

Project Progress Report (2024)

Name of project: Viet Nam Climate-Smart Coastal Communities (VNCSCC)

Date of report: 3/20/2025

Submitted to: Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

A. PROJECT PROFILE

Quantum ID	01000784
Project overall duration	6 years (2024-2030)
Location(s)	Binh Dinh Province, Hue City, and Soc Trang Province
Implementing partners	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) (formerly Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development [MARD]) and People's Committees of Binh Dinh Province, Hue City, and Soc Trang Province
Responsible party (if applicable)	-

Relevant CPD 2021-2025 output	Output 2.3: Capacities of select pilots strengthened to adopt sustainable biodiversity policies.
Relevant SP output	Output 1.6.1 Country-led measures accelerated to advance gender equality and women's empowerment

Annual budget	CAD 1,595,032.00
Expenditure by 28 February 2025	CAD 1,510,121.35
Delivery rate by 28 February 2025	95 percent

ACRONYMS

<u>AWP</u>	<u>Annual Workplan</u>
<u>COP</u>	<u>UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties</u>
<u>DFFS</u>	<u>Department of Fisheries and Fisheries Surveillance</u>
<u>ESMP</u>	<u>Environmental and Social Management Plan</u>
<u>FSISV</u>	<u>Forest Science Institute of South Viet Nam</u>
<u>GAC</u>	<u>Global Affairs Canada</u>
<u>GEWE</u>	<u>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</u>
<u>GoVN</u>	<u>Government of Viet Nam</u>
<u>HACT</u>	<u>Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer</u>
<u>HMEWS</u>	<u>Hydro-Meteorological Monitoring and Early Warning Systems</u>
<u>JPC</u>	<u>Junior Professional Consultant</u>
<u>LOA</u>	<u>Letters of Agreements</u>
<u>M&E</u>	<u>Monitoring and Evaluation</u>
<u>MAE</u>	<u>Ministry of Agriculture and Environment</u>
<u>MARD</u>	<u>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</u>
<u>MONRE</u>	<u>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment</u>
<u>MPA</u>	<u>Marine Protected Area</u>
<u>NAP</u>	<u>National Adaptation Plan</u>
<u>NBCS</u>	<u>Nature-Based Climate Solutions</u>
<u>NbS</u>	<u>Nature-based Solutions</u>
<u>NDC</u>	<u>Nature-dependent Communities</u>
<u>NDC</u>	<u>Nationally Determined Contributions</u>
<u>ODA</u>	<u>Official Development Assistance</u>
<u>PIM</u>	<u>Project Implementation Manual</u>
<u>PMU</u>	<u>Project Management Units</u>
<u>PPC</u>	<u>Provincial People's Committees</u>
<u>PSEAH</u>	<u>Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment</u>
<u>PW</u>	<u>Particularly Women</u>
<u>Reecotech</u>	<u>REECO Science and Technology Co. Ltd.</u>
<u>RIMF</u>	<u>Research Institute for Marine Fisheries</u>
<u>SES</u>	<u>Social and Environmental Standards</u>
<u>SOP</u>	<u>Standard Operating Procedures</u>
<u>TOR</u>	<u>Terms of Reference</u>
<u>UNDP</u>	<u>United Nations Development Programme</u>
<u>UNFCCC</u>	<u>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</u>
<u>UNFPA</u>	<u>United Nations Population Fund</u>
<u>UNICEF</u>	<u>United Nations Children's Fund</u>
<u>VCC</u>	<u>Vulnerable Coastal Communities</u>
<u>VNCSCC</u>	<u>Viet Nam Climate-Smart Coastal Communities</u>
<u>WFO</u>	<u>Women-Focused Organisations</u>
<u>WFP</u>	<u>World Food Programme</u>
<u>WLO</u>	<u>Women-led Organisations</u>

B. RESULTS

B.1 Results and Progress Towards the Annual Work Plan

Viet Nam's coastal regions, spanning over 3,200 kilometres and home to more than 50 million people, are increasingly threatened by the adverse impacts of climate change. Ranked thirteenth in the 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, the country faces significant challenges from rising sea levels, storm surges, and escalating saline intrusion. These issues disproportionately affect the most vulnerable coastal communities, including women and marginalised groups, whose livelihoods depend on fragile marine ecosystems.

