

Project Title: Viet Nam Climate Smart Coastal Communities**Project Number:** 01000784**Implementing Partner:** UNDP**Start Date:** 03 June 2023
October 2023**End Date:** 31 March 2027**PAC Meeting date:** 17**Brief Description**

The project intervention comes at a time when ongoing climate change and progressive socio-economic development, driven by agriculture, fisheries and industrial development, population growth and urbanization, cause increasing threats to coastal and marine ecosystems, and their attendant biodiversity, negatively affecting the livelihoods and resilience of vulnerable coastal communities (VCC) in Viet Nam, exacerbated by the poverty-driven unsustainable livelihood practices.

The proposed project on “Viet Nam Climate Smart Coastal Communities” (VN-CSCC) will contribute to the improved resilience to climate change of VCC and enriched marine and coastal biodiversity in Viet Nam by empowering nature-dependent communities (NDC), particularly women (PW), to scale up nature-based climate solutions (NBCS) to enhance their resilience, strengthen the sustainable use of coastal natural resources, and protect biodiversity of mangrove and coral reef ecosystems.

The project will reach 20,000 direct and 200,000 indirect beneficiaries among poor and near poor households in VCC in three target coastal provinces of Viet Nam: Thua Thien Hue (TTH) and Binh Dinh (BD) in the North-Central Coastal Region, and Soc Trang (ST) in the Mekong Delta Region. Communities in the target provinces are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, specifically disasters caused by extreme weather events, including floods, storm surges, saltwater intrusion, droughts and high tides. Also key risks to biodiversity are identified, as land transformation (habitat loss), overexploitation, climate change and pollution. The target provinces have rather high rates of poor and near poor households, i.e. 6.7% (TTH), 7.4% (BD) and 8.4% (ST). Also there are persistent gender gaps, including social discrimination against women, expressed as lower employment rates, lower levels of education and training, and relatively large wage gaps, of 23.2% (TTH), 29.2% (BD) and 37.5% (ST). To address the disadvantaged position of women to equally benefit from socio-economic and political opportunities, priority project beneficiaries will be women, female-headed households (FHH), women-led organizations (WLO) and cooperatives, as well as informal waste workers (IWW). In ST, special attention will be paid to engaging ethnic minority households.

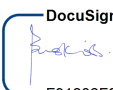
The project also aims to strengthen about 50,000 hectares of marine and coastal areas for effective biodiversity conservation and rehabilitation of coral reefs and mangroves and their ecosystem services, and the sustainable use of these natural resources by VCC.

Contributing Outcome (UNSDCF, CPD, RPD):
Outcome 2 – UNSDCF; Outcome 2 - CPD

Indicative Output(s) with gender marker¹: GEN-2

Total resources required:	20,224,213 CAD	
Total resources allocated:	UNDP TRAC:	
	Donor:	20,000,000 CAD
	Government:	
	In-Kind:	224,213 CAD
Unfunded:		

Agreed by (signatures)²:

UNDP	
Print Name:	DocuSigned by:  F91282F9F586428... Ramla Khalidi
Date:	20-Nov-2023

¹ The Gender Marker measures how much a project invests in gender equality and women’s empowerment. Select one for each output: GEN3 (Gender equality as a principle objective); GEN2 (Gender equality as a significant objective); GEN1 (Limited contribution to gender equality); GEN0 (No contribution to gender quality)

² Note: Adjust signatures as needed

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Viet Nam is among the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 ranks Viet Nam 13th on the list of countries most affected by disasters and extreme weather events³. Communities in coastal regions are increasing vulnerable to climate and disaster-related impacts, from fast-paced impacts like typhoons, storm surges, and floods, as well as slow, compounding impacts like increasing temperatures, droughts, riverbank and shoreline erosion, salinity intrusion as well as sea level rise. Viet Nam's coastlines experiences five to six typhoons each year during the southwest monsoon from June to November which cause major socio-economic impact, damaging infrastructure and affecting economic competitiveness, livelihoods and lives. Over the past 50 years, the increase of annual average temperature measured 0.5 – 0.7 °C, and the sea level has risen by 20 cm on average⁴. From 2010 to 2020, disasters caused by natural hazards resulted in 2,532 deaths and missing persons and annual damages of about 0.5% of the GDP⁵. In 2020, Viet Nam recorded 356 fatalities, the complete destruction of 3,427 and the partial damage of 333,048 houses. Over the last three decades, climate-related disasters have caused an average estimated annual loss of 1–1.5% of GDP⁶. About 71% of the population and 59% of the land area is vulnerable to natural hazards, with floods and storms causing the highest number of fatalities and economic damage⁷.

With the majority of the population living in low-lying river basins and coastal areas, it is estimated that more than 70% of the population will be severely exposed to climate and disaster risks, threatening their livelihoods and resilience. Risks include changing seasonal weather patterns, rising temperatures, increasing frequency and intensity of floods and droughts, salinity intrusion, and rising sea level. Fisheries and coastal resources are also highly vulnerable to climate change because of temperature changes, increased inundations, and salinity intrusion⁸. Climate change impacts will be exacerbated by the loss of the protective functions of coastal ecosystems.

While today other human drivers, such as overfishing and intensification of aquaculture, represent the most significant threats to the sustainability of the sector, climate change may have relevant impacts. Drivers such as raised sea-surface temperatures and acidification are expected to change the maximum catch potential in ocean fisheries in the range of -6% to -11% by 2050, with the variation influenced by the different potential emissions pathway⁹. Increases in sea temperature and changes in salinity also will have pronounced adverse impacts on aquaculture depending on the intake of sea water for its production processes, from lower yield to greater vulnerability to disease.

Climate change is also negatively impacting the extent and quality of coastal and marine ecosystems, from the direct destructive impacts of typhoons and storm surges, the slow-paced sea level rise as well as from changes in water temperatures, salinity, and acidification of sea water, all of which can affect shallow nearshore aquatic ecosystems like coral reef and mangrove/estuarine ecosystems, including the growth, development, reproductive capacity, and distribution of marine species¹⁰. Especially coastal ecosystems already weakened by fragmentation, degradation and destruction are less resilient to the impacts of climate change and more vulnerable to mass species loss. Specifically, in coral reefs extreme increases in water temperature cause huge stress, making corals susceptible to disease and, ultimately, death. Coral reefs are also impacted by ocean acidification. Rising levels of carbon dioxide, which reduces the pH levels in the ocean, cause hard corals to build their shells and endoskeletons. In some cases, severe acidification dissolves their calcium carbonate structures. Large disturbances caused by storms and sea-level rise also threaten the reproduction and development of seagrass ecosystems, while sea-level rise will speed up mangrove-fringed shoreline and estuarine erosion and wash away mangrove swamps.

³ Global climate risk index 2021. At: <https://germanwatch.org/en/19777>

⁴ UNDRR, 2020. *Disaster Risk Reduction in Viet Nam: Status Report 2020*. Bangkok, Thailand, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

⁵ ADB, 2022. *Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development Sector Assessment, Strategy and Road Map - Viet Nam 2021–2025*; Asian Development Bank, January 2022, 45 pp. Available at <https://www.adb.org/documents/viet-nam-2021-2025-agriculture-sector-assessment-strategy-road-map>

⁶ UNDRR and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, January 2021, *Disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam: status report 2020*. See: <https://www.undrr.org/publication/disaster-risk-reduction-viet-nam-status-report-2020>

⁷ Viet Nam Disaster Management Reference Handbook, December 2018

⁸ ADB, 2022. *Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development Sector Assessment, Strategy and Road Map - Viet Nam 2021–2025*; ADB, January 2022, 45 pp. Available at <https://www.adb.org/documents/viet-nam-2021-2025-agriculture-sector-assessment-strategy-road-map>

⁹ World Bank – Asian Development Bank, 2020. *Climate Risk Country Profile Vietnam (2020)*.

¹⁰ Nhuong Tran et al., 2022. *Foresighting future climate change impacts on fisheries and aquaculture in Vietnam*. *Front. Sustain. Food Syst.* 6:829157; <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2022.829157>

Despite the increased recognition and action by the Government of Viet Nam (GOVN) to focus socio-economic development towards green growth, climate change responses, and strengthening of ecosystem and biodiversity conservation of natural coastal and marine ecosystems, and their attendant biodiversity, of special importance for the livelihoods of vulnerable nature-dependent coastal communities, continue to be negatively affected by the combined impacts from several socio-economic development trends, while increasing impacts from climate change in the coming years and decades will put many more people living in coastal areas at risk, threatening their livelihoods and resilience.

The key threats to the natural coastal and marine ecosystems and their biodiversity and the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities in Viet Nam's coastal zone relate to the transformation of coastal ecosystems, the overexploitation of coastal resources from unsustainable and destructive natural resources use practices, as well as pollution and climate change.

Root causes to these threats include population growth and rapid urbanization, commercial developments in industry, agriculture and fisheries, as well as the unsustainable illegal and over-exploitation of coastal and marine natural resources.

In Viet Nam's coastal zone, many communities, especially the poor disadvantaged local communities living in rural areas as well as ethnic minority groups, depend on coastal and marine resources for their livelihood and food security. Economic development, population growth, changes in consumption patterns and improved transportation networks have increased demand for timber, medicinal plants, wildlife and marine products, resulting in overexploitation of terrestrial, coastal and marine resources. As a result, the natural resources of the coastal zones have been degraded, fish spawning sites lost, and the income of local communities reduced.

Capture fisheries production is an important economic sector, generating large export revenues and contributing to food security, job creation, income generation, poverty reduction and economic development of the country. Over the recent decades, the sector showed a significant increase in production, from around 0.5 million metric tons per year in the 1990s to 3.5 million metric tons in 2021, of which 95% from marine capture¹¹. Over the last 15 years, the fisheries sector has been in a rapid transformation to become a commodity industry, from domestic market-oriented production, to processing and exports of aquatic products¹².

However, over the past decades, the consistent over-exploitation of fisheries resources has resulted in a 14% reduction of the average annual biomass of marine fish resources (of fish, crustaceans and cephalopods, in both coastal and offshore areas), from 5.1 million tons in the period 2000-2005 to 4.4 million tons in the period 2011-2016, or 1.4% annually¹³. Total fisheries biomass in the coastal areas is estimated at 407,000 tons, accounting for about 10% of total marine fisheries biomass. Despite this decrease in fish stocks, the volume of fish annually harvested continued to increasingly exceed the established annual maximum sustainable fishing volume, by more than 30% in 2019, and even by 45% in 2021 (data D-FISH). Especially in the nearshore and middle shore areas, the capture fisheries productivity seems to have decreased, as evidenced by a reduction in small fishing boats (under 90 hp) operating in less than 50m deep waters, from 92,391 boats in 2013 to 66,135 boats vessels in 2019. During the same period number of offshore vessels increased, from 26,398 boats in 2013 to 30,474 boats in 2019¹⁴, while also the capacity of the capture fleet increased, indicating that boats are moving more offshore to find new fishing grounds¹⁵.

The increasing pressures on marine resources and decreasing economic performance is also observed in the fisheries production efficiency measured by the catch per unit of effort (CPUE), which for the Vietnamese fleet decreased from 0.9 tons per hp in 1990 to 0.29 tons/hp in 2010¹⁶, to 0.26 tons/hp in 2019¹⁷, equal to an annual decrease of 4.13% in

¹¹ World Bank Open Data, accessed on 6 June 2023, at <https://data.worldbank.org/>

¹² World Bank, 2019. Concept Project Information Document Sustainable Fisheries Project Viet Nam.

¹³ RIMF, 2018. Report on marine fisheries stock assessment in Vietnam sea in the period of 2011-2016 (submitted to MARD). Research for Marine Fisheries (RIMF), Hai Phong. This study identified 1 207 marine species subject to harvest, including 945 fish, 135 crustaceans, 48 cephalopods and 50 other species.

¹⁴ MONRE Directorate of Fisheries (D-FISH), 2019. Annual report of fisheries sector achievement in 2019 and action plans for 2020

¹⁵ World Bank, 2019. Concept Project Information Document Sustainable Fisheries Project Viet Nam

¹⁶ VIFEP, 2013. Offshore capture capacity survey project, Viet Nam Institute of Fisheries Economics and Planning

¹⁷ MONRE Directorate of Fisheries (D-FISH), 2019. Annual report of fisheries sector achievement in 2019 and action plans for 2020

the period of 1990-2010, and an annual decrease of 1.14% for the period of 2010 to 2019. This decrease in economic performance has especially affected small-scale fishers, and has led to increased vulnerability of coastal communities.

Unsustainable fisheries management is closely linked to continued poverty and increasing vulnerability of coastal communities. At the same time, coastal and marine tourism infrastructure development has been rampant, uncontrolled, and unplanned, with no regard for environmental protection or marine biodiversity conservation. The increase in marine and coastal tourism is driving a great demand for souvenirs, including for marine turtles, principally Green and Hawksbill Turtles, mollusks, sea stars and urchins. Also corals, particularly staghorn varieties of *Acropora*, are in demand for the tourist and aquaria trade.

The variety of development pressures cause coastal and marine ecosystem impacts, including the direct or indirect depletion of biodiversity and marine aquatic resources¹⁸. Over the past two decades, about 50% of the seagrass areas present in 1999 have disappeared, while the average annual rate of decrease in the whole country is 4.4%¹⁹. Seagrass degradation and destruction is related to human activities such as destructive fishing techniques (using explosives, poisons, electrical shock, fine mesh nets, sluice traps, gill nets etc.), boat mooring, pollution from aquaculture and domestic waste water discharges, the development of ports and tourist facilities, as well as increased storms and sea level rise related to climate change²⁰. Also the coral cover in coastal areas is decreasing in area and quality, in some places up to over 30% in the past 10 years. Currently only about 1% of Viet Nam's reefs are in 'very good' condition (with coverage of live corals above 75%), while 31% of the reefs are in 'bad' condition, i.e. the coverage of live corals is less than 25%²¹. Identified threats to coral reefs include overexploitation, destructive fishing, sedimentation, pollution, pest outbreaks, and impacts from natural disasters, including flooding impacts and changes in salinity and temperature. The poor state of coral reefs in coastal areas of Viet Nam is also reflected in the poor diversity of aquatic organisms, such as fish, mollusks, Echinodermata, crustaceans²².

Overall, the illegal and overexploitation of natural coastal and marine ecosystems has significant economic impacts. If natural asset depletion were to be fully taken into account, gross national savings as a percentage of GDP should be adjusted downward from 35.5% to 15.2%²³.

Barriers that needs to be addressed

The combined impacts from socio-economic development threats to coastal ecosystem and increased occurrence and severity of climate-related natural hazards negatively affect the security, livelihood and resilience of coastal communities. Especially poor and marginalized groups, including women and ethnic minorities, are among the most vulnerable groups, living more frequently in the most exposed areas and being the most dependent on local natural resources to provide for their livelihood. Women in particular play an important role in food production, natural resources use as well as fulfilling social roles in education and upbringing, and in taking care of children and elderly. At the same time, persistent gender gaps and vulnerabilities remain, in terms of social discrimination against women and the disadvantaged position of women to equally benefit from economic, social and political opportunities, from their poor access to resources and training as well as their limited participation in decision making.

The long-term solution in dealing with the above-mentioned threats from socio-economic development and climate change to natural coastal and marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of vulnerable coastal communities is to improve the resilience to climate change of vulnerable coastal communities, particularly women, and enrich marine and coastal biodiversity, from enhancing the performance and leadership of government and VCC, PW and women-led organizations (WLO) to apply gender-responsive climate information services and risk-informed planning, to empower NDC, PW to initiate NBCS for nature-based co-management initiatives and nature positive business

¹⁸ MONRE D-FISH, 2021. *Results of Activities Relating to The Management of Vietnam's Marine Protected Areas System from 2010 to 2020, As Well as Tasks for The Years 2021-2030*; available at <https://tongcucthuysan.gov.vn/en-us/vietnam-fisheries/doc-tin/015771/2021-04-19/results-of-activities-relating-to-the-management-of-vietnams-marine-protected-areas-system-from-2010-to-2020-as-well-as-tasks-for-the-years-2021-2030>

¹⁹ UNDP-VASI, 2022. *Blue economy scenarios for Viet Nam*

²⁰ MONRE, 2019. *Sixth National Report to the CBD*

²¹ UNDP-VASI, 2022. *Blue economy scenarios for Viet Nam*

²² MONRE, 2019. *Sixth National Report to the CBD*

²³ ADB, 2013. *Viet Nam Environment and Climate Change Assessment*. Asian Development Bank, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, 68 pp.

development, and to improve the sustainable protection and co-management of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural resources.

