

NBDS PROJECT Newsletter

“THE PROJECT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATABASE SYSTEM IN VIETNAM”

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JICA/JDS – MONRE/VEA/BCA

Core group meeting with local experts

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Since 2012, the NBDS project has elaborated and tested biodiversity indicators and their selection methods together with the BCA, participants of the Technical Working Group, the local consultant team for the survey in the Xuan Thuy National Park (XTNP), and has been elaborating a draft guideline for development of biodiversity indicators, through discussions at seven meetings of Technical Working Groups (TwG) and workshops under the NBDS Project.

Nevertheless, the mid-term project review revealed that the indicator development process might not yet be accommodated well to situations and needs in Vietnam. In addition, the process of indicator development needs to be documented into a guideline principally in Vietnamese for easy application in Vietnam. As one of the essential parts of project activities, a suitable biodiversity indicator development and selection process for the “Biodiversity Monitoring Indicator Guideline for Vietnam” (hereinafter referred to as the “BDMI guideline”) needs to be determined as one of the outputs from the Project.

The BDMI guideline is expected to contain all indicators relevant to ecosystems in Vietnam together with the guidance and method for selecting indicators for a particular ecosystem in order to correctly monitor biodiversity conditions of the ecosystem in a sustainable manner. The BDMI guideline is expected to be used in all related agencies and organizations in Vietnam who are working on biodiversity conservation including ministries, provinces, research institutes, universities, and NGOs.

The objective of this core group is to complete the process for developing biodiversity indicators in view of current Vietnamese situations and needs.

Activities:

(1) Review ongoing project activities related to biodiversity indicators and clarify current needs for further development in view of situations in Vietnam.

(2) Review situations and needs in Vietnam related to biodiversity indicators by collecting and analyzing relevant information.

(3) Reconsider and revise indicator selection methods to suit Vietnamese situations while ensuring their technical/scientific bases.

(4) Prepare a draft list of biodiversity indicators at the national and site levels.

(5) Summarizing the biodiversity indicator selection process, prepare a draft guideline for developing biodiversity indicators.

(6) Coordinate with other organizations and/or stakeholders, including TwG members for exchanging and sharing relevant information. As required, organize consultation/coordination meetings with other concerned parties.

(7) Facilitate the official endorsement/validation of the developed methods (e.g. selection/determination of biodiversity indicators, etc.) or prepared drafts for use in Vietnam, leading to national policy tools through technical capitalization/assimilation by MONRE.



The first pilot survey in XTNP



Within the frame of project, we have planned to carry out four field surveys including 2 times of baseline (winter and summer) and 2 times of monitoring (winter and summer).

In the late of 2012, we have implemented the first field survey at XTNP from December 10th to 21st, 2012. Participating in this winter survey, there are total 18 researchers of local consultant team, 5 staffs from XTNP, BCA leaders and staffs; and Mr. Otsuka and Mr. Tu from JICA expert team have accompanied the survey.

The survey was carried out by the following groups according to the expertise of each researcher.

- Aquatic macro invertebrates (Including benthic aquatic insects), Shellfish
- Fish
- Water and soil quality
- Mangroves and other vegetation
- Birds
- Reptiles, Amphibians, Terrestrial mammals
- Terrestrial insects
- Ecosystem in general (including GIS)
- Socioeconomics



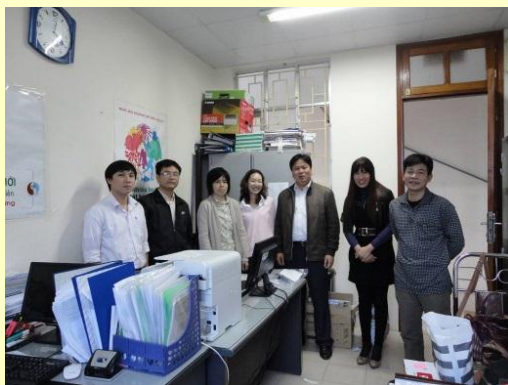
Each group has well-planned the survey points before the survey by using maps and satellite images obtained in one, and did the survey with equipment in each group.

As a result of the survey, we have obtained a large number of survey data including 73 species of plants, 80 species of invertebrates, 70 species of birds, and 80 species of fishes. On December 26, we had a preliminary presentation meeting on the overview of survey result and the schedule of data analysis and data input.

It should be noted that the first survey at XTNP has focused mainly on the overall comprehension and identification of species composition in each group, and major species lists were prepared. Reviewing its results, the next survey should address the collection of more quantitative data (e.g. populations) to testify a selected set of the core indicators predetermined, conceiving accurate and cost-efficient survey methods.

Now, the second field survey has been deployed from July 10th to 25th, 2013 in XTNP. This is the survey for collecting of summer data.





Equipment Procurement and Installation

Some of machinery and equipment necessary to carry out the project in a way that will be effective from Japan provided within allocated budget for technical cooperation. They are included database equipment (servers, workstation, and computers), software, survey equipment, etc.

They were handed over to and installed in VEA/BCA, ITC and Nam Dinh DONRE.



Greetings from JICA Experts



My name is Yoichi Kogure, the Chief advisor of this project. Our team is now working hard to develop not only the database itself but also several important documents for the sustainable management of biodiversity in Vietnam. Please stay tuned!

Upcoming Events

The second pilot survey will be carried out in XTNP from July 10th to 25th, 2013.

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