

LPAC MINUTES

Project: Viet Nam Climate Smart Coastal Communities Project

Chairperson: Mr. Patrick Haverman, Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Viet Nam

Government Members:

- Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung, Head of International Cooperation, Science and Technology Division, Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
- Ms. Nong Thi Hong Hanh, FERD-MPI
- Mr. Ho Dac Chuong, Deputy Director, Binh Dinh Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) together with representatives of relevant divisions/departments
- Mr. Tran Trong Khiem, Deputy Director, Soc Trang DARD together with representatives of relevant divisions/departments
- Mr. Nguyen Long An, Deputy Director, Thua Thien Hue DARD together with representatives of relevant divisions/departments

Members:

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| 1. Dao Xuan Lai, Climate Change and the Environment (CCE) | 12. Nguyen Hong Diep Anh, CCE |
| 2. Bui Hoa Binh, CCE | 13. Nguyen Mai Nhi, CCE |
| 3. Carrie (interpreter) | 14. Nguyen Thanh Hai, CCE |
| 4. Ly Vy Ky, CCE | 15. Nguyen Thi Thai Hoa, CCE |
| 5. Hoang Thi Dieu Linh, CCE | 16. Pham Phuong Linh, M&E Intern |
| 6. Do Trong Hoan (CCE) | 17. Phan Giang, CCE |
| 7. Le Ngoc Dung, CCE | 18. Trinh Thi Bich Thuy, CCE |
| 8. Giulia Di Donato, IGU | 19. Vu Thi Phuong Thao, CCE |
| 9. Nguyen Thu Huyen, CCE | 20. Yeonji Lee, CCE |
| 10. Morgane Rivoal, CCE | 21. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Han, M&E Analyst |
| 11. Trinh Thi My Han (Assistant Intern to DRR) | |

Secretary: Anannya Sahadev

Timeline: LPAC meeting at 10:00 – 11:30 on Monday, 17 October 2023

No.	Issues	Comments	Actions/Responses
1	Project content	The project objective and content are in line with national and provincial priorities. The Department of Fishery and three Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) of Binh Dinh, Thua Thien Hue and Soc Trang express the support, agreement and commitments for the project design and implementation arrangement.	No action needed.
2	Project implementation arrangement and financial management	We need to have clear mechanisms in terms of compliance with Viet Nam regulations and the financial mechanisms of this project, and how we spend the counterpart's money, and the establishment of the project management board.	The government regulations, including the Budget Law, the Investment Law, and Decree 114 and Decree 20 on ODA,... apply to the project in different aspects: 1. Project approval process 2. Overall budget and annual budget planning and approval; workplan approval 3. Financial control/review by the State Treasury 4. Project implementation arrangement including the establishing the project management unit and project steering committee 5. Management and disbursement of the government finance (counterpart funding)

			Beside that, overall UNDP Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) applies to this project. Therefore, UNDP rules and regulations will apply, including Letter of agreement with Department of Fishery and provincial DARDs, PPMUs in three provinces, and to transfer the funding in accordance with HACT regulations. Project will set up a Board to provide overall direction to the project.
		With regards to the detailed ODA budget, can we apply a more open and flexible financial mechanism by UNDP instead by the government as there are currently too many steps (state budget allocation, co-financing, etc)? Circular 23 of the Ministry of Finance that has too many requirements will cause delays to project implementation. Please consider an alternative to Circular 23. The forest plantation/rehabilitation component in Soc Trang is proposed to be implemented by UNDP to avoid the delay by the government procedures	Welcome the comments and suggestion from provinces relating to challenges in applying and following the GOVN regulations that may lead to delay of the project implementation, given short time frame. UNDP will work further with MARD and 3 provinces to find the most appropriate solutions. The project team will discuss with Soc Trang specifically on the forest plantation/rehabilitation component to find the most appropriate implementation arrangement.
		We need clarification on whether it is one project or several projects?	The project is one project for Canada and UNDP. With the Decree 114 on ODA, in the Vietnamese system, the project will be split into four projects, one with

		What are the roles of the different partners from UNDP? We need clarification on the project implementation mechanism and financial management. If the roles and mechanisms are not clear, there will be delays later in the project implementation and the project should not be approved.	MARD and three with three provinces. UNDP have worked with MARD and 3 provinces to prepare relevant Vietnamese project documents accordingly. Each project document reflects the budget amount that MARD and provinces will receive and roles of relevant stakeholders. Project implementation mechanism and financial management are clearly presented in the project documents. MARD and three provinces are conducting the internal appraisal and will submit the project documents for approval soon.
3	SESP and Gender	No concerns were raised	UNDP affirms that this is a project prioritizing gender issues and gender equality. During the consultation process from 2022 to now, we focused on the local people so we can reduce/mitigate/avoid any potential risks on local people from project activities. The project aims to benefit 20,000 people, 75% of the intended beneficiaries are women. The project is categorized as GEN 3.
4	Monitoring and Evaluation	No concerns were raised. Congratulations to the team for the best draft project documents compared to several recent LPAC meetings.	The project will follow UNDP procedures and ensure quality assurance as required.
Conclusion of the LPAC Chairperson			The comments so far have been addressed and responded to. The draft LPAC minutes are to be circulated to all LPAC members. The LPAC Chairperson recommends this project for approval by

	UNDP Resident Representative after all the comments have been reflected in the revised project document.
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The LPAC Minutes is endorsed by LPAC Chairpersons and all designated members.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

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Name: _____
Patrick Haverman