

Project

Mangrove protection by integrated shrimp farming in Ca Mau, Vietnam

Time frame: since February 2014**Status:** ongoing**A. Principal**Blueyou Consulting Ltd. (www.blueyou.com)

Additional parties involved: Minh Phu Corp. (www.minhphu.com), IDH – The sustainable trade initiative (www.idhsustainabletrade.com), SNV – Netherlands Development Organization (www.snvworld.org), IUCN Vietnam (www.iucn.org/vi/vietnam/), private households and Vietnamese governmental bodies (DARD, PC Ca Mau, Forest Management Board)

B. Background

Integrated mangrove forest shrimp farming combines the economic use of environmental products (shrimp aquaculture and timber), one of the four ecosystem services (provisioning), in order to protect mangrove forest and thus, to maintain the other three ecosystem services they provide: regulating (e.g. climate change), supporting (nutrient cycles) and cultural.

In these systems, which have a long tradition in Vietnam, shrimp and other marine species are raised without feed and free from chemical use. The ecosystem fully relies on its own natural productivity, creating incentives for farmers to maintain mangroves.

C. Challenges

Despite accordant protection by Vietnamese law and mainly due to better economic alternatives for farmers (intensive shrimp farming, bigger farming areas), the forest coverage has decreased over the past few decades, questioning the integrity of important mangrove areas. Although legal arrangements exist, they cannot be enforced due to lack of capacities by governmental bodies.

D. Response / methodology

Development of private eco-labeling program which creates incentives for farmers to fulfill legal requirements through accordant supply chains for certified products.

Capacity building and coaching of farmers and local authorities.

E. Main activities

Ekolibrium has worked on various levels in the overall project:

- Support in the development of a tailor-made aquaculture standard (www.selvashrimp.com)
- Liaison with NGOs, governmental bodies, producers and other stakeholders
- Collaboration with local farmers and authorities
- Recruitment, training and coaching of local team in Vietnam
- Market analysis and support in marketing activities