

PATHFINDER SOUTS VIETNAM

MoP STORY IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF YEAR 2021

A MoP activity for Ecosystem Restoration

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Nature, especially forests, is a source of life for all species, also a place to maintain fresh air, water and land sources. Forests create sustainable wealth for people and animals. Nature is the space and inspiration for Scout activities. Baden-Powell, our founder of the world-wide Scouting movement, has said: *“Nature study is the key activity in Scouting and Guiding”*.

In training programs and outdoor activities, Pathfinder Scouts Vietnam’s Units have emphasized requirements for Scouts to love nature and keep clean our living environment. One of the activities that should be encouraged is the restoration of ecosystems that are being threatened by the impacts of climate change, over-exploitation of natural forests and poor awareness of people in environmental protection.

One of the themes of Scouting activities in the second Quarter of the year 2021 is the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems, in response to World Water Day on March 22 with the theme “Valuing Water” and to World Environment Day on 6 May with theme “Ecosystem Restoration”. This supports partly to response the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), including Goal No 6: Water and sanitation; Goal No. 13: Climate Action; Goal No. 15: Life on Land (Figure 1 and Figure 2).



Fig.1: Poster of PSV/MoP response activities for Forest Planting and Ecosystem Restoration



Fig. 2: Banderol for forest trees hand-over to highland communes

After the activities of providing water containers for ethnic minority communities in the highlands of North Vietnam (Figure 3 and Figure 4), PSV/MoP has surveyed the needs and possibilities of providing forest trees for the community to plant and take care of the forest. These surveys were based on natural factors such as soil conditions and climate, we also consulted opinions and suggestions from local authorities, local people and local forest rangers.

Two afforestation projects were carried out in April 2021:

- Project 1: Donating and planting 5,000 Doi/Talauma trees (*Michelia tonkinensis*) to H'mong minority people for afforestation in Sung Ma Sao Commune, Bat Xat District, Lao Cai Province (Figure 5 and Figure 6).
- Project 2: Donating and planting 3,000 Hoi trees (*Illiciaceae*) to Giáy minority people for afforestation in Tat Nga Commune, Meo Vat District, Ha Giang Province (Figure 6 and Figure 7).

Doi/Talauma trees (or scientifically known as *Michelia Tonkinensis*) well found in some Northwest provinces of Vietnam. They are woody, tall, upright plants with few branches and leaves. There are decades – or even up to century-old Doi trees of up to 30m height which produce excellent seeds. Doi seeds are very specific taste and attractive as well.

Hoi trees (scientifically known as *Illiciaceae*) is consider as a medicinal tree. In traditional medicine a powder or decoction of the fruits is used to treat abdominal colic, lumbago arising from a deficiency in the kidney, vomiting and epigastric pain due to cold in the stomach and diarrhoea.

These wo kind of forest trees will provide high value income to local minorities when these trees grow up well after decades. We, combined local forest rangers, have guided on how to plant and take care of trees for people here.

In small groups of Scout Troops, there are some decentralized trees planting application in houses as a way of environmental education to the young (Figure 8).

Although there were unexpected situations due to the fourth wave of COVID-19 epidemic, the forest planting objectives have been achieved fully. We believe this project can contribute partly for many minority people on improving living standards for the poor, responding with climate change, reducing the natural disasters as flood and drought and supporting the needs for community service of Scouts.

PROJECT PHOTOS



Fig. 3: Donating water tank for children in the remote Mekong Delta area



Fig. 4: Providing water tank for minority community in highlands



Fig. 5. Donating Doi trees for H'mong minority community



Fig. 6: Guiding Doi tree planting for local villagers



Fig. 7: Transporting Hoi trees to community in the high lands



Fig. 8: Planting Hoi trees in the highlands



Fig. 9: A Scout planting her tree in homeland in Ha Noi