In response to these pressing challenges, the Viet Nam Climate-Smart Coastal Communities (VNCSCC) project has been established. Funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) as part of the Government of Canada's climate finance commitment, the project is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Fisheries Surveillance (DFFS) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) (formerly the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development [MARD]), two participating provinces, and one city in Viet Nam. The project's ultimate goal is to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities, particularly women, to climate change, while enhancing marine and coastal biodiversity in Viet Nam. It aims to support sustainable livelihoods and empower women in three target locations: Binh Dinh Province, Hue City, and Soc Trang Province.

The VNCSCC project pursues this objective through three key Intermediate Outcomes:

- Intermediate Outcome 1100: Enhanced performance of government and vulnerable coastal communities, particularly women, in applying gender-responsive climate information and risk-informed planning for climate change adaptation, with environmental co-benefits.
- Intermediate Outcome 1200: Strengthened performance and leadership of women and women-led organisations (WLOs) in initiating nature-based climate solutions for a sustainable ocean economy and resilient livelihoods, with co-benefits for adaptation and biodiversity conservation.
- Intermediate Outcome 1300: Improved capacity of government and women-led organisations in nature-dependent communities to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services, delivering both climate adaptation and mitigation benefits.

Despite its considerable potential, the project has faced delays in its formal commencement due to prolonged governmental approval processes. The VNCSCC project was originally expected to be fully operational by early 2024; however, procedural delays within the government hindered the recruitment of staff, the establishment of Project Management Units (PMUs), and the disbursement of funds for critical activities.

In response to these administrative challenges, the VNCSCC project team proactively focused on ensuring operational readiness so that, once government approval was secured, the project could swiftly transition into implementation. Efforts have been directed towards launching delayed activities and initiating time-sensitive work that would form the foundation for future interventions. This strategic approach aims to ensure project results are achieved and that all donor-agreed targets are met. For more details, please refer to Section B.2 below.

Table 1. Project outcome statement and progress.

Project outcome statement	Results, backed by evidence and segregated data	Key lessons learned	Financial data (CAD)		Status
			Annual budget (CAD)	Expense to date (CAD)	
Intermediate Outcome 1100: Enhanced performance of government and vulnerable coastal communities (VCC), particularly women (PW), in applying gender-responsive climate information and risk-informed planning for climate change adaptation, with environmental co-benefits.	Not applicable, however several key procurements were undertaken to initiate the work in 2025.		911,870.00	867,760.04	
<i>Immediate Outcome 1110:</i> Increased equitable access to gender-sensitive climate and disaster information services by VCC, PW, women-focused organisations (WFO), and government agencies.	Not applicable, however several key procurements were undertaken to initiate the work in 2025.		816,600.00	795,513.01	
<i>Immediate Outcome 1120:</i> Increased capacity for engagement of nature-dependent communities (NDC), PW, women-led organisations (WLOs), and government agencies in risk-informed and inclusive marine and coastal resource planning.	Not applicable, however several key procurements were undertaken to initiate the work in 2025.		95,270.00	72,247.04	
Intermediate Outcome 1200: Enhanced performance and leadership of women and WLOs in initiating NBCS for a sustainable ocean economy and livelihoods, with co-benefits for adaptation and biodiversity conservation.	Not applicable, however several key procurements were undertaken to initiate the work in 2025.		54,440.00	50,662.63	
<i>Immediate Outcome 1210:</i> Increased access to finance for women and WLOs in NDC to apply NBCS in co-management and business development.	Not applicable, however several key procurements were undertaken to initiate the work in 2025.		40,830.00	37,557.14	
<i>Immediate Outcome 1220:</i> Increased capacity for participation of NDC, PW, and WLOs in promoting NBCS in inclusive marine and coastal resource management.	Not applicable, however several key procurements		13,610.00	13,105.49	

