

Center for Plant Conservation – Vietnam
Enhancing the Role of Local Communities in Conserving Threatened Plant Species in
Bat Dai Son, Ha Giang Province, Vietnam
Social Assessment

Project background

This project focuses on the limestone karst corridor between China and Vietnam, which includes Bat Dai Son KBA, Quan Ba District, Ha Giang Province, where two small population of critical endangered species of the Golden cypress (Bách vàng/*Xanthocyparis vietnamensis*) and the Rock magnolia (Giỗi đá/*Magnolia coriacea*) are found. There are no current projects focusing on conservation of the wild populations of these two priority species. Without a conservation plan, they are likely to become extinct in the near future. Therefore, both in-situ and ex-situ conservation is needed.

Indigenous people in the project area

Bat Dai Son Nature Reserve is located in 4 communes as Bat Dai Son, Can Ty, Nghia Thuan and Thanh Van in the North East of Quan Ba district. Bat Dai Son commune comprises seven, Can Ty comprises eight and Thanh Van comprises nine villages. The population is mainly made up by Tay and H'mong minorities and approximately 7,085 people live in and around the reserve, of which 3,945 people live in the reserve and 3,140 live in the buffer zone.

Expected project impacts on them (positive and negative)

There are no likely negative impacts on local communities to be produced by the project.

Throughout the project, the major positive impacts on local communities are the community conservation interest group establish, train carefully in conservation activities, involving in planting trees for afforestation and community forestry, potentially to support the development of tourism in the Dong Van Karst Plateau Geopark, representatives of local communities within the nature reserve, and nature reserve officers, to together implement a co-management strategy for conservation of threatened plant species and their habitat.

Measures to ensure free prior and informed consent

A contract must be made clear in responsibilities, benefits and duties between the project manager (Center for Plant Conservation) and local communities (including local government). The village and social meeting will present all project activities and work in potential impacts exist.

Measures to avoid negative impacts, and provide culturally appropriate benefits

To avoid negative impacts, we must prepare information, and train carefully in conservation activities. Through out the project, local communities involved in planting trees for afforestation and community forestry, potentially to support the development of tourism in the Dong Van Karst Plateau Geopark. These activities provide culturally appropriate benefit on protecting landscape, agriculture, the tree values and how to sustainable seed collection, treatment and storage of seeds and cuttings, to monitor, propagate, and take care of seedlings and engage and support in planting seedlings back in their natural habitat, restoration, and protecting them.

How these measures will be monitored (Các biện pháp này sẽ được giám sát như thế nào)

The community conservation interest group will communicate and monitor all conservation activities under CPC and local government authorities. Through this project, local communities can continually work by themselves in seed selection and propagation of more seedlings for other sites in Bat Dai Son and Dong Van Karst Plateau, if supported by Ha Giang Provincial policies and funds.

How you will establish a grievance mechanism

Each local households are carefully selected based on several criterials as enthusiasm, poverty, and land property. Anytime, leader of the community conservation interest group should collect all participant comments and directly report to CPC and local authorities. To resolve the problems, we should analysis any causes and the decision will be made by the agreement between local interest group, CPC and local government.