Youth Connect

Youth Community Resilience to Climate Change in the Mekong Delta (Y-CoRe)

The Cranes' Footsteps

Project background

According to an article in the Environmental Journal titled *Management and Conservation of Wetlands in Tram Chim National Park*, the shrinking fields of *Eleocharis* grass have significantly reduced the food supply for the Eastern Sarus crane during its dry-season migration to Tram Chim, leading to a yearly decline in crane populations.

One of the main causes of this issue is climate change. In the past, Tram Chim experienced six months of sunshine and six months of rain, but now, both sun and rain occur unpredictably throughout the year. Excessive rainfall leads to waterlogging, negatively impacting habitats, while prolonged sunshine increases the risks of drought and wildfires.

A survey conducted from 25 to 28 August among 100 students at Nguyen Quang Dieu High School for the Gifted revealed that 95 per cent of students believe climate change can impact habitats. However, 86 per cent of students do not actively seek information on how climate change affects the decline of the Eastern Sarus crane population in Tram Chim National Park.

Additionally, most students do not prioritise participation in environmental conservation activities or crane protection programs within their school. When asked about participation, 64 per cent of students responded with ‘I may join if I have time,’ while 3 per cent expressed no interest in the issue.

Project objectives

This project involved the development of a storybook collection to raise awareness among students at Nguyen Quang Dieu High School for the Gifted about the Tram Chim National Park

ecosystem and the decline of the Eastern Sarus crane. The specific objectives were as follows:

- At least 60 per cent of surveyed students demonstrate a clearer understanding of biodiversity and the reasons behind the absence of the Eastern Sarus crane in Tram Chim after engaging with the storybook collection.
- At least two teachers incorporate the storybook collection into the local education curriculum at Nguyen Quang Dieu High School for the Gifted.
- Two workshops are organised for students and teachers to introduce the storybook collection and discuss biodiversity conservation.
- Outreach is expanded by hosting two book introductions and interactive activities at two elementary schools in the area.
- The project is implemented from February to April 2025.

Project overview

The Cranes' Footsteps aimed to raise awareness about the Tram Chim ecosystem and the Eastern Sarus crane through a scientific comic book series. By combining biological knowledge with engaging storytelling, the project made information more accessible and visually appealing to students.

From ideation, content research, and illustration to final publication, the project was developed with the participation of students from Nguyen Quang Dieu High School for the Gifted, especially members of the AAC-NQD Club. In addition to publishing the book, the team organised school-based presentations and interactive lessons to help younger students connect with environmental topics in a relatable way.

Beyond being an educational product, The Cranes' Footsteps fosters long-term impact by inspiring young people to take responsibility for nature. Through the project, team members not only deepened their knowledge but also developed essential skills in teamwork, content creation, and community outreach.

Team member's information

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