In order to achieve the long-term solution of increased resilience of VCC and enriched coastal and marine biodiversity, a number of systemic barriers need to be addressed:

Inadequate climate risk information preventing effective adaptation planning and resources mobilization: Although high-level attention to developing climate forecast and risk reduction planning is available across national government agencies, the same agencies have been unable to provide sufficient, integrated and localized climate and weather information to help smallholders with climate-resilient planning and adaptation investments. Across the country, projects aimed at providing climate information have invested primarily in building capacity and information systems at the national level but have done limited work to build the respective capacity of provincial, district and commune meteorological, agricultural, aquaculture, fisheries and conservation staff to generate and disseminate localized, actionable climatic-resilient advisories. While climate and weather information is provided through television, and technical advice is distributed through extension services, typically this information is developed in a top-down manner without involvement of end-users, without attention to their level of knowledge and experience, resulting in a mismatch between available information and user requirements, particularly of the most marginalized i.e. women, ethnic minorities, and the poor. Also information provided is not timely, too general, too difficult to interpret, and not downscaled enough to be useful for effective decision making at the local level on how to mitigate or prevent impact, and what adaptation solutions are available. To design sustainable, risk-informed and economically-efficient and location-specific adaptation measures it is necessary to develop technical and managerial capacities to (a) collect more, and provide access to, localized high-quality hydro-meteorological data to characterize present weather, (b) develop localized spatial and temporal climate change scenarios to inform decision-making, (c) collect historical, and develop projected, loss and damage data (d) develop impact assessments based on loss and damage data and (e) complete cost-benefit economic appraisals of adaptation options for the relevant local sectors.

Limited awareness, technical capacities and finance to develop co-management or nature-supportive enterprise development for resilient nature-based livelihoods and improved biodiversity conservation, among communities as well as managers and decision makers at all levels: While in recent years the increasing emphasis being placed by state actors on the importance of mangroves for climate change mitigation and addressing environmental issues such as coastal erosion has led to greater investment in mangrove protection, still across Viet Nam coastal protection predominantly is limited to hard protective structures such as sea dykes that incur high capital investment and maintenance cost, as well as cause significant ecological consequences that are counter-productive to their purpose. Although necessary in certain strategic locations, evidence has shown that hard structures interfere with natural biological and physical processes, including natural erosion and sedimentation, leading to land loss, coastal ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, loss of livelihood and income-generating activities, and greater exposure. In recent years, businesses and governments are increasingly acknowledging the enormous potential for natural infrastructure in the form of wetlands and forests, watersheds and coastal habitats to perform many of the same tasks as grey infrastructure, sometimes better and more cheaply. In Viet Nam's coastal zone, in recent decades, a large number of nature-based co-management models have been piloted in the capture fisheries, aquaculture and biodiversity conservation sectors in the framework of a multitude of projects financed by state and international actors. Also the legal framework and regulations for co-management establishment and operations was adopted as part of the revised Fisheries Law adopted in 2017. However, while most initiatives operated successfully during the project implementation period, review learned that most of these initiatives stopped functioning after the project's ending. The reasons include a lack of investment capital and financial mechanism to sustain operations after EOP; lacks of motivation of local community participation after sponsoring ending; poor coordination mechanism between relevant state as well as civil society stakeholders; conflicts between tourism companies, industrial companies, fishermen, conservation groups and local communities with regards to natural resource uses; gaps, overlaps and insufficient clarity in legal and organizational mandates of government agencies and communities at all levels; continuation of illegal natural resources activities, including from poor law enforcement; lack of alternative livelihood opportunities; and continued low awareness, education level, and management skills of local communities. Also typically many policies and projects focus on establishing new initiatives, while less attention is given to ensuring their sustainable operations without outside support over a longer timeframe. For example, the GOVN is providing higher payments -

VND 30,000,000 per hectare to support mangrove planting and pays local people VND 200,000 a day to plant new mangroves - for local communities to plant new mangroves, while under annual mangrove forest protection contracts that local people sign with government agencies only provide around VND 300,000 per hectare²⁴. At the same time, knowledge and understanding of innovative state-of-the-art NBCS piloted in other countries in Southeast Asia and globally remains at best fragmentary.

Ineffective collaboration between government agencies, communities: A key barrier to coastal resilience in Viet Nam is uninformed planning, due to lack of collaboration. As a result, available assessments of land use planning and development, climate and disaster risks, data on loss and damage, and monitoring of environmental impacts from development are not properly factored into government and community planning at various levels. For example, a lack of collaboration may cause data generated and used community based climate and disaster risk management (CBDRM) planning and the development of community-based risk reduction plans not being linked with storm surge maps generated by the Disaster Management Center, not with neighboring communities or other land use planning agencies. As a result, e.g. planning of mangrove restoration may be haphazard, and not resulting in the most effective solution being applied to strengthen community resilience in the coastal zone. Similarly, the lack of the exchange of results, best practices and lessons learned from pilot projects on co-management or nature-based business initiatives may cause communities and private sector miss out on new innovative solutions to strengthen coastal nature-based livelihoods and enrich biodiversity.

Gender: Major barriers preventing women from adopting or influencing household and community climate resiliency strategies are factors such as: women's heavy workloads in terms of domestic and caring work, as well as production; lower recognition of women's work; an imbalance towards lower-valued farming work, with women, poor and marginalized farmers of majority Kinh and ethnic minorities proportionally over-represented on the production side of the value chain; limited decision-making power in the community and at governance levels, with men and the Kinh majority in dominant roles; significant difference between men and women, ethnic minorities and other marginalized groups in terms of education and literacy; lower participation of women compared to men in community meetings or in extension service trainings; and unequal access to and control over resources such as market and climate information, technical support, production inputs, productive land, climate-smart technologies, flexible finance, means of transport and communication, etc. In addition, specific barriers to ethnic minority participation (particularly indigenous groups) include unsustainable traditional farming practices and non-fluency in Vietnamese, and low literacy in general as well as particularly regarding technical information.

Limited awareness among the sector agencies and communities on integrated landscape and seascape planning; and risks posed by biodiversity and ecosystem losses

While the awareness among sectors of the need to adopt integrated planning is improving, the awareness and capacity among the key sector institutions on how to conduct integrated planning and management of landscape, coastal, seascape and marine areas, specifically incorporating biodiversity, natural resources and environmental factors, including climate change insecurities, that underpin sustainable management, remains limited. And while the national government increasingly strengthens integrated planning on natural resources use, including through Prime Minister (PM) Decision No. 1658/QĐ-TTg on National Green Growth Strategy for the 2021-2030 period, vision towards 2050, adopted on 19 October 2021, major sector agencies, including agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries as well as urban and industrial development continue to plan and manage the use of resources within their individual sectoral interests and operations, but with little cross-sector integration, and little attention to addressing sectoral drivers of environmental degradation. For example, contradictory national sectoral policies can encourage mangrove conservation on the one hand, and aquaculture expansion in mangrove areas on the other, thus making it difficult to address mangrove deforestation and degradation effectively²⁵. Vietnam has already conducted a participatory process for identifying biodiversity priorities, which are reflected in the country's National Strategy on Biodiversity to 2030, vision to 2050, adopted by PM Decision 149/QĐ-TTg on 28 January 2022, it lacks critical baseline data on the extent, location, condition, threats and drivers of loss, including climate change, for many important ecosystems and species, including mangroves and coral reefs. And while it presents quantified strategic monitoring and assessment indicators, it lacks sufficiently clear approaches for acquiring and distributing data, and building the institutional,

²⁴ Pham Thu Thuy and Nguyen Van Dien, 2021. *A decade of mangrove conservation achievements and challenges in Vietnam*, CIFOR Info-brief No. 337, July 2021, <https://doi.org/10.17528/cifor/007857>

²⁵ Thu Thuy Pham et al., 2022. *The Effectiveness of Financial Incentives for Addressing Mangrove Loss in Northern Vietnam*. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, www.frontiersin.org, January 2022, Volume 4, Article 709073

technical, human, and infrastructural capacity needed to support biodiversity decision-making on strengthening efforts for the conservation and expanded restoration of critical ecosystems. In continuation of past (lack of) actions, the country's knowledge base on biodiversity and natural resources, and capacity for stewardship, remain weak. Among local communities there is limited understanding of the importance of biodiversity and natural systems in providing critical ecosystem services in support of nature-based livelihoods and the impact that socio-economic development and unsustainable natural resources use practices could have on provisioning of such services, and to the impacts that environmental degradation, including mangrove and coral degradation, can bring to the local, regional and national economies.

II. STRATEGY

Project objective and ToC

The project intervention comes at a time when ongoing climate change and progressive socio-economic development, driven by agriculture, fisheries and industrial development, population growth and urbanization, cause increasing threats to coastal and marine ecosystems, and their attendant biodiversity, negatively affecting the livelihoods and resilience of VCC in Viet Nam, exacerbated by poverty-driven unsustainable livelihood practices.

The Theory of Change for the project is that the enhanced performance and leadership of the government and VCC, PW and WLO to apply climate information services and participatory risk-informed planning, to initiate NBCS²⁶ for co-management²⁷, business development and promotion of coastal resources management, and to protect coastal and marine biodiversity and ecosystem services will support in addressing integrally the threats to biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods of VCC, with priority given to women and marginalized groups, and improve their resilience to the negative impact of climate change and unsustainable socio-economic development.

The long-term objective of the project is “improved resilience to climate change of vulnerable coastal communities, particularly women, and enriched marine and coastal biodiversity in Viet Nam”.

Evidence from coastal adaptation practices in Viet Nam and globally suggests that NBCS - locally appropriate actions that effectively and adaptively address societal climate challenges by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring natural and modified ecosystems²⁸ - can deliver many benefits both for people and nature²⁹, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, reversing ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, improvement of human health and promoting sustainable socio-economic development, food and water security, aspects that determine the livelihoods of vulnerable coastal communities in Viet Nam.

To achieve its long-term objective, the project will enhance the performance and leadership of the government and VCC, PW and WLO from implementing activities under three inter-related and mutually reinforcing Intermediate Outcomes: (1) apply gender-responsive climate information services and risk-informed planning for climate change adaptation with environment co-benefits; (2) initiate NBCS for sustainable ocean economy and livelihoods, with co-benefits for adaptation and biodiversity conservation; and (3) improve the sustainable protection and co-management of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural resources, demonstrated in 3 provinces in Viet Nam³⁰.

Under Intermediate Outcome 1, the equitable access and capacities of VCC, PW and WLO will be increased to develop gender-sensitive climate and disaster information services, and to engage in risk-informed and inclusive marine and coastal resources planning. Localized climate and disaster risk information services and systems helps Climate

²⁶ *Nature-Based Climate Solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation are actions that protect, sustainably manage and/or restore natural and modified ecosystems in order to support climate action, while addressing societal challenges by simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity co-benefits;*

²⁷ *Co-management refers to the management of the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources jointly by the designated government authorities and community groups, with conservation tasks, rules for the use of natural resources, responsibilities and financing formally agreed between the partners.*

²⁸ *IUCN, 2020. Guidance for using the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of Nature-based Solutions. First edition. Gland, Switzerland*

²⁹ *Narayan S, Beck MW, Reguero BG, Losada JJ, van Wesenbeeck B, Pontee N, et al., 2016 The Effectiveness, Costs and Coastal Protection Benefits of Natural and Nature-Based Defences. PLoS ONE 11(5): e0154735. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0154735*

³⁰ *The target provinces include Thue Thien Hue (TTH; North Central Region), Binh Dinh (BD; South Central Region) and Soc Trang (ST; Mekong Delta Region)*

Information Groups (CIGs) to develop and disseminate tailored climate advisory information, including actionable early warning messages on extreme events and potential impacts, collected in cooperation between the private sector and the government. VCC will apply local traditional/indigenous knowledge and good practice, new knowledge and skills, as well as reliable climate information, accessible from comprehensive integrated information systems, to prepare community-based risk reduction action plans. Strengthened capacities allow VCC, PW and WLO to participate in formulating provincial policies/plans for risk-informed and inclusive coastal zone management and co-management.

Under Intermediate Outcome 2, the project will create mechanisms and an enabling environment for designing and rolling-out of finance schemes for nature-dependent VCC, PW and WLO, for implementing NBCS to support nature-based co-management models and nature-positive business development³¹, including fisheries plastic waste collection, that help strengthening livelihoods and improve income with co-benefits for adaptation and biodiversity conservation. The project will also strengthen the regulations and operations of cross-sectoral coordination platforms to promote dialogues between authorities and communities, particularly WLO, in support of increased equitable management frameworks that allow for informed decision-making on promoting NBCS in inclusive coastal and marine management.

Under Intermediate Outcome 3, the project focuses on enhancing the performance of government, women and WLO from NDC to establish and effectively manage biodiversity conservation areas - two marine protected areas (MPAs) and one mangrove coastal nature reserve - and restore and rehabilitate coral reefs. Mangrove forests will be expanded and enriched by new, supplementary and scattered planting, and their management will be improved to ensure livelihood co-benefits and improve the natural barrier function of mangroves against storm surges and other extreme events.

To achieve improved resilience to climate change of VCC, PW, and biodiversity, project design is built on a number of principles. First, VCC adopt a holistic, multi-sectoral and integrated approach to achieve community resilience from informed planning, from more sustainable natural resources-based livelihoods and nature-positive economic development, and from improved biodiversity conservation in biologically rich coastal landscapes. Second, forecasted climate change and impacts on biodiversity, natural resources and coastal livelihood is uncertain, hence decision-making and investments should build on relevant up-to-date localized information feeding into a participatory, gender-inclusive bottom-up planning and decision-making approach. This should build on local traditional/indigenous knowledge and good practice, identified priorities and needs to achieve integrated biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation, sustainable coastal and marine resources use from co-management and nature-positive business development, climate risk management and livelihood-positive outcomes. Third, gender is mainstreamed throughout the project; women are the key project beneficiaries of gender-responsive interventions, including climate and disaster information services, marine and coastal resource co-management and nature-positive livelihood/income generation, mangrove and coral planting/rehabilitation, training, awareness-raising and skills development. By prioritizing the meaningful engagement of women, female-headed households (FHH), WLO, women-focused organizations (WFO), the project maximizes its contribution to achieving gender equality in support of addressing persistent gender gaps.

For the project to be successful and effective with impact, the GOVN and relevant authorities from the national to the commune level in the target provinces will provide pro-active support throughout the project's implementation period. The active support of all stakeholders at the commune and district level is critical to engage in participatory gender-balanced inventory and planning that underlies the implementation of all tangible project activities and achievement of envisioned results and impacts.

Project area

Project activities will be implemented in 3 target provinces in Viet Nam - Thue Thien Hue (TTH; North Central Region), Binh Dinh (BD; South Central Region) and Soc Trang (ST; Mekong Delta Region).

³¹ *Innovative nature-based co-management and economic solutions can cover a wide range of activities: e.g. agriculture-, organic aquaculture, scattered mangrove-shrimp aquaculture, fisheries, eco-tourism, coral reef restoration and rehabilitation, traditional seafood processing and OCOP certification, environmentally friendly nearshore fishing; mollusk farming, hand collection seafood, plastic waste and marine debris collection, others*

The coastal provinces are selected for their vulnerability to natural and socio-economic features including exposure to typhoons, floods and storm surges, sea level rise, coastal erosion, property damage, etc. The target provinces are also rich in natural ecosystems and biodiversity, including mangroves and coral reefs, which are of significant importance to nature-based livelihoods of poor coastal communities. Third, the target provinces have a high gender equality gap, while there are active women-led organizations that support improving livelihoods, community-based co-management and nature-based business development by community groups, enterprises and cooperatives, especially women, FHH and WLO, based on proven successful models such as ecotourism for replications. Especially ST also has significant ethnic minority groups that are vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters.

