

Session 2 – Sharing experiences

Where have you seen the greatest value integrating local and ITK practices in climate change adaptation?

Your name:

Minh Nhat Le

Where, specifically, in the world did you see the greatest value from integrating local and ITK?

Viet Nam

Which region?

Asia

When? In what year(s)?

2011-2012

Who were the local and indigenous communities / ITK holders?

*Son Long village, Huong Son commune, Ha Tinh province
An Thuy village, Le Thuy district, Quang Binh province.*

What was the natural hazard and impact on communities?

Ha Tinh is a coastal province located in the Northern part of Central Vietnam. Mountainous terrain covers 80 percent of the area. Plain terrain covers a small area and is split by mountains, rivers and streams. Among disasters, flooding causes the most economic losses. Over the last 50 years, Ha Tinh have had 47 storms, among those, there have been 15 storms which have direct impacts on the province. The total amount of economic losses over the province reached almost 135 million USD which was caused by infrastructure damage for the period 2000-2008. There are dozens of death people from flooding annually. Accordingly, there were 20 death people in Ha Tinh during the flood in October 2010. Quang Binh province is a coastal province that is directly affected by climate change and sea-level rise, respectively. According to the flood in October 2005, up to 9th October, there were seven deaths and lost people; 15 758 households and 78 schools, 16 local health centers; 23 people committees bases that were inundated. Moreover, there were 1000 ha of plants lost; more than 12 000 livestock dead; over 2 million of bred fish lost; more than 500m of concrete channels and 160 000m³ of dyke damaged; 8km of arteries connecting villages and communes destroyed; six fishery boats broken. As a result, the total amount of losses was about 1.5 million USD. There were 1000 local houses flooded in Le Thuy district in October 2007. During the flooding in October 2010, up to 17th October, there were 43 500 houses flooded. In Le Thuy district, there were 35 600 local houses flooded from 1-1.7m in 18 communes among 28 communes over the district. The flood often results in some typical diseases for both human and animals, such as, dengue fever, red eyes, diarrhea, eczema, etc. that all have bad influence on Quang Binh province. Droughts result in the high density of forest fire in Quang Binh which has damaged about 60 ha of cultivating forest.

Who were the adaptation practitioners?

- *Focal organisation: Department of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment in Viet Nam.*
- *Deploying organisation: Center of Data and Information for Natural Disaster Prevention*
- *Local authorities in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh province*

What processes were used for identifying and integrating local and ITK in adaptation?

Organizing seminars, workshops to search for ideas, experiences of scientists, and experts in term of climate change as well as local people who have lived in disaster areas for a long time. Most of their experiences are valid and effective but the problem is lack of a comprehensive guideline (or in another word: a process) logically respond to disaster. The role of scientist and adaptation practitioner is to gather all ITK, verify it with scientific knowledge and develop a process that fit local situation.

In what phases of the adaptation process was local and ITK integrated?

Observation, Assessment, Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

At which level was local and ITK integrated in adaptation planning?

Local level

Why was the integration of the local and ITK so valuable?

The biggest challenge that adaptation practitioners face with when implementing adaptation interventions is local custom. Adaptation interventions and initiatives can be very effective and bring lot of benefits to local people, but not suitable with local custom then they still cannot be used at the local. When integrating local and ITK into adaptation interventions, basically products will be their own products, nicely fit into their custom and easily be accepted by them.

Why did you choose this story?

- *We directly implemented it*
- *Proactive involvement of local people in all stages of the project.*
- *Interventions are creative and carefully customized to fit with local and ITK.*