

Report of the Field Testing of the “Principles for a code of conduct for the management and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems” in Vietnam



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Cover-page photos show mangrove rehabilitation in the Red River Delta, Vietnam

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Introduction

The draft Principles for a Code of Conduct for Sustainable Management and Use of Mangrove Ecosystems (“the Principles”) were field tested at local (=commune) level in northern Vietnam.

The objectives of this field testing, one of the specified activities of the Code of Conduct contract were:

- 1) To introduce the Principles to local stakeholders in a selected coastal area of Vietnam and to determine the clarity, information-value and relevance of the document to them after it had been adapted into Vietnamese (this included using photographs and boxed examples of mangrove management in Vietnam, rather than the global examples present in the original English version).
- 2) To assess the overall usefulness of the adapted principles as a guide for local-level mangrove managers and users to help them make better decisions about coastal resources management.
- 3) To collect feedback from the selected stakeholders (and potential local users of the adapted Principles) to guide further improvement or adaptations of the principles to make them more relevant and useful to mangrove users.

The northern coastal provinces of Thai Binh and Nam Dinh were selected for the field testing exercise. The four districts making up the coastal region of these two provinces lie centrally in the Red River Delta. The people living in these districts have traditionally exploited the coastal mangroves and mudflats for fishing, aquatic collecting salt-making and, more recently, for aquaculture (crabs, shrimps, fish, clams and seaweed). Over the past 15 years or so, these coastal districts have also recognised the importance of mangroves for coastal protection. They have received support from government and international NGO projects to help the commune authorities and local people to plant and protect mangroves.

2. Methodology

2.1 Selection of Communes

The concept of field testing was introduced at a national Workshop for Vietnam convened in Thai Binh City in May 2006. After expressing their support in principle, the workshop participants were asked to nominate four communes as field test sites (one commune from each of the four coastal districts in Nam Dinh and Thai Binh).

- Nam Thinh, Tien Hai District, Thai Binh Province.
- Thai Do, Thai Thuy District, Thai Binh Province.
- Giao An, Giao Thuy District, Nam Dinh Province.

- Nghia Loi, Nghia Hung District, Nam Dinh Province.

2.2 Coordination

The field testing was co-ordinated by two staff members from the Mangrove Ecosystem Research Division (MERD) who served as local consultants. They were supported and advised by a locally-based international consultant, Angus McEwin. MERD is a division of the Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. Additional advice concerning the field testing was provided by Prof Pham Nguyen Hong, Director of MERD. Representatives of the district-level Red Cross in Nam Dinh and Thai Binh were contracted to facilitate the process by which commune stakeholders in the four selected communes were asked to field test the Principles.

2.3 Planned Process

Field testing followed the same process in each commune. Broadly, the process was designed with three main stages:

1. Convene a small meeting of relevant stakeholders in the commune.

This meeting was intended to introduce the Principles and request the group present to help test their usefulness.

- Facilitated by representatives of the Vietnam Red Cross of the relevant District¹
- Conducted in mid June 2006, with varying levels of thoroughness (and probably interpretation) in the four test communes.
- Minutes of the meetings were recorded and later translated into English by MERD.

2. Field-test the Principles in each commune for the next 2-3 weeks.

During this time, mangrove users and managers should have been asked to attempt to apply the Principles in relation to mangrove activities and local decision-making.

- A list of questions was provided to help guide the participants regarding the first meeting (part 1), how to field-test the Principles and how to prepare for the discussion in part 3

¹ It was considered appropriate and necessary to employ a district-level representative who was familiar with the commune, the stakeholders and the Principles to help organize the commune stakeholders and facilitate the process. Some of the District Red Cross facilitators had attended the Thai Binh Workshop in May 2006.

- A questionnaire about general mangrove management issues was also handed out, to be completed by the participants.

3. Visit each commune to receive and review feedback from the field testing.

The consultants returned to the test communes in late June 2006 to collect comments and other feedback from the field testing. Each commune was visited for one day. The commune visit included the following activities:

- A field trip to see the mangroves, especially any activities or decisions directly influenced by the new Principles, or highly relevant to their application.
- A small meeting with the relevant commune stakeholders where they were to present their ideas and feedback, particularly constructive criticism. This was to include mangrove users (e.g. aquaculture farmers and aquatic collectors), but was most relevant for those people actually making decisions about mangrove management in their commune. The list of questions provided in part 2 was used to help guide this discussion.
- Feedback from the local stakeholders was recorded (see below)

3. Results

3.1 Failures and Adjustments to the Process

At the first commune meeting, in Nghia Loi Commune, it became clear there had been a misunderstanding regarding the planned field testing process. Somehow, MERD had misunderstood the planned process such that:

- The commune stakeholders had indeed been introduced to the Principles by the District Red Cross representative at the initial commune meeting. They had also been given, and had completed, the questionnaire about general mangrove management issues in the commune.
- However, they had not been given a copy of the Principles, or the list of questions to help guide the subsequent “field testing” process as planned.

It can be concluded that the initial commune meeting in Nghia Loi was well conducted by the district Red Cross, but the adapted version of the Principles (in Vietnamese) was not handed out as intended. This was also the case at the other three commune meetings, where presentations about the Code of Conduct were made, but the Principles were not made available, even though the Red Cross representatives did have copies.

As such, almost none of stakeholders had had a chance to read the Principles, let alone to attempt to apply them and test their relevance and usefulness. It was therefore difficult, if not impossible, to get any meaningful feedback about a

document that they had only briefly been introduced to, but had not even seen (or read). Consequently, they could not attempt to answer the list of questions provided to help guide the field testing.

How such a misunderstanding could have occurred is puzzling, given the lead up to the field-testing and MERD's close involvement in all the preparatory work such as the workshop at Thai Binh and the development and translation of the list of questions. However, it is possible that MERD felt that the Principles and their field-testing were too high-level and technical for local-level stakeholders and that they would not be able to understand either the Principles, the field-testing process, or both. This in itself provides some useful feedback about the relevance and practicality of the Principles for use by local stakeholders in Vietnam.

Despite this setback, some useful feedback was still generated from the few local stakeholders who had read the Principles and from the impressions gained during the initial commune meeting. Also, stakeholders at the last two communes visited (Nam Thinh and Thai Do communes in Thai Binh) were hastily sent a copy of the Principles and the list of questions. They received them the day before the review meeting so that they had at least some chance to read them and respond accordingly.

The stakeholders in all four communes were eventually provided with copies of the Principles and the list of questions relating to them; they were then asked to take a few days to read the Principles and comment on their relevance and usefulness. They then responded to the written questions and sent their comments by mail to MERD, where they were translated and compiled together.

3.2 Main Findings and Recommendations

The following paragraphs summarise the main findings and recommendations from the field testing exercise in Nam Dinh and Thai Binh provinces. They are a synthesis of a large volume of information received from local stakeholders in the four selected communes (and representing the four coastal districts of these two provinces). Inevitably, some information has been lost in the translation from Vietnamese to English, and it has been difficult to summarise from the many, often divergent opinions of the individual respondents.

1. Much of the feedback received from the field testing related more to local mangrove management issues in the communes concerned, rather than specific comments about the Principles. One important lesson learned is that at every step in the field testing process we should involve a facilitator familiar with the Principles, or at least with a strong professional background in mangroves.
2. The Red Cross staff at district level who coordinated the activities in each commune should also have been briefed in advance of each commune meeting, as well being supported each time with a facilitator. It became apparent that the MERD staff were more familiar with general awareness raising on the importance of

mangroves and therefore they and the District Red Cross should have received some supervised practice in presenting the Principles before the commune field testing began. It was also mentioned at the review stage that, in some cases, the commune representatives were not strongly motivated to support the field testing because they were not offered any financial incentive.

