



Small Grants Programme
by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
German Financial Cooperation
KfW No. BMZ 2011 66 545 (SGP)
KfW No. BMZ 2015 69 177 (SGP II)



BA BE NATIONAL PARK (BBNP)

Ba Be National Park (BBNP) is located in northeastern Viet Nam in *Bac Kan* province and spans over 10,000 hectares, centred around Ba Be Lake—the country’s largest natural freshwater lake set within a limestone karst landscape about 150 metres above sea level. The park encompasses rivers, caves, limestone mountains, and lowland evergreen forests, making it a vital biodiversity reserve with rare tree species and endemic and endangered wildlife. It was designated an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003, a Ramsar Site in 2011, and a national special scenic relic in 2012.

Beyond its ecological value, BBNP provides essential ecosystem services that support around 6,000 households across 7 communes. It is also home to the *Tay, Dao,* and *Hmong* peoples, whose traditional practices are closely intertwined with the landscape and contribute to its cultural significance.

Despite its importance, the park faces environmental pressures such as pollution, encroachment, and climate change, alongside limited management capacity and insufficient sustainable livelihood options for communities. Under SGP II, BBNP received EUR 676,873.43 for 12 grant projects—9 small and 3 micro—led by the park management, universities, private organisations, and local communities.

Launched in 2017, the *Small Grants Programme by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity II (SGP II)* is an initiative aimed at sustaining biodiversity in the ASEAN Heritage Parks in Viet Nam, in line with the interests of local communities who directly depend on the selected parks, providing alternative livelihood opportunities, and strengthening the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in promoting biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region.

SMALL GRANTS, BIG IMPACTS

“Despite the short period, communities and park staff have quickly learned from experts, built skills, and developed positive attitudes towards the park. We no longer enter the forest just to exploit it for a living—we have invested in sustainable livelihoods, better management, and stronger communication to reduce encroachment and protect the forest.”

Pham Van Nam
Deputy Executive Director
Ba Be National Park

FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

Through SGP II, the following agencies and organisations collaborated to advance biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in the ASEAN region:

- ACB
- KfW Development Bank
- Project Management Unit, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (Viet Nam)
- BBNP Management Board
- Geoinformatics Research Center
- Centre for Training and Research on Plant and Animal Breeding
- Mountainous Resource and Environment Centre
- Centre for Environmental Education and Forest Environmental Service - Ba Be National Park
- Ba Be Tourist Area Management Board
- Forest Protection Department - Ba Be National Park Management Board
- University of Information and Communication Technology
- Centre for Aquatic Research and Development
- Institute of Life Sciences, Thai Nguyen University
- Thai Nguyen University of Sciences
- Vietnam Organic Agricultural Association
- GITEC



WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND MONITORING

SGP II supported forest diversity monitoring and protection by developing an inventory for rare trees and capacitating park staff on digital technologies for forest protection, management, and biodiversity monitoring. The programme supported 2 projects with EUR 171,958.81 or 25 per cent of the total grant amount allocated to the park.

- Mapped rare and endangered woody tree species and selected 10 priority large tree species, including *Cay nghien* (*Burretiodendron hsienmu*) and *Trai ly* or Fragrant Orchid (*Cyrtophyllum fragrans*)
- Established the Biodiversity Information Management and Monitoring System (BIMMS) database, covering 2,778 plant and animal species, 8 habitat types, and 8 species distribution maps
- Completed the inventory of 9,043 big rare and endangered woody trees, accompanied by a standardised digital database, GIS-based distribution maps, and full integration into the BIMMS database
- Held 4 training courses for 22 managers and staff to improve capacity in biodiversity monitoring and the use of digital tools and technical facilities
- Approved the Biodiversity Monitoring Plan 2025–2030 for 11 rare and endangered species

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SGP II strengthened local capacities in cooperative management, environmental stewardship, waste management, and ecotourism, while creating sustainable livelihood options.

The programme supported 8 community development projects with EUR 351,033.47 or 52 per cent of the total grant amount allocated to the park.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Enhanced management capacity of 32 staff and improved knowledge of 110 cooperative members on sustainable farming techniques
- Held 2 training on ecotourism planning and management for 24 park management board officials and communes
- Organised 2 experiential study tours for 19 ecotourism managers and staff
- Trained 197 households in 3 villages of *Nam Mau* commune on solid waste management
- Strengthened the capacity of 60 participants from the *Tay*, *Hmong* and *Dao* peoples and 10 individuals from poor households on ecotourism services in 2 communes
- Conducted 8 training courses on composting and feed production for 30 core trainers to serve as resource persons for retraining at least 240 farmers in the 4 communes

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

- Held 3 training courses on black *Hmong* chicken raising among 40 households in 2 communes, providing each household with 75 black *Hmong* chicken, chicken feeds, and corn grains
- Enhanced farmers' self-reliance through the production of organic compost and fermented feeds for pigs from agricultural byproducts

ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT

- Launched VR360 virtual tourism system (<https://babetourism.vn>), a website featuring 35 key tourist attractions, and trained 90 local tourism service providers on digital tourism

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND CONSERVATION AWARENESS

SGP II promoted Chinese phoenix barb (*Spinibarbus denticulatus*) fish farming as a sustainable livelihood closely linked with biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development, funding the project with EUR 75,985.15 or 11 per cent of the total grant amount allocated to the park.

- Provided 48 ethnic group households of *Tay* and *Dao* from 3 communes with Chinese phoenix barb fingerlings and feeds, expanding aquaculture area to 20,660 square metres, and contributing to reducing pressure on wild fisheries
- Trained more than 60 participants on sustainable aquaculture, helped establish 3 fish farming cooperation groups

GENERAL PARK MANAGEMENT

SGP II supported participatory forest governance in BBNP through border definition and marking between core and buffer zone villages—allocating EUR 77,896 or 12 per cent of the total grant amount awarded to the park.

- Completed 170 land boundary markers and mapping across 3 villages
- Completed a cadastral map of *Nam Mau* commune, including a forest classification planning map for *Bac Kan* province

Scan this QR code to know more about the grant projects supported by SGP II



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