

Ecovillage Projects in Vietnam

By Diana Leafe Christian / (March, 2011)



At Tan Van Chu Ecovillage, Vietnam. Professor Toshio Ogata, Director of Global Environment Project in Asia (GEPA) from Chuo University in Tokyo, is at far left, in blue.

Since the early 1990s the government of Vietnam has set up small ecovillage projects in that country's poorer, ecologically vulnerable rural areas — barren coastal sandy areas along the Central Coast, and three different habitats (coastal dunes, wetland areas, and mountainous areas) — in the floodplains of the North Delta. The projects are developed and managed by Vietnam's Institute of Ecological Economy, and its Institute for Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment — both programs of the country's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE).

The Institutes developed and teach two permaculture-like strategies for ecological restoration and economic development in rural areas: an integrated garden/fishpond/livestock (VAC) plan for coastal dunes and floodplain areas, and an integrated garden/forest/fishpond/forest (VACR) plan for mountain areas. Government funding for these projects was sometimes supplemented by grants from other countries, including Sweden and France.

Some examples:





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