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**Title of presentation**  
Natural resource management through  
education and  
improving community livelihoods

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# 1-IN GENERAL

Cát Bà  
National  
Park

National parks and protected areas in Vietnam face a range of difficulties and challenges such as socio-economic development, rapid population increase, environmental pollution, natural disasters and climate change.



Protecting the areas of remaining natural forest in Vietnam is urgent and demands huge efforts from Forestry Units and relevant organizations. Although having plentiful polices and regulations to protect and develop natural forest, but it is continuously destroyed for many different reasons. The threat levels in each locality depend on various factors and the way to apply solutions to overcome these are not the same.



Deforestation



Flash flood

Cat Ba National Park is one of Vietnam's thirty parks and evaluated having high biodiversity by scientists, the park is core zone of Ca Ba Archipelago

Biosphere reserve (recognized by UNESCO in 2004 with total area 26.140 ha)



Map  
boundary  
Biosphere  
Reserve



Map boundary  
National Park

- Key functions and tasks of the National Park: Conservation; Scientific research; Ecotourism and environmental education; and assistance to local community development



Patrol forest



The park differs from others national parks in Vietnam because of a great variety of ecosystems, landscapes and seascapes. Biologically, the park exhibits three typical tropical ecosystems: rainforest on limestone islands, mangrove and coral reef.



The Park is home to over 3,150 species of fauna and flora : initially identified 1,561 vascular plant species across 186 families, among these, 58 are species listed in the Vietnam Red Book (2002), the IUCN Red List (2004) has 29 species.



- 661 are medicinal plant species,





Cat Ba National Park has 338 terrestrial animal species including 53 species of mammal, 205 species of birds; 55 species of reptile and 25 amphibian species, among which 36 species listed rare and endemic in the Vietnam Red Book and the IUCN Red List.



Most noticeable of which is Cat Ba Langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalus*), a species endemic to Cat Ba and listed by IUCN as one of 25 world top most endangered primates.



Marine creature : covering an area of over 5,000 ha, the park's sea possesses invaluable marine resources. According to scientific records, there are over 1,131 marine animal and plant species, including 196 species of sea fish, 538 species of zoo benthos, 75 species' of sea grass, 199 species of phytoplankton, 89 species of zooplankton, 193 species of corals and 23 mangrove species.



Sea  
mantis



Snout otter

## 2-CURRENT RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

- Hai Phong is one coastal provinces are supposed highly effected by global climate change, a lot of low land area near the sea are often flooded, natural calamity, typhoons and floods constantly arise, leading to forest damage and loss, destroying houses, fruit gardens, cattle sheds, aquaculture ponds, and bringing overall loss and damage to coastal communities



- Natural resources are becoming depleted due to over exploitation, waste of use, lack of science such as fishing by using explosive, electro-fishing to kill in masses marine creatures.



Hunting and trapping



Fishing by electric pulses



Forest fires

-Visitors come to Cat Ba more and more, there are over a million tourists arrive in a year.



The risk of  
environmental  
pollution

A beach in Cát Ba

- Environmental pollution by the pressure of socio-economic development is a massive challenge to Viet Nam. At Cat Ba national park, though level of pollution is not so high. It can be observed the appearance of fish died in the area of floating fish farm, the rubbish flow in the bay or sea water smell



### 3-SOME EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

- To face the general challenges to natural resource conservation around the country, the national government has numerous policies and strategies to guide resource management and sustainable development. The plans are implemented in locality by cooperation of relevant sectors and applied multiple measures to carry out objective conservation for development.
- Awareness education combination with improvement community's livelihood is one of the best method to protect biological resources; not only raising environmental awareness, but also creating more jobs, increasing income for local people, attracting them to take part in protecting natural resource and environment.

This is very important beside the efforts of state unit management. However, to raise effectiveness of this model to bring practical sense for conservation management, we need to combine some solutions and cooperate of relevant sectors, also point out communities' benefits.



\*The concrete activities include:

- Building up the system of notice boards, regulations, information around the park and on the traffic roads to inform which activities are prohibited and warnings about fire danger.



forest  
fire  
forecast



Prohibiti  
on signs



- Produce brochure, provide information on the website of the park to introduce and popularize the Park's values.



The website of the park:  
[vuonquocgiacatba.com.vn](http://vuonquocgiacatba.com.vn)  
Or CatBa National park

- Print contents of park information on the souvenirs products such T-shirts, hats
- Introducing and guiding tourists when they come to visit the park. This activity not only provide information for visitors, but also raise awareness and responsibility



- Rangers also raise awareness directly with local communities.
- Cooperate with Cat Ba Langur Conservation Project established the groups of communities- based conservation, and these groups in cooperation with rangers of the Park are supporting efforts to protect fauna and flora.
- Community forest protection as part of the government's program, which provides people direct payment annually for protection. The park also hire local people planting and looking after forest.



- Building applied projects, transfer technique for communities to raise aquaculture effectiveness and bring new species with high economic value to make more income and improve people's lives.



feed  
honeybee

Growing cultivation

- The project of raising capacity climate change mitigation and adaptation. The project also pointed out necessary work to maintain the environment, the new jobs adapt with current condition of local people in buffer zone of Cat Ba National Park.
- Encourage people take part in tourism services such as: restaurants, hotels, souvenir selling, tourist boats, buses, motor taxi, home-stay, and local guides.



- Awareness education for children in schools
- Organizations meeting with local communities
- Sending articles, documentary to state and local media to provide information to whole people.



- Participating of politician, socio – economic organizations to propagandize, raise awareness for community. Carry out by many ways such as organize the competitions to answer system questions, combine propaganda in culture and artistic performance programs.





By identifying true causes of natural resource decrease in many places and orientating right problems need to solve, CatBa national park cooperated tightly with others units, used plentiful integrated forms to raise awareness and improve community livelihoods. Therefore, natural resources of the Park are effectively protected, and is high valuated by Hai Phong city and forest sector. The rare, precious and endemic genes are maintained. Specially, Cat Ba have just been checked by IUCN with it's proposal to be recognized as World Heritage by UNESCO and it may get in near future.



## 4-LEARNING EXPERIENCES

After implemented some programs to conserve and sustainably develop natural resource. We have concluded some learning experiences in education to raise awareness and community-based forest management. Then building up cooperation relevant sites and proposal suitable solutions to develop and wider community-based resource management as follows:

1. Determine to carry out state objectives on sustainable development and implement state strategies and programs on new rural development.
2. Mobilize other forces and the masses to take part in conservation and sustainable development is a decisive factor of successful processes of sustainable development.

3. Education is the key ongoing activity, with numerous ways, easy to understand and aware.

4. Campaign but practical, find out new jobs instead of traditional work based on nature.

5. Local people have right to take part in planning or discussing policies on conservation.

6. Facilitating research study, national and international cooperation. Attracting NGO and international organization donate and support community projects.

In the future, Cat Ba national park wish for the support from external partners, researchers and donors to climate change mitigation and adaptation, preserve biodiversity and landscape, and improve livelihoods.



Thank for your attention

