

Project title: Strengthen partnership in promoting the development of ecological public space models in Hue City (including extended areas) in order to raise awareness and community engagement for biodiversity conservation and environmental protection

Project duration: February 2022 - November 2022

Project location: Hue City (including the extended areas)

Project idea:

1. Background

The development of a city directly impacts the urban biodiversity and how it is distributed among the different groups of the population. The pressure of population growth, rapid urbanization, changes in land use methods, environmental pollution and the effects of climate change which have significantly reduced the habitat area, increased the fragmentation of ecosystems. In Vietnam, the field of urban biodiversity is still quite new and there is not much practice at the community level, especially in the central region. More importantly, stakeholders (biodiversity researchers, urban planners, CBOs..) have not had the opportunity to exchange and apply initiatives to build urban biodiversity models with community participation.

The urban population will increase, so the need to improve the urban environment and urban ecology to harmonize with human activities and culture is also becoming very urgent. Public space with its specific characteristics is very suitable as a place to create urban biodiversity conservation models, contributing to the improvement of space in a sustainable way as well as raising awareness of the urban residents on the role of the environment and biodiversity.

Currently, Hue City, especially in the suburbs is in the process of rapid urbanization leading to the degradation of the living environment (land concreting, agricultural land to non-agricultural, narrowing lagoons, ponds,..) and biodiversity (reduction of tree density, species...). The residents do not have a good awareness of environmental protection and biodiversity, partly due to one-way communication methods. The urban biodiversity public space model is an appropriate way to create important ecological buffers, balancing the development with biodiversity conservation in urban areas. The priority solution in this project is to focus on cooperation among stakeholders to effectively use local resources to jointly solve the problems of biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. Solutions will focus on protecting native species, increasing tree density, enhancing habitat space and living environment, limiting concreting and creating space for engaging green behavioral practices at community level.

2. Main objective and expected outcome:

2.1 Main objective

Contribute to promoting the diffusion of initiatives and actions to develop the field of biodiversity conservation in urban areas with the participation of the community and stakeholders.

2.2 Purposes

- Enhance biodiversity conservation and development, improve living environment in project areas
- Promote community participation to improve urban living space towards biodiversity conservation, inclusive and sustainable
- Raise community awareness about biodiversity conservation and environmental protection
- Enhance the capacity of the residential community to develop and manage public spaces
- Building cooperation relationships between units in the field of urban ecological space development

2.3 Expected outcome:

- Preserve and develop the peri-urban ecological system (indigenous plants and organisms), improve environmental quality including air, soil and water quality
- Prioritize the use of friendly, recycled, local materials in the construction of public space works to reduce emissions (accounting for at least 50% of the volume of materials in public spaces)
- At least 3 public space models are built in different locations in the expanded area of Hue city (rural areas are highly urbanized) ensuring the principles: ecology, inclusion and sustainability
- At least 1000 people directly benefit from public spaces
- At least 60 people (especially women) have improved capacity in the management of public spaces
- At least 50 people (from organizations, communities...) to learn and learn from the model
- At least 200 people participate in awareness raising activities on environmental and ecological protection.
- At least 200 people can share practical manuals for building ecological public spaces
- At least 10 media agencies (press, television...) have reported on public space models and project activities
- A network of ecological experts, urban experts, community organizations... was established and committed to cooperate in developing sustainable urban ecosystems.

2.4 Target groups and final beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender):

- At least 1000 people benefit from public spaces of which at least 60% are women and children

- At least 60 core people (of which 50% are women) improve their capacity to create and manage public spaces towards ecology, inclusion and sustainability
- At least 200 urban dwellers (50% women and children) participate in events

3. Action plan for project implementation

Month	Project description	Implementing parties
2	<p>Survey potential sites, assess the current urban ecology, biodiversity and community needs</p> <p>The project partners will survey and evaluate the current status through methods (field measurements, questionnaires, in-depth interviews, visits to local activities/traditions, etc.) selection for pilot models in areas of Hue city. The parties will also have research activities, exchange with experts and organizations in the field of biodiversity conservation and urban planning to fully gather important input information for the design. public space.</p>	<p>CCRD Think Playgrounds Local authority</p>
3	<p>Proposing and approving plans to renovate public spaces with the participation of communities and stakeholders (agency agencies, groups of experts on ecology, environment and architecture)</p> <p>Partners will hold meetings with communities and stakeholders to jointly design ecological public spaces. The spaces will be designed based on the current state of urban ecology, culture and communication, living in the area, making the most of local resources (human resources, local materials).</p> <p>Solutions will focus on the conservation and development of biodiversity such as conserving native plants and animals through the construction of natural community gardens, increasing the density of trees, and limiting the concrete foundation. cardboard to regulate water and air-condition, enhance community interaction activities in education and practice green living behaviors (composting organic matter,</p>	<p>CCRD Think Playgrounds Local authority Specialists</p>

