

## Working Together for the Environment

*Building capacities for sustainable collaboration in Xuan Thuy National Park, Vietnam.*

### Background

The approach and mechanisms of the Wetlands Alliance has contributed to significant improvements on local partners' ways of working and attitude in Nam Dinh province at all levels (provincial, district, commune and communities). In most activities initiated around Xuan Thuy National Park, local partners cooperated and generated support from all stakeholders especially from local people to solve problems and enhance analysis of issues involved and decision making.

One of the priority activities of Nam Dinh's local partners was to build capacity for local staff, equip them with techniques and skills to work with local people. Through hands-on training, staff learned Participatory Multi-Stakeholder Learning and Action (PM-SLA) tools such as village mapping, seasonal calendar, problem tree, among others, and used these tools to stimulate and facilitate community in dialogues to understand their local needs.

### Developing Trust and Cooperation

As a result, not only technical capacities but also working environment and attitude of the partners have improved. Provincial officers, XTNP staff, fishermen and international experts went to the communes and conducted field work around the 15,000-hectare area of XTNP to develop zoning management maps which were used as input to the XTNP strategic plan (2009 – 2013).

Through the efforts of the Wetlands Alliance and support of CORIN-Asia, cooperation and trust among local partners were reinforced. All partners working together for a common goal were recognized as key to success in the wetland management and development activities.

### Importance of Teamwork

Teamwork and building capacity to farmers are also important factors leading to the success of livelihood models towards poverty alleviation in communities. One example of this is collaboration of elderly farmers in the honey bee group to transfer bees to flowery areas and mangrove, learning the techniques in producing queen bees, exchanging experiences in regular meetings and sharing benefits from the common fund – the Local Initiative Fund (LIF). Thus, the group was able to double their honey yield and income in 2008 compared to 2007. This performance was way higher since they started doing bee keeping individually in 2004.

Another example of community cooperation could be seen among the mushroom group. Farmers in three communes (Giao Thien, Giao An and Giao Huong) started learning, working and developing the group. Cooperation was gradually developed from simple mutual help into a large group of 54 members by the end of 2008. They have set up their own regulations and also established the Local Initiative Fund.

As such, local partners and local

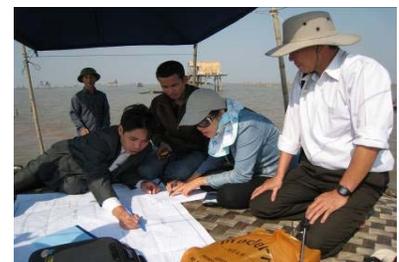
community groups in Nam Dinh, Vietnam strongly believe that activities facilitated by the Wetlands Alliance through CORIN-Asia have shed positive changes to their lives and strengthened their participation towards managing resources around Xuan Thuy National Park.



Local staff applied PM-SLA techniques to facilitate community dialogue in Giao Xuan commune.



Wealth ranking map for Giao Hai commune.



Provincial staffs conduct field work in the clam area.