Project outcome statement	Results, backed by evidence and segregated data	Key lessons learned	Financial data (CAD)		Status
			Annual budget (CAD)	Expense to date (CAD)	
	were undertaken to initiate the work in 2025.				
Intermediate Outcome 1300: Enhanced performance of government and women and WLOs from nature-dependent communities in protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services, with co-benefits for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	Not applicable, however several key procurements were undertaken to initiate the work in 2025.		158,502.00	146,636.96	
<i>Immediate Outcome 1310:</i> Increased capacity for the establishment and effective management of mangrove and coral reef conservation areas to support biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and mitigation, benefiting NDC and PW.	Not applicable, however several key procurements were undertaken to initiate the work in 2025.		36,012.00	32,951.88	
<i>Immediate Outcome 1320:</i> Increased capacity for expanding and improving mangrove conservation areas to provide biodiversity-based ecosystem adaptation and mitigation services, as well as sustainable livelihoods for NDC and PW.	Not applicable, however several key procurements were undertaken to initiate the work in 2025.		122,490.00	113,685.08	
Project management (UNDP and PMUs staff costs, operation costs, implementation support services, audits/micro-assessments, launching workshops, PMU trainings)			272,200.00	247,041.72	
Levy			198,020.00	198,020.00	
Total (CAD)			1,595,032.00	1,510,121.35	

B.2 Impact and Policy Influence

Efforts to date have primarily focused on strategic planning, establishment of the UNDP project team, government approvals and institutional setup, implementation readiness, procurement, initial activities, and work planning.

Establishment of the UNDP project team

In 2024, a dedicated UNDP project team was established to oversee the effective preparation, implementation, and management of the project. The team comprises:

- A Programme Management Specialist responsible for overall coordination, strategic oversight, and ensuring alignment with project objectives.
- Component Leads for each of the three project components, one of whom also serves as the project's dedicated Gender and Sustainable Livelihoods Expert.
- A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist to track project progress, assess impact, and ensure accountability, alongside a Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Focal Point to oversee safeguards compliance.
- A Project Assistant providing operational and administrative support.
- A Project Intern/Canadian Junior Professional Consultant (JPC) contributing to communications and reporting.

The team has been actively engaged in preparatory activities, including finalising project documentation, coordinating with national and sub-national stakeholders, and ensuring that necessary approvals and institutional arrangements are in place. This preparatory work has been essential in ensuring a smooth transition to initial implementation of some project activities.

Government approvals and institutional setup

In 2024, the project underwent the Government of Viet Nam's rigorous approval process, necessitating extensive engagement with national and provincial government counterparts to expedite approvals. UNDP provided technical support to MARD (now MAE) and the three sub-national partners in addressing comments on the four Project Documents received from seven national ministries and 21 provincial agencies. Additionally, UNDP collaborated closely with the Canadian Embassy in Ha Noi to engage various national and provincial stakeholders in accelerating the approval process.

As part of these efforts, a field mission was conducted in Soc Trang from 1–2 August 2024 to gain a deeper understanding of the province's socio-economic priorities, reaffirm UNDP's long-term commitment to supporting sustainable development amid climate challenges, and advocate for the approval of the Project Document and the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU). The UNDP delegation, comprising the Deputy Resident Representative, Head of the Climate Change and Environment Unit, and Programme Management Specialist, met with the People's Committee and relevant provincial departments.

Furthermore, from 22–24 September 2024, a high-level courtesy meeting was held in Quy Nhon City, between the Resident Representative of UNDP in Viet Nam, and the Ambassador, the Counsellor of Development, and the First Secretary of the Embassy of Canada, along with the Chairman and a Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Binh Dinh Province. The discussions centred on the implementation of the VNCSCC project in Binh Dinh and fostering a shared understanding of the key challenges affecting the climate resilience of local communities.

UNDP Viet Nam's senior management also engaged in various meetings and issued official correspondences to MARD (now MAE) and the Provincial People's Committees (PPCs) to advocate for the approval of the Project Documents, the signing of the Letters of Agreements (LOAs), and the establishment of the PMUs.

During the inception phase, and in close consultation with the former MARD and the PPCs of the three target provinces/cities, UNDP developed detailed Project Documents, including budget allocations for each province/city. These documents were subject to internal and external reviews by provincial and national stakeholders, in accordance with the provisions of Decree 114/2021/ND-CP dated on 16 December 2021 on Official Development Assistance (ODA) Management in Viet Nam. While the provincial/city Project Documents for Soc Trang, Binh Dinh, and Hue City were approved, the Project Document for MAE remains pending, primarily due to institutional reforms initiated by the Government of Viet Nam in late 2024. The project team continues to actively follow up on this matter.