3. In general, it was evident that the Principles are not accessible enough and are not particularly relevant or practical enough for use at the local level (=coastal commune level in Vietnam). They were considered by local stakeholders to be too long (the adapted version is 30 pages) and also rather too technical - using technical language and assuming an understanding of underlying concepts that local people are not familiar with. For example, the word 'ecosystem' was not understood by some stakeholders. The local stakeholders were clearly not sure how to respond to the Principles. The concept of a general set of principles to guide management was in itself a new and difficult-to-grasp idea.

4. The stakeholders often and repeatedly came back to specific and detailed issues that illustrated that they did not appreciate the purpose and concept of the Principles; instead that they were struggling to understand exactly what the Principles were and what they meant for them? For example, on page 10 there is a small boxed example of fines for transgressions in the mangroves. This was seized upon and debated at length with the general opinion that the fine levels were too low. It was not understood that this boxed example was only that – an example to illustrate a general point about the need to have penalties for violating laws protecting mangroves.

5. It was clear that at the local level, Vietnamese stakeholders are used to dealing with specific, practical ordinances (usually issued in Vietnam as a governmental "Decree", "Decision" or "Directive") that are clearly laid down with little room for error or interpretation regarding their implementation. Local stakeholders are not only accustomed to this form of official instruction, but also expect and want clear, specific and practical instructions, supported by clear designation of the responsibilities of the authority issuing them. Since the Principles are simply a set of guidelines, it was not surprising that mangrove users, local officials and the Red Cross found it difficult to decide on their status. Specifically, the fact that they were free (and expected) to use the Principles as a tool to support mangrove management, rather than being instructed what to do, was a significant departure from the normal top-down decision-making process for them.

6. It is very ambitious, and probably unrealistic, for the Principles to be general enough for worldwide to regional and national applications, but also be specific enough to be useful at the local level over a range of different sites and management scenarios. It would also be impossible for one document to achieve all this while remaining practical in size and format for all local user levels. In Vietnam this means from the provincial policy and planning level to local mangrove users in the coastal

communes. Furthermore, it is necessary to appreciate the limitations at the local level regarding capacities (to understand and utilise the Principles) and the actual practical needs of local mangrove users and managers.

7. One suggestion is to adapt the Principles into two separate documents, one for local users consisting essentially of very simple awareness-raising materials: and a second document that is intended for mangrove managers and those few people actually making decisions about land-use and forestry-fisheries issues. The latter would be similar to the adapted Mangrove Principles, but should be linked strongly to the existing regulations and laws on mangroves in Vietnam.

8. The Principles should be used as an aid to develop a local mangrove management plan and associated regulations at the district or commune level. Such a plan, with specific information and instructions, would be more useful for mangrove managers at the local level, whereas the Principles in their present form remain too conceptual and general.

9. Another useful application and demonstration of the Principles would be to use them to develop specific guidance for the interpretation and implementation of national laws and decrees/decisions at the provincial and lower levels in Vietnam. Many national regulations (on environmental protection and sustainable development) exist, but they require more explanation and, especially, guidance on their implementation in order to be adopted effectively at the local level.

10. The Principles should be used to help develop guidance materials (general guidelines, best practices, etc.) to support the development of specific instructions and actions at the provincial and local levels. This would require further, very specific adaptation, from the general Mangrove Principles in order to meet the needs of provincial, district and even commune level managers. This would be a longer term (one-two years) follow up project in selected provinces.

11. In addition to taking national laws and provincial decrees/decisions into account, this recommended follow up to the field testing should consider local land allocation and land use issues very carefully, since these are the local issues that seem to most affect mangrove management decision-making in the Red River Delta provinces. Related to this important point, the Principles (after further adaptation) could be particularly helpful as guidance for those responsible for local area management plans, and as a potential tool for conflict resolution between opponents advocating conservation versus conversion of Vietnam's mangrove forests.

3.3 Feedback from the Communes

The feedback from Nghia Loi Commune is presented below in summarised form, as an example of the type of information received from the four test communes. The information from this commune is probably the most representative in terms of the stakeholders who participated. Differences in the responses from the other

communes related mainly to local mangrove management issues, rather than to their views on the Principles *per se*.

The questionnaire used to guide the feedback from the test communes is shown in Annex 1. The reports from each commune are provided at Annex 2.

Nghia Loi Commune

Initial meeting

The initial meeting to introduce the adapted Principles was held in the Commune People's Committee (CPC) with 24 participants representing a broad cross-section of mangrove interests.

The feedback received on the Principles is summarised below:

- The 15 Ps have helped managers have a better understanding about mangrove management work; they are suitable to current local conditions.
- However, the Ps should be shortened so that they are easy to understand, to remember, and to be applied to each specific target object.
- The Ps should be divided into 4 groups applied according to the responsibility and duties of each specific targeted stakeholder, such as:
 - * Scientists,
 - * Managers,
 - * Communicators
 - * Local people
- It was recommended to group the Ps into:
 - Policy and mechanisms (P 1,2,3);
 - Awareness raising (Ps 15,5,6,7,8);
 - Implementation and coordination (Ps 4,9,10,11,12,14,13).
- It is necessary to further educate school and university students; it was suggested that the Ministry of Education and Training and MERD should coordinate to compile mangrove textbooks to serve as a formal material in training curriculum (at present, the mangrove material is in place but used only for extra-school activities).
- Several other comments and suggestions relating to mangrove management and not the Principles were also made, particularly by an aquaculture farmer

In response to the question "*If you were the manager at the higher levels (provincial or central), what would you wish to do to improve the Ps*", the participants suggested:

- Shorten 15 Ps into different groups for different target groups of scientists, local people (as above). For the local people, it is essential to clarify rights, obligations, and responsibilities of local people toward mangroves.
- And several comments about mangrove management but not specifically the Ps were made, such as:
 - There should be specific regulations/sanctions set for the mangrove localities (use, management, fining).
 - Should specify which organizations/agencies are entitled to deal with/punish violators.
 - Should *survey land fund and invest in mangrove planting and species diversification*

Review meeting

The second meeting (to review the Principles) was held on June 24 and there were 12 participants. It was noted that while the Nghia Hung District has 1,600 ha of mangroves, Nghia Loi Commune has only 20 ha of mangrove strictly protected in an enclosed area.

The meeting discussion roamed across many aspects of mangrove management. The discussion kept coming back to specific management of mangroves in the commune and specific suggestions about actions that should be taken locally. The facilitators reminded the participants that the Ps were not a legal document or a plan of action but were intended as general guidance material regarding management best-practice. The facilitators tried to focus the discussion on the Ps and specific feedback regarding their usefulness and practicality.

Feedback related to the Principles is summarised below:

- The 15 Principles should be shortened to be more understandable
- The 15 Principles are carefully, systematically and logically compiled
- The Principles should be consistent with the law of the State/government
- Issue more specific and sufficiently strong regulations on mangrove management and use
- Assign specific responsibilities for agencies involved in mangrove management and protection, provide legitimate policies, preferential/encouraging policies for those involved in mangrove protection
- Be shortened and then disseminated through local loud speaker, commune/district broadcast system, leaflets, meetings
- Different people had different ideas about how the Ps should be grouped

- P13 is very relevant and timely given that the ecotourism project of Nghia Hung District is being planned and should be applied
- Concurrent planting and destruction of mangroves in the District illustrates the need for more effective management

Observation of the mangroves

A short trip was taken to the dyke in the District. An area that did not have mangroves recently suffered damage to the dyke while areas with a buffer of mangroves on the seaward side did not suffer damages.

