

# Report of the National Workshop 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

Credit: Donald John Macintosh, cenTER Aarhus	Credit: Thomas Nielsen, cenTER Aarhus
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## 1. Background

The Principles for a Code of Conduct for Sustainable Management and Use of Mangrove Ecosystems ('the Principles') is a guide to assist States, local and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders to cooperatively develop local codes, laws and/or regulations to protect mangroves, and the critical functions they serve, through sustainable management. The Principles were formulated initially in 2003, based on a review of global mangrove management experiences, compiled in 15 country case studies from all regions where mangroves are important, including Vietnam, and several regional workshops.

The Principles continue to be discussed and developed in a range of forums around the world involving representatives from governments, NGOs, multilateral organizations, research institutions, grassroots organizations and other interested groups and individuals. These discussions include national workshops in four selected countries, one of which Vietnam.

The workshop for Vietnam was planned as an add-on day to a National Workshop "The Role of Mangrove and Coral Reef Ecosystems in Mitigating Oceanic Impacts on the Environment" Hanoi, 8-10 October, 2005, organized by the Centre for Natural Resources and Environment Studies (CRES), Vietnam National University, Hanoi and Vietnam Association for the Conservation of Nature and Environment (VACNE). It was planned that the participants to this national workshop would undertake a field trip to a mangrove rehabilitation site in Thai Binh Province on 10 October, 2006, and then attend the special workshop session on the mangrove Principles in Thai Binh on 11 October. The workshop was planned as a forum to review and discuss the Principles one by one, a process that had been followed successfully at several earlier workshops in other countries. Some additional agencies, especially local NGOs, were to be invited just for the mangrove Principles workshop. The Mangrove Ecosystems Research Division (MERD) of CRES was contracted to act as the local organisers and facilitators of this workshop.

The planned workshop to review the mangrove Principles had to be postponed at the request of the provincial Peoples Committee of Thai Binh because Typhoon Damrey hit Thai Binh and the neighbouring provinces of Thah Hoa and Nam Dinh in late September, the worst typhoon to strike this region of Vietnam for 10 years (see Box 1).

Due to the typhoon, the actual sequence of events was that a presentation on the Principles for a Code of Conduct was made in Hanoi on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 during Session 3 of the national workshop ("Marine Protected Areas Project and Code of Conduct for Sustainable Management of Mangroves" by Prof Donald Macintosh), while a poster illustrating the history and main outputs from the Code of Conduct project was displayed in the workshop poster session by Mr Thomas Nielsen. Printed copies of the draft Principles were also provided for those workshop participants

interested in this work-in-progress. Don Macintosh and Thomas Nielsen also interacted on a one to one basis with many of the participants; these included several regional experts as well as Vietnamese participants. As a related activity, the draft Principles (March 2005 version) were also translated into Vietnamese.

**Box 1: Typhoon Damrey makes landfall in Vietnam**

By Richard Vogel, Associated Press Writer

Posted 9/27/2005 9:32 AM

THANH HOA, Vietnam — After killing at least 31 people in China and the Philippines, Typhoon Damrey slammed ashore in Vietnam on Tuesday, forcing the evacuation of nearly 300,000 people along the coastal region.

**Damrey, the most powerful typhoon to hit northern Vietnam in a decade**, injured nine people after it landed in Thanh Hoa province early Tuesday, packing winds of up to 60 miles an hour, said Le Van Thao of the National Meteorology Center. Thanh Hoa is 100 miles south of Hanoi.

About 144,000 people from Thanh Hoa and another 145,000 from three surrounding provinces were evacuated from low-lying homes, schools and local government buildings before the storm hit, said provincial disaster official Tran Quang Trung.

Some 950 homes were destroyed while another 9,000 were badly damaged.

A power blackout was reported in Thai Binh and Thanh Hoa provinces, home to 5 million people.

More than 25,000 soldiers have been sent to help reinforce sea dikes and evacuate people, state media reported.

High tides sent 15-foot waves surging over a 100-mile sea wall in Thanh Hoa and Nam Dinh, Trung said. In another spot in Thanh Hoa, waves burst through the dike, creating a 100-foot-long break that flooded one village.

