



Progress Report for Coral Reef project in Tam Hai Commune, Nui Thanh District, Quang Nam Province

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1. General background

1.1 Project site

With over 3200 km coastline and more than 2 million people participating in fishing activities, coastal residents, particularly in central Vietnam, rely greatly on coastal resources. However, coastal resources are declining and important coastal ecosystems as mangroves, corals, sea grass in many areas have been seriously damaged. Coral reefs especially, have badly degraded owing to commercial fish exploitation by destructive fishing methods such as explosives, cyanide, overfishing, and coral harvesting for handicraft and art-work, and shrimp pond construction. Increasing population and economic development result in increasing needs and stress on marine resources, coastal ecosystems in particular, including coral reefs.



Establishing protected areas is one important solution in marine resource conservation and a restoration strategy to serve sustainable socio-economic development in the coastal zone. The protected area with community participation in resource management will help to preserve biodiversity and biological productivity of ecosystems and be a good base for sustainable development.

Tam Hai is a coastal commune in Nui Thanh District in the south of Quang Nam Province, 100 km from Da Nang City. The area of the commune is 1,561 hectares. With population of 7,837, Tam Hai residents mostly live on fishing and aquaculture. There are 140 breeding black tiger shrimp farms in the whole area with the capacity of 5 to 10 million posts/year/farm, which meet the demand for breeding shrimp in the province as well as other domestic markets. Apart from some households earning their living from selling, breeding and diving for lobsters, the majority of the rest are poor with unstable demersal and pelagic fishing or small coastal production. The inhabitants have low living standards and coastal environmental sanitation is not properly developed. The Ordinance on Marine Resource Protection and Development is regularly violated.



Based on the local socioeconomic situation as well as the needs for marine resource restoration of the coastal resources on which the community depends, the establishment of a protected area in Tam Hai Commune is deemed necessary to benefit

both the community and coastal resources. The natural environment of the project site in Tam Hai is favorable for the growth of coral reef ecosystem.

1.2 Community Engagement

In 2004 and 2005, MCD implemented research through funding from the Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI) on “Involving the community in coastal coral reef conservation” in Thuan An Hamlet of Tam Hai Commune, Nui Thanh District, Quang Nam Province. The research group carried out socio-economic and resource surveys, raised the awareness of the local community on environmental issues and trained the community with skills to approach alternative sustainable livelihoods.

MCD in consultation with the local government authorities and local community further continued with conservation activities, as Tam Hai residents expressed their interest to conserve coastal coral reefs and seek management solutions. This has been confirmed in survey implemented by MCD in April 2006. The Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division and local authority agreed to continue with MCD to support the community. A core group was selected representing the community to participate in coral reef conservation training and conservation activities.

In May and June, 2006, Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD) led Hamlet 1 of Tam Hai Commune in Nui Thanh District, Quang Nam Province and Vinh Truong Hamlet of Phuoc Dinh Commune, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province on a study tour to the model of Trao Reef marine protected area which is managed by the local community (Van Hung Commune, Van Ninh District, Khanh Hoa Province). The purpose was to extend the achievements obtained from Trao Reef Marine Reserve model to other Vietnamese coastal localities, where coral reefs, the environment and resources have been badly degraded with the objectives of raising community living standards, and restoring and conserving the local environment, especially local coral reef ecosystems.

MCD also coordinated with Quang Nam Provincial Marine Resources Conservation Division to carry out further activities in Tam Hai Commune in August 2006 as described in details below.

2. Community consultation to establish the protected area in Tam Hai Commune, Nui Thanh District, Quang Nam Province.

2.1 Objectives

- Conduct a consultation to develop a proposal for the establishment of an aquatic protected area;
- Announce the protected area establishment by the Division?? and coordinate with the local residents in Hamlet 1;
- Select a site for the protected area (from 2-3 proposed sites for consideration),in consultation with MCD;
- Define the scale of protected area to match community management capacity t
- Build consensus on the organizational structure of the protected area including, protection group, management board

Venue and Time : Tam Hai kindergarten, 08:00 – 11:00 AM 25th August 2006. **The Consultation Agenda is attached as Appendix 1**

2.2 Report of the Consultation

This community consultation meeting was attended by the representative of Tam Hai Commune People's Committee (Mr. Bo, Head of Tam Hai Commune's Fisheries), representative of the District (Mr. Truong, Economic Department of the District) and representative of Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2.