Response to the Principles Questionnaire

Five government officials from various stakeholder agencies and one shrimp farmer responded to the questionnaire. Responses that addressed the questions and related to the Ps are summarised below:

Q1.

- The 15 Ps help local people and local officials raise awareness of mangrove forests
- The Ps are very helpful. Previously, the locality also had regulations on management yet they were confined to protection and control of mangrove violators. Mangrove forest protection has not yet been linked with other sectors and issues as presented by the 15 Ps.

Q2.

- In general, the 15 Ps are suitable to the locality; yet, the two Ps 7 and 12 do not suit the actual conditions of the locality.

Q3. How to improve the Ps? How to change to make the Ps more suitable to local conditions? Any added information?

- The 15 Ps do not focused on different target people
- The Ps on dealing with violation cases should conform to the existing laws; regulations specific for each violation action should be set up.

Q4.

- The 15 Ps are very useful for making decisions on mangrove management and use and help provide a scientific basis for local authorities in making decisions related to protection of mangrove ecosystems.
- They are useful because:

- The Ps show the importance of mangroves
- The Ps help managers approach multi-dimensional and multidisciplinary management
- The Ps help readers understand the significance of long-term planned management and use and strengthened mangrove protection work

Q5.

- The Ps are helpful for other mangrove users in the commune such as aquaculture farmers and aquatic collectors because they raise awareness about sustainable use of mangroves and help local residents be aware of the value of protection work and their responsibility for sustainable conservation of mangrove ecosystems. This helps them be more active in protesting against forest violation actions; the locals should be educated about these Ps.
- The Ps help the community be aware of their responsibilities, obligations and rights.

Q6.

- The Ps will be useful on a daily basis (except Ps 12 and 7) if the Ps are well dissemination
- The Ps can be used as a reference during the proposal of the commune land use planning (e.g. conversion of land use purposes from mangrove land into shrimp farming land, arrangement/organization of marine resource exploitation in mangrove forests).

Q7.

- The Ps have many things in common with the local regulations on mangrove protection, mangrove destruction violation and mangrove resource exploitation.

Q8.

- The Ps that can help mangrove managers in mangrove management planning: Ps 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10,11,15.
- The Ps that are consistent with the present plans on coastal/mangrove resources and mangroves in the commune: Ps 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10,11,15.
- All the Ps can help change the ways mangroves are used and managed in the locality (except Ps 1,12,13,14), e.g.: change the planning of resource exploitation, help clearly determine responsibilities, obligations and rights.
- The Ps should be widely disseminated among the local community particularly in schools.

Q9.

- The Ps are of practical and useful value, ranking is below: (3 groups of opinions) (1 being the highest rank):
 - 6,8,10,13,15
 - 1,3,5,6,8,
 - 8,4,5,6,10

Q10.

- The most applicable Ps in the future (1 being the highest rank):
 - 1,2,3,4,5,
 - 1,2,3,4,6,
 - 5,4,10,11,13

Q11. *The Ps are most useful for whom?*

- Local officials, forestry staff and resource users in mangrove forests.
- Local officials and coastal local people: *use the Ps the most frequently (but the Ps should be grouped for these two types of target people).*

Q12.

- All the questionnaire respondents have read the Principles.

Q13.

- Most of the Principles are understandable.

3.4 Conclusions

1. Vietnam has a highly structured and tightly controlled government system. The Vietnam Red Cross, while acting as an NGO, is also structured like the governmental system and is closely linked to it. The governmental system had to be engaged in Thai Binh to sanction the field testing activities and to give legitimacy to the planned process. At the same time, the mangrove group (MERD) from Hanoi National University was hired as local consultants to help guide the field-testing process. Such a combination of coastal community members, local government officials, an NGO (the Red Cross) and a university group of mangrove experts, seemed appropriate for the field-testing, but turned out to still have limitations.

2. Lack of time and some misunderstandings about the purpose of the mangrove Principles meant that the field consultation process was only partly successful.

3. Government officials, especially those at higher level (provincial and district) tended to dominate the discussions over commune level and NGO representatives; or, alternatively, that the former expressed rather different priorities compared to commune stakeholders and NGOs when considering mangrove management issues.

Thus, meetings with mixed stakeholders were difficult to manage in terms of keeping the discussions on track regarding the mangrove principles, or in reaching a consensus view.

4. Local stakeholders (at commune level) expressed their concern mainly about local mangrove resource use issues - usually related to local area management policies - or the lack of clear policies to resolve user conflicts. They could find sufficiently relevant or detailed guidance on local management issues even in the Vietnam adapted version of the Principles.

5. Difficulties were encountered when trying to conduct field consultations in the Red River Delta using both English and Vietnamese. Thus, it is much better to conduct all discussions and other feedback in Vietnamese and to use an experienced facilitator throughout the field testing process –someone who is capable of providing an accurate translation into English of the key opinions and recommendations expressed by local stakeholders.

6. Overall, the Principles are not accessible enough and are not particularly relevant or practical enough for use at the local level (=coastal commune level in Vietnam). Even the Vietnamese adapted version (30 pages) was considered by local stakeholders to be too long, and also rather too technical - using technical language and assuming an understanding of underlying concepts that local people are not familiar with.

7. With hindsight, to repeat this type of commune-level testing of the Principles would require a minimum of 3-6 months time, plus the services of an experienced facilitator stationed in the field-test location (or certainly spending significant amounts of his/her time there).

ANNEX 1: Questionnaires used to Support the Field Testing

Questionnaire 1 for guiding the commune meetings (*the 'Principles' refer to the Principles for a Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Management of Mangrove Ecosystems – adapted version for Vietnam (in Vietnamese)*)

1. Do the Principles help the commune stakeholders to be more aware of mangrove management issues?
2. Please raise criticisms and questions. For example, are any principles or sections of the code not suitable for your local conditions?
3. How can the Principles be improved and made more useful for commune leaders, managers and mangrove users?
 - What additional information is needed, and what changes should be made to make the Principles more suitable?
4. Are the Principles useful for guiding decisions about mangrove management or use?
 - Are they helpful for land use planning (e.g. decisions to have a mangrove protection zone, or to resolve disputes?
 - If yes, explain why they are useful?
5. Do they help other mangrove users in the commune such as aquaculture farmers and aquatic collectors to understand better about sustainable use of mangrove resources, or similar issues?
 - If so, how do the Principles help?
6. Are they useful on a day-to-day basis, or just for general reference?
 - For what activities or decisions have you consulted the Principles? What sections were useful? How were they useful?
 - For what activities or management decisions might you consult and use the Principles during the year, i.e. in future?
7. Do the Principles have something in common with the present relevant decisions/ regulations/ rules in your commune? If so, please give some points about this.
8. Can they be used to help mangrove managers plan mangrove management in the commune?
 - Are the Principles consistent with the existing mangrove and coastal resource plans in the commune?
 - Are the Principles useful for drafting a Commune Mangrove Management Plan, or for reviewing and improving an existing Plan?
 - Will the Principles change the way you use and manage mangroves in your commune? If so, how?
9. Are the Principles practical and useful? (rank from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest).
10. What is the likelihood that they will actually be used regularly and applied? (rank from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest).
11. Who are the Principles most useful for and who is most likely to use them?