	planting trees, sorting waste...)	
4-6	<p>Training with the community to build ecological public spaces at selected locations</p> <p>3 ecological public spaces will be built at different locations with the active participation of the community. Experts will guide and enhance the capacity of the community in the process of building public spaces such as models of community gardens, playgrounds, interactive educational spaces...</p>	<p>CCRD Think Playgrounds Local authority Specialists</p>
7	<p>Training on management and maintenance of public spaces with local communities</p> <p>Training courses on the topics of public space management, ecological diversity... will be organized by the units in the local community.</p>	<p>CCRD Think Playgrounds Local authority Specialists</p>
8	<p>Organize a workshop to share experiences in building ecological public space and learn in practice at construction sites</p> <p>An experience-sharing workshop and field trip will be organized with the participation of authorities, units and communities interested in the field of urban ecology in Vietnam.</p>	<p>CCRD Think Playgrounds Local authority Specialists</p>
9-10	<p>Organize educational community events on ecology/environmental protection topics</p> <p>The project will organize community events at public spaces built to spread the value of the project as well as educate the community on the topic of ecology/environmental protection.</p>	<p>CCRD Think Playgrounds Local authority Specialists</p>

4. The sustainability of the project

4.1 The sustainability of the project:

- Application of simple models, low investment and utilization of local resources: The project will work with the community to develop designs based on local resources to create close, friendly public spaces cost-effective, easy maintenance, thereby promoting the community to protect as well as expand these public spaces in the community.

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- Prioritize capacity building for local communities and community cohesion: By focusing resources on community capacity building activities in the process of building and maintaining public spaces, Mobilizing the community's resources... will contribute to enhancing the community's ownership and responsibility in protecting and operating public spaces in the most effective way.
- Network connection and strategic cooperation between units (enterprises, NGOs, CBOs, local authorities, people...) is an important basis to ensure the project's activities have depth and comprehensive impact, suitable to local circumstances as well as the advantage of model spillover in the future.

4.2 Risks and solutions

- There is no suitable public land to test the model: The partners will research and produce a list of potential land plots (10 -12 plots of land) and work closely with local authorities and community representatives to eliminate land problems (disputes, suspended projects....)
- People do not respond and participate in project activities: With long-term experience in working with the community, CCRD will select areas with effective community groups to test the first models. , thereby promoting other localities to learn and spread the model
- Covid 19 pandemic and negative impacts: The Covid 19 pandemic may affect project progress. CCRD will develop plans/scenarios suitable to the evolution of the epidemic (shifting from face-to-face working mode to working online with partners) as well as regularly discussing with the Fund to ensure its objectives. of the project was effectively implemented in the context of the pandemic.

5. Contribution to thematic areas of VB4E:

- **Objective 1:** promote the participation of local social organizations (CSOs) in Da Nang city, the central provinces and the Central Highlands in addressing issues of biodiversity conservation and the environment lasting;
Through activities with the participation of the community to renovate public spaces towards ecology, sustainability and inclusion, the project will promote cooperation between units (social organizations, community organizations). local communities, social enterprises, schools...) to improve the quality of life in a sustainable way, raise awareness and responsibility of all parties in joining hands in biodiversity conservation and conservation sustainable environmental protection.
- **Objective 2:** strengthen the capacity of local CSOs, especially CBOs and grassroots organizations working in the field of biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability.



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- The project's top priority is to strengthen the capacity of communities, community-based organizations and partners through a series of experiences exchange, capacity training, joint testing of model and model communication on a large scale.

6. Total budget:

\$25,000 in 1 year

Partners: Social Enterprise Think Playgrounds and Hue City Women's Union

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

About CCRD:

Mission: CCRD is a non-profit civil society organization, for the development of rural communities. The center's mission is to support sustainable community development. The Center's mission is to support capacity building for community organization, conduct research, transfer and technical consulting activities, and implement projects for community development, livelihood development, and management. natural resource management. In addition, the center is also tasked with finding and mobilizing various resources to support community development.

What we are doing:

- Project to support religious communities in mangrove restoration in Lang Co lagoon - sponsored by Niwano Foundation.
- Mangrove Rehabilitation Project in Lang Co Lagoon, Central Vietnam - funded by EFN/WWF.
- Project to enhance efficiency and adaptability of community-based fisheries protection zones in Tam Giang – Cau Hai lagoon area – WAITT FOUNDATION.
- Rural Development Project in A Luoi District - funded by SODI through the Hope Center (HOPE center).
- The project "Building a model for crab conservation and mangrove restoration in Lang Co coastal" funded by MFF/IUCN.
- Consulting to build livelihood development support groups in 6 communes in Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces sponsored by the Dutch Red Cross.
- Consulting to support resource management and improve livelihoods of fishermen in Thua Thien Hue Lagoon - Sponsored by the Project Support of Northern Europe to Vietnam (NAV).
- The Central Region Resource Management Project (Goi Hills and Lagoon) funded by the International Development Organization IDRC (Canada).