Participants were actively involved in the consultation. Participants, especially the core group (who joined the study trip to Trao Reef, Khanh Hoa Province) called upon everyone to establish the same model as Trao Reef in order to protect coral reef resources, which have been almost destroyed. The following are the community's ideas:

Local marine resources used to be very abundant and diverse. However, owing to destructive fishing activities (explosives, absolute fishing and coral exploitation for lime), coastal resources have become exhausted.



- It can especially be seen that coastal fishing is no longer productive and Tam Hai's coral area is very small now. Therefore, 70-80% of the local residents in Tam Hai Commune, after several campaigns on the significance of coral reefs in marine resource conservation and restoration, were unanimous in the establishment of the local protected area.
- Some participants were uncertain about the early establishment of the Coral Reef Protected Area as local fishing habits could not be changed in a day or two. With the protected area model to be applied to just one site in Tam Hai commune, it will be hard to avoid future conflict with other hamlets' people entering for fishing.
- Once the protected area model is formed, the coral reef conservation community group needs a financial support to encourage their enthusiasm.
- It was noted that coral reef protection is quite difficult. However, if it's not done now, the resources will shortly be further over-exploited and absolutely destroyed given the destructive pace.

Some members in the community suggested that coral reef protection in Tam Hai should be based on Tam Hai residents' self-awareness and responsibility. The protection and restoration of coral reef as well as coastal marine resources are the responsibilities of the whole community for their future generations; hence, they should not rely on the external financial support which is "not too" sustainable (salary).

The community highly appreciated attempts made by MCD to disseminate the information on the negative impacts of destructive fishing and coral reef damage. Specifically, after MCD worked with the local authorities, explosive fishing has been stopped

Some specific proposals of the community included:

- Protection of the local remaining coral reefs should be carried out as soon as possible; practical actions rather than formal meetings should be taken.
- MCD should develop a specific action plan for the protected area establishment and put it into soon operation.
- The commune should design an intensive campaign to publicize the significance and benefits of the protected area to the whole commune. The common protection responsibility should be disseminated to the whole community, especially to the fishermen.
- Financial as well as technical support from MCD, Commune, District and Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division are also proposed.
- The local governmental agencies (commune and district) should quickly develop a specific legal framework for the protected area to be disseminated to the nearby communities as well as punishments for violation cases in the Protected Area.



Feedback from the District's Representative:

- The District will give the best support in terms of legal requirements to the commune so as to establish the protected area in the soonest time. With its participation in this community consultation meeting, the District shows its attention to local resources protection.
- Initially, the Commune might select a small area for resource protection, and then submit the results to the Commune People's Committee, Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division and District People's Committee for legal support.
- The District People's Committee will develop a legal framework to support the establishment of the protected area. The community members will directly participate in addressing and dealing with violation cases while the District will play the role of supporting body.

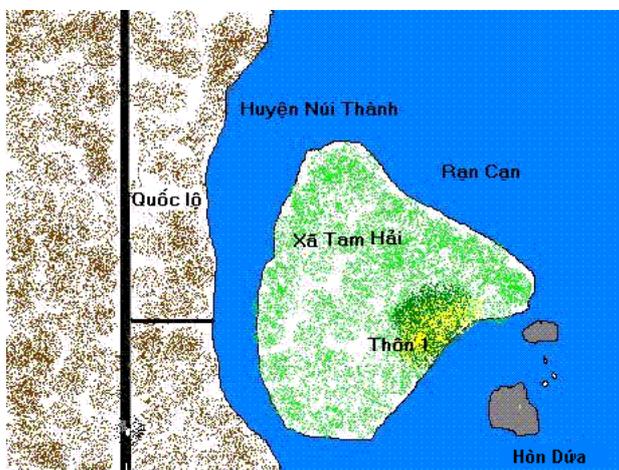
Feedback from the Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division's Representative:

- The Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division will coordinate with Nui Thanh People's Committee, Quang Nam Province to find a way to support the Commune (legally and technically) in establishing the protected area.