For various reasons, including illness of the lead consultant during February to April 2006, the follow-up workshop in Thai Binh was not held until May 2006, but it followed substantially the form of the meeting as originally planned for, namely a presentation of the 15 Principles, followed by discussion involving NGO representatives and local (district and commune level) leaders and coastal resource managers. By this time, an adapted version of the Principles, containing illustrative material entirely from Vietnam (photographs, site specific mangrove management examples, lessons learned, etc.) had been prepared by MERD.

This was the document used in the postponed Vietnam workshop, which was held finally in the Thai Binh Hotel, Thai Binh on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2006.

To provide a wider opportunity for comments and other feedback on the Principles, the adapted version for use in Vietnam, in both Vietnamese and English, was posted on an internet forum. The Discussion group – Australia Viet Nam Science Technology Link (AVSTL) Discussion Fora for Viet Nam and the Region

(<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/~vern/forum.html> ) with the kind assistance of Mr Vern Weitzel (UNDP, Hanoi).

This report covers the above activities and provides especially the feedback received from participants at the National workshop in Hanoi in October 2005 and the delayed add-on workshop in Thai Binh in May 2006. [Together, these two meetings provide the main output from the Vietnam national workshop, one of four national workshops specified in the contract with World Bank.]

## **2. National Workshop, Hanoi 8-10 October 2005**

### **Background**

Over the past years, mangrove forests in the coastal areas of Vietnam have been seriously deteriorated in both area and quality. The main reason is the conversion of mangrove forests to uncontrolled shrimp farming ponds and coastal development facilities. The consequence is the loss of solid protective green belt, deterioration of water and soil, increasing environmental pollution and coastal and riverbank erosion, sharp decreases in marine resources; as a result, the life of the poor has faced many difficulties and been threatened by natural disasters (storms, floods, spring tides, sea level rise, earthquakes...). Annually, the State spends hundreds of hundreds of thousands of USD on seadyke maintenance.

### **Objectives of the Workshop**

- To evaluate the role of mangrove and coral reef ecosystems in the new context.
- To warn managers, decision makers and coastal localities of the enormous consequences in terms of natural resources and environment resulting from the disappearance of mangroves and coral reefs and other coastal ecosystems.
- To learn experience from foreign experts.

### **Who should attend**

- Leaders or senior staff of related ministries
- Scientists
- Leaders of marine protected areas and national parks
- Managers in the localities with mangroves and coral reefs
- International organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with projects on planting and protection of mangroves and coral reefs in Vietnam
- Representatives from some international organizations and embassies that support the workshop or are concerned about environmental issues
- Some experts invited by international organizations in Vietnam.

### **3. Thai Binh Workshop – Presentation and Discussion of the Principles**

#### **3.1 Conduct of the Workshop**

This one day meeting was convened in the Thai Binh Hotel, with participants from Thai Binh Province and neighbouring Nam Dinh Province, including Red Cross staff, plus MERD Hanoi and several other mangrove specialists and two interpreters. Don Macintosh and Angus McEwin represented the Consultant Team, while Dr Nguyen Hoang Tri from the Center for Environmental Research and Education, served as Workshop facilitator. The meeting was conducted in Vietnamese, with interpretation into English, as required, for the consultants.

The workshop agenda and list of participants are provided in Annexes 2 and 3 respectively.

The morning sessions were conducted in plenary. In the afternoon, the participants were divided into three working groups to identify and discuss key issues and to prioritize the 15 Principles as a practical, small group exercise. They were also asked to fill in an individual “Comments Sheet” as an optional additional activity.

The final session was again conducted in plenary and had two main objectives a) to listen to and comment on the conclusions of working group; b) to present a proposal for field testing the adapted (for Vietnam) version of the Principles and seek support from some of the participants to help with the field testing process as a direct follow up to the workshop.

#### **3.2 Opening session**

The workshop was opened by Prof. Phan Nguyen Hong, Director of the Mangrove Ecosystem Research Division, Hanoi (MERD). The introduction to the workshop by Prof Hong was followed by a brief introduction to the Code of Conduct project and the draft mangrove Principles by Prof. Donald Macintosh; the introductory statements concluded with a short explanation of the workshop objectives.