The Project Theory of Change

Ultimate Outcome	Improved resilience to climate change (CC) of vulnerable coastal communities (VCC), particularly women (PW), and enriched marine and coastal biodiversity in Viet Nam							Assumptions, risks	
Intermediate Outcome	Enhanced performance of government and VCC, PW, to apply gender-responsive climate information and risk-informed planning for CC adaptation with environment co-benefits		Enhanced performance and leadership of women and WLO to initiate nature-based climate solutions (NBCS) for sustainable ocean economy and livelihoods, with co-benefits for adaptation and biodiversity conservation		Enhanced performance of government, and women and WLO from nature-dependent communities (NDC) in protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services with CC adaptation and mitigation co-benefits			Observing quantifiable impact from project activities can take time	
Immediate Outcome	Increased equitable access to gender-sensitive climate and disaster information services	Increased capacities and engagement in risk-informed and inclusive marine and coastal resources planning	Increased access to finance for women and WLO in NDC to apply NBCS in co-management and business development	Increased capacities and participation in promoting NBCS in inclusive management of marine and coastal resources use	Mangrove and coral reef conservation areas established and effectively managed	Increased area and quality of mangrove providing biodiversity-based ecosystem services for livelihoods		In all project activities priority is given to, women, female-headed households, women-led organizations and cooperatives	
Outputs and Key activities	Output 1111 Gender-sensitive climate information systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro-meteorological monitoring stations Policy framework for PPP Output 1112 Localized climate response advisories provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women-led Climate Information Groups (CIGs) Training in participatory scenario planning Communication app Output 1113 provincial integrated innovative information systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender-informed capacity assessment Design integrated information system 	Output 1121 Community-based risk reduction plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document gender/ traditional / indigenous knowledge Training on CBDRM and CBRBP CCRRP prepared Output 1122 coastal zone (co-) management policies/plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial eco-tourism plans Provincial climate change adaptation plans and M&E Co-management plans Output 1123 Feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NBCS into revision of NAP, Monitoring and Reporting for CC adaptation, Law on Natural Resource and Environment of Sea and Islands, National Strategy for Biodiversity, National Climate Change Strategy, NDC 	Output 1211 Inclusive finance schemes for NBCS rolled out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio on best-practices on NBCS Capacity building on co-management and investment projects Grant Incubation Facility Grants issued Output 1212 marine plastic waste schemes rolled out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop IWW business plans Training to IWW Provide IWW with safety tools and environmental-friendly equipment Operationalize plastic waste collection points 	Output 1221 Mechanisms to promote NBCS in coastal-marine management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review coastal-marine management frameworks Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination platforms to promote dialogue Implement capacity building to enhance the leadership Output 1222 CoPs to promote NBCS and gender equality in eco-tourism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare gender-sensitive knowledge products Establish women-led CoP for eco-tourism Pilot applying NBCS and environmental standards in nature-based eco-tourism 	Output 1311 biodiversity CAs established effectively managed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profiles of CAs drafted CA Dossiers prepared Implement capacity building 5-year CA management plans Technical support to CA Payment for marine ecosystem services schemes Output 1312 Coral reefs restored, managed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design planting, management Train MPA staff, communities Conduct coral planting Output 1313 Coral reef risk financing schemes piloted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerability assessment and economic valuation Legal-institutional framework Insurance and risk transfer solutions designed 	Output 1321 Mangroves planted, rehabilitated, managed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice in planting, rehabilitation, management Mangrove rehabilitation plans Training community and Forest Protection Groups Participatory site-based mangrove rehabilitation Mangrove monitoring and carbon stock inventory Inform national mangrove and wetlands policies Output 1322 community-led scattered mangrove planting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOP: site assessment, planting techniques and maintenance Trainings of communities Scattered mangrove planting Scattered mangrove maintenance 	Recurrence of a (COVID-19) pandemic affects livelihoods, project implementation	National and provincial authorities provide support during project implementation	Occurrence of extreme event can set-back project results, affect livelihoods
Barriers	Poor awareness of climate-change projections, risks, at sub-national & local level	Lack of waste facilities and understanding	Focus on sectoral economic planning	Limited knowledge, tools, skills for risk-informed coastal management planning	No lack awareness on NBCS for people and nature	Limited financial instruments and funding	Women are structurally disadvantaged in resources use, business development	Lack of data and information	
Problem	Poor resilience of communities from sector-focused economic planning, climate change impacts, reduced marine and coastal biodiversity, poor ecosystem quality and natural resources degradation							Government, communities are willing to engage in gender inclusive planning and strengthen women leadership	
Threats	Uncoordinated sectoral planning and investment for economic growth	Pollution with plastics, chemicals	Habitat transformation from land use development	Changes in T, P, increased occurrence extreme events	Habitat degradation, fragmentation from over-use of natural resources	Overexploitation of natural resources			
Drivers of change	Priority for sectoral development and economic growth	Population growth	Limited mechanisms for participatory planning	urbanization	Dependency on nature-based livelihoods	Financial limitations	Poor awareness and informedness	poverty	
		Industrialization		Tourism				Climate change	



PROJECT DOCUMENT

[Viet Nam Project]

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results

The overall Ultimate Outcome of improved resilience to climate change of VCC, PW, and enriched marine and coastal biodiversity in Viet Nam is achieved from the successful attainment of the transformational performance and leadership of VCC, PW, and the government under three interconnected and reinforced Intermediate Outcomes (IntO).

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1100: Enhanced performance of government and VCC, PW, to apply gender-responsive climate information and risk-informed planning for climate change (CC) adaptation with environment co-benefits

The attainment of enhanced performance of government and VCC, PW, to apply gender-responsive climate information and risk-informed, including climate and disaster information services, that will enable VCCs with support from the government to make timely and informed decisions to prepare for, respond to, and recover swiftly from impacts of extreme weather events, supported by risk-informed and inclusive marine and coastal resources planning will be achieved from two Immediate Outcomes (ImmOs).

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1110: Increased equitable access to gender-sensitive climate and disaster information services by VCC, PW, WFO and governments

ImmO 1110 will be achieved through the implementation of 3 Outputs, related to the installation of automatic hydro-meteorological monitoring and early warning systems, the development of localized climate response advisories that meets the needs and priorities of both women and men to enhance timely adaptive response to extreme events, and strengthened provincial integrated innovative information systems.

Output 1111: Gender-sensitive climate and disaster risk information services and systems in place

Under this Output, the capacity for risk-informed development planning will be enhanced by the installation of automatic weather monitoring stations and early warning systems in selected communes, supporting improved commune-level weather data collection, from in-situ observations. Software will be developed to convert data into early warning information that is easily understandable for local communities. Information collected by the weather monitoring stations will be transferred and linked to higher level information systems.

Further, the project will support formulation of a strategic approach for establishing PPP in climate information services (CIS) and early warning systems (EWS), including elaboration of the roles of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and the private sector in data collection, data sharing policies, and agreements on free access to basic CIS and sales of specialized, tailored services. The project will identify priority needs for tailored CIS especially for VCC, assess capacity and technological needs, select innovative solutions and best practices on data collection and information delivery mechanisms, with attention to gender-responsive climate services, as well as review legal-institutional arrangements.

The project will support the following activities:

- 1111.1: Installation of automatic hydro-meteorological monitoring and early warning systems in selected communes linked to higher level information systems
- 1111.2: Review and design policy framework to enhance PPP for private sector engagement, particularly WLO, in climate information services

Output 1112: Established localized climate response advisories that meets the needs and priorities of both women and men to enhance timely adaptive citizens' response to extreme events

In order to meet the high demand for more localized and actionable climate and weather information that meets the needs and priorities of both women and men in the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors, as well as biodiversity conservation stakeholders in Viet Nam's coastal zone, the project will strengthen the more general and high-level forecasting system towards a more localized needs-driven CIS. For this, the project will establish local multi-stakeholder CIGs in selected communes/districts to develop tailored seasonal and localized ten-to-fifteen-day climate advisories.

Advisories are based on information and data provided by the network of existing and newly installed local weather monitoring stations, augmented by information from district/provincial hydro-meteorological organizations, as well as local gender-disaggregated traditional/indigenous knowledge and feedback. Advisories incorporate actual information on climate and weather forecasts, extreme events, early warning recommendations on anticipated impacts, appropriate responses and actions that supports the local natural resources users in decision making and planning for a better adaptation to climate change. The approach of participatory advisory development builds on prior experience in Viet Nam³². Membership of the CIGs will include commune, district, and provinces representatives from key natural resources use and conservation sectors, with specific focus on women, WLO and WLC. The project will provide trainings on participatory scenario planning and the formulation of localized climate advisories tailored to local language and knowledge levels, as well as on the timely and effective dissemination of advisories, through traditional and modern, digital information channels.

The project will support the following activities:

- 1112.1: Formation of women-led multi-stakeholder CIGs at commune/district level to co-develop localized climate advisory messages
- 1112.2: Organize training for CIG members in participatory scenario planning to develop localized, gender-sensitive actionable early warning messages
- 1112.3: Develop and pilot innovative mobile communication app to timely disseminate up-to-date advisories on climate forecasts, extreme events, impacts and appropriate responses

Output 1113: Strengthened provincial integrated innovative information systems³³ with increased usage by women, men and private sector

Establishing systematic CIS, involving collating, analyzing, packaging and distributing climate data, allow end-users – government decision makers, private sector, as well as smallholder farmers, fishermen and other users of natural resources – make evidence-based climate smart decisions³⁴. As recent initiatives on CIS in Viet Nam have invested primarily in building capacity and information systems at the national level, under this Output, the project will provide support to enhance provincial/local integrated gender-sensitive and inclusive CIS with increased usage by local community.

Activities include strengthening the human and technical capacity at provincial, district and commune level to collect, analyse and convert localized data and information into actionable climatic advisories, including on early warnings for localized hazards, that enables timely gender-responsive planning to climate-related extreme events by VCC, including poor/near-poor, ethnic minority and women beneficiaries. Based on an assessment of software, hardware, and data capacity and users' demands and needs, CIS will be designed that are user-friendly, suitable to the local contexts in terms of land and natural resources use, environmental and socio-economic conditions. CIS will include

³² Simelton E. et al., 2018. *Developing Participatory Agro-Climatic Advisories for Integrated and Agroforestry Systems*. In R. Mulia & E. Simelton (Eds.), *Towards Low-Emissions Landscapes in Viet Nam* (pp. 129–144). ICRAF. Available at <https://gender.cgiar.org/publications/developing-participatory-agro-climate-advisories-integrated-and-agroforestry-systems>

³³ Information systems/platforms include data and information of all subjects supported under immediate Outcomes 1110, 1210 and 1310

³⁴ Usher J. et al., 2019. *Climate Information Services Market Assessment and Business Model Review*. USAID, 91 pp.; <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/climate-information-services-market-assessment-and-business-model-review>

appropriate communication channels to reach the last miles in coastal communities, both physical (e.g. loudspeakers or commune-level meetings) and digital (SMS, social media, mobile phone application), using appropriate languages and comprehensiveness of information offered.

In parallel, capacities of VCC, PW and WFO, will be strengthened to access, interpret and apply climate information, allowing them to comprehensively plan and make more informed decisions on climate and disaster risks for daily household, farming and fishing activities. Also initiatives to strengthen interactions among local residents as well as between them and service providers will be encouraged. Specific considerations will be given to the demands and accessibility to information of the poor, ethnic minorities and women.

The project will support the following activities:

- 1113.1: Conduct gender-informed capacity assessment to develop, maintain and update the climate information system
- 1113.2: Support the update and design of integrated information systems on climate & disaster risks, biodiversity & environment information services with a user-friendly interface

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1120: Increased capacities and engagement of NDC, PW,WLO and the government in risk-informed and inclusive marine and coastal resources planning

ImmO 1120 will be achieved through the implementation of 3 Outputs, related to the preparation of community-based risk reduction plans, the strengthening of provincial inclusive coastal zone management and co-management policies/plans, and the provision of feedback/lessons learnt from provincial policy development and practices to incorporate NBCS and gender equality for climate resilience into national policies, strategies, and legal provisions.

Output 1121: Community-based risk reduction plans prepared from consultations with NDC, PW, and based on gender disaggregated data, traditional/indigenous knowledge

To promote risk-informed planning and decision making and strengthen community preparedness, in selected communes in the target provinces the project will implement gender-inclusive participatory CBDRM³⁵ planning and vulnerability mapping based on gender disaggregated traditional/indigenous knowledge and good practice, local insights on historical and potential future disasters and losses. CBDRM planning will specifically incorporate gender aspects in order to develop the commune specific context of women dependencies, vulnerabilities and limitation to meaningfully engage in socio-economic activities and improve their livelihoods. CBDRM planning will also incorporate the mapping of ecosystems (mangrove, coral reefs, coastal wetlands), and related nature-based livelihood practices. Results will be used to develop Community-Based Risk Reduction Plans (CBRRPs), including ranked priorities for community-based risk reduction solutions for investments that will be budgeted into the local commune and provincial budgets. CBRRPs will focus on the needs required to close the gender gaps, the major barriers that need to be removed, the social norms that need to change, the power structures that need to shift to make women and marginalized groups an integral part of the community. CBRRPs will also define priorities to support the conservation and sustainable use of natural ecosystems, as well as to improve current or propose alternative livelihoods. The CBDRM approach will expand on training and guidelines developed³⁶, and use data collection tools, technical guidelines, software and M&E systems already developed through the national CBDRM program³⁷. The project will contribute to achieving the targets set by the GOVN to enhance public awareness and community-based natural disaster risk management and resilience to reduce damage caused by natural disasters and ensure the safety of people's lives³⁸.

³⁵ CBDRM is a process in which at-risk communities are actively engaged in the identification, analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risk reduction interventions. This means that people are at the heart of decision-making of disaster risk management (DRM) activities, take responsibility and are accountable at all stages from risk assessment to implementation

³⁶ Developed by the GCF-UNDP-GOVN project "Improving the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change-related impacts in Vietnam"

³⁷ PM Decision 1002/QDTTg dated 13 July 2009 on "Community awareness raising and community-based disaster risk mapping (CBDRM)" and the Government's Community-based Disaster Risk Management Programme, CBDRM 2020

³⁸ PM Decision 379/QD-TTg dated 17 March 2021 on "National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control to 2030 with a Vision to

The project will support the following activities:

- 1121.1: Document gender disaggregated traditional/indigenous knowledge and good practice on climate change, disasters, risks and gender-sensitive needs of communities
- 1121.2: Conduct training on climate change, disaster risk management and risk planning for local communities, that is based on gender disaggregated data, traditional knowledge and good practice, and modern technology
- 1121.3: Support participatory preparation of community-based risk reduction solutions and action plans that meet the needs and priorities of both women and men for implementation

Output 1122: Provincial inclusive coastal zone management and co-management policies/plans strengthened, with roles and participation of VCC, PW and WLO

Under this output, the project will support the target provinces to review and revise policies for gender-sensitive and inclusive coastal zone management and co-management, with roles and participation of VCC, PW and WLO, integrating all relevant policy areas, sectors, and levels of administration as well as terrestrial and marine components. Building on the evaluation results of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) implementation^{39,40}, the project's participatory gender-responsive planning approach will contribute to establishing cross-sectoral mechanisms for marine and coastal zone strategic planning. In these, proper attention is given to integrated multisector decision making, harmonized target setting, resolving of inter-sectoral conflicts, and the equal participation of women and men.

Specifically, the project will support the development of a number of provincial gender-transformative and inclusive marine spatial planning strategies that promote achieving resilient growth, sustaining of ecosystem services, the equitable sharing of benefits and the balancing of short term development goals and long-term sustainability. These strategies include include integrated coastal zone management including coastal protection corridors⁴¹, eco-coastal tourism plans⁴², coastal fisheries development⁴³, and downscaling the national Monitoring and Evaluation System of climate change adaptation⁴⁴

The work of the project will help operationalizing the GOVN Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW, dated 22 October 2018 on the "Strategy for sustainable development of Viet Nam's marine economy to 2030, with a vision to 2045" which envisions to develop the marine economy sustainably on the basis of green growth, by strengthening the integrated and unified management of natural resources and protection of the marine environment, conservation of biodiversity and natural marine ecosystems; by actively responding to climate change and sea level rise; by promoting investment in the conservation and development of biodiversity values and restoration of marine ecosystems; by protecting the integrity of the ecosystems from the shore to the sea; and by linking marine environmental protection with prevention and deterrence of environmental pollution and incidents, among others.

The project will support the following activities:

- 1122.1: Support preparation of provincial eco-coastal tourism plans

2050", and PM Decision 533/QĐ-TTg dated 6 April 2021 on "10-year National Programme on CBDRM".