The project also prioritised the signature of LOAs and the establishment of PMUs in all three target provinces/cities, ensuring that the necessary institutional arrangements were in place to facilitate smooth implementation. A summary of the overall status of Project Document approvals, LOA signatures, and PMUs' establishment as of the submission of this project progress report can be found in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Status of Project Document approvals, LOA signatures, and PMU establishment

Partner	Project Document approval	LOA signature	PMU establishment
Binh Dinh Province	2 September 2024	15 October 2024	17 October 2024
Hue City	30 May 2024	12 September 2024	27 December 2024
Soc Trang Province	10 December 2024	3 February 2025	30 December 2024
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment	The Project Document was finalised on 28 February following DFFS's meeting with Deputy Minister Phung Duc Tien. Unfortunately, it was not signed before the amalgamation of MARD and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) to form the new MAE. DFFS plans to resubmit as soon as the new DFFS stamp is granted and the new MAE Deputy Minister overseeing the project is confirmed, hopefully by mid-April 2025		

Following the official approval of the Project Documents and the formal establishment of PMUs in Binh Dinh Province, Hue City, and Soc Trang Province, a two-day training workshop was held at the Green One UN House in Ha Noi from 16 to 17 January 2025 for all three PMUs' staff. The training workshop was also attended by the UNDP project team, with the Head of UNDP's Climate Change and Environment Unit delivering opening remarks. Representatives from GAC were also present, including the First Secretary of the Embassy of Canada, who provided opening remarks, and a Development Officer, who actively participated in several sessions of the training.

The workshop focused on strengthening the capacity of provincial stakeholders by equipping them with the necessary knowledge and tools for effective project implementation. It provided an overview of the VNCSCC project and introduced participants to the overall workplan, including annual plans, the joint workplan approved by UNDP and PMU Directors, and annual procurement plans. Sessions covered key aspects of project management, such as financial management, procurement regulations, and reporting requirements, with guidance on the development of quarterly work plans and an introduction to the project's M&E system, social and environmental standards, gender equality and women's empowerment, the formulation of the project implementation manual (PIM), and reporting methods. Additionally, the workshop provided guidelines for project communication products and concluded with discussions on next steps and implementation priorities.

By the end of the workshop, provincial stakeholders had gained a clearer understanding of the project's objectives, management processes, and compliance requirements, ensuring they were well-prepared to support its effective implementation. There were 29 participants, of whom 15 were women (52 percent), and the issue of increasing women's participation and leadership was highlighted at the training.

In 2024, the project undertook a series of strategic procurements to initiate critical activities supporting project outputs and outcomes. These procurements laid a strong foundation for advancing climate resilience, environmental protection, and biodiversity conservation in alignment with the project's overarching objectives.

A major focus was the international bidding process to select a supplier for automatic hydro-meteorological monitoring and early warning systems (HMEWS) aimed at enhancing climate risk preparedness. A contract was awarded to REECO Science and Technology Co. Ltd. (Reecotech), a Ho Chi Minh City-based private company, along with a technical supervisory team of two experts to support Immediate Outcome 1110/Activity 1111.1. Implementation is scheduled from May 2024 to December 2025. Reecotech is planning to travel to the two project provinces and one project city in the week of 17 March 2025 to conduct site surveys before proceeding with equipment installation.

In addition, several individual consultants have been mobilised or are in the process of being recruited to provide specialised technical expertise. These include a national consultant on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) supporting Immediate Outcome 1120/Activity 1123.1, and an expert assisting project implementation under Immediate Outcome 1110/Activity 1113.1. These contracts span from late 2024 through 2025.

To enhance mangrove conservation and restoration efforts, the project engaged a national consultant from the Forest Science Institute of South Viet Nam (FSISV) to review best practices in mangrove planting and rehabilitation, supporting Immediate Outcome 1320/Activity 1321.1-2. Additionally, a team from FSISV was contracted to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for site assessment and maintenance under Immediate Outcome 1320/Activity 1322.1. Both contracts are scheduled to run from November 2024 to December 2025.

