



## **REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM**

The Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development (WARECOD) is a Vietnamese non-profit organization whose goal is to promote the sustainable use of Vietnam's water resources and gender equality in resource use and management. WARECOD was established in 2006 under the auspices of the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Association. Our organization's mission is to protect Vietnam's water resources, in order to contribute to ensuring the well-being of river ecosystems, sustain biodiversity, and protect the livelihoods of communities that depend on these resources. Gender equality is cross-cutting for all of our activities.

WARECOD would like to submit information and recommendations regarding the promotion of human rights in Vietnam.

1. Vietnam has facilitated for citizens to participate in counter-arguments, which follows the Article 28 of the Constitution 2013. Vietnamese citizens have the right to participate in discussions and recommendations with state agencies on issues related to development, state management and social affairs. WARECOD, as the coordinator of Vietnam Rivers' Network, participated in the petitions to remove the Dong Nai 6 & 6A hydropower project (2013) and the Dong Nai river encroaching project (2017). Vietnamese government quickly responded to those petitions in a consensual and positive way as our expectation. The Dong Nai 6 & 6A hydropower project was removed while the government office had officially written response to the petition. This shows that the Vietnam has created a transparent and open environment for receiving and responding to citizens' information, ideas and recommendations.
2. From WARECOD's establishment in 2006 up to now, local authorities in provinces such as Ha Giang, Cao Bang, Tuyen Quang, Quang Nam, An Giang, Can Tho, and Dak Lak have enthusiastically cooperated with us in awareness raising projects for local people on environmental issues. This represents the interest of Vietnamese officials in building citizen capacity. The localities also agree with us in promoting women's greater participation in management and protection of natural resources. In each province where we deploy the project, at least one core group of women is working closely with the local government to address gender and environmental issues.
3. WARECOD has implemented projects to promote the participation of citizens in decision making process related to environmental issues in many provinces in Vietnam. Central and local governments in Vietnam have facilitated, accompanied and supported us to implement those project. It can be said that Vietnamese people have been motivated to pay attention and raise their voices about social and environmental issues. At present, Vietnamese people are guaranteed the right to consult on development projects such as constructing hydropower dams or irrigation systems. However, we found that the consultation process was sometimes meagre and did not adequately reflect

the opinion of the whole affected community. We suggest that Vietnamese should have effective monitoring measures for these consultations.

4. We propose the governments of China and Laos on the upper reaches of the Mekong River to ensure and be accountable to the people of Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. Implementation of the prior consultation (PNPCA) should focus on the overall impact assessment of hydropower to downstream; seriously consider concerns from Vietnam, Cambodia, and regional organizations on transboundary impacts of their planned hydropower projects on the environment and socio-economy. This not only ensures the quality of the consultation process but also relates to the rights of food and water resources of humans.

Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development