³⁹ World Bank, 2019. *Situation assessment of integrated coastal zone management in Viet Nam*

⁴⁰ Nguyen Van Cong, Tran Duc Thanh, Dang Hoai Nhon, 2020. *Integrated coastal zone management in Vietnam -status and emerging problems. Vietnam Journal of Marine Science and Technology; Vol. 20, No. 4; 2020: 369–381, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15625/1859-3097/15316>*

⁴¹ In line with PM Decision 914/QĐ-TTg on the Action Plan for implementing PM Decision 2295/QĐ-TTg dated 17 December 2014 on the strategy for ICZM to 2020 and vision toward 2030

⁴² *Regulating the use of improved environmental standards in the design and operations of infrastructure, in line with Resolution No. 26/NQ-CP dated March 05, 2020 promulgating the "Overall plan and 5-year plan to implement Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW of October 22, 2018"*

⁴³ *Regulating the implementation of a ban on destructive fishing techniques to reduce fisheries impact and strengthen aquatic ecosystem health, in line with the Law on Fisheries No. 18/2017/QH14, adopted on 24 November 2017, and Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP on "Guidelines for implementation of the Law on Fisheries", adopted 08 March 2019.*

⁴⁴ In line with PM Decision No. 148/QĐ-TTg dated 28 January 2022 "On the promulgation of the Monitoring and Evaluation System of climate change adaptation at the national level"

- 1122.2: Support preparation of provincial climate change adaptation plans and M&E actions
1122.3: Support drafting of provincial marine and coastal resources co-management plans

Output 1123: Feedback/lessons learnt from provincial policy development and practices incorporate NBCS and gender equality for climate resilience into national policies, strategies, and legal provisions

To support Policymakers in Viet Nam with feedback on the actual impact and lessons learned from policy implementation at the provincial level, on what needs to be discontinued or scaled-up, the project will gather feedback/lessons learnt from project-supported provincial policy development and practices. Among others, these include NBCS for co-management and nature-positive business development, provincial inclusive coastal zone management, PPPs for private sector engagement in CIS, CBDRM and CBRRPs, and mangrove planting and rehabilitation. From leveraging rapid feedback loops as well as bilateral and multilateral cooperation channels between policy making entities at the central and provincial levels, the project will help identifying the most effective approaches for scaling up and facilitate the revision of national policies, strategies, legal provisions. This will contribute to strengthening the sustainability of project results after end-of project (EOP).

Specific focus of the project will be on informing planned revision processes of the National Adaptation Plan revision and national Monitoring and Reporting for climate change adaptation to incorporate NBCS, the Law on Natural Resource and Environment of Sea and Islands; the National Strategy for Biodiversity until 2030 and vision to 2050; the National Climate Change Strategy to 2050; and the Nationally Determined Contribution.

The project will support the following activities:

- 1123.1: Inform National Adaptation Plan revision and National Monitoring and Reporting for climate change adaptation to incorporate NBCS solutions
1123.2: Inform revision of the Law on Natural Resource and Environment of Sea and Islands
1123.3: Inform implementation of the National Strategy for Biodiversity until 2030 and vision to 2050 incorporating NBCS approaches
1123.4: Inform formulation of a new National Climate Change Strategy to 2050
1123.5: Inform revision of Nationally Determined Contribution incorporating NBCS solutions

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1200: Enhanced performance and leadership of women and WLO to initiate NBCS⁴⁵ for sustainable ocean economy and livelihoods, with co-benefits for adaptation and biodiversity conservation

The attainment of enhanced performance and leadership of women and WLO to initiate and manage targeted financing for women and WLO for NBCS that supports nature-based co-management initiatives and nature-positive bankable projects for sustainable ocean economy, increased income and better livelihoods, supported by strengthened mechanism to enable their effective participation in promoting the adoption of NBCS in the inclusive management of coastal and marine resources use will be achieved from two Immediate Outcomes (ImmOs).

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1210: Increased access to finance for women and WLO in NDC to apply NBCS in co-management and business development

ImmO 1210 will be achieved through the implementation of a set of 2 Outputs, related to inclusive finance schemes for NBCS rolled out by WLO to support nature-based co-management and business initiatives by women and WLO, including innovative marine plastic waste collection schemes.

⁴⁵ *Nature-Based Climate Solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation are actions that protect, sustainably manage and/or restore natural and modified ecosystems in order to support climate action, while addressing societal challenges by simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity co-benefits*

Output 1211: Inclusive finance schemes for NBCS rolled out by WLO to support co-management and business initiatives by women and WLO

Under this output, the project will develop and roll out gender-responsive inclusive grant-finance schemes to develop and implement location-suitable nature-based co-management opportunities^{46,47} and bankable nature-supportive enterprise initiatives⁴⁸ that promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources development.

The project's, grant-making activities, from proposal formulation, to implementation, issuing of installment payments and impact monitoring, will be guided by the Nature Supportive Grant Incubation Facility (NS-GIF), to ensure appropriate and effective use of grant funds provided. The NS-GIF will provide technical assistance and a mix of financial instruments, particularly early-stage finance, to unearth, incubate and grow sustainable nature-supportive co-management and enterprises from concept to realization. The NS-GIF will support communities, candidate grant applicants and recipients with the preparation of gender-supportive Community Co-Management Plans (CCPs) in selected communes, the formulation of co-management applications and nature-supportive business plans, and providing technical and business management advise. Further, the NS-GIF will support awareness raising, develop technical guidelines and manuals, provide training on technical skills, business development and management, develop a Grant Manual, and disseminate lessons learned and materials developed. The grant-making approach will build on the model of the UNDP-GEF SGP which has an established mechanism to provide grants directly to local communities. The project will also pursue cooperation and engagement with UNDP's Women's Green Business Initiative⁴⁹.

The NS-GIF will also develop a portfolio of location-suitable nature supportive co-management and enterprise opportunities, building on pilots successfully conducted since the 1990s, paying specific attention to successes, failures, challenges and barriers, including on coordination of management responsibilities between government and communities, the active participation of VCC, benefit sharing mechanisms, identification and promotion of alternative livelihoods, and design of sustainable financing mechanisms.

The project's nature-supportive grant development activities specifically focus on FHH, WLO, WLC and/or women-led micro, small or medium (family) enterprises in vulnerable communities affected by climate change and unsustainable development, in acknowledgement of women commonly remaining marginalized in the business and labor markets. From capacity building, initiating co-management plans and business start-ups, implementing co-management initiatives and running businesses, women will gain skills that help to obtain a better position to negotiate in the market, to have better access to capitals/knowledge and other resources.

For co-management initiatives, priority is given to initiatives demonstrating a gender-balanced approach, are led by WLC or engage FHH, building partnerships between fishers/farmers/natural resources users and management authorities, engaging CBOs/NGOs, or mass organization such as the Viet Nam Women's Union, as relevant. For enterprise development, the project will focus on women-led, highly inclusive social enterprises and social impact businesses (both profit and not-for-profit), that combine commercial business models with generating positive social and environmental impacts, and commit to realizing their potential as a partner to achieving project objectives. The

⁴⁶ An indicative list of co-management initiatives to be supported by the project include mangrove-aquaculture, mangrove-fisheries, integrated capture fisheries and reef protection in formally established and locally managed aquatic resources protection areas managed by fisher community based organizations (FCBOs), organic shrimp farming, community-based fisheries refugia and capture-closed areas, etc.

⁴⁷ Project activities will contribute to the implementation of Viet Nam's legal framework and regulations for co-management establishment and operation as defined in Article 10, 22 of Law on Fisheries No. 18/2017/QH14, adopted on November 24, 2017 and Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP on "Guidelines for implementation of the Law on Fisheries", adopted March 08, 2019.

⁴⁸ A nature supportive enterprise is a commercial enterprise of which the economic profitability depends directly on the health of ecosystems, like eco-tourism, or on ecosystem productivity, like coastal fisheries. The nature-supportive enterprise generates profits via activities that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, use biological resources sustainably from minimizing adverse impacts, and shares the benefits arising from this use equitably. Some common synonyms are "conservation-first enterprise", "biodiversity business".

⁴⁹ The Women's Green Business Initiative is an innovative program that addresses existing structural barriers to women's economic advancement and facilitates equal opportunities for women to participate in the green economy.

project envisions applying a flexible approach to requiring matching funds to be made available by the grantee, depending on the type of organization, type of activity, outlook for profitability, etc.

Under Output 1211, the project will support the following activities:

- 1211.1: Prepare portfolio on best-practices on NBCS relevant to nature-based co-management, nature-positive business initiatives and finance schemes
- 1211.2: Conduct capacity building to enhance knowledge, skills of women, WLO, to prepare co-management proposals and bankable nature-positive investment projects based on NBCS
- 1211.3: Design women-led grant schemes for NBCS, including Nature-Supportive Grant Incubation Facility
- 1211.4: Issue grants, particularly to FHH, women-led SME, cooperatives, for NBCS in co-management and nature-positive business development

Output 1212: Innovative marine plastic waste schemes designed and rolled out by IWW, PW to reduce plastic pollution from fisheries

As specific case, the NS-GIF will support the development and implementation of bottom-up innovative solutions to empower IWW, with focus on women, to strengthen their resilience and social inclusion. The project will support IWW with the collection of plastic generated in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, which both key contributors to plastic waste pollution in the coastal zone, largely due to fisher/farmer behavior and rough weather, the dominant use of single-used plastic products as well as inadequate collection facilities⁵⁰.

Supported by scaling up support for inclusive waste management models⁵¹ and leveraging the capacity of the UNDP's Accelerator Lab to identify and support promising innovations in the informal sector, the project focuses on strengthening and empowering⁵² IWW cooperatives/groups to develop and implement fisheries/aquaculture plastic waste collection plans in selected communes in cooperation with relevant fisheries stakeholders. The project will also support gender-responsive local innovation challenges to source, support, scale up new solution to tackle marine plastic pollution.

As a result, IWW as a vulnerable societal group will be equipped with capacities, skills, safety tools and environmental-friendly equipment to operate innovative solutions for the collection of plastic waste in the fisheries sector. The IWW as such will achieve a quantifiable reduction of marine plastic waste from fisheries, which will contribute to reducing damages to coral reefs and mangroves and their aquatic resources, while enhancing the livelihoods of IWW from better income and better knowledge on occupational health & safety and workers' rights.

Under Output 1212, the project will support the following activities:

- 1212.1: Support women, WLO to develop IWW business plans and operational schemes to collect plastics from fishery sector
- 1212.2: Provide training to IWW, PW to enhance awareness on occupational health & safety and workers' rights
- 1212.3: Provide IWW, PW, and fishermen with safety tools and environmental-friendly equipment (e.g. electric trolleys, and plastic compressors)
- 1212.4: Operationalize plastic waste collection points, implemented by women-led IWW cooperatives/ groups

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1220: Increased capacities and participation of NDC, PW and WLO, in promoting NBCS in inclusive management of marine and coastal resources use

⁵⁰ The project supports implementation of the PM Decision No. 1746/QD-TTg dated December 04, 2019 on "National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter" and PM Directive No. 33/CT-TTg dated August 20, 2020 on "Strengthening the management, reuse, recycling, treatment and reduction of plastic waste", as well as MARD Decision 687/QD-BNN-TCTS dated 5 February 2021 to approve the "Action plan on marine plastic waste management in the fisheries sector 2020 – 2030".

⁵¹ UNDP project "Scaling-up Integrated and Inclusive Waste Management Models through Empowering the Informal Sector and Fostering the Circular Economy (Phase 2)"

⁵² Empowering IWW could include their formal registration to benefit from state social protection funding support, enabling them to participate in the social system and receive basic health and social protection, give them access to morale and financial support mechanisms.

ImmO 1220 will be achieved through the implementation of a set of 2 Outputs, related to mechanisms designed and rolled out to empower nature-dependent communities, PW, and WLO, to effectively participate in promoting NBCS in inclusive coastal and marine management, and the development of Community of Practice (CoP) partnerships between government, private sector and communities to promote NBCS and gender equality in eco-tourism.

Output 1221: Mechanisms designed and rolled out to empower NDC, PW, and WLO to effectively participate in promoting NBCS in inclusive coastal and marine management

Under this Output, the project will conduct gender-sensitive baseline studies, stakeholder mapping and participatory consultations to collect gender-disaggregated data and context-specific information on gender relations, gaps and barriers, to design a gender mainstreaming and empowerment approach. Awareness raising, training, and capacity building will be conducted to strengthen leadership capacities and direct engagement of women, WLO and WFO. Multi-stakeholder consultations will be conducted to strengthen cross-sectoral coordination platforms, with regulations and operations in place to promote dialogues between institutions and communities, particularly women and WLO. Specific attention will also be paid to designing a approach on how to measure and monitor whether coastal resource management is gender responsive.

As a result, women are better aware of risks and better equipped with knowledge and skill to secure their position, participation and leadership in more equitable cross-sectoral platforms and management frameworks for gender-inclusive planning and decision making processes on promoting NBCS in inclusive coastal and marine management. Through this, gender sensitive and gender responsive policies and plans can be developed in which their roles and potential benefits are defined clearly and transparently described, and people can learn and fulfil their responsibilities⁵³.

Under Output 1221, the project will support the following activities:

- 1221.1: Conduct gender-informed review of coastal and marine management frameworks, with a focus on NBCS
- 1221.2: Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination platforms to promote dialogue between institutions, communities, WLO, with a focus on NBCS
- 1221.3: Implement a capacity building program to enhance the leadership capacities of women, WLO to participate at-par in promoting NBCS in coastal and marine management

Output 1222: Community of Practice partnerships developed between government, private sector and communities to promote NBCS and gender equality in eco-tourism development

Under this output, the project will support the development of nature-based eco-tourism (NBET), a responsible travel option that supports conservation and biodiversity and improves the wellbeing of local communities, through the preparation of gender-sensitive knowledge products on incorporating environmental standards, social and gender norms and NBCS into the design of NBET solutions suitable for the target provinces.

A targeted Community of Practice (CoP)⁵⁴ on NBET will be designed to engage relevant stakeholders, particularly women and WLO, as well as NDC and the government, in a comprehensive consultation and collaboration mechanism to promote NBET. The CoP on NBET will create and improve tools, resources and partnerships that support the sustainable management of ocean and coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs and mangroves, through piloting NBSC and environmental standards for green or hybrid green-gray infrastructure solutions in NBET, as well as strengthened social and gender norms.

⁵³ In support of achieving the GOVN Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW, dated 22 October 2018 on the "Strategy for sustainable development of Viet Nam's marine economy to 2030, with a vision to 2045", which envisions to develop the marine economy sustainably on the basis of green growth, by strengthening the integrated and unified management of natural resources and protection of the marine environment, conservation of biodiversity and natural marine ecosystems.

⁵⁴ A CoP is an interactive and member-driven network of people who voluntarily works together to learn from each other and external experts, and support individual and group goals.

The project will support CoP members strengthening their awareness and capacities on NBET through the organization of meetings, workshops trainings, including on NBCS and environmental standards for infrastructure development and operations in NBET as well as on aspects of running business (social media, website, digital financial tools for management and services, digital payments). Going forward, the CoP will support increasing awareness on NBET in the wider society, promoting environmental standards and design guidelines for NBET, designing innovative models to drive investment into specific NBET solutions; and disseminating information materials on tools, best practices, and investment opportunities to accelerate implementation of NBET.

To strengthen interests from the private sector in NBET, the project will support the review and revision of policies to offer incentives for NBET to both the private sector and the government. The project support to target provinces will also, as relevant, focus on supporting the participatory development of eco-coastal tourism plans regulating the use of improved environmental standards in the design and operations of infrastructure⁵⁵.

Under Output 1222, the project will support the following activities:

- 1222.1: Prepare gender-sensitive knowledge products on incorporating environmental standards, social norms and NBCS into design of nature-based eco-tourism
- 1222.2: Establish women-led CoP for the eco-tourism community for collaboration and learning
- 1222.3: Pilot applying NBCS and environmental standards in the operation of nature-based eco-tourism by women- SME and cooperatives

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1300: Enhanced performance of government, and women and WLO from NDC in protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services with CC adaptation and mitigation co-benefits

The attainment of enhanced performance of government and VCC, PW and WLO, to protect, rehabilitate and effectively manage mangrove and coral reef ecosystems and their valuable ecosystem services, to ensure that healthy ecosystems can better adapt to climate change impacts, effectively provide improved protection to, and contribute to higher incomes and better livelihoods for, VCC while contributing to biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration will be achieved from two Immediate Outcomes (ImmOs).

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1310: Mangrove and coral reef Conservation Areas established and effectively managed for biodiversity conservation, CC adaptation and mitigation benefiting NDC, PW

ImmO 1310 will be achieved through the implementation of a set of 3 Outputs, related to the establishment and effective management of Conservation Areas (CA), the restoration and effectively and inclusively management of coral reefs, and piloting of a climate and disaster risk financing schemes for coral reefs.

Output 1311: New biodiversity CAs established and effectively managed by government with representation of NDC, PW, WFO

To strengthen marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services provision in CAs, the project will support provincial authorities to establish and effectively manage biodiversity conservation areas including two MPAs announced in TTH and BD, and the announced Cu Lao Dung Mangrove Nature Reserve in ST. The project will apply participatory and inclusive processes based on the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) approach to ensure that the rights and well-being of local communities, especially of ethnic minorities, women and other vulnerable groups, are properly accounted for. The project will develop CA biodiversity profiles, conduct baseline assessments for the proposed CAs including analysis of current financing as well as financing needs for basic and optimal management, revenue generation mechanisms, and prepare the formal Dossier with clear zoning and demarcation for CA

⁵⁵ In line with Government Resolution No. 26/NQ-CP dated March 05, 2020 promulgating the "Overall plan and 5-year plan to implement Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW of October 22, 2018"

establishing by the Government. Following formal gazetting of CAs, the project will strengthen legal-institutional, human, technical, operational and financial capacities. Also the project will apply a gender-sensitive participatory approach to prepare 5-year management plans, incl. operational plans for patrolling, biodiversity monitoring, awareness raising and community participation, revenue generation, and operational and financial management, based on which targeted technical and financial support will be provided to achieve better CA management operations on the ground. In parallel, the project will develop and pilot conservation finance solutions for (innovative) income-generating activities in CAs. Specifically, the project will implement a pilot on Payment for Marine Ecosystem Services (PMES) to increase funding from payments by ecosystem services users, building on the extensive experience in Viet Nam of Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services. As such, the project contributes to addressing noted deficiencies in the MPA network in Viet Nam⁵⁶.

