

# VAN LONG ECOTOURISM SERVICE COOPERATIVES





# INTRODUCTION



In 2019, given the approval from Gia Vien District People's Committee, the Gia Van commune People's Committee agreed to replace "Van Long Tourism Station" with "Van Long Ecotourism Service Cooperative." The board of directors consists of 13 people including a director, a deputy director, monitoring squads, and technical members. Initially having only 17 households participating in the Cooperatives, there are currently more than 500 local people, mostly from the Tap Ninh village, who has engaged in local tourism activities.

# DUTIES OF THE COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD



Duties of the Management Board include:

1. Managing ticket sale.
2. Encouraging tourists to take on spreading awareness about environmental protection
3. Protecting the forest landscape, together with the Van Long NR's Management Board
4. Supporting 170-250 households in the rotation of getting boat ride assignment



# TOURISM Sightseeing ROUTES

+ Route 1 by boat: Visit natural landscapes and watch animals, from Van Long tourist wharf to Vong cave, then continue to take a boat along Dong Quyen mountain through Dong Thay gate, Bong cave, Kem Tram to Dam. Just came back.

+ Route 2 by boat: Visit natural landscapes and watch animals, from Van Long tourist wharf to Bai Vong pagoda, then continue by boat along Meo Cao mountain range, passing through Ba Nghiep and Vuon Thi caves to Fish cave. come back.

+ Route 3 on foot: go from Van Long tourist wharf, follow the dike to Dam Cut to visit Thanh Son Tu pagoda, Thung Lau, Thung La and then visit the forest in Thung Quen Ca.

+ Walking route 4: observe the herd of Delacour's Langur in Gia Hoa Town Garden Area on Dong Quyen mountain range.



## ACTIVITIES: BEING A MEMBER OF THE COOPERATIVES



In the commune, there are approximately 550 local beneficiaries coming from 180 participating households. During peak tourism period, each household handles an average of 3 trips per day. Households take turns riding the boats given their assigned times in the designated rotation.

Every year, each boat rider's household participate in training sessions, learning to lead sustainable tourism practices, especially for the conservation of the protected area. Boat riders, in addition to serving tourists, also participate in agricultural production and other tourism initiatives.



# OPPORTUNITIES



In recent times, Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve is proud to be recognized as Vietnam's 9th Ramsar site - a wetland site designated to be of international importance – where the largest group of Vooc in the world and the naturally-endowed Meo Cao mountain can be found. These geological features are the pride and joy of the local people which should further prompt Great initiatives in conserving the environment and developing tourism.

# CHALLENGES



- Water pollution
- Dust and noise from Cement production
- Water hyacinths have been invasive near the tourism and conservation zones, posing great threats to the sustainability of the native aquatic life and making it difficult to manage sustainable tourism and the conservation of the NR

--> Look for organizations to help provide financial support toward the clean-up of the Environment and the conservation of Van Long's biodiversity



# PROPOSALS



- Both domestic and international organizations to recognize the need to address existing challenges and explore growth avenues for Van Long
- Support to uplift local livelihoods and lives
- Improve the local economy and raise awareness regarding both environmental preservation and tourism development





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