The Workshop Facilitator Dr. Nguyen Hoang Tri then presented the key points of the 15 mangrove Principles (Ps). The Ps were explained individually, but his presentation highlighted the following issues in particular:

- the importance of mangrove assessment and monitoring (P5-Mangrove Assessment);
- gender issues in management and conservation (P7-Cultural and community issues);
- ecological labeling which is still new to Vietnam (P14-Mangrove products and responsible trade); (some examples of ecological labeling were also mentioned);

- concerning P15-Mangrove research and information dissemination, he gave suggestions for setting up a database on mangroves of the local districts/provinces;
- he introduced the MAB/UNESCO bilingual website on Biosphere Reserves and Mangrove Ecosystems: <http://www.mabvn.net> (including the uploaded Principles) as an example of a local website supporting P15 – information dissemination.

### 3.3 Summary of the Principles Discussion Session

The main session to discuss the Principles was conducted in plenary, facilitated by Dr Tri. The following provides a summary of the key points raised by the participants.

*Prof. Hong (MERD);*

- Called for support from the workshop participants in raising responsibilities among shrimp/ clam/ oyster farming households to contribute to mangrove protection through fee contributions
- Gave a brief presentation on the value of mangroves as nurturing (=nursery) grounds for marine resources (crab life cycle)

*Mr. Pham Ngoc Chinh, Chairman, Thai Thuy Red Cross:*

- Considered Ps 4, 6 and 8 to be the most important in respect of mangroves in Vietnam

*Mr. Phi Van Chin, Head of Division of Environment and Natural Resource Management, Thai Binh:*

- Suggested collection of a shrimp farming fee, in the same manner as applied to the collection of environmental protection fees from waste discharge bodies/agencies: 50% of the fee is allocated to an Environmental Fund and 50% is allocated for Environmental Protection work.
- Proposed ecological labeling: Ecological shrimp products (safe products) of ecological shrimp models in Thai Binh should be ecologically labeled.
- Recommended that Principles P-9 and P-14 should be based on the Law on Forest Protection and Development, supported by effective public dissemination about sustainable forest management (P-9) and responsible trade (P-14).

*Ms. Pham Thi Hoa, Vietnam Red Cross:*

- Suggested that P-3 (Policy and Legal Framework) is the most important, followed by P-4 (Implementation and Integration) and P-8 (Capacity Development).

*Mr. Pham Van Xuyen, Chairman, Tien Hai District's People's Committee (PC):*



- proposed a ranking of P-1, 3, 15, 8, 13 (in priority order from the highest to the lowest priorities)
- Recommended prioritizing Eco-tourism as the most important aspect of Tourism in relation to mangroves in Vietnam (P-13).
- Regarding P-3, he cautioned that there are not yet synchronous policies; and local regulations are not yet detailed or specific enough (for example, referring to the need for financial fines, ban on transportation of mangrove wood).
- Recommended that P-15 should focus on communication and education of local people, particularly those of low educational level.
- Requested that in the Principles Box 2.1: the Vietnamese term “con sot lai” (“remaining”) which referred to the mangrove trees remaining after the planting conducted under the GoV 327 program should be changed to the less negative term “con lai”.
- Advised that P-8 capacity development was important, especially for district forestry staff; however, evaluating achievements only in relation to economic criteria was not sufficient, social and community aspects of forest management should also be included when assessing capacity development needs and impacts.

*Mr. Tran Du, Tien Hai District PC, Head of Division of Natural Resources and Environment, Thai Binh:*

- Considered that the Principles should be shortened, simplified and made easier for local to understand.
- Proposed that the Principles should be reassigned into three groups:
  - General Principles for mangroves management (1, 2 and 5).
  - Conduct of different sectors toward mangroves (Principles 9 to 14).
  - Guidance, implementation and coordination Principles (3, 8 and 15).
- Advised that P-5 Mangrove assessment should include categorization of different types of mangrove forest (in terms of their protection function(s), biodiversity values, and other attributes).
- Noted some local problems associated with mangrove rehabilitation. Six months after mangrove planting, many crabs and other marine resources come into the newly forested areas; their exploitation by aquatic collectors can not be controlled. In 1 and 2 year-old mangrove plantations, the young trees attract leaf-grazing by cattle, which also break the young tree stems. By the time mangrove plantations are 5-6 years old they attract the attention of shrimp farmers, who seek to convert them into shrimp ponds.