Under Output 1311, the project will support the following activities:

- 1311.1: Prepare profiles of CAs, incl. needs for basic and optimal management
- 1311.2: Develop CA Dossiers, including zoning, for formal establishment by the government
- 1311.3: Implement gender-informed CA Capacity Building Plans for DONRE/DARD, MPA Management Boards
- 1311.4: Develop 5-year CA management plans, including operational plans on patrolling, monitoring, awareness raising, revenue generation
- 1311.5: Provide technical support to CA Management Boards for effective management operations
- 1311.6: Pilot PMES schemes, with payments by service users

Output 1312: Coral reefs restored and effectively and inclusively managed by NDC, PW, WLO, for biodiversity, livelihoods, increased carbon stocks

In line with global developments, coral health in Viet Nam is deteriorating, affected by an increase in fishing activities in and near coral reefs and expansive tourism development, affecting their efficacy to provide coastal protection, exacerbated by global climate change. In addition to increased protection and effective management of coral reefs, and building on global best practices^{57,58,59}, and UNDP-SGP's coral restoration experiences⁶⁰, the project will implement a coral reef restoration⁶¹ program in the planned MPA in TTH province as nature-based solution to restore, rehabilitate and effectively manage coral reefs for biodiversity conservation and the provision of coral ecosystem services to reef-dependent communities, including reducing risk from climate change impacts, and increased carbon stocks. The project will assess the state and habitat suitability of coral ecosystems, design a suitable coral reef planting program, including Standard Operating Protocols (SOP) for planting and maintenance management, conduct trainings to build technical capacity for MPA Management Boards and community on coral reef planting and maintenance, provide finance for the implementation of guided coral reef re-planting, and elaborate a community participatory management model for monitoring and conservation of coral reefs.

Under Output 1312, the project will support the following activities:

- 1312.1: Design coral planting and management program, including SOP
- 1312.2: Train MPA Management Boards and communities, PW, on coral planting and maintenance
- 1312.3: Conduct coral planting, with women, WLO

⁵⁶ Tran Thi Minh Hang, Loke Ming Chou, Bui Thi Thu Hien, 2021. Management effectiveness evaluation of marine protected areas in Viet Nam. *Science on Natural Resources and Environment* 39 (2021) 119-132; <https://tapchikhtnmt.hunre.edu.vn/index.php/tapchikhtnmt/article/view/386>

⁵⁷ Bostrom-Einarsson et al., 2020. Coral restoration – A systematic review of current methods, successes, failures and future directions. *PLoS ONE* 15(1): e0226631. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0226631> MOVE TO CORALS 1112.2

⁵⁸ Shaver E C, Courtney C A, West J M, et al, 2020. A Manager's Guide to Coral Reef Restoration Planning and Design. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. NOAA Technical Memorandum CRCP 36, 128 pp.

⁵⁹ The Nature Conservancy, 2021. The Blue Guide to coastal resilience. Protecting coastal communities through nature-based solutions. A handbook for practitioners of disaster risk reduction. The Nature Conservancy. Arlington, VA

⁶⁰ UNDP-SGP, 2015. Community-based conservation of coral reef ecosystems and sustainable tourism development. UNDP-GEF Small Grants Program, 12 pp.; www.sgp.undp.org

⁶¹ Reef restoration comes in many forms, including coral gardening, coral larvae propagation, etc., all aiming to achieve improving wave breaking, friction and coral growth.

Output 1313: Climate and disaster risk financing schemes for coral reef piloted, including risk transfer and insurance schemes for protection and restoration of coral reef, with engagement of NDC, PW

UNDP has supported a number of studies in Viet Nam that strengthened the GOVN's understanding of developing its disaster risk finance strategy and the need to develop disaster-related insurance products⁶². To test the approach in practice, and support the implementation of the Viet Nam Disaster Risk Management Strategy for 2021-2030⁶³ which requires the increase of finance for disaster risk reduction including the effective use of disaster risk insurance, the project will pilot a disaster risk finance scheme envisioned to serve as a long-term financing mechanism for emergency response actions and coral reef restoration in target provinces. The proposed solution involves developing a mechanism for taking out insurance policies by users of coral ecosystems services, to generate pre-arranged reef risk financing that can significantly contribute to the increased resilience of VCC. By providing a timely flow of funds from a predictable source immediate emergency response, clean-up and restoration can be carried out in a post-disaster situation, speeding up the recovery of reefs in support of restoring valuable ecosystem services.

Specific activities include an economic valuation of reefs and the services they provide, a hurricane risk and vulnerability assessment as well as an estimate of the cost of emergency response actions, an analysis of the legal-regulatory and institutional framework, as well as public policy finance mechanisms, at the national and provincial level. Insurance funding will be used to train and set up emergency response brigades, including fishermen and local service providers. Insurance pay-outs, when triggered, will cover their daily fees and mobilization costs as well as the costs for emergency response actions involving clearing the reefs of debris and carrying out immediate restoration to increase the rate of coral survival and promote the rapid recovery of critical coral ecosystem services of importance to ecosystem services' users and NDC. The project will build upon the experience of UNDP's Insurance and Risk Finance Facility⁶⁴ in the field of developing risk financing and technical implementation capacity-building opportunities.

Under Output 1313, the project will support the following activities:

- 1313.1: Vulnerability assessment and economic valuation of reefs and ecosystem services, and estimate cost of emergency response actions
- 1313.2: Analyze legal-regulatory and institutional framework, and national/ provincial public finance policy mechanisms
- 1313.3: Develop insurance and risk transfer solutions for rapid financial support for coral restoration

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1320: Increased area and quality of mangrove providing biodiversity-based ecosystem adaptation and mitigation services, and livelihood, for NDC, PW

Under ImmO-1320, an increase in mangrove area and quality providing biodiversity-based ecosystem adaptation and mitigation services can be attained from two Outputs, related to mangroves planting, rehabilitation and management, and scattered mangrove planting.

Output 1321: Mangroves planted, rehabilitated and managed by NDC, PW to provide habitat for biodiversity, enhance adaptive capacity of ecosystems, and increase carbon sequestration, benefiting NDC, PW

Under this outcome, the project will support to community-based conservation groups, cooperatives, communes, and households with knowledge and finance for the participatory planting, assisted natural regeneration and maintenance of mangrove ecosystems in the target provinces⁶⁵. Informed by national and global best practices and lessons

⁶² Examples of these studies include: 1) 'Innovative financing for disaster and climate change impacts'; 2) 'Scoping study on climate risk models and financial losses for extreme weather events'; and 3) 'Study on disaster and climate risk financing/ insurance options in Viet Nam's coastal areas'

⁶³ Decision No. 379/QD-TTG, dated March 17, 2021 of the PM approving the National Strategy on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control through 2030, with a vision to 2050.

⁶⁴ <https://irff.undp.org/>

⁶⁵ In support of PM Decision No.1662/QD-TTg dated 4 October 2021 approving the "Master Plan for Coastal Forest Development and Protection in Response to Climate Change and Green Growth for 2021-2030".

learned^{66,67,68}, the project will strengthen community capacities to apply evidence-based nature-based approaches for mangrove planting, rehabilitation and maintenance that mimic natural regeneration. Community and Forest Protection Groups (FPGs) will be established to incentivize local communities and strengthen community benefits from mangrove-based livelihoods.

VCC and FPGs will engage in the participatory formulation of Mangrove Rehabilitation Plans (MRPs), based on site surveys, environmental and social impact assessment, hydrological assessment, and species selection for establishing diverse mangrove forests, in terms of structure and species composition.

MRPs also include arrangements for long-term maintenance and monitoring of planted and restored mangroves by local households, particularly female-headed households, FPGs and authorities, through mangrove co-management regulations that address key issues relating to access, resources use, management arrangements, benefit-sharing, and exclusion rights. Specifically, MRPs cover important issues such as the zonation of different functional mangrove areas, monitoring/patrolling mechanisms, methods to protect young mangrove seedlings, access limitations, regulating the size of fish nets, etc.⁶⁹.

Grant financing by the project will support the implementation of the site-based mangrove rehabilitation plans with engagement of VCC and FPGs, particularly women and WLO, under which the practical activities related to mangrove planting, rehabilitation and maintenance will be conducted in line with SOPs developed.

The project will further engage with national-level carbon stock-taking programs to quantify, monitor and enhance carbon sequestration benefits. Based on guidelines developed, the project will design of permanent monitoring plots, and provide training to authorities and designated community-based FPGs to conduct data collection and monitoring⁷⁰.

Under Output 1321, the project will support the following activities:

- 1321.1: Review of best practice in mangrove planting, rehabilitation, and operation and maintenance (O&M) approaches
- 1321.2: Design site-specific mangrove rehabilitation plans with site survey, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and hydrology assessment
- 1321.3: Conduct training of community and FPGs, PW, on mangrove rehabilitation and management
- 1321.4: Implement participatory site-based mangrove rehabilitation with engagement of women, WLO
- 1321.5: Implement mangrove monitoring, incl. carbon stock inventory
- 1321.6: Feedback/lessons learnt on mangrove planting and rehabilitation to inform national mangrove and wetlands policies

Output 1322: Innovative community-led scattered mangrove planting by NDC, PW in community-based aquaculture production sites, benefitting integrated nature-based mangrove-livelihoods of NDC, PW

Under this output, the project will support aquaculture farmers in adopting integrated mangrove-shrimp/fish aquaculture (IMA) systems that strengthen farmers' livelihoods and improve biodiversity. An IMA system is characterized by low-density shrimp/fish stocked in aquaculture ponds with mangroves maintained or scattered

⁶⁶ Hai N.T., B. Dell, V.T. Phuong & R.T. Harper, 2020. Towards a more robust approach for the restoration of mangroves in Viet Nam. *Annals of Forest Science* (2020) 77:18; <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13595-020-0921-0>

⁶⁷ Pham Thu Thuy & Nguyen Van Dien, 2021. A decade of mangrove conservation achievements and challenges in Vietnam. *CIFOR Infobrief No.337, July 2021*; DOI: 10.17528/cifor/008099

⁶⁸ GCF-UNDP-GOV project "Improving the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change-related impacts in Vietnam"

⁶⁹ Jhaveri N., Nguyen T.D., and Nguyen K.D, 2018. *Mangrove collaborative management in Vietnam and Asia*.

⁷⁰ In contribution to achieving the targets set in GOVN Resolution No. 84/NQ-CP dated 5 August 2021 approving the "Investment policy for the Program on sustainable forestry development for the 2021-2025 period".

(re)planted⁷¹. In the coastal aquaculture areas of the target provinces, community-based conservation (household) groups, cooperatives, communes, particularly women, FHH and WLO, will be established. Knowledge, capacity development and financial support will be provided for the implementation of participatory scattered mangrove planting and maintenance in/near aquaculture ponds, using evidence-based integrated nature-based mangrove-livelihood approaches⁷². Specifically, the project will strengthen awareness on the multiple environmental, social and financial benefits from IMA, prepare SOPs for site assessment, planting techniques and maintenance, including on proper pond management and allowing natural sedimentation by opening and closing sluice gates at the right moments. Further, the project will provide targeted training of planting and maintenance, through an aquaculture field school.

Further, to address the threat of a lack of financial support for the mangrove maintenance after the initial establishment phase of 1 to 4 years⁷³, and ensure sustainability, the project will contribute to developing opportunities to apply or expand Viet Nam's established PFES approach to include mangroves. The project will also analyze the feasibility to introduce a Payment for Forest Carbon Services (C-PFES) as innovative instrument⁷⁴.

Under Output 1322, the project will support the following activities:

- 1322.1: Prepare SOP for site assessment, scattered planting techniques and maintenance
- 1322.2: Conduct trainings of communities, PW, in scattered planting and maintenance techniques
- 1322.3: Conduct scattered mangrove planting with engagement of women, WLO

- 1322.4: Support scattered mangrove maintenance by communities, PW

Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results

The resources required to implement project activities and achieve the outputs and outcomes as described in the Strategy and the Results Framework are detailed in the Multi-Year Work Plan. The costs for project management are also detailed in the Multi-Year Work Plan (MYWP).

Partnerships

UNDP will build strong partnerships with key government agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), municipal and provincial authorities, and provincial Women's Unions. UNDP has strong partnerships with the TTH and BD provinces through previous and on-going projects. UNDP will leverage the strong partnership between Canada and ST province through existing projects supported by Global Affairs Canada in ST on SME and cooperative development.

The proposed project will also adopt a strategy for coordination with relevant programs and projects for seeking information on outputs, best practices and lessons learned in order to generate positive results through informed designs of targeted activities as well as joint action (as appropriate).

The project builds on UNDP's experience and added value in strengthening entrepreneurship for climate-friendly businesses, and innovation to empower vulnerable groups, with a focus on women. The project uses knowledge from

⁷¹ Scattered planting is the approach of planting mangroves in/around aquaculture ponds of households, on dykes or platforms, to minimize the impact of waves, storms, floods, and reduce the cost of repairing dikes protecting aquaculture ponds. Planting scattered mangrove trees also creates green belts in/around aquaculture ponds that provide shelters and sources of food for shrimp, crabs, fish, etc., and attract birds.

⁷² Pham T.T. et al., 2022. Opportunities and challenges for mangrove restoration in the Mekong Delta: Status, policies and stakeholder outlook. Occasional Paper 233. Bogor, Indonesia: CIFOR, 59 pp.

⁷³ Nguyen et al., 2022. Assessment of the feasibility of applying payment for forest ecosystem services in Vietnamese mangrove forests. Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research Science Bulletin 2022, Volume 12, Issue 1, 184-189; <https://doi.org/10.30852/sb.2022.2016>

⁷⁴ In support of GOVN Decree No. 06/2022/ND-CP on Providing Regulations on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Protection of the Ozone Layer, dated 07 January 2022, which, among others, has detailed provisions for Article 139 "Establishment and Development of the Carbon Market" of the Law on Environmental Protection (2020).

UNDP's existing projects on environmental sustainability and climate change, including the UNDP-GCF project "Improving the resilience of VCC to climate change-related impacts in Viet Nam", on specific experiences on the planting and regeneration of coastal mangroves; the Korea-Viet Nam "Peace Village Project" on sustainable rural development; the "Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge (EPPIC)" project on innovative solutions to reduce plastic waste; the UNDP-GEF-funded project "Mainstreaming Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation Objectives into Socio-Economic Development Planning and Management of Biosphere Reserve in Viet Nam", including its approach to non-exhaustive use of high ecosystem and biodiversity value coastal and marine areas, including coral reefs, to promoting community-based diversified (alternative) livelihoods, natural resources use (e.g. eco-tourism) and ecosystem restoration, including forest enrichment planting, assisted natural regeneration, as well as its approach to strengthen the management effectiveness of protected areas; the UNDP-GCF project "Strengthening the resilience of smallholder agriculture to climate change-induced water insecurity in the Central Highlands and South-Central Coast regions of Viet Nam", on best practice approaches to strengthen the resilience of poor/near-poor smallholder livelihoods through, among others, access to and use of localized agro-climate information to apply climate resilient planning and management practices, and mitigate risks, as well as its approach of Farmer Field Schools to support the design and operation of the proposed Aquaculture Field School; the planned UNDP-GEF Project "Promote Wildlife Conservation and Responsible Nature-Based Tourism for Sustainable Development in Viet Nam".

Through this project, UNDP and Canada will strengthen the dialogue in the development sector on climate change adaptation and NBCS towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The project will strengthen the role of Canada in empowering the local private sector, FHH, WLO, WFO. The collaboration between the Government of Canada and UNDP under this project will enhance the visibility of Canada as a committed development partner, supporting Viet Nam's resilience to climate change focusing on VCC and marine and coastal biodiversity of the country. For relevant project activities, the project envisions mobilizing Canadian expertise on coastal resource management.

Risks and Assumptions

The project will face several risks during the project implementation relating to strategic, financial, organizational, social and environmental risk categories. The project will implement different treatment measures to avoid, mitigate and minimize these risks. A risk register has been prepared for the project.