Questionnaire 2 - distributed at the commune meetings

1. What are the main uses of mangroves in your commune?
2. What are the main issues related to mangroves in your commune?
3. What difficulties do you face in mangrove management?
4. Where do you get information to help you with mangrove management?
5. On what regulations and laws do you base your mangrove management?
6. What additional information would help you with your mangrove management duties?
7. What are your wishes to help you manage mangroves?
8. If you were the manager at the higher levels (provincial or central), what would you wish to do to
 - Improve the Principles?
 - Improve the mangrove management issues in your commune?

ANNEX 2: Reports from the Mangrove Principles field testing, by commune

Nghia Loi Commune, Nghia Hung District

I. Meeting 1

1. **Date:** 22 June 2006

2. **Venue:** Nghia Loi Commune People's Committee (PC)

3. List of participants:

No.	Name	Institution
1.	Nguyen Cong Thuc	Head, Border gate military office
2.	Trinh Viet Phich	Head, forest ranger office
3.	Doan Manh Hung	Nghia Hung District Forest Ranger office
4.	Vu Thi Quynh	Nghia Hung District Broadcast Station
5.	Doi Van Tien	Nghia Hung District Dyke sector
6.	Hoang Van Huan	Secretary, Nghia Loi Commune Communist Party
7.	Le Quang Ba	Chairman, Nghia Loi Commune PC
8.	Lai Duy Hien	Head, Nghia Loi Commune Police office
9.	Pham Tien Dung	Land staff of Nghia Loi Commune
10.	Pham Danh Su	Nghia Loi Commune PC
11.	Nguyen Van Lan	Chairman, Nghia loi Commune Red Cross
12.	Nguyen Van Khanh	Vice chairman, Fatherland Front Committee
13.	Do Hong Duy	Principal, Nghia Loi Primary school
14.	Tran Thi Mo	Planting household
15.	Tran Xuan Tuy	Shrimp farming household
16.	Vu Cong Chuc	Clam farming household
17.	Hoang Van Chuyen	Aquatic collector
18.	Hoang Van Xuan	Mangrove forest guard
19.	Lai Van Ly	Shrimp farmer
20.	Ngo Hung Vy	Chairman, Nghia Hung District RC (facilitator)
21.	Doi Van Quang	Vice chairman, Nghia Hung District RC
22.	Nguyen Van Dong	Vice chairman, Nghia Loi Commune PC
23.	Bui The Hung	Mangrove planting household
24.	Pham Thi Huyen	Nghia Hung District RC

4. Summary of the meeting discussion (specific feedbacks on Ps, brief summary of other things)

13/24 participants focus on the following ideas:

- Specific feedbacks on Ps:

1. All participants unanimously agree that:

+ 15 Ps have helped managers have a better understanding about mangrove management work; they are suitable with present local conditions.

+ However, Ps should be shortened so that they are easy to understand, to remember, and to be applied to each specific target object. The Ps should be divided into 4 groups applied according to the responsibility and duties of each specific targeted object such as:

- * Scientists,
- * Managers,
- * Communicators
- * Local people

2. The above Ps are recommended to be grouped into: Policy and mechanisms (P 1,2,3); awareness raising (Ps 15,5,6,7,8); implementation and coordination (Ps 4,9,10,11,12,14,13).

3. Representative from aquaculture households suggests:

- enhanced awareness raising for beneficiaries
- imposing strict punishment on mangrove plantation destructors
- provisioning a reward system applied to any individuals/collectives with good deeds in mangrove conservation
- allocating forests to local households for planting, caring, management and protection
- setting up a permanent monitoring/guarding station.

4. Ps 3,4: The state/government should finalize policies/legal institutions on management and use of mangrove ecosystem resources. The government should instruct concerned ministries and branches to unanimously lead and direct the implementation of planning and investing in mangrove planting, caring, exploitation and protection.

(there should be multidisciplinary decree by Ministry of Fisheries, MPI, MONRE, MARD, Ministry of Transportation, Tourism Department and local governments at all levels; particularly the local authorities of the mangrove vegetated commune should issue specific regulations in line with the Viet Nam's law to strictly deal with forest destructors.

5. It is necessary to further education for school and university students; suggest coordination between Ministry of Education and Training and MERC in compiling mangrove textbooks to serve as a formal material in training curriculum (at present, the mangrove material is in place but used only for extra-school activities).

Question 8 (distributed to participants): (in Q2)

If you were the manager at the higher levels (provincial or central), what would you wish to do to improve the Ps:

- Shorten 15 Ps into different groups for different target groups of scientists, local people ...; for the local people, it is essential to clarify rights, obligations, responsibilities of local people toward mangroves
- There should be specific regulations/sanctions set for the mangrove localities (use, management, fining).
- should specify which organizations/agencies are entitled to deal with/punish violators.
- should survey land fund and invest in mangrove planting and species diversification

II. Meeting 2:

1. Date: 24-06-2006

2. Venue: Nghia Loi Commune People's Committee (PC)

3. List of participants:

No.	Name	Institution
1.	Nguyen Cong Thuc	Head, Border gate military office No100
2.	Nguyen Van Phich	Head, forest ranger office
3.	Hoang Van Huan	Secretary, Nghia Loi Commune Communist Party
4.	Le Quang Ba	Chairman, Nghia Loi Commune PC
5.	Pham Danh Su	Nghia Loi Commune PC
6.	Nguyen Van Lan	Chairman, Nghia loi Commune Red Cross
7.	Nguyen Van Khanh	Vice chairman, Fatherland Front Committee
8.	Hoang Van Chuyen	Aquatic collector, RC forest guard
9.	Lai Van Ly	Shrimp farmer
10.	Ngo Hung Vy	Chairman, Nghia Hung District RC
11.	Nguyen Van Dong	Vice chairman, Nghia Loi Commune PC
12.	Pham Viet Tien	Deputy Secretary, Commune Communist Party

4. Summary of the meeting discussion (specific feedbacks on Ps, brief summary of other things)

Mr. Ngo Hung Vy:

+ 15 Ps should be shortened to be more understandable

Mr. Lai Van Ly (pond owner) (who lived in Can Gio for 10 years):

+ There should be sufficient regulations on mangrove protection and management),

+ At present, I have 3 ha of farming pond in the mangrove area of Nghia Loi Commune with 200 ha of *R.stylosa* planted on pond embankment which obviously show their protection role during the storm No 7 last year. The pond area without planted mangroves were broken. Thus, Ps for mangrove management and protection are very important and should be practically applied shortly. It is not advisable to take too long to put the Code into practice which may cause the Code less updated.

+ For better protection of mangroves, there should be:

- more specific policies on mangroves
- budget and facilities for forest guards,
- a person assigned being responsible for management and protection

Mr. Thuc (head, border gate military)

- assigned by the State and Party to manage and protect the national territory and thus related to mangrove protection
- The 15 Ps are carefully, systematically and logically compiled, should:
 - be consistent with the law of the State/government
 - issue more specific and sufficiently strong regulations on mangrove management and use
 - assign specific responsibilities for agencies involved in mangrove management and protection, provide legitimate policies, preferential/encouraging policies for those involved in mangrove protection
 - be shortened and then disseminated through local loud speaker, commune/district broadcast system, leaflets, meetings
- Mangrove planting work in the locality, mangrove protection: no massive mangrove cutting or conversion of land use purposes; branch cutting for fuel wood is still found; limited preferential encouragement for the team specialized in protection => limited effectiveness in management and protection
- The district has issued a resolution on mangrove management and protection.