- Promoted the ecological shrimp farming model that is well developed in Tien Hai District. This model is not highly productivity, but is environmentally friendly. For greater effectiveness, the model needs to be improved based on research and consultancy recommendations from scientists.

*Mr. Nguyen The Hoa, Deputy Director, DARD of Thai Binh Province:*

- Noted that he generally agree with the 15 Principles.
- Advised that the Draft Principles should be based on the State Law of Vietnam, e.g. the amended Law on Forest Protection and Development (2004). The Principles can be a recommended guide, but have not yet been legally endorsed and made effective.
- Noted that some stakeholders very much involved in mangrove management and protection are not present at this workshop: forest rangers, aquaculture farmers, representatives from eco-tourist sector, transportation sector, and border guard; these people are very important to local mangrove management and protection work.
- Recommended that the Principles should be shortened, simplified and reduced in number to 10 new Principles; they should then be disseminated to local communities.
- Advised that for the Red River Delta region, mangrove planting, management, and sustainable use should be closely associated. Well-developed mangroves, with an abundance of crabs, etc., are an attractive place for many local people to collect aquatic resources. It is difficult to pose a ban on aquatic collecting, but how should mangroves be managed and sustainably exploited? If local people are totally prohibited from collecting in the mangroves, an important source of their livelihood is denied to them. In conclusion, a complete ban on aquatic collecting is not practical/ does not suit the socio-economic reality of the local situation.
- Advised that, due to the absence of forest rangers (of the Forest Protection Department) in Thai Binh Province, any decision on use or exploitation of mangroves ought to be approved at higher levels. In practice, the Red Cross contributes greatly to mangrove management and protection. Coastal land is allocated to coastal communes for management; the Commune PC Chairman is responsible for any violations, rather than the district or province; there is a specialized team that is responsible in the commune.
- Noted the trend in aquaculture towards ecological farming (especially in Tien Hai District).

*Mr. Nguyen Van Phan, Head, Division of Environment Protection, DONRE of Nam Dinh*

- Requested replacement of the term in Vietnamese “quy tac” [regulation] with “nguyen tac” (Principle) in the Vietnamese version of the document.

- P1: should not include objectives in any P; objectives should be separated
- Suggested that some Ps should be grouped together (to be discussed later).
- Proposed that the Principles should be prioritized, the most important being as follows:
  - Capacity building for management, awareness raising (involves sustainable shrimp farming) (Some management activities undertaken by the province: establish planning for management of National Parks, application of GIS in management etc)
  - P4: implementation and coordination: should be between central and provincial levels, between provincial, district and commune levels, communities and local governments. DONRE of Nam Dinh and Xuan Thuy National Park (Mr. Nguyen Viet Cach, director) coordinates to build up co-management regulations
  - Socio-economics, aquaculture, tourism and some other sectors such as transportation should be grouped into one Principle which cover different economic sectors.
  - Recommended that the Principles should include more references to the benefits of science and technology.

*Dr. Bui Vu Khuc: Chairman, Thai Binh Red Cross*

- Advised that he generally agree with the 15 Principles.
- Suggested that prioritization of Principles depends on specific local conditions: e.g. in Tien Hai District ecotourism is a priority, whereas in neighboring Thai Thuy District it is coastal aquaculture.

