

**RESILIENT VOICES: WOMEN'S ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE AND
CLIMATE JUSTICE – THE CASE STUDY FROM THE RED RIVER DELTA,
VIETNAM**

Ly Bui and Hue Le*

Vietnam National University Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental
Studies (VNU-CRES), Vietnam

*thivanhue@gmail.com

Women in the Red River Delta in northern Vietnam play a crucial role in small-scale aquaculture, yet they face mounting challenges from climate change, water pollution, and biodiversity degradation. While women comprise half of the workforce within the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, most are concentrated in the least stable and least skilled segments of the sub-sector. Their activities include small-scale fishing, shellfish harvesting, seaweed collection, aqua-product processing, and marketing. They are essential to the rural economy, significantly impacting household nutrition, food security, and family health care, all while often remaining unpaid. They also face systemic barriers, including a lack of training or access to updated information on aquaculture. Deep-rooted patriarchal norms within their communities further confine women to domestic roles, dictate shared responsibilities for both genders, and restrict their access to higher-paying jobs.

Nature-based solutions (NbS) are favorable pathways to improve climate resilience and ecological health. However, many NbS initiatives have overlooked or excluded women in their planning and execution. This paper examines gender dynamics and delves into feminist and gendered resistance practices, and particularly the often-unrecognized efforts that enable, sustain, and reproduce resistance within nature-based aquaculture systems in response to climate change. The paper underscores the importance of acknowledging the interconnection between gender justice and climate justice, which is crucial for advancing inclusive and sustainable aquaculture systems.