In support of marine ecosystem restoration, the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF) in Hai Phong City was contracted to develop coral restoration models and SOPs for coral transplantation, contributing to Immediate Outcome 1310/Activity 1312.1. Implementation will take place in Hue (Bac Hai Van Marine Protected Area [MPA]) and Binh Dinh (Quy Nhon Bay MPA) from March 2025 to December 2025. Collectively, project procurements have been instrumental in launching core project activities, ensuring strong momentum towards achieving the project's climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and gender equality objectives.

The project is also providing support for the strengthened integration of nature-based solutions in the third iteration of Viet Nam's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) (Immediate Outcome 1120/Activity 1123.5), which is expected to be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ahead of the 30th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP30) in November 2025 in Belém, Brazil. Specifically, this includes the development of a participatory policy discussion report for NDC 3.0. This report will propose actionable climate measures, including NbS, for inclusion in NDC 3.0. It will be informed by inputs gathered through surveys and consultations with vulnerable and underrepresented groups, including women, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities, among others, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable approach to climate action.

Also, in support of Viet Nam's NDC 3.0, the project is supporting the enhancement of Viet Nam's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Portal. This will enable the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment to more efficiently collect provincial and sectoral adaptation progress reports. Strengthening this digital infrastructure will be critical for tracking and updating adaptation measures under NDC 3.0 throughout the 2025–2035 period (Immediate Outcome 1120/Activity 1123.1).

Financial management and risk assessments

The Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) framework was established in 2005 by UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Programme (WFP) to create a unified system for managing cash transfers. Since 2007, it has been applied in Viet Nam as a standard framework for disbursing funds to both government and non-government implementing partners and responsible parties.

In accordance with the UNDP Country Programme Document for Viet Nam (2022-2026) and HACT guidelines, financial management capacity micro-assessments were carried out in April-May 2024 for the former Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the former Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development in Binh Dinh Province, Hue City, and Soc Trang Province. These assessments were designed to review the financial management systems of implementing partners and responsible parties, examining accounting, procurement, reporting, and internal controls. The findings will be used to assign risk ratings and determine assurance measures, ensuring that the most suitable cash transfer mechanisms are selected based on the risk level and other relevant factors.

In terms of compliance with Social and Environmental Standards (SES), the project team has been active in implementing SES-related activities. The SES risks have been closely monitored. To date, the findings in the project's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) are still valid. The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has commenced to provide PMUs with further instruction to ensure full compliance with UNDP's SES Policy (2021) and any further guidance or recommendations from GAC.

2025 AWP development

To ensure a seamless transition into full-scale implementation in 2025, UNDP's 2025 AWP was developed in late 2024, outlining key activities and strategic priorities for the year ahead. The workplan includes the M&E plan, monitoring plan, updated risk register, procurement plan, human resources plan, HACT plan, communications plan, gender action plan, and donor reporting calendar. The 2025 AWP was shared with GAC, who provided comments. The UNDP team is presently working on reflecting these comments into the AWP.

In parallel, the project team collaborated closely with Binh Dinh Province, Hue City, and Soc Trang Province to support the development of their respective 2025 workplans, ensuring alignment with national priorities and project objectives, as detailed above.

C. RISK

Table 3. Updated risk register.