Feedback from MCD's Representative

- It is not easy to establish a protected area model site. For example, Trao Reef Marine Reserve model managed by the community was implemented by IMA - Vietnam formerly and MCD later for a long time (5 years from 2000 – 2005), it has not yet confirmed as a successful model.. However, MCD will keep supporting the community to implement this program.
- MCD cannot at this time confirm financial support for the model site. However, MCD will consult the sponsors to work out a specific supportive program to the protected area in the near future.
- The full participation of the representatives of District and Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division as well as the Commune's officials and the local community members in this meeting really shows the above authorities' concerns about the protected area model in Tam Hai.
- With lessons learned from Trao Reed **Marine** Reserve managed by the locals and the initial advantages of Tam Hai (the People's Committees of Commune and District, and the Provincial Fisheries Division from the very beginning), MCD believes that Tam Hai community can initiate the implementation of the establishment of the protected area.
- After surveying the community-selected sites, the Commune should submit to Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division and the District People's Committee all the results and request support to establish the protected area. Participants in the community consultation should also include publicizing to other community members in the hamlet and commune so that they will limit their entrance to the protected area for exploitation. Communication and publicity can be implemented in the form of hamlet meetings and social group meetings within the community such as veterans association, farmers association, etc.
- After discussion by the community members, 2 sites are selected to be surveyed on 26th August 2006 to establish the future protected area.
 - Can Reef
 - Hon Dua area

Ran Can gathered more votes for the reason that it is close to Hamlet 1, hence more convenient for monitoring, enforcement and management.



3. Defining the protected area in Tam Hai Commune, Nui Thanh District, Quang Nam Province

3.1 Objectives

- Define the location and specific scale of the protected area to submit an official proposal;
- Rapidly assess the resources candidate sites for the protected area by using training provided by MCD as a base for monitoring the changes in the protected area.

3.2 Activities

On 26th August 2008, a survey group of 10 community members, (including 5 members of the core group), and officials of Tam Hai Commune, Nui Thanh District and Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division, conducted a survey of **Can Reef** and **Hon Dua**



The List of the Survey Group is attached as Appendix 3. The survey group completed a rapid assessment of the marine as well as coral reef resources at the two sites (Can Reef and Hon Dua).

After the assessment of the above two sites, the group defined the advantages and disadvantages to facilitate voting for the final selection of the protected area.

:

Site	Advantage	Disadvantage
Can Reef	1. Close to the coast, invisible from the shore, hence convenient for protection activities. 2. At Ran Can area, only local residents in Hamlet 1 enter for fishing, hence convenient for management, publicity and communication	1. At present, the remaining coral coverage and quantity in this area are very low, mostly with seaweeds. If a protected area is set up at this site, it will require a lot of efforts to clear the seaweeds. 2. Water quality is not good. The water is turbid. 3. There is no foundation to build the protected area. If built, it ought to be implemented in the sea, which will be very costly. 4. The core group cannot both protect the area and develop economy at the same time.

		5. It is unfavorable to develop tourism in this site
Hon Dua	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The coral coverage and quantity remain high. Coral reefs are still abundant (both soft and hard corals). 2. Water quality is fairly good. The clean water is favorable for coral plantation and transplantation. 3. It is easy to develop a protected area and the core group can both protect and cultivate in this Hon Dua (the first livelihood chosen by the core group is raising goats?). 4. It is convenient to develop tourism at this site (one of the important livelihoods for the local residents). Also the plan of Nui Thanh tourist area establishment has been developed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offshore, being hidden and invisible from the shore. 2. There are also residents from other areas entering for fishing, hence difficulty in management and dissemination.

Conclusion:

After discussing over advantages and disadvantages, the community voted for a consensus on establishing the protected area at **Hon Dua**.

4. Assessment of coastal resources at Hon Dua implemented by the trained local residents

4.1 Objectives

3. To zone the protected area
4. To assess the marine and coral reef resources.

4.2 Implemented activities:



On 27th August, 2006, an assessment group was formed with 5 core group members who were trained in coastal resource assessment and attended the study trip to Trao Reef Marine Protected model in Khanh Hoa Province, together with officials from People's Committees of Nui Thanh District and Tam Hai Commune, as well as Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 4**, and the Results attached as Appendix 5.

General Assessment:

- Coral coverage and quantity at Hon Dua remain relatively high (in comparison with those at Ran Can).
- The marine resources, however, are still poor.



5. Core Group meeting to get consensus on 3D model

5.1 Objectives:

- To develop a 3D model on the tentative site for the protected area e as a base for publicizing activities to the community.
- Initially assign the core group protected area establishment activities.

5.2 Results:

- A Core Group meeting was convened on ??? August 2006 to discuss the development of a 3D model.



