

Thankful acknowledgement from the president of NEF

On behalf of the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation (NEF), it is my great pleasure to be able to publish the final reports of the “Bio-ecological Nature Conservation Project in Mountainous Region of Northern Vietnam” to all of you who visit our website. The 10 reports present the results of the scientific research and those form policy recommendations for four sites.

The primary objective of the project was to deepen scientific understanding of natural ecosystems, in particular biodiversity, in the limestone-dominated karst mountainous region of northern Vietnam, where there has been a few basic research available on the natural environment, including fauna and flora. More specifically, this project was to focus on the elucidation of the facts and causes of environmental degradation in recent days due primarily to economic development represented by land use/land cover changes and the search for practical solutions or mitigation. Another important goal was to improve the research capabilities of Vietnamese young researchers such as postgraduate students through participation in the project. The implementation period was from April 2018 to September 2021, and research activities were conducted by forming such 10 groups as eight biological groups corresponding to biological taxa, a remote sensing/geographic information system group, and a social science group.

This project was planned by Dr. Ryutaro Ohtsuka, the former president of NEF, and was carried out as collaborative research among Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Vietnam National University (VNU-CRES), Institute for Ecology and Biological Resource of Vietnam Academy of Sciences and Technologies (VAST-IEBR), and Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE). This project could not have been completed without the efforts of the staff of these institutions. On behalf of the NEF, I am grateful to all persons who were involved in this project.

NEF would be extremely pleased if the reports and policy recommendations could lead to a better scientific understanding of the natural ecosystems of mountainous karst regions, and if it could contribute to the conservation of nature reserves in the regions.

Hiroshi KOHNO, President of NEF

4 October 2022