- Recommendations:
 - Forest land allocation to local households for management (planting, caring and protection) who are regularly present in the mangroves, being associated with their rights and benefits/interest
 - Formation of a strong management (guarding ...) force involved in protection work
 - Further planting to raise income

Mr. Phich

- In May 2005, the District PC gives permission for ecotourism development
- the 15Ps:
 - have sufficient contents
 - more detailed in fining regulations
- Recommendations
 - Dissemination of the 15 Ps
 - More budget for forest guarding (present payment for forest guarding: 120,000 VND/month).

Mr. Lan Chairman, Nghia Loi Commune RC

- the 15Ps:
 - are sufficient in content
 - From P1 to P5: should be kept unchanged\
 - P6->P13: grouped into 3: management, protection and resource exploitation

Mr. Ba Chairman, Nghia Loi Commune PC

- the 15Ps: should be categorized into 4 groups:
 - P1+P2 (objective)
 - P5+6+9+10+11+12+13 (assessment)
 - policies on management
 - education/awareness raising
- Mangrove management in the locality: faces some problems: concurrent planting and destruction => inadequate management mechanism?
- The State has not yet provided specific policies, management work does not associate with local economy/interests.
- Awareness raising should be provided for a number of local officials on mangroves and local people (aquatic collectors, branch exploit...)
- Coordination between border gate military, local officials and local community is necessary

Mr. Ba

- only 20 ha of mangroves available in the commune: being enclosed, free catching is not allowed in this area; 2 polices involved in forest protection
- the commune has its own regulations on tidal flat management and forest management and protection.
- the district has over 1600 ha of mangroves initially allocated to forest guards; from 2002, mud flat land use right was assigned to the 9 communes; the mangroves focus mainly in the area close to Nam Dien Commune and have been assigned to the 9 communes for management. In these communes, the larger forest the smaller aquaculture and vice versa.

- mangrove forest is found abundant in Nam Dien Commune, without permission from the district, the commune is not allowed to convert mangroves to other uses; mangroves are managed and protected by the commune.

Mr. Vy

- P13 is in place in the right time when the ecotourism project of Nghia Hung district is being planned. This P is significant and can be applied to this project.

Mr. Thuc

+ Ps should be grouped into: management objectives; precautionary approach, communication/education, research information; policies and mechanisms.

Or group 1 (1,2,3); group 2 (10,11,12,6); group 3 (8,15,4); group 4 (9,14); group 5 (13).

+ Different P groups are suitable for different target people

+ P 7 not necessary for local conditions,

Mr. Huan

+ P 5: important

+ P 9: forest allocation to local people for management

5. Field trip

- Brief description of mangrove area and use: plantation age, species, total mangrove area, any planting plan, economic activities zoning (aquaculture, clam farming, bee raising...), donors of planting

- Nghia Hung District: composed of 23 communes and 2 towns (1 commune engaged in salt making) with 90% of local households involved in paddy rice cultivation.

Dyke system of the whole district: 120km long (of which river dyke is 104km, the remaining: seadyke).

Total mangrove area of the district: 1,630 ha (Red Cross project plantation: 622ha) including:

- + Nghia Hai commune: 490ha,
- + Nghia Lam commune: 300ha,
- + Nghia Thanh commune: 360ha,
- + Nam Dien commune: 350ha,
- + Nghia Hung commune: 100ha,
- + Rang Dong town: 10ha,
- + Nghia Loi commune: 20ha.

Total casuarina forest area: 46ha.

Every year, about 100 m long of newly formed accretion encroach the sea. Experience has shown that, about every 30 years, the district implements dyke construction to form a new commune under the sponsor of the State/government. The fact exhibits that in Nam Dien Commune, Nghia Hung dyke construction has caused the death of 1000ha of mangroves of 327 program and a part of mangroves under DRC program. This is a good lesson warning localities of careful consideration about the dyke construction for sea invasion. Moreover, for example, after the construction of the dyke named Binh Minh 2, the local people moving to the new village/commune are mostly poor; they do not have capital invested in shrimp farming; they try by any means to exploit aquatic species for livelihood using destructive tools: electricity ... which is unsustainable at all. Long-term planning is therefore very crucial.

+ *Impacts of storm No 7: (September 2005):*

During the storm No 7, dyke sections with planted mangroves were well protected; the 7km of the non-mangrove dyke were broken; repair and upgrading cost paid by the State/government amount to 100 billion VND [this figure is too high compared with Thai Do where 5 km of repairs reportedly cost VND 9

billion?]. On 20th Oct.2005, dyke repair started; the repair has been finalized for 4 km of the dyke up to 5th April 2006.

- Nghia Loi Commune: Total tidal flat: 316ha of which total mangrove area: 20ha, the remaining: aquaculture area. The commune has its own regulations on the management of the 316ha, local rules in 2001 (started to be formulated from 1989). From 2002, the district has allocated land use right to 9 communes (2000ha), the commune with smaller mangroves has larger aquaculture area. The local households (hhs) can bid for aquaculture area (1-2ha/hh). Some richer hhs can own larger area of ponds by secretly asking other poorer hhs to cede their 1-2 ha aquaculture area/per hh for them and the poorer hhs will get paid a bit profit; publicly, the extra aquaculture area belongs to these poorer hhs but in fact they are owned by these richer hhs.

Mangrove plantation funded by the Danish Red Cross, 327 program, military mainly include *Kandelia obovata*, *R.stylosa*, *S.caseolaris*, *A.corniculatum*,... On the dyke embankment visited by MERD and Mr Angus, commonly found species are *Deris trifoliata*, *Hibiscus tilliaceus*, *Sersuvium portulacastrum*,...

In addition, casuarina forest area: 4ha,

Giao An Commune, Giao Thuy District**I. Meeting 1****1. Date:** 20 June 2006**2. Venue:** Giao An Commune People's Committee**3. List of participants:**

No.	Name	Institution
1.	Vu Thi Thoa	Chairman, Giao Thuy Red Cross (Facilitator)
2.	Mr. Hung	Giao Thuy Red Cross
3.	Ms. Mung	Giao Thuy Red Cross
4.	Mr. Doan	Head, forest ranger office
5.	Tran Van Tuan	Chairman, Giao An Commune People's Committee
6.	Tran Ngoc Hien	Vice chairman, Giao An Commune People's Committee
7.	Tong Minh Chung	Deputy secretary, Giao An Commune Communist Party
8.	Doan Thanh Do	Head, Commune Police
9.	Mr. Van Chuong	Land staff
10.	Cao Van Loan	Chairman, Giao An Commune Red Cross
11.	Vu Duc Phuong	Vice Chairman, Giao An Commune Red Cross
12.	Cao Van Bat	Secretary, Communist Party of Hamlet 13
13.	Phan The Quyen	Secretary of the meeting

4. Summary of the meeting discussion (specific feedbacks on Ps, brief summary of other things)

- Specific feedbacks on Ps:

the 15 Ps are of practical value, and important to the locality; priority rank: 1, 5, 3,15,4,8,2,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14.