*Mr. Nguyen Viet Cach, Director, Xuan Thuy National Park (Nam Dinh Province)*

- Advised that Decree 139 is relevant (providing guidelines on financial fines imposed on those who engage in illegal forest cutting, wildlife trading, etc.)
- During the present transitional management period, some illegal mangrove destruction actions have taken place.
- 50,000 VND/ha/year/per forest guard paid by the Government: this amount is too low to ensure good protection work; it should be included in the policy that forest guards be granted with rights/authorization to sustainably exploit the mangrove area under their protection.
- Regarding Principle 14 dealing with mangrove products and responsible trade, he advised that labeled products should be produced with assistance and advice from scientists, via research and consultancy support [i.e. this is needed in Vietnam, where ecological labeling is a new concept].

- Ps should be grouped into 10 Ps as follows:
  - Orientation (not use objectives)
  - Policy and legal framework
  - Information dissemination
  - Capacity building
  - Management approaches/solutions (group P3 and P4 of the code)
  - Monitoring and assessment of mangroves
  - Sectoral management (forestry/agricultural management)
  - Sustainable exploitation and use of mangrove resources (group 10 and 13)
  - Responsible trade
  - Socio-economics and culture
- The Vietnamese adapted version of the Principles should be further improved and simplified for local use, especially regarding technical words; e.g. the term “responsible trade” is not easy for local people to understand and needs to be translated and explained very well.
- Proposed that the Principles should be reallocated into three groups:
  - Management principles, objectives, approach, policy and legal framework (Ps-1, 2, 3)
  - Capacity building and awareness raising (Ps- 5, 6, 7, 8 and 15)
  - Implementation of combined conservation and economic development objectives (the remaining Principles)

*Dr. Tri:*

- Reminded the workshop participants that the Code of Conduct is not a document that must be accepted, complied with, or followed, but it represents a good guide for local area management of mangroves.
- Advised that P-1: “The objectives” means that before issuing any regulations/law, clear objectives should be set.

*Mr. Vu Cong Son: DARD of Nam Dinh*

- Advised that aquatic collecting in mangrove areas should not be rigidly banned.
- Noted that in Vietnam, under the Forest Protection and Development Law, a ban is imposed on any indiscriminate and destructive exploitation of mangrove resources; however, aquatic collecting is not specifically prohibited.

- Regarding all the Principles, he noted that the boundaries of the mangrove areas that need protection, and the owner(s) of the mangroves, should be clearly defined.

### 3.4 Summary of the Working Group Discussions

In the first afternoon session, the workshop participants were divided into three working groups to identify and then discuss key issues for mangrove management in more detail. Each group was also asked to discuss the relative importance of the 15 Principles (based on local management needs) and to rank them on this basis.

#### Conclusions – Group 1:

- All the Ps are important and useful and practical
- The 15 Ps should be grouped into 10 new Ps: 1 (P1), 2 (P3), 3 (P4), 4 (P15), 5 (P8), 6 (P2 and 5), 7 (from P10 to P13), 8 (P6 and 7), 9 (P9) and 10 (P14).
- The Code should be shortened into regulations to be put on walls/post /notice boards for dissemination and public information purposes
- Concerted implementation and coordination efforts between different sectors and management levels are important requirements for effective management
- Dissemination of the code to local people and awareness raising are required as priority follow-up actions
- Forest land allocation to local households is an important consideration to raise environmental responsibility among communities.

#### Conclusions - Group 2:

- Awareness raising among local communities is a priority
- Legal policies should be adapted to suit local conditions
- Integrated coordination between different sectors is required
- Improve the livelihoods of poor households in mangrove areas by increasing payment rates for forest guarding
- Capacity building for local authorities is a priority
- Develop local rules of the commune associated with local people's interest/benefits; integrate these rules into regulations/decisions/policies
- Allocate forest land to local households for protection where they can practice sustainable exploitation

- The 15 Principles rank in the following order:
  - The most important Ps: 1, 3, 8,15; secondly: Ps 2, 4, 10 and 11;
  - thirdly: Ps 5, 9 and 13; and finally: Ps 6,7,12, 14.

#### Conclusions - Group 3:

- P1: Should be re-named: "General Ps on management of mangrove ecosystems"
- P3: Should be re-named: "Completing/finalizing policies and legal framework/institutions on management of mangrove ecosystems"
- Ps 8 and15: Should be re-named "Capacity building and awareness raising"
- P4: Supplement: Develop mechanisms for implementation and coordination
- Ps 5, 6, 7, 9,10,11-14: should be re-named "Protection and conservation of mangroves and wetlands and sustainable socio-economic development "

Group 3 also ranked the Principles against criteria selected by this group\* (see table below).

