



**Education for Nature - Vietnam**

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## Press Release

### **ENV Launches New Environmental Education Center in Tam Dao**

**Hanoi, April 25, 2006** - Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV) has officially opened the doors of its new environmental education (EE) training center at Tam Dao National Park. The new center will be used to carry out ENV's training programs for environmental educators. At the same time, the community-based awareness program ENV runs in schools and villages bordering the park will serve as a classroom for educators to gain practical skills and experience leading nature clubs, village meetings, and other community EE events.

The center includes a large classroom, a trainee and staff workroom, ENV office and basic accommodations for trainees and trainers. The classroom will also serve as a meeting place for special events such as village meetings and teacher workshops administered by ENV's ongoing community-based program at Tam Dao.

In the past, ENV's training programs have targeted teachers, university students, protected area staff, and local stakeholders from throughout Vietnam. Past training has also focused on staff from international organizations seeking practical professional training in environmental education. Since 2000, ENV has carried out 23 major training programs for environmental educators from parks and protected areas in Vietnam, in addition to more than 40 orientation (short) training courses for university students and other stakeholders, including educators from Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

ENV's training focuses on providing participants with practical skills and knowledge in environmental education, as well as developing their teaching skills and ability to design EE activities for use within their own programs. Most importantly, participants have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by actually practice and apply what they have learnt in the training program within Tam Dao schools and villages.

ENV's training programs are built upon ten years of experience in carrying out EE activities in Vietnam. ENV was involved in the establishment of Vietnam's longest-running community-based awareness program at Cuc Phuong National Park, established in 1996. ENV has also helped develop programs and activities at more than a dozen other national parks. In addition, to the Tam Dao community awareness program, ENV also runs the "Green Warrior" urban EE program in Hanoi schools.

With the development of the center at Tam Dao, ENV plans to expand its training activities including running a series of annual training courses, and student training and internship programs.

In April, ENV opened the new center with the launching of a week-long training program on "Environmental Communication" for rangers and community counterparts from Cat Ba National Park. The Cat Ba training initiative will focus on developing the participants' communication skills and helping design awareness activities that will be carried out in local communities as part of efforts to protect the critically endangered golden-headed langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalus*).

ENV's Environmental Education Training Center is generously supported by the Government of Australia through the Regional Natural Heritage Program (RNHP).

## **About ENV**

Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV) was established in 2000 as Vietnam's first environmental education-focused NGO, built upon the success and experience of the community-based Conservation Awareness Program at Cuc Phuong National Park. ENV specializes in training environmental educators, and carries out a variety of educational programs and initiatives aimed at raising awareness and understanding about the environment, and the need to protect nature and wildlife in Vietnam.

## **Tam Dao Community-based Awareness Program**

The Tam Dao community-based awareness program was established in 2004. Activities include carrying out Nature Clubs in schools, community events such as puppet shows and performances, school visits, teacher training workshops, and village-level meetings. ENV is also working to address the wildlife trade issue in Tam Dao town through targeted awareness activities focused on consumers and local business owners. The Tam Dao awareness program has carried out more than 400 Nature Club meetings and village events for more than 10,000 local residents since the program was established in late 2004.

## **Location of the Training Center**

ENV's new training center is located in the buffer zone of Tam Dao National Park, Ho Son Commune, Tam Dao district, Vinh Phuc Province.