II. Meeting 2**1. Date:** 25 June 2006**2. Venue:** Giao An Commune People's Committee**3. List of participants:**

No.	Name	Institution
1.	Vu Thi Thoa	Chairman, Giao Thuy Red Cross (Facilitator)
2.	Pham Thanh Tien	Secretary, Commune Communist Party
3.	Tran Van Tuan	Chairman, Giao An Commune People's Committee
4.	Tran Van Hieu	Vice chairman, Giao An Commune People's Committee
5.	Cao Van Loan	Chairman, Giao An Commune Red Cross

4. Summary of the meeting discussion (specific feedbacks on Ps, brief summary of other things)**Mr. Tuan, chairman, Giao An Commune People's Committee:**

- Comments on the 15 Ps:
 - The 15 Ps are general, suitable, very useful, and of high practical value
 - The 15 Ps provide an orientation for me to make decision in the future, for example in coordination, study and capacity building.

- Yet, the Ps should be more specific by providing more detailed documents, or e.g.: P6: socio-economic factors: how to well manage; P6 mentions: effective and sustainable exploitation but how to exploit?(should be more specific).
- P12: not quite relevant in our local context as salt making and mining are not practiced in our commune
- The 5 Ps important to the commune: 1,5,3,15,4
- P3 should be more detailed/specific
- Information of the Code should be classified to suit different target objects (local people, managers) before dissemination and mobilization of comment feedbacks.
- Others:
 - Commune regulations made by the commune are announced through commune loud speaker, or included in the contract signed with local hhs whose working activities are on mud flats.
 - A forest guard team has been set up in the commune (9 people; 300,000 VND/head)
 - Mangrove management work: lack of facilities for forest guards, difficulties in mangrove management and protection patrol/monitoring

Mrs. Thoa, Chairman, Giao Thuy District RC:

- The 15 Ps useful and applicable in the locality,
- Should be more specific and understandable when they are disseminated to local people for communication/awareness raising purposes (through pamphlet, leaflet, commune broadcast system),
- Capacity building for local officials
- At present, the commune is recommending the district to issue regulations on management and use,

Additional comment:

+ Recommend land and forest land allocation to local people for protection,

There have been various ideas and desires about the 15Ps but they are of the same aspiration that these 15 Ps should link their interest to coastal resources. Specific reward and punishment regulation system should be established to strictly deal with destructive fishing. Preferential policies for the poor are necessary.

5. Field trip (guided by Ms. Thoa): (Brief description of mangrove area and use: plantation age, species, total mangrove area, any planting plan, economic activities zoning (aquaculture, clam farming, bee raising...), donors of planting)

- Giao Thuy District
 - Economic structure of the district in 2006:

Agriculture	Fishery	Industry	Service
24.6%	27.4%	21%	27%

- The district has orientation for planning important economic sectors of the district to the year 2010,
- Notably, the district orients for fishery development:
- Production structure of fishery sectors during 2002-2010

Production output/value	2002		2005		2010	
	Output	%	Output	%	Output	%

Total	108.600	100	171.43	100	391.4	100
-exploitation	29.42	27	37.93	22	53.25	14
- aquaculture	78.262	73	133.5	78	338.15	86
Of which for export	52.065	48	104.22	61	291.538	75

(unit: million VND, estimated in 2002)

Pressure on management work:

- Concerning clam farming: cited from SNV MERD report [details to be added].
- The district has had planning for shrimp farming areas for the period of 1988-2013. The communes and district allow local households to bid for tidal flats for shrimp and clam farming for the land use right of 5-20 years (1-2ha/hh). It is recorded that the bidding increases income for some hhs and the local authorities but deprive the poor of their aquatic catching place. They are not allowed to practice aquatic catching in the clam farming area which used to be the place for their livelihood. This activity has widened the gap between the rich and the poor. [So, should we add "leave convenient open access to natural resources for the locals especially the poor aquatic collectors by controlling clam/shrimp farming enclosure" to the first paragraph of P10?] This is particularly important in such district as Giao Thuy where attention has been paid to fishery development as presented above.
- Giao An Commune: Total tidal flat of Giao An Commune: ? total mangrove area: ?; Giao An Commune belongs to the buffer zone of Xuan Thuy Ramsar site or National Park

The largest part being true mangrove species, particularly *K.obovata*, *S. caseolaris*, *A. corniculatum*, a few *R.stylosa* and *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, *A.marina* and *Excoecaria agallocha*; some associate mangroves found are *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *Thespesia populnea* and *Terminalia catappa* and some other plant species namely *Casuarina equisetifolia* and *Muntingia culabura*.

Kandelia obovata makes up a high percentage mixed with *Aegiceras corniculatum*; these two species are of the same height (4-5m). The *Kandelia obovata* – *Aegiceras corniculatum* plantation community, after 14 years of planting, has an average height of 4-5m.

+ Mangrove management of the locality is based on the RC regulations and the district's regulations of 1997,

+ One problem: budget for protection work ends when the DRC project ends; at present, the newly established guarding team of the commune (9 persons) include mostly shrimp/clam farmers who combine the work of forest protection and shrimp/clam farming. [Should there be any commitment to ensure their responsibility for sound forest protection work?]

+ Bee-raising: every year, during the flowering season of *A. corniculatum* and *K.obovata*, many bee rearing companies (stock or private ones) place bee nests for honey close to the mangroves in the locality without any payment to the locality. After 1-2 months, the companies move their bee nests. The total bee honey yield is 30-40 tons [these figures have not been checked for accuracy].

Nam Thinh Commune, Tien Hai District**I. Meeting 1**

1. **Date:** 23 June 2006

2. **Venue:** Nam Thinh Commune People's Committee (PC)

3. List of participants:

No.	Name	Institution
1.	Tran Manh Dung	Chairman, Nam Thinh Commune PC
2.	Nguyen The Trieu	Vice chairman, Nam Thinh Commune PC
3.	Ha Ngoc Toan	Deputy head, border gate military No 72
4.	Tran Van Toan	Head, Commune Police
5.	Mai Van Trac	Chairman, Nam Thinh Commune Red Cross
6.	Vu Van Phuoc	Transportation staff
7.	Pham Hong Quan	Staff, Statistic office
8.	Tran Van Moc	Forest ranger
9.	Tran Van Uyen	Shrimp pond owner
10.	Tran Van Xuong	Clam farmer
11.	Nguyen Van Tao	Mangrove project steering board
12.	Pham Van Xuyen	Chairman, Tien Hai District People's Committee
13.	Pham Ngoc Thuy	Chairman, Tien Hai District Red Cross
14.	Tran Anh Chien	Vice chairman, Tien Hai District Red Cross
15.	Phan Nguyen Giap	Tien Hai District RC
16.	Nguyen Van Thinh	Driver, Thai district PC

4. Summary of the meeting discussion (specific feedbacks on Ps, brief summary of other things)

All participants agree with the 15 Ps in terms of their importance, and usefulness for mangrove management and protection work in the locality.

- Priority rank: P 1,5,3,4, 6+7 (grouped into one), 8,9,10+11,13,14,15,12
- Ps should be shortened and more understandable, disseminated through leaflets.

Mr. Ha Van Toan, border gate military station No 72: There should be co-ordination between concerned **agencies and branches to work out proper mangrove protection measures.**

Mr. Tran Minh Uyen: the role of mangroves (in seadyke protection and aquaculture development)

Mr. Nguyen The Trieu: it is important to strengthen awareness raising/education among local communities about the role of mangroves; there is a need for specific policies on mangrove protection.