Principle No.	Rank (+++ is highest)		
	Is it clear?	Importance to your group?	Usefulness and Practicality?
1	++	+++	+++
3	++	++	++
8, 15	+	++	++
4	+	++	+
5, 6, 7, 9-14	+	++	++

\* Criteria relating to the practical usefulness of the Principles.

#### 3.4.1 Internet Access:

The participants were asked whether they have access to, and use, the Internet as a source of information in their work. Only two of them reported that they did so. It was also commented by another participants that there is a general lack of technical staff to support computer use in the province.

#### 3.5 Summary of Comments made on Individual Comment Sheets

Comment sheets were handed out at the beginning of the Workshop for participants to record their individual comments, or suggestions about the Principles. A summary

of the comments received (from 11 participants) is provided below. Only those comments that were different or supplemental to those raised in the plenary discussion session are included.

*Nguyen Viet Cach, Director, Xuan Thuy National Park*

- Rename P1. “General principles on management of mangrove ecosystems”
- Recommendations/Principles of the draft code are general and do not much reflect the typical features of the mangrove ecosystems in particular and wetland in general (Vietnam’s conditions)
- Suggest including co-management and wise use
- Some contents among different Ps. are overlapping;
- Group Ps 8+15 into one P “Capacity building and awareness raising for communities”
  - Should focus more on training of staff of relevant agencies (associated with mangrove ecosystems)
- P4: should include: develop a mechanism for well-organized implementation and integration/coordination between concerned sectors
  - Should establish a key force responsible for supervision and adjustment for more effective implementation of management work
- Group some relevant Ps into one “organization of activities on conservation and sustainable socio-economic development in mangrove areas” (mangrove area in particular and wetland in general).
  - In the conservation/ protected area, it is necessary to ensure the objective of maintaining Natural Heritage Reserve for the region and future generation.
- Should cover the wise and sustainable use of resources in mangroves/wetlands that benefits local communities and meets the long-term national and international demand.

*Le Ngoc Hung, Chairman, Thuy Hai Commune’s PC, Thai Binh*

- Should formulate appropriate policies for more empowerment and responsibilities at the commune level.
- Limited budget for forest protection work: households assigned for management are not allowed to exploit resources; income from protection is low.
- Planning should involve community participation and be agreed at the grassroots level (including exploitation, new-planting, aquaculture, eco-tourism etc)

*Pham Hoai Nam – Staff, Management Board for Tien Hai Nature Reserve, Thai Binh*

- P3: should be based on Decree 109/CP of the government.
- Capacity building for both local residents and leaders/managers.
- Should expand the model of ecological shrimp farming (particularly on degraded mangrove areas).

*Phi Van Chin – Head, Environmental Management Division, DONRE of Thai Binh*

- Should rank 15 Ps in priority order.
- P6: Should be more open: protection does not mean rigid or overly strict bans.
- Integrate forest protection law into forestry Ps.
- Ecologically label clean and safe shrimp products (harvested from ecological shrimp model)

*Nguyen Anh Tien – Thai Binh RC*

- The Code provides a good guide for different levels and sectors in mangrove management work.
- Priority rank (from the 1st priority) P5, P1, P3, P15+P8 (grouped into one), P4, P10+P 11 (grouped into one), P6 +P7 (grouped into one).
- Mangrove protection and management is very important; the State/Government (of VN) has issued the policies on mangrove protection. However, they are few and not specific. At present, most of the regulations are provided by local authorities; long-term mangrove protection work has not yet received adequate investment.
- Recommendation: the State/Government of Viet Nam should provide an integrated and specific legal framework and policies for mangroves.

