

ENV

EDUCATION FOR NATURE – VIETNAM

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PRESS RELEASE

Tam Dao Community-based Awareness Program Launched

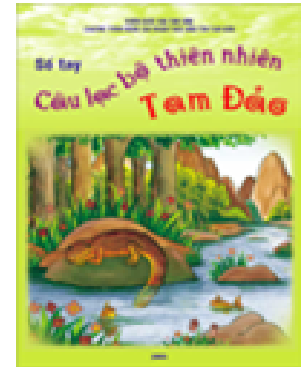
Hanoi, February 21, 2005.



During the first week of February the Tam Dao Nature Club was launched in secondary schools bordering Tam Dao National Park. The new program administered by Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV) in cooperation with Tam Dao National Park and the Tam Dao district Department of Education and Training (DET) is aimed at raising awareness amongst local residents about the need to protect nature and the environment, with particular emphasis upon issues relevant to Tam Dao National Park. The Tam Dao environmental education program includes a school-based awareness program comprised of 13 lesson plans, an adult-focused

awareness program carried out through meetings at the village level, and special activities and events such as puppet shows and performances that reinforce the main conservation messages contained within the overall program.

Nature Club meetings in schools are held every week and involve students from grades 6 and 7. Each lesson focuses on specific themes such as the value of Tam Dao National Park, Endangered Species, or hunting and the wildlife Trade, and involves students in discussions, activities, and games that inspire their interest and learning. In addition, students also have the opportunity to participate in other activities such as planting trees, puppet shows and competitions.



The first nature club meeting was held in Nguyen Trai and Dao Tru Middle Schools in Tam Dao District. About 40 students in each of four classes participated in the first club session that focused on introducing students to the nature club and Tam Dao National Park. In conjunction with the launching, ENV distributed to students the new **Tam Dao Nature Club Booklet** that includes important information about the park, as well as the Tam Dao Nature Club student pledge to protect nature.



“The students were really keen to be involved in the club meeting,” said Vu Thi Quyen, ENV’s education program director. “We hope that our efforts within the community can really make a difference and contribute to the protection of Tam Dao National Park.”

Initially the Nature Clubs are being carried out in six schools. ENV plans to launch adult-focused village program meetings before the end of the school year, as well as a series of activities for students over the summer school break. “If all goes well, we may expand the program next year to other communities bordering the park,” says Quyen.

ENV also plans to develop a small training facility at the park that will facilitate ENV’s ongoing efforts to training community-based environmental educators. Thus far, about 20 major training programs have been held for environmental educators representing programs at protected areas throughout Vietnam.

The project is supported by the Government of Australia through the Regional Natural Heritage Program (RNHP) and facilitated by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust.

About ENV

Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV) was established in 2001 as Vietnam's first environmental education-focused NGO, built upon the success and experience of the community-based Conservation Awareness Programme at Cuc Phuong National Park. ENV specialises in training environmental educators, and carries out a variety of educational programmes and initiatives aimed at raising awareness and understanding about the environment, and the need to protect nature and wildlife in Vietnam.

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