No.	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category (including Risk Appetite)	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
1	There is a risk that one or more marine protected areas (MPAs)/mangrove nature reserves will not be established during the project duration.	Change in the Government of Viet Nam's (GoVN) master plans at national and/or provincial levels.	This will reduce the conservation area originally committed.	7. STRATEGIC (7.5. Government commitment) - UNDP Risk Appetite: OPEN TO SEEKING	Likelihood: 3 - Moderately likely; Impact: 3 - Intermediate; Risk level: MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 1.1: Discuss and agree with MAE and provincial governments on alternative mangrove/coral planting/rehabilitation activities, maintaining policy markers and coding (as per the assessment by the Environment Specialist and as highlighted in approvals by GAC). Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
2	There is a risk that project activities could be delayed beyond March 2030.	Administrative procurement of project activities may take longer than anticipated.	This could result in the loss of funding from Canada.	2. FINANCIAL (2.5. Delivery) - UNDP Risk Appetite: MINIMAL TO CAUTIOUS	Likelihood: 3 - Moderately likely; Impact: 3 - Intermediate; Risk level: MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 2.1: Hold regular meetings with project partners to address any potential delays immediately. Risk Treatment 2.2: GAC, along with UNDP, will foster and strengthen relations with GoVN counterparts, including at the provincial level, to increase buy-in. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
3	There is a risk that the capacity of government officers is limited in relation to human rights, gender	Limited access to information and training, particularly on human rights,	This will hinder government officers from meeting their obligations within the project.	1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.1. Human rights) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS	Likelihood: 3 - Moderately likely; Impact: 3 - Intermediate; Risk level: MODERATE	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 3.1: Organise capacity-building and training sessions for relevant government officers on key project areas.

No.	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category (including Risk Appetite)	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
	equality, and climate change.	gender equality, and climate change.			(equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)			Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
4	There is a risk that local communities will have limited access to the newly established nature reserve and MPAs.	The establishment of the nature reserve and MPAs.	This could result in income loss for local communities.	1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.8. Displacement and resettlement) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS	Likelihood: 3 - Moderately likely; Impact: 3 - Intermediate; Risk level: MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 4.1: 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, particularly ethnic minorities, women, and other vulnerable groups, are protected before the establishment of the nature reserve and MPA. The project has established and included a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) within the project document. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
5	There is a risk that coral reefs and mangroves planted/rehabilitated under the project will be damaged.	Extreme weather events related to climate change.	This could result in unsatisfactory quality of the project's investment.	1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.5. Climate change and disaster risks) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS	Likelihood: 2 - Low likelihood; Impact: 2 - Minor; Risk level: LOW (equates to a risk appetite of CAUTIOUS)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 5.1: Mangrove and coral reef planting will be planned and implemented based on site-specific implementation Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and strengthened capacities developed under the project, following national and global best practices for planting, maintenance, and carbon stock monitoring. SOPs will account for local environmental conditions, including the frequency, severity, and type of climate-induced

No.	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category (including Risk Appetite)	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
								hazards, and outline the lowest-risk implementation options. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
6	There is a risk that women's participation in project implementation will be limited.	Gender relations and cultural norms.	This could result in non-gender-responsive interventions within the project.	1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.9. Indigenous peoples) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS	Likelihood: 2 - Low likelihood; Impact: 2 - Minor; Risk level: LOW (equates to a risk appetite of MINIMAL)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 6.1: The project prioritises achieving benefits for women by targeting women and marginalised groups (including ethnic minorities) as project beneficiaries for a wide range of interventions that address gender barriers identified in the target provinces. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
7	There is a risk that automatic hydro-meteorological monitoring and early warning systems will not be fully installed, and the planned area for mangrove plantation/rehabilitation will be reduced.	Limited availability of land for the installation of hydro-meteorological monitoring systems and new mangrove plantations.	This could result in changes to the project design.	1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.4. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS	Likelihood: 3 - Moderately likely; Impact: 3 - Intermediate; Risk level: MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 7.1: Organise meetings with local authorities and communities to secure written commitments on land allocation for project activities. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
8	There is an operational risk of potential corruption and poor management of the grant among project partners, subcontractors, and others, which could hinder the timely achievement of annual performance targets.	Insufficient oversight, ineffective governance, inadequate due diligence, weak internal controls, and inexperienced management.	This could lead to reputational damage to the project and partners, poor-quality outputs, legal and regulatory issues, and reduced project performance.	3. OPERATIONAL (3.2. Leadership and management) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN	Likelihood: 1 - Not likely; Impact: 4 - Extensive; Risk level: LOW (equates to a risk appetite of CAUTIOUS)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 8.1: Implement regular audits and reviews of project activities, establish clear governance structures and strong accountability mechanisms for all partners and subcontractors, conduct comprehensive due diligence, enforce stringent internal control policies, and

