Vietnam. The project simultaneously strengthens the impact of schools on social change, aiming to achieve the goals of improving and protecting the environment.

- *The new and relevant approach method:* the approach change is from knowledge, awareness, and attitude to the behavior of junior students. The practical content requires students to combine their key knowledge with soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, etc. aiming to analyze and solve the challenge. This activity helps students transfer to the cognitive stage, develop an attitude and adjust their behavior quickly and sustainably.

- *Possible implemented plan:* the project has consulted the planning and management experience from other projects on implementing experiential learning programs in nature to develop a feasible organizational plan and be appropriate to the timeframe and the actual situation. According to the BUS Centre's support for the financial sector, the financial plan will be allocated reasonably and strictly comply with not only the current financial regulations of the Project Package, but also the law and legal of Vietnam

- *The project is supported by good professional advice:* the project received professional support from Dr. Kieu Thi Kinh, whose outstanding research ability has been proven through recent international publications, and who has consulted many experiential learning programs for localities.

- During the implementation project, some potential risks are identified and solutions are proposed to manage and mitigate risks as follows:

Risks	Solutions
Pandemic and lockdown society	The members strictly comply with the government's regulations on disease prevention
	Conducting a survey on the current status of implementing experiential learning programs in the form of an online survey.
	The project team will discuss with the Greenviet organization about an experiential learning program and conduct a survey as soon as possible.

	Connecting with lecturers and staff in secondary schools to jointly deploy theoretical content through applications, such as Zoom software or Google Meet
	In the case it is being impossible to organize the practical activity, simulated videos are made to guide the teaching method and how to organize the experiential learning program
Personnel change	Members of Club are committed to participating during the project implementation. In addition, the leader of the club has also considered several other reserve members to prevent a lack of personnel
Experiential learning in safety	Students/teachers are trained in safety learning in the forest
	The logistic team is trained in first aid skills and prepares full - first aid equipment for the operation
Information security	A checklist is always prepared, which includes checking recording data and taking notes during project implementation.
	All interviewees will be required to sign an agreement agreeing to participate in the interview and focus group discussion
	The collected information will be copied and analyzed as soon as possible

6. Relevance to VB4E thematic areas

- Members of the DIM Club are students majoring in Management of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Science & Education - Danang University. The Club operates with professional advice and support from lecturers in the university. Therefore, students' knowledge of the environment will be developed through participating in the project. This creates a foundation for connecting communities to conserve biodiversity and the environment.


- According to the objectives, experiential learning helps raise awareness for both students and teachers. In particular, the approach change is from knowledge, awareness, and attitude to the behavior of the student, aiming to achieve a sustainable level of awareness of students. Besides, the material is considered a reference for teachers to teach and raise the students' responsibility for environmental protection. Therefore, this project guarantees to achieve the result numbered 1,2,3,4 as the project calls for a proposal

- In addition to the objectives of enhancing the teaching quality, developing the qualities of students is focused on organizing the pilot activities. The issue of gender equality in experiential learning is examined to design appropriate lesson plans between theoretical and practical content. Besides, the activity of proposing youth initiatives in nature protection is integrated, aiming to improve the quality of learning and developing soft skills for students.

- The project promotes partnerships between CSOs, particularly the Environmental Club, and NGOs during project implementation. This activity facilitates the exchange and sharing of experiences and expertise between organizations to develop the region's network.


7. Management structure

7.1. Main applicant

Name of organization	DIM – Environmental Club
Address, telephone number, email, website, contact person:	<p>Chairman: Truong Cong Thanh</p> <p>Contact information: 0368511346</p> <p>Email: thanhconqq110101@gmail.com</p> <p>Unit: K19, Management of Natural Resources and Environment Major – Faculty of Biological & Environmental Science, The University of Science & Education, Da Nang University</p>
Legal form of incorporation (registration information):	None
Further information:	<p>Dr. Kieu Thi Kinh - Methodological advisor</p> <p>Unit: Faculty of Early Childhood Education, Da Nang University of Science & Education, Da Nang University.</p> <p>Phone: (+84).935010355</p> <p>Email: ktkinh@ued.udn.vn</p> <p>Link CV: </p>

7.2. Partner organization (if any)

Name of Organisation	Building up Sustainability Centre - BUS Centre
Address, telephone number, email, website, contact person:	<p>Dr. Thi Kinh Kieu, Founder, BUS.</p> <p>Email: kieukinh@gmail.com</p> <p>Address: No. 22 Phuoc Ly 4 Street, Hoa Minh Ward, Lien Chieu District, Da Nang City</p>

<p>Legal form of incorporation (registration information):</p>	
<p>Implemented projects:</p>	<p>The list of assignments for which BUS carried out consulting services and coordinating activities similar to the ones requested, is as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a local coordinator and technical advisor for the project “Building plastic city action plan for Danang city Under Closing the Loop, a project implemented by ESCAP in partnership with the Government of Japan” carried out by DONRE, IGES, IUCN and UNESCAP. (February – on-going) 2. Consulting unit (whole package including: conducting a survey, data analysis and writing report) for Hoi An DONRE and IUCN to carry out the project “Investigation of waste auditing and recycling system in Hoi An city under contract IUCNVN 1610/2020 in project P03681.00/DR03681.01” (October - December 2020) 3. Consulting unit (whole package including: conducting a survey, data analysis and writing report) for WWF to carry out the project “<i>Building plastic city action plan for Thanh Khe District, Danang city under Plastic Smart Cities project</i>” (June – October 2020) 4. Consulting unit (whole package including: conducting survey, data analysis and writing report) for Da Nang DONRE to carry out the project “<i>Evaluation of the current situation of generation of industrial solid waste and industrial hazardous waste in industrial parks and industrial clusters in Da Nang city in 2019</i>” (March - November 2019) 5. Consulting unit (whole package including: conducting survey, data analysis and writing report) for CECR organization to carry out the project “<i>Monitoring coastal waste in Tho Quang, City. Da Nang</i>” (December 2019 – February 2020)

	<p>6. Consulting unit (whole package including: conducting survey, data analysis and writing report) for the Institute of Research Development organization to carry out the project: “<i>Investigation of informal collectors and their contribution in recycling of Danang city under Recycurbs Viet.</i>” (February – April 2020)</p> <p>7. Consulting unit (whole package including: conducting survey, data analysis and writing report) for GreenViet organization to carry out the project “Development of an investigation of the needs, advantages and barriers of CSOs on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development” (March – May 2021)</p> <p>8. Consulting unit (whole package including: conducting surveys, designing media publications) for Department of Natural Resources and Environment under Communication on domestic waste classification in Da Nang city.</p>
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8. Total budget and Co - finance

- **Total Grant Request: 132,000,000 VND**

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