



April 2024 Newsletter

PeaceTrees Vietnam Celebrates Earth Day



Earth Day is a time for us at PeaceTrees to reflect on our environmental initiatives. From animal husbandry and agriculture projects to assisting during landslides and floods, we are committed to expanding programs for climate adaptation. Through the removal of dangerous unexploded ordnance and subsequent land reclamation, PeaceTrees not only mitigates the immediate threat of explosives but also facilitates the restoration of ecosystems and promotes sustainable land use practices. This Earth Day, PeaceTrees Vietnam continues to honor its mission by nurturing the land, safeguarding biodiversity, and fostering a brighter future for generations to come.

Discover more about our environmental projects [HERE!](#)

Updates from Vietnam

Story from the Field: Quảng Bình Cluster Bomb Clearance

In Hòa Trạch village, PeaceTrees Vietnam recently uncovered and safely eliminated a significant threat in Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Tam's cassava field. On March 18, our team discovered four cluster bombs, with an additional six found the following day. All ten of these hazards were safely disposed of, ensuring the safety of Mrs. Tam and her surroundings.



PeaceTrees Vietnam's technicians using mine detection equipment to locate unexploded ordnance in a cassava field in Quảng Bình province



Warning signs placed in an actively farmed cassava field, marking found explosives in Quảng Bình province

Grateful for the intervention, Mrs. Tam expressed relief, emphasizing the importance of the team's work in safeguarding her land. Since March 5th, 2024, PeaceTrees Vietnam Quảng Bình has been diligently clearing this area, covering 54,231 square meters and removing 19 cluster bombs as of March 22nd, 2024.



*"Just a few days ago, I was still weeding here. Fortunately, I did not dig up any cluster bombs. I am so lucky that the project team members came here to clear my garden. Otherwise, I may hit the bomb one day. Thank you very much for clearing my land. I feel safer now".
- Nguyễn Thị Tam*

Citizen Diplomacy Debrief: March 2024 Trip



Citizen Diplomats and PeaceTrees staff at our Quảng Trị headquarters

Last month, PeaceTrees' second cohort of the year set off on an incredible adventure across the stunning landscapes of Vietnam. Their journey began in the vibrant city of Hanoi, where they explored iconic landmarks such as the Temple of Literature and learned about the rich culture of northern Vietnam

by enjoying captivating water puppet shows, savoring delicious local dishes, and visiting beautiful Hoa Lư and Tam Cốc in Ninh Bình Province.

Once at PeaceTrees operational sites in central Vietnam, trip participants were able to hear directly from explosive ordnance disposal technicians and observe PeaceTrees' demining efforts firsthand at an on-site UXO demolition, showcasing the lifesaving work our supporters provide to communities in central Vietnam. They also participated in community activities like flower planting at Ta Lao village and an explosive ordnance risk education event at a local elementary school.

During their time in Quảng Trị Province, they honored local history by visiting sites like the Vịnh Mốc Tunnels, the Hiền Lương Bridge, and Trường Sơn national cemetery.

Other highlights of the trip included visits to Huế Citadel and Thiên Mụ Pagoda, followed by a few days in Hội An for more enriching excursions.

If you are interested in learning more about our Citizen Diplomacy opportunities, click [HERE!](#)



PeaceTrees' Director of Development in Hoa Lư Ancient Capital, Ninh Bình province



Citizen Diplomats & staff helping prepare a traditional meal in Đa Krông District



Citizen Diplomats exploring Khe Sahn Combat Base in the former DMZ, Quảng Trị province



PeaceTrees' Board Member Kem Hunter & Program Manager Vu Thi Van Anh planting flowers at Ta Lao village in Đa Krông District

What We're...

Watching: ["The Sympathizer" on HBO Max](#)

"The Sympathizer" is a groundbreaking espionage thriller and cross-cultural satire based on Viet Thanh Nguyen's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Set near the end of the U.S.-Vietnam War, it follows a half-French, half-Vietnamese communist spy who flees to the U.S. and settles in a refugee community in Los Angeles. Despite his new life, he continues to secretly spy for the North Vietnamese army, leading to a gripping tale of espionage and identity struggles. Starring a predominantly Vietnamese cast, including Hoa Xuande, Fred Nguyen Khan, Toan Le, Phanxinhê, Vy Le, Ky Duyen, Kieu Chinh, Duy Nguyen, and Alan Trong, with notable appearances by Sandra Oh and Robert Downey Jr.



Reading: ["The Seattle Seven Conspiracy Trial" on History Link](#)

In February 1970, a group of young Vietnam War protestors faced legal trouble for allegedly inciting a riot in Seattle. Kit Bakke, author of a book on the "Seattle Seven," describes the group's efforts to oppose the war and reshape society. The seven defendants, Michael Abeles, Jeff Dowd, Joe Kelly, Michael Lerner, Roger Lippman, Chip Marshall, and Susan Stern, were indicted by a federal grand jury on conspiracy and riot charges. Roger Lippman, one of the defendants, reflects on the trial and its aftermath in this History Link article. Click [here](#) to read about the infamous trial that ended in a courtroom riot.



Proud to Share: [Our Impact Story in "To Walk the Earth in Safety" 2024 Report](#)

"To Walk the Earth in Safety" is a publication by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement within the Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA). PM/WRA's mission is to mitigate the global impact of dangerous conventional weapons resulting from proliferation and indiscriminate use. This year's report features PeaceTrees Vietnam, spotlighting Mr. Chung's story



and the clearance of his rice fields as a testament to PeaceTrees' efforts in enhancing safety and livelihoods in Vietnam. Click [here](#) to read the latest report and find us on page 24!

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