Stakeholder Engagement

During project design, a participatory consultation approach was used to verify local conditions, needs, assumptions, risks and enabling environment conditions. Meetings with government stakeholders, site visits and face-to-face discussions with households and local citizens were conducted to understand existing vulnerabilities to climate change and disaster risks, co-management models in fisheries, status of mangroves and coral reefs and potential for restoration and planting, MPA status and planning, community funds, plastic waste collection, and capacity of community organizations in managing and monitoring fisheries resources, mangroves and coral reefs.

Stakeholders meetings were held with the PPCs, and province-level sectoral departments including Agriculture and Rural Development, Construction, Health, Natural Resources and Environment, Planning and Investment, Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs, Finance, Ethnic Minority Affairs, and the Women's Union. Meetings were also held with authorities in coastal districts, as well as with coastal communes, including marginalized and vulnerable people, and ethnic, social and women groups, to discuss commune level priorities and needs.

Project beneficiaries include VCC engaged in, and significantly depending on, natural resources provided by coastal and marine ecosystems, with particular focus on women, in the three target coastal provinces. These communities are also highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, specifically floods, storm surges, saltwater intrusion, droughts and high tides. Also key risks to biodiversity exist, from land transformation (habitat loss), overexploitation, climate change and pollution. The target provinces have rather high rates of poor and near poor households, i.e. 6.7% (TTH), 7.4% (BD) and 8.4% (ST), and persistent gender gaps, including social discrimination against women, expressed as

lower employment rates, lower levels of education and training, and relatively large wage gaps, of 23.2% (TTH), 29.2% (BD) and 37.5% (ST).

Specific beneficiaries include fishermen; shrimp, crab, clam and sea oyster collectors; small-scale processors and traders of natural products; tourism managers; aquaculture pond owners; and other groups. Poor and near poor households, especially FHH, are prioritized beneficiaries as they depend more on marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods. Such households often lack the resources for, and access to, alternative livelihoods, while they also often live in disaster-prone areas in unsafe shelters. Therefore, their livelihoods are more vulnerable from degraded coastal and marine ecosystems, and exposure to climate-induced extreme events.

In all, the project aims to support 20,000 direct and 200,000 indirect beneficiaries, of whom at least 75% are women. Across project activities, managers and decision makers from government agencies and local authorities also are project beneficiaries, to upscale the application of best practices in the wider provincial landscape and the national level.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC)

UNDP's corporate management approach will ensure that project implementation will be closely coordinated with UNDP's national, regional and global programs as well as those of relevance implemented by partners, to foster south-south partnerships and triangular cooperation in support of the exchange of information, technologies and expertise, as well as joint learning with regards to common concerns on coastal climate change vulnerabilities and impacts, and best practice solutions and opportunities for strengthening resilience of vulnerable coastal communities.

Given that many countries have similar development priorities and trajectories, the incentives for cooperation are considerable. Together, countries can boost each other's development efforts, find solutions to common challenges, and increase regional cohesion. Strengthening south-south cooperation will open an important opportunity to draw on best practices, international experience, and standards in the design, implementation, monitoring and measuring of development cooperation outcomes, including on important issues like community-based mangrove maintenance, climate risk information and transfer, as well as women empowerment in nature-based co-management and nature-positive business development. Through demand-based cooperation and two-way knowledge exchanges, projects can work with partners to ensure that the design of project activities will reflect international norms and standards. Collectively, projects can drive forward regional and global progress of strengthening resilience of people and nature in support of achieving impactful development results at scale. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on strengthening coastal resilience and enrichment of coastal and marine biodiversity from NBCS in relevant geopolitical, social and environmental contexts, such as the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge-sharing platform, PANORAMA, and ASEAN.

Digital Solutions⁷⁵

The project will apply digital technologies and solutions across various outputs and activities. In particular, the project will deploy computational, communication and other digital technologies, tools and monitoring systems to strengthen information collection and processing on climate and weather conditions, and disaster risks that allows the development of localized, accurate, and actionable weather and climate information advisories. The development of an innovative communication app will allow proactive information dissemination to citizens, enhancing their timely adaptive response to extreme events. Digital solutions will also be applied for the design of integrated information system on climate & disaster risks, biodiversity & environment information services with user-friendly interface.

Further, the project will give due attention to the application of advanced digital tools to help making NBCS viable. From the development of local community-based risk reduction solutions to the inclusive coastal zone management

⁷⁵ Please see the [Guideline "Embedding Digital in Project Design"](#).

planning of natural resources use, advanced technologies can facilitate faster and more informed decision making around NBCS, from a better understanding of complex landscape systems that can highlight alternative sustainable development, resilient livelihood and conservation investments that are operational, scalable, cost-effective, transparent and trustworthy, and are based on measuring the full value of blue and green approaches beyond economics alone.

Also, significant advances in sensor technology, computational and data processing capacity, as well as machine-learning and artificial intelligence have the potential to transform the development and monitoring of NBCS, and unlock unprecedented transparency. For example, the project will incorporate digital solutions in the monitoring of carbon stocks in mangroves in space and time, to allow stocktaking of growth and degradation with acceptable quantified uncertainties, from applying trustworthy and credible algorithmic high-quality remote-sensing solutions augmented by site-based ground-truthing. Similarly, digital solutions will be piloted in monitoring the conditions of coral reef planted and co-managed by coastal communities, linked to insurance and risk transfer solutions to support the rapid financial support for coral restoration from damages following extreme climate events. Results from piloting digital solutions will inform the incorporation of NBCS into the development of the Monitoring and Evaluation System of climate change adaptation at the national level (PM Decision 148/ QĐ-TTg dated 28 January 2022).

Knowledge

The development and implementation of a knowledge management and communication strategy will promote meaningful awareness, understanding and participation of key stakeholders, including government, local WLO and women, in biodiversity conservation, sustainable coastal and marine natural resource use, co-management and nature-positive business development. Knowledge management processes will be used to document project results and lessons learned, disseminate and scale up successful best practices and experiences in strengthening livelihood resilience from improved information management, financing of co-management and business development, and better conservation of biodiversity resources more widely in the coastal zone of the target provinces and beyond.

In particular, implementation of the knowledge management and communication strategy will ensure that (i) the project is well understood, accepted, and implemented effectively and equitably; (ii) knowledge and lessons learned from the implementation of the project are captured, documented and used to improve current and future project practices; (iii) the understanding and use of climate and disaster information services is improved; (iv) implementation and upscaling of best practices on NBCS for the inclusive management of coastal and marine resources use and local livelihood in nature-based co-management and nature-positive business development are promoted, particularly from the engagement and empowerment of women, WLO; (v) biodiversity and ecosystem services protection of mangroves and coral reefs is more effective and supportive of climate change adaptation and mitigation, and (vi) knowledge management products are shared and used.

Public information materials developed will include press releases, human interest stories, op-ed/ blogs, leaflets and brochures, banners, promotional items, photo essays, presentations, videos, technical publications, and guidelines.

Sustainability and Scaling Up

The project is designed to build and demonstrate the enabling framework to scale up NBCS to achieve nature-based resilience. Through the piloting of NBCS in the three target provinces the project will demonstrate the way forward for adopting a multi-focal approach to strengthen the resilience of VCC to climate change that prioritizes the participation of women across project activities to achieve improved gender equality. This approach has a strong potential for broad scale replication in other coastal provinces of Viet Nam, which is achieved through ensuring that information about the activities, impacts and lessons learned from the project activities are disseminated widely, and through the proactive engagement of managers and decision makers from national and provincial government agencies and local authorities as key beneficiaries to the project.

Especially the project's grant finance component on nature-based co-management and nature-positive business development will seek to strengthen synergies among rural development actors and programs with an objective of raising additional investments that will fund and expand models of sustainable resource use and alternative livelihood activities within and outside of the target provinces.

The comprehensive engagement of the project with VCC, PW, WFOs and WLO, specifically promoting their participation in a multitude of capacity building and training activities as well as hands-on practices, throughout the duration of the project, will build a sustainable basis for the adoption by VCC, PW, of new technologies and practices demonstrated. The project focus on piloting finance instruments in nature-based co-management and nature-positive business initiatives, legally embedded for rolling out under the leadership of WLO, will provide the sustainable basis for their successful continued operations and potential replication after EOP.

The sustainability and scaling up is in particular supported by the implementation of the knowledge management and communication strategy which ensures the documentation and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned that deliver tangible improvements in the resilience of vulnerable NDC and coastal and marine biodiversity as examples for replication and scaling up.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

The project is designed to reflect the most cost-effective approach. A number of strategies were evaluated during the project formulation stage to identify those strategies and activities that demonstrate this cost-effective approach.

First, project design is build around an innovative, holistic approach of applying NBCS to achieve three elements of nature-based resilience for vulnerable coastal communities, ecosystems and biodiversity: (i) more resilient biodiversity and ecosystems; (ii) more resilient information and finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation capacities; and (iii) more resilient livelihoods from enhanced preparedness, improved protection, and better ecosystem services.

Second, strengthening the three aspects of nature-based resilience is demonstrated by the project applying an integrated coastal landscape approach in 3 selected coastal provinces, which allows to address and benefit from their various interactions to maximize opportunities for synergies, such that selected actions and interventions generate multiple benefits. These synergies are achieved by linking well-designed conservation measures for mangroves and coral reefs in conservaton and sustainable use areas for the protection and enrichment of biodiversity and ecosystem services with the design and finance of NBCS in nature-based co-management and nature-positive business development for a sustainable ocean economy and better livelihoods. Both impact pathways are intrinsically linked with, and supported by, better climate information systems and services that allow better risk informed planning of adaptation and mitigation solutions and action by vulnerable coastal communities.

Also, the project design and planning of targeted activities to the extent possible and relevant for the target provinces builds on outputs, best practices and lessons learned from past and ongoing programs and projects by UNDP and other organizations. This includes knowledge on mangrove planting and maintenance; community based climate and disaster risk planning; Community-Based Risk Reduction Plans (UNDP-GCF); marine plastic waste schemes by IWW (UNDP-GEF SGP, and UNDP & Norway Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge); approaches to non-exhaustive (alternative) livelihoods in high ecosystem and biodiversity value coastal and marine areas, including coral reefs, ecosystem restoration through enrichment planting, and improved PA management effectiveness (UNDP-GEF); access to and use of localized agro-climate information to apply climate resilient planning and risk mitigation (UNDP-GCF); fisheries co-management, biodiversity conservation in coral reefs and mangroves, and the promotion of nature-supportive business development (USAID-IUCN); tools for climate-smart planning and improved climate resilience of land and water management practices, based on monitoring, analytics, and information systems for enhanced decisions (WB); gender-sensitive guidelines and enhanced climate services for climate-resilient and environment adapted development from rehabilitating mangrove forests and PPP in aquaculture (GIZ); and coastal forest planting,

rehabilitation and management by farmers, and development of sustainable livelihoods from non-timber forest products (WB).

Project Management

UNDP is the implementing partner and has full responsibility for implementing the project according to the Agreement between Canada and UNDP. The project will be implemented through UNDP's Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), following UNDP POPP. UNDP will report on the project to Canada in line with reporting requirements set out in the Agreement.

National project owners are the MARD and the PPCs of target provinces TTH, BD and ST. MARD will assign a designated agency who will be assigned responsibility of overall project coordination from the Vietnamese side, and appoint a National Project Director (NPD).

The project will use the experience of different UNDP units, primarily the Climate Change and Environment Unit, on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, climate adaptation and mitigation, and green growth, with support from the Governance and Participation Unit and the Inclusive Growth team.

A project-specific management team will be formed, with key personnel recruited by UNDP. The NPMT will be located at project offices in Hanoi to support day-to-day coordination, operations, communication and quality assurance of activities. In the target provinces the project will be implemented by dedicated PPMTs, including a Technical Officer and an Accountant Officer, responsible for the coordination of project activities in each target province. All project staff will ensure achieving of the project performance and measurement framework including the requirements on gender equality, human rights, and environmental analysis.

The project will recruit part-time and full-time technical experts, on gender & livelihoods, mangrove and biodiversity, safeguards, and one ITA (part-time). For specific project activities, individual, national or international consultants, or consultancy services will be procured following UNDP's procurement rules and regulations.

More information on the project implementation arrangement is provided in Section VIII: Governance and Management Arrangements.

V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK⁷⁶

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country [or Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework: Outcome 2. Climate change response, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability: By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam's effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster-risk reduction and resilience building, promotion of the circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy and the sustainable management of natural resources

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: Outcome 2 - People in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam's effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change; disaster risk reduction and resilience building; promotion of circular economy; provision of clean and renewable energy; and sustainable management of natural resources

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:

Outcome 3 – Resilience built to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk

Project title and Quantum Project Number: Viet Nam Climate Smart Coastal Communities - 01000784

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ⁷⁷	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	FINAL	
Ultimate Outcome										
1000 Improved resilience to CC of VCC, PW, and enriched marine and coastal biodiversity in Viet Nam	# of direct and indirect beneficiaries from project activities, disaggregated by sex, age, societal group ⁷⁸	Project reports, local authorities' reports, and media news	0	2023	n/a	n/a	10,000 direct beneficiaries and 200,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which at least 75% are women		20,000 direct beneficiaries and 200,000 indirect beneficiaries, of which at least 75% are women	Detailed questionnaires; Consultations with beneficiaries and women groups; Regular livelihood surveys

⁷⁶ UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

⁷⁷ *It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.*

⁷⁸ *Societal group refers to grouping based on ethnicity, profession, marital status, province, disability, and others. The specific groups for each indicator will be defined during the formulation of the Gender Action Plan*

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ⁷⁷	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	FINAL	
	# of hectares of strengthened biodiversity conservation	PA reports, provincial reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	25,000 ha		50,000 ha	Review and verification of reports and plans
Intermediate Outcomes										
1100 Enhanced performance of government and VCC, PW, to apply gender-responsive climate information and risk-informed planning for CC adaptation with environment co-benefits	1100.1 %/# of policies and plans formulated with consideration for strengthening gender equality and climate change readiness	Provincial policies, building codes and local plans	n/a	2023	n/a	n/a	20%		60%	Review and verification of reports, policies, plans, codes
	1100.2 Extent (1-5) to which community applied	Surveys, interviews	1	2023	n/a	n/a	2		4	Analysis of surveys
1200 Enhanced performance and leadership of women and WLO to initiate NBCS for sustainable ocean economy and livelihoods, with co-benefits for adaptation and biodiversity	1200.1 Extent (1-5) to which women and WLO have increased leadership and decision-making to initiate NBCS for sustainable ocean economy and livelihoods	Surveys, interviews	1	2023	n/a	n/a	2		4	Analysis of surveys
	1200.2 %/value of increased income of female headed households and women-led organization from implementing NBCS	Surveys, interviews	n/a	2023	n/a	n/a	5%		15%	Review and verification of reports
1300 Enhanced performance of government, and women and WLO from NDC in protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services with CC adaptation and mitigation co-benefits	1300.1 Increased investments by government allocated for biodiversity conservation	Provincial reports/PA reports/DOF	Investments in 2022	2023	n/a	n/a	10%		An increase by 20%	Review and verification of reports
	1300.2 # of tons CO ₂ e sequestered by mangrove forest and coral reef supported by the project, during project lifetime, and CO ₂ e expected to capture over a 20- year period	Independent assessment	million tons CO ₂ eq. at project inception	2023	n/a	n/a	+10%		million tons CO ₂ eq. at EOP	FAO EX-ACT calculation for GHG emissions avoided and sequestered
Immediate Outcomes										
1110 Increased equitable access to gender-sensitive climate and disaster information services by VCC, PW and WFO, and governments	1110.1 # of people who accessed the mobile communication app for up-to-date information on climate forecasts, extreme events, early warning advisories, disaggregated by sex, age, and societal group		0	2023	n/a	n/a	1,000 people , of which 60% are female		8,500 people , of which 60% are female	Review and verification of reports
	1110.2 # of people accessed the information system/platform for climate & disaster risks, biodiversity & environment information	Provincial Reports, Information Hub	0	2023	n/a	n/a	10,000 people , of which 60%		90,000 people , of which 60%	Review and verification of reports