*Pham Ngoc Chinh – Chairman, Thai Thuy District RC*

- Establish legal framework for mangroves; more importance attached to mangroves.
- Owners of mangroves: Mangrove land should be allocated to local households with land use right of 20-30 years for protection and management, about 10ha/ household in which 3 ha can be exploited.
- More budget for mangrove protection.
- Should generate jobs for poor households: provide loans, vocational training
- Should establish a team of mangrove forest rangers

*Tran Thi Ngoc Linh – Student, Faculty of Environmental Engineering – Hai Phong Private University*

- Priority rank: Ps 1, 3, 4, 15,8, 2+5, 10+11+13, 6+7,9,14, 12



*Pham Ngoc Thuy – Chairman, Tien Hai District RC, Thai Binh*

- P 11: should separate aquaculture from aquatic catching in mangrove area.
- Legal documents/ regulations should be disseminated widely through mass media.

*Pham Van Xuyen – Chairman, Tien Hai District's PC - Thai Binh*

- 15 Ps are all essential, covering the full contents of mangrove protection, management and development.
- However, rank of Ps should be: P1, P3, P15, P8, P13, P11, P4

*Vu Thi Nga – Head, Forestry Division*

- The most 5 important Principles are: 1, 3, 15, 8 and 4
- Recommendation: Provide access to loans for poor households to develop side-occupations and thus, adverse impacts on mangroves would be reduced.

*Nguyen Duy Chap – Chairman, Thai Thuy District's PC*

- Awareness raising/ communication about the importance of mangroves for local communities to associate the responsibility of local people with mangrove protection.
- Raise responsibility of authorities of all levels, particularly the grassroots' level in mangrove areas.
- For good protection of mangroves, the State/Government of Viet Nam should provide preferential policies for poor local people: grant loans, create stable employment so that they would be less dependent on mangrove areas through aquatic collecting.
- Should set up a team of forest guards/rangers in mangrove communes; the Central Government/State should provide a budget for protection work.

### **3.6 Field Testing: Feedback and next steps**

Dr. Tri discussed the objectives for the next planned activity in Vietnam, namely field testing of the adapted version of the Principles in selected coastal areas where sustainable management of mangroves is an important local issue. He also provided some brief guidance on how the Principles should now be tested, and the scale of the field-testing exercise, which should cover several communes with common interests in mangrove management, but with different priorities regarding their sustainable use. He explained that a more detailed guide on the field testing requirements would be sent out to commune managers, once the field test sites had been selected.

Potential locations for the field testing were then discussed, leading to the selection four communes by the participants from Thai Binh and Nam Dinh provinces:

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

## Annex 1 - List of Participants: Code of Conduct Workshop, Thai Binh, 20 May 2006

No.	Name	Designation and contact information
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## **Annex: 2 - Workshop Objectives and Programme**

### **Workshop on the Principles for A Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Management of Mangroves Thai Binh, Vietnam, 19-20 May, 2006**

The objective of this Workshop is to present and discuss a draft document in Vietnamese based on the “Principles for a Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Management of Mangroves.” The document has been developed specifically for use in Vietnam as a potential management guide, which can be adapted further to meet the needs of local planners and resource users, especially mangrove wetland managers, NGOs, commune leaders, and others directly involved with mangrove management at the community level.

The Workshop in Thai Binh will involve about 35 invited participants from coastal districts and communes in Thai Binh and Nam Dinh provinces, governmental agencies, NGOs involved with mangrove planting and protection, wetland managers (e.g. RAMSAR site, Nam Dinh), and staff of the Mangrove Ecosystem Research Division (MERD) of the National University, Hanoi.

#### **Workshop Programme**

##### **19<sup>th</sup> May**

18.00hrs Participants arrive in Thai Binh. Briefing and Dinner.

##### **20<sup>th</sup> May**

07.45 Registration

08.00 Opening Ceremony of Workshop

08.15 Introduction to the Workshop Objectives

08.30-10.00 Presentation of the draft Mangrove Code of Conduct document

10.00 Coffee break

10.30-12.00 Discussion of articles of the draft Code in working groups (8-10 per group)

12.00 Lunch

13.30 Presentation of working group opinions and recommendations

14.45 Coffee break

15.00-15.30 Final review and agreed action plan for further testing and adaptation of the draft Code in Vietnam.