II. Meeting 2:

1. **Date:** 26 June 20062. **Venue:** Nam Thinh Commune People's Committee (PC)3. **List of participants:**

No.	Name	Institution
1.	Nguyen The Trieu	Vice chairman, Nam Thinh Commune PC
2.	Ha Ngoc Toan	Deputy head, border gate military No 72
3.	Tran Van Toan	Head, Commune Police
4.	Mai Van Trac	Chairman, Nam Thinh Commune Red Cross
5.	Vu Van Phuoc	Transportation staff
6.	Pham Hong Quan	Staff, Statistic office
7.	Pham Van Moc	Bee raising
8.	Tran Van Uyen	Shrimp pond owner
9.	Tran Van Xuong	Clam farmer
10.	Nguyen Van Tao	Mangrove project steering board, district police
11.	Pham Ngoc Thuy	Chairman, Tien Hai District Red Cross
12.	Phan Nguyen Giap	Tien Hai District RC
13.	Ly Hong Son	Politician, border gate military No 72
14.	Ngo Khac Chuan	District police
15.	Tran Duc Ngon	

4. **Summary of the meeting discussion** (specific feedbacks on Ps, brief summary of other things)**Mr. Trieu****The Ps should:**

- Clear the responsibility of different levels: the local authority responsible for management? What are the responsibilities of local people?
- Provide detailed reward and punishment regulations in forest protection; who will be responsible for this?
- P12: not yet suitable for present local conditions (absence of mining and salt making in the locality)
- The Ps should be arranged as follows:
 - P1: should not be included in the Ps but be considered the objectives of management,
 - P2+5,
 - P3 (management, use),
 - P10+11
 - P 13+15
 - P14 (relevant): label honey products of the locality (trade mark),

Recommendations:

- The 5 communes funded by DRC project have different punishment => there should be consistency in this regard among these communes
- Coordination with concerned agencies in promulgating regulations, decisions, policies (central and local levels) would provides a legal basis for the communes to implement mangrove management and protection work.

There are **commune regulations** formulated from 2001, not yet amended.

Mr. Thuy

- Commune regulations on mangroves are different among different mangrove communes in Tien Hai; one of the commune regulation: discovered cases of firewood cutting in the mangrove area for sale => firewood would be arrested and the violators would have to pay 50,000 VND or their bicycles be arrested.

Mr. Toan

- Punishment is not specific, fining is still low compared to violation degree.
- Protection work: In 1997, a forest guarding team of 5-7 persons was formed with funded protection fee from the DRC project. After the end of the project, the protection continued but there was no budget for the work. The commune is now asking for the forest protection budget from the province (about VND 50,000/ha/month). The district suggests the budget extracted from pond activities to pay for the forest protectors. The forest destruction has still been found but remarkably mitigated so far. It is necessary to link forest guard's benefits to their responsibilities and obligations (e.g. in Dong Hoang Commune, when no budget is available for forest protection, the forest guarding team was allocated with 5 ha on which they can make profit to compensate for their non-paid protection work)
- The Ps should be based on the present legislations,
- The provincial land use planning should be properly followed.

Mr. Trieu

- The 15 Ps help adequate decision making in the locality,
- The 15 Ps should be re-arranged and grouped for different target objects (managers, local people),
- The 15Ps should be based on the existing law.

Mr. Tao

- The 15 Ps are understandable, sufficient in content but should be shortened into 5-7 Ps for the case of local people: P1+2+3 (management), P11+12+13 (benefit).
- Should specify regulations in the Ps and make them suitable for the local situations,

5. Field trip

- Brief description of mangrove area and use: plantation age, species, total mangrove area, any planting plan, economic activities zoning (aquaculture, clam farming, bee raising...), donors of planting
- Nam Thinh Commune has the total dyke length of 5.5km, and the average width from the dyke foot to the sea 1.5km (max: 2km, min: 0.5km). The total mangrove area in the commune is: [to be added].

+ True mangrove species found: *Avicenia marina*, *Aegiceras corniculatum*, *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, *K. obovata*, *S.caseolaris*, *R. stylosa*, *Excoecaria agallocha*,... Some associate mangrove species: *Annoa glabra*, *Suaeda maritima*, *Deris trifoliata*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *Clerodendrum inerme*. The plantations include mainly *K. obovata* (4.2-4.5m). In the coming time, *B.gymnorrhiza* is planned to be transferred from Thai Thuong Commune for planting on a wide scale.

Mangrove planting: undertaken from 1987 (327 project) and started from 1997 (DRC project)

Shrimp pond: The commune organize the bidding for shrimp pond area for households; previously, the ponds were large in area 30-40ha/pond (in extensive form); the present area per pond is on a decrease practiced in the improved extensive form. A visit to some shrimp ponds shows that pond owners tried in vain to follow a type of mangrove –shrimp model by planting mangrove, but all these planted mangroves died massively => reasons: due to the lack of knowledge on mangrove planting techniques in these ponds, the planted mangroves had been regularly inundated by tidal water => requires some types of technical training by combined co-ordination between the fisheries sector or DARD/MARD, forestry sector for pond owners to help them develop sustainable shrimp farming/how to set up an ecological shrimp farming model=> The third paragraph of P11 and Box 11.1 is very relevant for the pond owners in this case.

Clam farming: intensively developed in Nam Think Commune; local households bid for clam farming enclosure on a non-limited area (dependent on the economic capability of each hh); this kind of non-limitation very much threatens mangroves (to be converted/enclosed for clam farming?) or causes the loss of places for livelihood of the poor => Recommend adding to P11 (red), second paragraph “Specifically, States should stop further expansion of shrimp farming into mangrove areas and limit clam farming enclosure to ensure equitable sharing of the common natural resources because ...”

The commune has had **local regulations** on mangrove management and protection since 2001 which has not yet been amended/revised since then. Most of the local people know and comply with the regulations. Yet, the mangrove exploitation and management has not really associated with their responsibilities.

Some local people reflected their opinion that they dare not to violate the mangroves just because they are afraid of being fined but are not aware of their responsibility for mangrove conservation. Thus, the locals wish to have a type of community based management with specific regulations associating their responsibilities with their interest in exploitation and management of coastal resources to ensure equity.

Thai Do Commune, Thai Thuy District**I. Meeting 1****1. Date:** 20-06-2006**2. Venue:** Thai Do Commune People's Committee (PC)**3. List of participants:**

No.	Name	Institution
17.	Bui Van Thieu	Secretary, Thai Do Commune Communist Party
18.	Ta Ngoc Khoi	Deputy Secretary, Thai Do Commune Communist Party
19.	Hoang Xuan Hao	Vice chairman, Thai Do Commune PC
20.	Nguyen Van Mieu	Chairman, Thai Do Commune Red Cross (RC)
21.	Nguyen Ba Dieu	Vice chairman, Thai Do Commune Red Cross (RC)
22.	Nguyen Van Dong	Project beneficiary (bee raising)
23.	Nguyen Van Cuong	Head, forest guard team
24.	Nguyen Xuan Truong	Staff, Thai Thuy District RC
25.	Bui Duc Thien	Vice chairman, Thai Thuy District RC
26.	Pham Ngoc Chinh	Chairman, Thai Thuy District RC

4. Summary of the meeting discussion (specific feedbacks on Ps, brief summary of other things)

• Specific feedbacks on Ps:

- All participants unanimously agreed that the 15Ps are useful for mangrove management and protection work in the locality and ranked in priority order: 1,6,3,5,4,8,15,2,7,9,13,10,11,14,12.
- To improve the Ps:
 - o should provide more specific in regulations and policies
 - o clear identification of management responsibilities

II. Meeting 2:**1. Date:** 27-06-2006**2. Venue:** Thai Do Commune People's Committee (PC)**3. List of participants:**

No.	Name	Institution
1.	Hoang Xuan Hao	Vice chairman, Thai Do Commune PC
2.	Nguyen Van Mieu	Chairman, Thai Do Commune Red Cross (RC)
3.	Nguyen Ba Dieu	Vice chairman, Thai Do Commune Red Cross (RC)
4.	Nguyen Van Dong	Project beneficiary (bee raising), forest guard
5.	Nguyen Van Cuong	Head, forest guard team
6.	Bui Duc Thien	Vice chairman, Thai Thuy District RC
7.	Mr. Tien	Border gate military office
8.	Ta Van Uong	Chairman, Thai Do Commune PC

4. Summary of the meeting discussion (specific feedbacks on Ps, brief summary of other things)

- All participants agree: the 15 Ps are
 - sufficient
 - useful for mangrove management and protection in the locality
 - of high practical significance
 - priority rank: the same as meeting 1

Mr. Cuong

Should group different Ps applied for different target people:

- Managers,
- Local people

Mr. ??