- The Core group was unanimous in the necessity of the 3D model development.
- MCD shared experiences in 3D model model development in Trao Reef for the Core Group's reference.
- The Core group was unanimous in the method of 3D model development and will submit the proposal to MCD through Mr. Dung, of the Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Of the two sites Hon Dua** is a superior site to establish the protected area for coral and coastal marine resources conservation and restoration.
- Relevant authorities (Commune, District and Provincial Fisheries Division) should support as soon as possible this development with a legal framework so that the Commune can soon establish the protected area. Once the protected area is developed, the Commune should coordinate with other relevant authorities to work out methods of publicity and communication as well as dealing with violation cases in the protected area (it is specifically necessary to get the Border Post authority involved).
- The local community needs to coordinate with the commune's radio station in order to publicize and communicate the significance and benefits of the protected area establishment to the community's residents. Immediately,, it can be incorporated into community meetings held by the hamlets or commune to raise awareness among the community of a marine resource protected area model being implemented.
- MCD will study and consult sponsors to give support (financial and technical) to the commune as soon as possible to get the instructions by the District People's Committee and other relevant authorities and decision on establishing the protected area and implement other activities within the project's framework (coral transplantation).





Appendix 1

Community consultation on the establishment of the protected area in Tam Hai Commune, Nui Thanh District, Quang Nam Province

Date: 25th August 2006

Time	Activities	Coordination	Comment
8:00 – 8:30	Introduction of consultation agenda and participants	Resources Conservation Division	
8:30 – 8:45	Brief on the necessity of establishment the protected area	Representative of Commune People's Committee	Presentation by representative of District People's Committee
8:45 – 9: 45	Detailed discussion on the tentative site for the protected area	All participants	
9:45- 10:00	Tea Break		
10:00- 10:20	Discussion on the scale of the protected area's scale	Participating residents, chaired by representatives of Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division, and MCD	
10:20-11:00	Consensus on the organization structure to manage the protected area	Resource Conservation Division	
11:00 -11:15	Summary of main points	MCD	
11:15	Conclusion and Closure	Resource Conservation Division	



Appendix 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Community consultation on the establishment of the protected area in Tam Hai Commune, Nui Thanh District, Quang Nam Province

Date: 25th August 2006

No.	Name	Address
1	Le Van Minh	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
2	Bach Ngoc Lan	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
3	Doan Van Hau	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
4	Tran Minh Tap	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
5	Le Van Trang	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
6	Nguyen Nhung	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
7	Le Xuan Thai	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
8	Le Van Dung	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
9	Nguyen Van Yen	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
10	Nguyen Van Thu	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
11	Bach Ba Pho	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
12	Le Van Hien	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
13	Le Van Hung	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
14	Tran Van Vinh	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
15	Nguyen Thi Huc	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
16	Le Hoai Bong	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
17	Nguyen Hoang Dung	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
18	Nguyen Hue Truong	Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division
19	Nguyen Van Truong	Nui Thanh District Economic Dept.
20	Vu Cong Bo	Tam Hai Commune People's Committee



Appendix 3

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Site survey for the protected area establishment at **Can Reef and Hon Dua** in Tam Hai Commune, Nui Thanh District, Quang Nam Province

Date: 26th August 2006

No	Name	Address
1	Le Van Trang	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
2	Bach Ngoc Lan	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
3	Doan Van Hau	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
4	Le Van Hien	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
5	Bach Ba Pho	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
6	Tran Van Tap	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
7	Le Hoai Bong	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
8	Nguyen Van Thu	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
9	Le Van Minh	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
10	Le Van Y	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
11	Nguyen Van Truong	Nui Thanh District Economic Dept.
12	Vu Cong Bo	Tam Hai Commune People's Committee
13	Nguyen Hoang Dung	Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division



Appendix 4

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Assessment of marine and coral resources at Hon Dua in Tam Hai Commune, Nui Thanh District, Quang Nam Province

Date: 27th August 2006

No	Name	Address
1	Le Van Trang	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
2	Bach Ngoc Lan	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
3	Doan Van Hau	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
4	Tran Van Tap	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
5	Le Van Y	Hamlet 1, Tam Hai Commune
6	Vu Cong Bo	Tam Hai Commune People's Committee
7	Nguyen Van Truong	Nui Thanh District Economic Dept.
8	Nguyen Hoang Dung	Quang Nam Provincial Fisheries Division