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ⁷⁷	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	FINAL	
	services, disaggregated by sex, age, and societal group						are female		are female	
1120 Increased capacities and engagement of NDC, PW, WLO and the government in risk-informed and inclusive marine and coastal resources planning	1120.1 # of people who improved their knowledge through participation in community-based risk reduction planning, disaggregated by sex, age, societal group	Project reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	250 people, of which 60% are female		400 people, of which 60% are female	Review and verification of reports
	1120.2 # sub-national policies/plans incorporate gender equality and inclusiveness in coastal zone management and co-management	Project reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	1		3	Review and verification of reports
1210 Increased access to finance for women and WLO in NDC to apply NBCS in co-management and business development	1210.1 # of women, disaggregated by age and societal groups who benefited directly and indirectly from the women-focused finance schemes promoting NBCS in co-management and nature positive business development	Project reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	400		1000	Review and verification of reports
	1210.2 \$ of co-finance leverage catalyzed by the project finance schemes	Project reports, provincial reports, DOF	0	2023	n/a	n/a	300,000 CAD		1 mil CAD	Review and verification of reports
1220 Increased capacities and participation of NDC, PW and WLO, in promoting NBCS in inclusive management of marine and coastal resources use	1220.1 Level (1-5) of knowledge and skills of women to incorporate NBCS in decision-making and planning for marine and coastal resources use	Projects reports, surveys	1	2023	n/a	n/a	2		4	Review and verification of reports , analysis of surveys
	1220.2 # of women with improved knowledge and skills who participated/contributed to dialogues of marine and coastal planning with NBCS for mitigating and adaptation to climate change	Project reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	75		200	Review and verification of reports project reports and media reports
1310 Mangrove and coral reef CA established and effectively and managed for biodiversity conservation, CC	1310.1 New CAs under improved management, as measured by Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools (METT)	METT scorecards	METT baseline: TBD during project inception:	2023	n/a	n/a	At least a 5-point average increase in		At least a 15-point average increase in	Official reports, Project verification missions/spot checks

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ⁷⁷	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS	
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	FINAL		
adaptation and mitigation benefiting NDC, PW			TTH: 0 BD: 0 ST: 0					METT scores from baseline		METT scores from baseline	
	1310.2 %/# increase in aquatic species diversity and stock in protected mangroves and coral reefs	EOP survey	Baseline survey during inception with selection of appropriate indicators	2023	n/a	n/a	5% increase in species diversity, stock assessed		10% increase in species diversity, stock assessed	Visual inspection from diving & underwater drones, biota sampling	
1320 Increased area and quality of mangroves, providing biodiversity-based ecosystem adaptation and mitigation services, and livelihoods for NDC and PW	1320.1 # of tons of CO2 eq. captured by mangrove rehabilitation (new planting, supplementary planting)	Independent assessment	0	2023	n/a	n/a			million tons CO2 eq. at EOP	FAO EX-ACT calculation for GHG emissions avoided and sequestered	
	1320.2 # of people benefited from mangrove ecosystem services, disaggregated by sex, age, societal group	Project reports, provincial/district/co mmunal reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	2,500		10,000	Review and verification of reports	
Outputs											
1111 Gender-sensitive climate and disaster risk information services and systems in place	1111.1 # of automatic hydro-meteorological monitoring and early warning systems installed	Project reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	20		20	Review and verify reports	
1112 Established localized climate response advisories that meet the needs and priorities of both women and men to enhance timely adaptive citizens' response to extreme events	1112.1 # of CIGs established at commune/district level to co-develop tailored climate advisory messages	Project reports, provincial/district/co mmunal reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	15		20	Review and verify reports	
1113 Strengthened provincial integrated innovative information systems, with increased usage by women, men and the private sector	1113.1 # of innovative information systems upgraded or installed, with increased usage by communities and private sector disaggregated by sex, age, societal group	Project reports, provincial reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	0		3 (one per province)	Review and verify reports	

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ⁷⁷	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	FINAL	
1121 Community-based risk reduction plans prepared from consultations with NDC, PW, and based on gender disaggregated data, traditional/indigenous knowledge	1121.1 # of community-based risk reduction plans prepared	CPC, district and provincial authorities, DARD, VNDMA	0	2023	n/a	n/a	10		10	Review and verify reports
1122 Provincial inclusive coastal zone management and co-management policies/plans strengthened, with roles and participation of VCC, PW and WLO	1122.1 # provincial gender-responsive policies/plans with gender equality consideration developed with women in decision making positions	Provincial records	0	2023	n/a	n/a	1		3	Review and verify reports
1123 Feedback / lessons learnt from provincial policy development and practices incorporating NBCS and gender equality for climate resilience into national policies, strategies, legal provisions	1123.1 # national policies/plans informed to incorporate NBCS and climate risks	National records	0	2023	n/a	n/a	1		5	Review and verify reports
1211 Inclusive finance schemes for NBCS rolled out by WLO to support co-management and business initiatives by women and WLO	1211.1 # of projects financed, disaggregated by grants, and by gender, applying NBCS in co-management and nature-positive business development	Project reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	20		35	Review and verify reports
1212 Innovative marine plastic waste schemes designed and rolled out by IWW, PW to reduce plastic pollution from fisheries	1212.1 # of tons of plastic collected	Project reports, provincial reports	0	2023	n/a	n/a	10 tons		30 tons over a 5-year period	Review and verify reports
1221 Mechanisms designed and rolled out to empower NDC, PW, and WLO to effectively participate in	1221.1 # of women leadership trainings conducted for their effective participation in promoting NbS in inclusive coastal and marine management	Project reports, the meetings/dialogues records/proceedings	0	2023	n/a	n/a	8		15	Review and verify reports

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ⁷⁷	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	FINAL	
promoting NBCS in inclusive coastal and marine management										
1222 Community of Practice (CoP) partnerships developed between government, private sector and communities to promote NBCS in eco-tourism development	1222.1 # of Community of Practice partnerships developed to promote NBCS in eco-tourism development	Project reports, the meetings/dialogues records/proceedings	0	2023	n/a	n/a	2		6	Review and verify reports
1311 New biodiversity Cas established and effectively managed by government with representation of NDC, PW, WFO	1311.1 # of conservation areas formally established, with zoning endorsed	Formal gazettement government documents	0	2023	n/a	n/a	2		3	Review and verify reports
1312 Coral reefs restored and effectively and inclusively managed by NDC, PW, WLO, for biodiversity, livelihoods, increased carbon stocks	1312.1 # of hectares of coral reef planted/restored	District / provincial statements, PA documentation	0 ha	2023	n/a	n/a	3		7 ha	Review and verify reports
	1312.2 # of tons of CO ₂ e captured from increased coral reef	Independent assessment	0	2023	n/a	n/a			million tons CO ₂ eq. at EOP	Review and verify reports
1313 Climate and disaster risk financing schemes for coral reef piloted, including risk transfer and insurance schemes for protection and restoration of coral reef	1313.1 # of representatives from communities, government and other groups involved in and aware of innovative risk finance for coral reef, disaggregated by sex, age, and societal group	project report and media reporting	0	2023	n/a	n/a	50		100	Review and verify reports
1321 Mangroves planted, rehabilitated and managed by NDC, PW to provide habitats for biodiversity, enhance adaptive capacity of	1321.1 # of hectares of mangrove rehabilitated (new planting, supplementary planting)	Survey	0	2023	n/a	n/a	200		394 ha	Review and verify reports

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ⁷⁷	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	FINAL	
ecosystems, and increase carbon sequestration, benefiting NDC, PW										
1322 Innovative community-led scattered mangrove planting by NDC, PW in community-based aquaculture production sites, benefitting integrated nature-based mangrove-livelihoods of NDC, PW	1322.1 # hectare-equivalent of mangrove scattered planted	Survey	0	2023	n/a	n/a	75		194 ha	Review and verify reports

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**Monitoring Plan**

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.		
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.		
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.		
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.		
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.		
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)			
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the	Annually	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be		

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Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
	performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.		discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.		

Evaluation Plan⁷⁹

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNSDCF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Mid-Term Evaluation		Outcome 3	Outcome 2 CPD	31/12/2025	MARD, Binh Dinh, Soc Trang, Thua Thien Hue, beneficiaries	CAD\$ 64,300 - Project funding
Final evaluation		Outcome 3	Outcome 2 CPD	31/3/2027	MARD, Binh Dinh, Soc Trang, Thua Thien Hue, beneficiaries	CAD\$ 64,300 - Project funding

⁷⁹ Optional, if needed

VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN ⁸⁰⁸¹

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
Intermediate Outcome 1100 Enhanced performance of government and VCC, PW, to apply gender-responsive climate information and risk-informed planning for CC adaptation with environment co-benefits		97,360	730,504	1,150,023	1,925,380	UNDP	Canada		3,903,267
Immediate Outcome 1110 Increased equitable access to gender-sensitive climate and disaster information services by VCC, PW and WFO and governments		69,360	412,096	529,929	915,301	UNDP	Canada		1,926,685
Output 1111 Gender-sensitive climate and disaster risk information services and systems in place <i>Gender marker:</i>	1111.1 Installation of automatic hydro-meteorological monitoring and early warning systems in selected communes linked to higher level information systems	12,860	170,576	195,432	264,132	UNDP	Canada		643,000
	1111.2 Review and design policy framework to enhance PPP for private sector engagement, particularly WLO, in climate information services	15,000	27,701	19,651	21,237	UNDP	Canada		83,590
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1111	27,860	198,277	215,083	285,369	UNDP	Canada		726,590

⁸⁰ Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

⁸¹ Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
Output 1112 Established localized climate response advisories that meets the needs and priorities of both women and men to enhance timely adaptive citizens' response to extreme events. <i>Gender marker:</i>	1112.1 Formation of women-led multi-stakeholder CIGs at commune/district level to co-develop localized climate advisory messages	20,000	30,929	30,722	38,718	UNDP	Canada		120,370
	1112.2 Organize training for CIG members in participatory scenario planning to develop localized, gender-sensitive actionable early warning messages	-	12,000	50,000	100,808	UNDP	Canada		162,808
	1112.3 Develop and pilot an innovative mobile communication app to timely disseminate up-to-date advisories on climate forecasts, extreme events, impacts and appropriate responses	-	46,220	29,358	154,616	UNDP	Canada		230,194
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1112		20,000	89,149	110,080	294,142	UNDP	Canada	
Output 1113 Strengthened provincial integrated innovative information systems with increased usage by women, men and private sector <i>Gender marker:</i>	1113.1 Conduct gender-informed capacity assessment to develop, maintain and update climate information system	-	30,800	46,000	77,520	UNDP	Canada		154,320
	1113.2 Support update and design of integrated information system on climate & disaster risks, biodiversity & environment information services with user-friendly interface	21,500	93,869	158,766	258,269	UNDP	Canada		532,404
	MONITORING								

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
	Sub-Total for Output 1113	21,500	124,669	204,766	335,789	UNDP	Canada		686,724
Immediate Outcome 1120 Increased capacities and engagement of NDC, PW and WLO and the government in risk-informed and inclusive marine and coastal resources planning		28,000	318,409	620,094	1,010,079	UNDP	Canada		1,976,582
Output 1121 Community-based risk reduction plans prepared from consultations with NDC, PW, and based on gender disaggregated data, traditional/indigenous knowledge	1121.1 Document gender disaggregated traditional / indigenous knowledge and good practice on climate change, disasters, risks and gender-sensitive needs of communities	-	22,165	37,700	88,283	UNDP	Canada		148,147
	1121.2 Conduct training on climate change, disaster risk management and risk planning for local communities, that is based on gender disaggregated data, traditional knowledge and good practice, and modern technology	-	33,565	70,987	99,922	UNDP	Canada		204,474
	1121.3 Support participatory preparation of community-based risk reduction solutions and action plans that meet the needs and priorities of both women and men for implementation	20,000	59,515	52,935	156,900	UNDP	Canada		289,350
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1121	20,000	115,244	161,622	345,105	UNDP	Canada		641,971
Output 1122 Provincial inclusive coastal zone management and co-management	1122.1 Support preparation of provincial eco-coastal tourism plans	-	22,569	52,662	75,231	UNDP	Canada		150,462

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
policies/plans strengthened, with roles and participation of VCC, PW and WLO	1122.2 Support preparation of provincial climate change adaptation plans and M&E actions	-	21,991	51,311	73,302	UNDP	Canada		146,604
	1122.3 Support drafting of provincial marine and coastal resources co-management plans	-	21,991	51,311	73,302	UNDP	Canada		146,604
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1122	-	66,551	155,285	221,835	UNDP	Canada		443,670
Output 1123 Feedback/lessons learnt from provincial policy development and practices incorporating NBCS and gender equality for climate resilience into national policies, strategies, legal provisions	1123.1 Inform National Adaptation Plan revision and national Monitoring and Reporting for climate change adaptation to incorporate NBCS solutions	8,000	27,703	49,061	80,102	UNDP	Canada		164,865
	1123.2 Inform revision of the Law on Natural Resource and Environment of Sea and Islands	-	26,003	60,673	86,676	UNDP	Canada		173,353
	1123.3 Inform implementation of the National Strategy for Biodiversity until 2030 and vision to 2050 incorporating NBCS approaches	-	10,301	24,035	34,336	UNDP	Canada		68,672
	1123.4 Inform formulation of a new National Climate Change Strategy to 2050	-	28,781	67,155	95,936	UNDP	Canada		191,871
	1123.5 Inform revision of Nationally Determined Contribution incorporating NBCS solutions	-	43,827	102,263	146,090	UNDP	Canada		292,179

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1123	8,000	136,614	303,187	443,140	UNDP	Canada		890,941
Intermediate Outcome 1200 Enhanced performance and leadership of women and WLO to initiate NBCS for sustainable ocean economy and livelihoods, with co-benefits for adaptation and biodiversity conservation		24,500	551,511	1,608,931	2,530,717	UNDP	Canada		4,715,659
Immediate Outcome 1210 Increased access to finance for women and WLO in NDC to apply NBCS in co-management and business development		-	435,151	1,367,776	2,198,153	UNDP	Canada		4,001,080
Output 1211 Inclusive finance schemes for NBCS rolled out by WLO to support co-management and business initiatives by women and WLO	1211.1. Prepare portfolio on best-practices on NBCS relevant to nature-based co-management, nature-positive business	-	8,681	20,255	28,935	UNDP	Canada		57,870
<i>Gender marker:</i>	1211.2 Conduct capacity building to enhance knowledge, skills of women, WLO, to prepare co-management proposals and bankable nature-positive investment projects based on NBCS	-	6,944	16,204	23,148	UNDP	Canada		46,296
	1211.3. Design women-led grant schemes for NBCS, including Nature-Supportive Grant Incubation Facility	-	30,864	303,496	334,360	UNDP	Canada		668,720

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
	1211.4. Issue grants, particularly to FHH, women-led SME, cooperatives, for NBCS in co-management and nature-positive business development	-	316,204	861,418	1,573,132	UNDP	Canada		2,750,754
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1211	-	362,693	1,201,373	1,959,575	UNDP	Canada		3,523,640
Output 1212 Innovative marine plastic waste schemes designed and rolled out by IWW, PW to reduce plastic pollution from fisheries	1212.1. Support women, WLO to develop IWW business plans and operational schemes to collect plastics from fishery sector	-	5,220	12,180	17,400	UNDP	Canada		34,799
<i>Gender marker:</i>	1212.2. Provide training to IWW, PW to enhance awareness on occupational health & safety and workers' rights	-	7,440	14,693	21,849	UNDP	Canada		43,981
	1212.3. Provide IWW, PW, and fishermen with safety tools and environmental-friendly equipment (e.g. electric trolleys, and plastic compressors)	-	11,574	27,006	38,580	UNDP	Canada		77,160
	1212.4. Operationalize plastic waste collection points, implemented by women-led IWW cooperatives/ groups	-	48,225	112,525	160,750	UNDP	Canada		321,500
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1212	-	72,459	166,404	238,578	UNDP	Canada		477,440

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
Immediate Outcome 1220 Increased capacities and participation of NDC, PW and WLO, in promoting NBCS in inclusive management of marine and coastal resources use		24,500	116,360	241,155	332,564	UNDP	Canada		714,579
Output 1221 Mechanisms designed and rolled out to empower NDC, PW, and WLO to effectively participate in promoting NBCS in inclusive coastal and marine management <i>Gender marker:</i>	1221.1. Conduct gender-informed review of coastal and marine management frameworks, with a focus on NBCS	-	-	11,234	20,864	UNDP	Canada		32,099
	1221.2. Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination platforms to promote dialogue between institutions, communities, WLO, with a focus on NBCS	10,000	26,362	36,570	47,180	UNDP	Canada		120,112
	1221.3 Implement a capacity building program to enhance the leadership capacities of women, WLO to participate at-par in promoting NBCS in coastal and marine management	10,000	28,986	57,609	83,188	UNDP	Canada		179,783
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1221	20,000	55,348	105,414	151,232	UNDP	Canada		331,994
Output 1222 Community of Practice (CoP) partnerships developed between government, private sector and communities to promote NBCS and gender equality in eco-tourism development	1222.1 Prepare gender-sensitive knowledge products on incorporating environmental standards, social norms and NBCS into design of nature-based eco-tourism	3,000	12,496	32,472	35,365	UNDP	Canada		83,333