P1 and P6: the most suitable to local conditions

Mr. Hao

P 6:

- on specifying reward and penalty regulations, attention should be paid to fishing both by hand and by tools/facilities,
- penalty should be changed into kgs or tons of rice (which is more stable and always update at any time) in stead of cash fining. The fine is low and not strong compared to the present time

P8 (the most useful): to reduce mangrove felling, it is necessary to conduct contests of mangrove knowledge, enhance awareness raising/education (educational extra-activities on mangroves for primary school pupils), posters, leaflets on mangroves; especially, he recommends the organization of a contest on the 15Ps to widely disseminate these Ps among local people

Mr. Thien

- + The Ps are only feasible/applied only when they are consistent with the Government law/legislations,
- + Punishments should follow the national law (which is always update),

Mr. Mieu

- + There should be clear identification of agency responsible for management,
- + Land use planning and protection work: the commune has a periodical plan for mangrove management (every 6 months); the guarding team send a monthly report on mangrove protection work to the commune; the land use planning has been consulted/advice by the commune and then sent to the province for final decision making. The district has developed a master planning to the year 2010, including the planning of coastal mangrove use and development.

5. Field trip

-Brief description of mangrove area and use: plantation age, species, total mangrove area, any planting plan, economic activities zoning (aquaculture, clam farming, bee raising...), donors of planting

- Thai Thuy District has a coastal length of over 13km, of which Thai Do Commune has 7km. About 5 km of mangroves (1.5 km in width from the dyke foot to the sea on average, ranging from max: 1.9km, min: 0.7km) are present along this 7km coast). The total mangrove area of Thai Do Commune: 700ha, main species: *Kandelia obovata*, *Sonneratia caseolaris*, *Rhizophora stylosa*, *Bruguiera gymorrhiza*, *Avicenia marina*, *A. corniculatum*. *Kandelia obovata* started to be planted from 1994; *Sonneratia caseolaris* was newly planted and interplanted in 1995. Some main shrubby species along the dyke of Thai Do: *Annona glabra*, *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Clerodendrum inerme*.

The mangrove plantation in the commune was funded by 327 program (from 1994), DRC (phase 1: 1994-1996; phase 3: 2001-2005). In 2005, planting was conducted under the RC project (20ha). In 2006, total planting area: 80ha (5 million reforestation program); 60 ha have been planted so far. The commune wishes to further mangrove planting work.

Mangrove management and protection work: A guarding team of 9 people being responsible for mangrove management and protection in accordance with the RC regulations; previously, the RC has budget funded by the DRC project for protection work; those involved in forest protection, then, had to make commitment with the RC. After the DRC reforestation project ended in 2005, it took about two months for the forest guarding team to get no budget for protection; to compensate for this, they were allocated with 3-4 ha for shrimp farming; a part of the profit from this farming activity is used for protection budget; then, the forest guards have been paid by the Province budget (50,000VND/ha/year) (in fact that is the budget from MARD provided for mangrove protection through the province) which is much lower compared to the forest protection fee in Can Gio Mangrove Biosphere Reserve (\$20/ha/year equal to 320,000 VND/ha/year) in Southern Viet Nam. So, for P6: Box 6.2: should we should add [brackets] to the sentence “supporting the involvement of local communities in mangrove protection [in combination with police, border gate military], including training local people to become mangrove wardens, spending more budget for forest protection households/team and assisting forest protectors to do sustainable business in their protection area” to associate their interests with responsibilities.

Shrimp pond area: is divided into 2 main zones: inside the dyke (370ha) and outside the dyke (240 ha). The ecological shrimp pond model has not yet been applied.

* *Inside the dyke:* land use purpose has been changed (according to the province project, in 2003) from fish rearing into shrimp farming (Household group No 1), and from rice cultivation into shrimp farming (Household group No 2); the total conversion area is 370 ha; but due to the leaving of a part of the area for water exchange (canals) and water pond container, the real shrimp pond area is 270 ha. The present shrimp farming land area (used to be fish raising and rice cultivation land) is kept unchanged, still belonging to the households who used to own the land. The land use time is not limited. The household group No 2 receives an investment capital of 10 million VND/ha from the Province for land use conversion but the hh group No 1 does not enjoy any investment at all.

Remarks of the local authorities about the economic improvement of the 2 hh groups following the land use conversion: the income of the local households is increased but there is a bigger gap between the rich and the poor. The reason is that shrimp farming requires big investment and is highly risky; rice cultivation requires low investment and therefore, if failure occurs, the loss is not much (only some hundreds of thousands). It is estimated from early 2006 to now: the households that suffer from failure has amounted to 30% of total hhs.

* *Outside the dyke:* total pond area 240ha, a part of which used to be mangrove area; households bid (with the commune) for the farming pond area from 1993; there is also an intervention from the district and the district also receive a part of budget from the bidding.

Impacts of the storm No 7 last September 2005:

2,000 local people had to move further inland to avoid the storm; the 5 km dyke with mangroves was sustained while the 750 m of dyke without mangroves was broken; the repair cost for this 750 m dyke section is 1.2 billion VND (from province budget) + 150 million VND (from the district budget) = 1.35 billion VND. A comparative calculation shows that the total investment cost for repairing 750m of dyke during post storm period = the total amount of investment in mangrove planting along the 5 km of dyke (from 1994); suppose mangroves had not been planted along the 5km and therefore, this dyke section had been broken=> the repair cost for this 5km would have amounted to VND 9 billion. [This information could be included in Box 2.1 of P2].

Thai Thuy District has an orientation plan for aquaculture development: extensive and improved extensive shrimp farming is planned on high tidal flat outside the national dyke belonging to 3 communes of Thuy Truong, Thuy Hai, and Thai Do and a part of pond area planned inside the national dyke belonging to Thai Do Commune. In the coming time, farming ponds are planned to be on a larger area and scope: 2-3 ha and a part of mangrove area will be kept in these ponds (ecological ponds). Industrial ponds are planned to be designed in Thai Do Commune with the total area of 50-60 ha; the average area per pond is 3,000-3,500m² with the presence of an aeration system, canal system for water drainage and a water containing pond. The farming is primarily conducted on a household scale; the farming will then be undertaken for a long time and on a larger area for economic

farm development. The total agricultural area inside the national dyke to be converted into brackish water shrimp farming pond to the year 2010 in Thai Do Commune is planned to be 448ha.