

The Improvement of Local Communities' Livelihood Could Harmonize with Nature Reserve and Development Around Major Harbors in Vietnam

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Vietnam has total coastal length of 3,260 km on continental land except island and archipelago, where there is the famous world natural heritage of Ha Long Bay, and there are many important harbors, which were build or will finish the construction works in the near future. Local communities have lived for a longtime around that ports and cities, which are adjacent to the fantastic natural landscapes and high biodiversity.

The national development strategy focuses on upgrading and expanding all major harbors, if which not based on sustainable options, there will be influences by serious conflicts not only between economy and ecology, but also developed trend and local communities' benefits.

Hai Phong Port, the existing most important port in North Vietnam, relates to the large-scale mangrove forest area and the Island National Park, near by river estuary, where local people have developed fisheries for hundreds of years. Other port in South Vietnam as biggest seaport and business city, Ho Chi Minh City, has its shipping-way laid in middle of the largest mangrove area, which was certified the International Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, where local communities joint protection and management of natural resources. Further, the deep-seaport of Cai Lan is being built nearby Ha Long Bay, which makes the balances among economic development, natural heritage protection and local communities' livelihood increasing. Other coming biggest Petrol-seaport and Industrial Zone of Dung Quat in Central Vietnam which links closely with the coastal ecosystem conservation of wetland and sandridge optimum protection as well as the man-made forest has being enhanced with local communities' role. The case-studies in this presentation are real practices in Vietnam: local communities joint nature conservation and development together pearl-oyster breeding in Ha Long Bay; high income from sea-products and ecotourism services to villagers in mangrove biosphere reserve nearby the biggest harbor of Saigon etc...

The smart solutions for problems for sustainable development and natural conservation should emphasize parallely state policies and local communities' livelihood in the long-term and stability, it means harmonizing increasing local income and national development of almost important harbors.