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
<i>Gender marker:</i>	1222.2. Establish women-led CoP for the eco-tourism community for collaboration and learning	-	9,900	13,500	18,652	UNDP	Canada		42,052
	1222.3. Pilot applying NBCS and environmental standards in the operation of nature-based eco-tourism by women- SME and cooperatives	1,500	38,616	89,770	127,315	UNDP	Canada		257,200
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1222	4,500	61,011	135,741	181,332	UNDP	Canada		382,585
Intermediate Outcome 1300 Enhanced performance of government, and women and WLO from NDC in protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services with CC adaptation and mitigation co-benefits									
Immediate Outcome 1310 Mangrove and coral reef CAs established and effectively managed for biodiversity conservation, CC adaptation and mitigation benefiting NDC, PW		10,000	302,834	631,501	963,061	UNDP	Canada		1,907,395
Output 1311 New biodiversity CAs established and effectively managed by government with representation of NDC, PW, WFO <i>Gender marker:</i>	1311.1. Prepare profiles of CAs, incl. needs for basic and optimal management	-	9,300	21,500	30,928	UNDP	Canada		61,728
	1311.2. Develop CA Dossiers, including zoning, for formal establishment by the government	-	83,551	185,285	264,855	UNDP	Canada		533,690

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
	1311.3. Implement gender-informed CA Capacity Building Plans for DONRE/DARD, MPA Management Boards	-	17,361	40,509	57,870	UNDP	Canada		115,740
	1311.4. Develop 5-year CA management plans, including operational plans on patrolling, monitoring, awareness raising, revenue generation	-	10,706	24,981	35,687	UNDP	Canada		71,373
	1311.5. Provide technical support to CA Management Boards for effective management operations	-	34,722	81,018	115,740	UNDP	Canada		231,480
	1311.6. Pilot PMES schemes, with payments by service users	-	15,451	17,945	69,612	UNDP	Canada		103,009
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1311	-	171,091	371,237	574,692	UNDP	Canada		1,117,020
Output 1312 Coral reefs restored and effectively and inclusively managed by NDC, PW, WLO, for biodiversity, livelihoods, increased carbon stock	1312.1. Design coral planting and management program, including SOP	-	11,574	27,006	38,580	UNDP	Canada		77,160
	1312.2. Train MPA Management Boards and communities, PW, on coral planting and maintenance	-	4,437	10,352	14,789	UNDP	Canada		29,578
<i>Gender marker:</i>	1312.3. Conduct coral planting, with women, WLO	-	67,515	157,535	225,050	UNDP	Canada		450,100
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1312	-	83,526	194,893	278,419	UNDP	Canada		556,838

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
Output 1313 Climate and disaster risk financing schemes for coral reef piloted, including risk transfer and insurance schemes for protection and restoration of coral reef, with engagement of NDC, PW <i>Gender marker:</i>	1313.1 Vulnerability assessment and economic valuation of reefs and ecosystem services, and estimate cost of emergency response actions	-	6,983	16,294	23,277	UNDP	Canada		46,553
	1313.2. Analyze legal-regulatory and institutional framework, and national/ provincial public finance policy mechanisms	-	4,803	11,143	14,146	UNDP	Canada		30,092
	1313.3. Develop insurance and risk transfer solutions for rapid financial support for coral restoration	10,000	36,432	37,933	72,527	UNDP	Canada		156,892
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1313		10,000	48,218	65,370	109,950	UNDP	Canada	
Immediate Outcome 1320 Increased area and quality of mangrove providing biodiversity-based ecosystem adaptation and mitigation services, and livelihood, for NDC, PW		-	820,004	1,735,921	2,563,487	UNDP	Canada		5,119,412
Output 1321 Mangroves planted, rehabilitated and managed by NDC, PW to provide habitat for	1321.1. Review of best practice in mangrove planting, rehabilitation, and O&M approaches	-	5,671	5,671	21,065	UNDP	Canada		32,407

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
biodiversity, enhance adaptive capacity of ecosystems, and increase carbon sequestration, benefiting NDC, PW <i>Gender marker:</i>	1321.2. Design site-specific mangrove rehabilitation plans with site survey, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and hydrology assessment (using coastal planning processes operationalized under output 1222)	-	29,694	65,084	92,978	UNDP	Canada		187,756
	1321.3. Conduct training of community and FPG, PW, on mangrove rehabilitation and management	-	3,472	8,102	13,374	UNDP	Canada		24,948
	1321.4. Implement participatory site-based mangrove rehabilitation with engagement of women, WLO	-	552,273	1,294,798	1,834,748	UNDP	Canada		3,681,818
	1321.5. Implement mangrove monitoring, incl. carbon stock inventory (using grant schemes operationalized under output 1211)	-	10,532	25,861	36,394	UNDP	Canada		72,788
	1321.6. Feedback/lessons learnt on mangrove planting and rehabilitation to inform national mangrove and wetlands policies	-	4,583	10,694	16,564	UNDP	Canada		31,841
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1321		-	606,226	1,410,211	2,015,122	UNDP	Canada	
Output 1322 Innovative community-led scattered mangrove planting by NDC, PW in	1322.1. Prepare SOP for site assessment, scattered planting techniques and maintenance	-	3,704	8,969	13,330	UNDP	Canada		26,003

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
community-based aquaculture production sites, benefitting integrated nature-based mangrove-livelihoods of NDC, PW <i>Gender marker:</i>	1322.2. Conduct trainings of communities, PW, in scattered planting and maintenance techniques	-	6,887	16,046	22,978	UNDP	Canada		45,910
	1322.3. Conduct scattered mangrove planting with engagement of women, WLO	-	192,900	285,263	486,337	UNDP	Canada		964,500
	1322.4. Support scattered mangrove maintenance by communities, PW (using grant schemes operationalized under output 1211)	-	10,288	15,432	25,720	UNDP	Canada		51,440
	MONITORING								
	Sub-Total for Output 1322	-	213,778	325,710	548,365	UNDP	Canada		1,087,853
Project management	UNDP's staff direct support to project implementation (PM, PO, PA, Procurement)	80,000	500,353	375,264	375,264	UNDP	Canada		1,330,881
	PMU Project Staff	-	141,295	211,943	353,239	UNDP	Canada		706,477
	PMU Project Operation cost	-	34,722	52,083	86,805	UNDP	Canada		173,610
	Office utilities, communications, supplies and office security	10,000	36,123	27,092	27,092	UNDP	Canada		100,308
	Implementation Support Services (ISS)	10,000	47,440	35,580	35,580	UNDP	Canada		128,600
	Audit, MA, Inception, MTR, TE, launching and closing workshops	77,619	72,016	7,716	92,206	UNDP	Canada		249,557
	Sub-Total for project management	177,619	831,949	709,678	970,187	UNDP	Canada		2,689,433
General Management Support	GMS (8%)	24,758	258,944	466,884	715,980	UNDP	Canada		1,466,813

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EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (CAD)
	Levy (1%)	198,020				UNDP	Canada		198,020
TOTAL GRANT									20,000,000
CO-FINANCING FROM UNDP									224,213
TOTAL									20,224,213

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

UNDP is the implementing partner and has full responsibility for implementing the project according to the Agreement between Canada and UNDP.

Project owner

National project owners are the MARD and the Provincial People's Committees (PPCs) of target provinces Thua Thien Hue (TTH), Binh Dinh (BD) and Soc Trang (ST). MARD will assign a designated national agency and National Project Director (NPD) who will be assigned responsibility of overall project coordination from Vietnamese side. In each target province, the PPC will appoint a Provincial Project Director (PPD) who will be assigned responsibility to provide guidance to the provincial project teams in technical aspects to achieve project results/targets in each target province, and who will support, together with appointed officials from provincial agencies, the coordination with provincial government partners and other stakeholders to accelerate project implementation progress and ensure full alignment with other initiatives. NPD and PPD and appointed provincial officials will not be paid by the project but will represent the national and provincial governments' in-kind contribution to the project. The National Responsible Parties (NRPs) are MARD and the PPCs of TTH, BD and ST.

National Project Board

A Project Board (PB) will be established consisting of representatives of Canada, UNDP CO, relevant national authorities including MARD and provincial authorities. The PB will meet annually to discuss project progress and endorse project reports, provide strategic guidance and orientation on project implementation activities.

National Project Management Team

A national project management team (NPMT) will be formed, with key personnel recruited by UNDP to be located at project offices at different levels to support day-to-day coordination, operations, communication and quality assurance of activities. A National Project Manager (NPM) will be appointed by UNDP to lead project implementation activities and oversee the work of technical experts and contractors, to ensure achieving of the project performance and measurement framework as well as the requirements on gender equality, human rights, and environmental analysis. The NPM will also be responsible for project reporting in line with reporting requirements set out in the UNDP-Canada Agreement. The NPMT will further consist of part-time and full-time technical experts, on gender & livelihoods, mangrove and biodiversity, safeguards, and one international technical advisor (part-time). For specific project activities the NPMT will be technically supported by contracted individual national and international consultants as well as consultancy service providers.

Provincial Project Management Teams

In each of the 3 target provinces, a Provincial Project Management Team (PPMT) will be established, consisting of a Technical Officer and an Accountant Officer. The PPMT will be responsible for the coordination of project activities in each target province. The PPMTs will be supported by the PPDs appointed by the PPCs.

Provincial Project Partners

In each target province, the project target groups include the provincial Department of Planning and Investment (DPI), DARD, DONRE, Department of Sports and Tourism, Department of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA), Women's Unions at all levels, Provincial Ethnic Minority Committee, DPCs, CPCs in project target communes, PA Management Authorities, the provincial Business Women's Association, relevant social-, gender- or environment-focused NGOs and CBOs, and representatives of relevant Development Partners' projects active in the target province (e.g. UN agencies, bilateral donors, including those financed by the Canada Government).

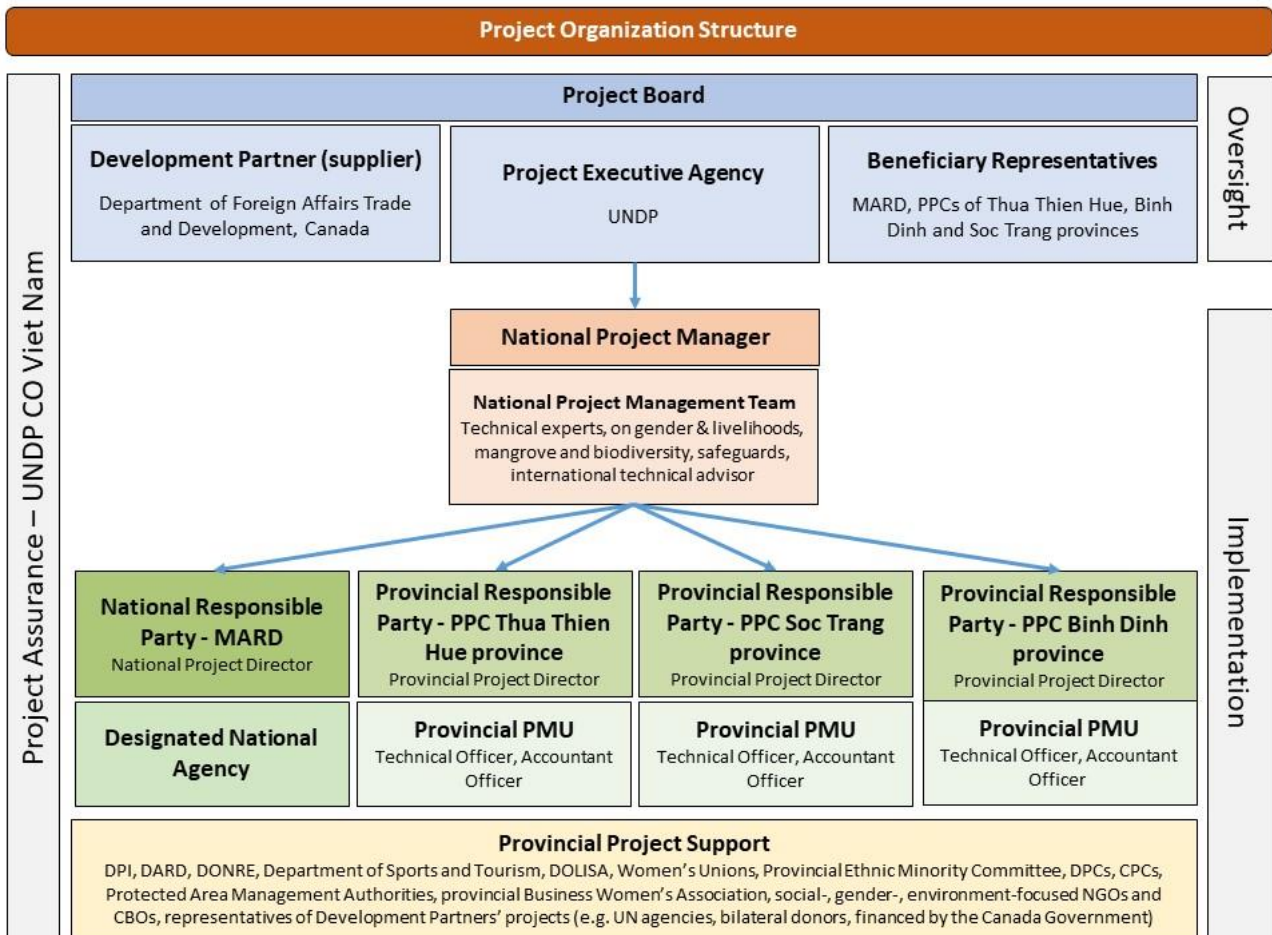
Management of funds

UNDP is directly implementing the project and is the Implementing Partner. Under the requirements set out in the framework agreement, UNDP will be the recipient of project funding from the Canadian government. UNDP will transfer funds to NRPs for the implementation of relevant work packages defined by a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between UNDP and concerned NRPs. All fund transfers from UNDP to NRPs, and subsequently the management and monitoring of these transfers by UNDP, will be in accordance with the United Nations Development Group Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers Framework (UNDG-HACT) Framework. NRPs will implement the project

activities according to the Viet Nam – United Nations Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines (HPPMG) and the GOVN’s ODA regulations.

In-kind cost sharing

Cost sharing will be provided by MARD and the PPCs of 3 target provinces. This can be in-kind contributions for human resources inputs and office space provided for PPMU operations, specifically salaries, vehicles, office consumables, etc. PPCs can also provide cash contributions in support of mangrove planting as well as to the PPMU.



IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of (country) and UNDP, signed on (date). All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner.”

This project will be implemented by UNDP (“Implementing Partner”) in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
2. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds]⁸² [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document]⁸³ are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism, that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List, and that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used for money laundering activities. The United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List can be accessed via <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.
3. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
4. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
5. In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, UNDP as the Implementing Partner will handle any sexual exploitation and abuse (“SEA”) and sexual harassment (“SH”) allegations in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures.
6. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.
7. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor, and sub-recipient:
 - a. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [*or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document*], the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP’s property in such responsible party’s, subcontractor’s and sub-recipient’s custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:
 - i. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;

⁸² To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner

⁸³ To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner

- ii. assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
- b. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.
- c. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient (each a "sub-party" and together "sub-parties") acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the sub-parties, and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.
 - (a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").
 - (b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, each sub-party, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. SH may occur in the workplace or in connection with work. While typically involving a pattern of conduct, SH may take the form of a single incident. In assessing the reasonableness of expectations or perceptions, the perspective of the person who is the target of the conduct shall be considered.
- d. In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, sub-parties will and will require that their respective sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:
 - (i) Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;
 - (ii) Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where sub-parties have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;
 - (iii) Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which any of the sub-parties have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;
 - (iv) Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and
 - (v) Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. Each sub-party shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the relevant sub-party shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.
- e. Each sub-party shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the relevant sub-party to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.
- f. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will ensure that any project activities undertaken by them will be implemented in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards and shall ensure that any incidents or issues of non-compliance shall be reported to UNDP in accordance with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.
- g. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud, corruption or other financial irregularities, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-

recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption, anti-fraud and anti money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

- h. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices (b) UNDP Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy; and (c) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.
- i. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (and its consultants', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.
- j. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud, corruption other financial irregularities with due confidentiality.

Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

- k. *Choose one of the three following options:*

Option 1: UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud corruption, other financial irregularities or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail any responsible party's, subcontractor's or sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.

Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

- l. Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.
- m. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
- n. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are adequately reflected, *mutatis mutandis*, in all its sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XI. ANNEXES

- 1. Project Quality Assurance Report**
- 2. Social and Environmental Screening**
- 3. Risk register**
- 4. Capacity Assessment:** Results of capacity assessments of Implementing Partner (including Partner Capacity Assessment Tool (PCAT) and HACT Micro Assessment)