

Restoration and co-management of degraded sandy areas in NCC Viet Nam: objectives, achievements, challenges and outlook

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Project objective, area & lifetime

- **objective: develop and pilot an EbA approach for restoring degraded coastal sandy areas, and promote upscaling**
- **project lifetime: April 2018 – January 2025**
- **main project activities**
 - **WP 1: development of the restoration models:** identification of suitable sites, site-species-matching (only native tree species), seedling production, establishment of best-practice nursery (Cam Lo / QT)
 - **WP 2: piloting and proof-of-concept on 500 ha in the project provinces (Thua Thien Hue, Quang Tri and Quang Binh):** site preparation, trainings for planting and co-management of 450 ha sandy areas and 50 ha mangroves
 - **WP 3: Dissemination activities and promotion / upscaling:** publications, TV documentaries, scientific book chapter, video clips, education (schools), presentation at national and international events



Focus on implementation and local communities

- intact and **restored coastal forests are highly diverse and provide many ecosystem services**, esp. for farmers and communities
- large **degraded areas along Vietnam's coast in need of restoration**: potential estimated > 500,000 ha
- **restoration of sandy areas is technically difficult**: hostile environments (drought, flood, fire, salination)
- **approach**
 - apply research of Hue University and translate it into practice: proof-of-concept for app. 15 native tree species in a specific planting design mimicking natural distributions
 - to restore together with interested communities degraded protection forests to enhance their resilience and provide tangible environmental (and economic) benefits



history and milestones of this project (II)

- 2018 – 2020: preparations, consultations, approvals
- October 2020: 500 ha pilots successfully planted
- Nov. 2020: five typhoons and subsequent flood destroyed large parts of the planted areas
- January 2022: approval of „typhoon recovery“ funding by IKI including establishment a “best-practice”-nursery (lesson from first planting round)
- February 2023: best-practice nursery established in Cam Lo / Quang Tri province
- April 2023: national conference in Hué
- Planting seasons 2023 / 2024: replanting damaged sites with high-quality seedlings produced in Cam Lo



all fotos by Ho Ngoc Anh Tuan (hongocanh tuan@husta.vn)





Project impressions - all fotos by Ho Ngoc Anh Tuan (hongocanhtuan@husta.vn)



Challenges & main lessons learnt

- **the developed EbA approach is viable for Vietnam's coast:** significant restoration potential with multiple benefits, technically feasible and much interest to replicate
- **key challenges for upscaling**
 - site availability (tourism, aquaculture, sand mining)
 - extreme weather (drought, flood, typhoons)
 - seedling quality and planting preparation is decisive for project success
 - securing funding for implementation – needs public funding and philanthropy (very slow growing, only NTFP use)
- **funding options** include GCF / GEF and financial cooperation grants, domestic funding, and philanthropy
- **our project ends soon - Unique and HUSTA are committed to mobilize more funding and continuing the work on ecological restoration with communities in coastal protection forests**



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