

# CONFLICTS BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - A CASE OF PHU-MY LEPIRONIA WETLAND CONSERVATION PROJECT

TRAN Triet

International Crane Foundation,

University of Science, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City

## **Presenter**

LUONG Thien Tam,

Department of Ecology-Evolutionary Biology,

University of Science, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City

littam@hcmus.edu.vn

## **Abstract**

Conflicts between biodiversity conservation and the need of economic development remain difficult, especially in developing countries. Win-win solution is a possible approach for solving that conflict since it makes sure that local people can earn benefit from conservation activities. In November 2004, the Phu My Lepironia Wetland Conservation Project was therefore established in Phu My village, Kien Giang Province, Vietnam. The project has demonstrated that natural resources can be sustainably managed by both conservationists and local community toward both environmental and economic benefits. The project provides local people skills training, equipment and marketing assistance so that they can make high-quality handicrafts from the Lepironia and increase their income. Simultaneously, more than 2,000-hectare area of wetlands with some of them are natural habitats of Eastern Sarus cranes, are conserved instead of being turned into rice cultivation or shrimp aquaculture farms. More important, awareness of the value of natural wetland has also grown considerably among the local community.

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