No.	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category (including Risk Appetite)	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
								ensure segregation of duties to minimise corruption risks. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
9	Activities aimed at promoting women's participation and leadership in project activities may inadvertently increase the work burden on women, lead to domestic violence against women and girls, or result in harassment and abuse of women and children in the workplace or collective groups.	Socio-cultural norms and gender biases within communities may increase women's workloads when they participate in project activities. Additionally, the promotion of women's leadership could face resistance, leading to domestic violence, harassment, or abuse as backlash. Inadequate safeguards and support systems within the project could exacerbate these risks.	Increased workload for women, domestic violence, harassment, and abuse; decreased participation; negative community relations; reputational damage; reduced project effectiveness; legal and ethical consequences.	1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.2. Gender equality and women's empowerment) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS	Likelihood: 3 - Moderately likely; Impact: 4 - Extensive; Risk level: SUBSTANTIAL (equates to a risk appetite of OPEN)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 9.1: Implement targeted awareness-raising programmes and campaigns to prevent domestic violence and harassment. Risk Treatment 9.2: Ensure balanced distribution of project activities to prevent overburdening women. Risk Treatment 9.3: Engage community leaders and stakeholders to foster a supportive environment for women's participation and leadership. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
10*	The ongoing institutional and organisational restructuring process initiated by the Government of Viet Nam in late 2024 may result in delays to project implementation and adversely affect project disbursements, particularly during the first half of 2025.	The merging of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and their respective departments/divisions	The risk could lead to project delays due to administrative bottlenecks, slow approvals, and postponed critical activities such as procurement, contracting, and reporting.	3. OPERATIONAL (3.2. Leadership and management) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN	Likelihood: 5 - Expected; Impact: 3 - Moderate; Risk level: SUBSTANTIAL (equates to a risk appetite of OPEN)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 10.1: Develop a comprehensive contingency plan that anticipates the potential impacts of the restructuring on the project's critical activities. This plan should focus on identifying activities likely to face delays or heightened pressure in the future and prioritise pre-emptive actions to expedite preparatory work.

No.	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category (including Risk Appetite)	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
		may result in significant disruptions to the project. This structural realignment is likely to create a transition and adjustment period characterised by shifts in roles, responsibilities, and personnel, which could lead to temporary inefficiencies. Additionally, the process may generate uncertainty about responsibilities, as well as the reallocation of resources within the Government. Furthermore, changes in policies or procedures arising from the merger could add complexity and delay to the project's implementation. Collectively, these factors heighten the risk of delays to project timelines and disbursements, particularly in the						Ensure that project designs, procurement processes, and resource allocation are advanced as much as possible before the restructuring fully takes effect, enabling the project to achieve optimal readiness and minimise delays once implementation begins. Risk Treatment 10.2: Maintain regular communication with key contacts within the Government to stay informed about the progress of the merger and its potential implications for the project. Engage proactively with government counterparts to seek clarity on evolving roles and responsibilities and to ensure project priorities are considered during the restructuring process. Use this communication to inform adaptive planning, enabling the project team to adjust timelines and activities as more information becomes available. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son

No.	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category (including Risk Appetite)	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
		initial phases of the restructuring.						
11*	There is a risk of delays in the implementation of expected project interventions for the Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Hue City.	The Government of Viet Nam's recent decision to assign Son Cha Island to Da Nang has introduced administrative and jurisdictional changes. These may lead to uncertainties in governance and procedural adjustments, causing delays to project activities in Hue City.	The risk could result in slower initiation of project activities, postponed MPA interventions, increased administrative complexity, and stakeholder coordination challenges during the transition period.	3. OPERATIONAL (3.2. Leadership and management) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN	Likelihood: 4 - Highly likely; Impact: 3 - Intermediate; Risk level: MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 11.1: Maintain close communication with provincial and local authorities in both Hue and Da Nang to understand the evolving administrative structures and ensure alignment with the project's objectives; explore alternative project locations within Hue, Binh Dinh, or Soc Trang. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
12**	There is a risk that foreign exchange rate variations could significantly impact project funding.	Weakening of the CAD against USD, leading to financial losses in project payments.	This could negatively impact project implementation by reducing the scope of planned activities, leading to the potential cancellation or scaling down of key interventions, ultimately affecting expected project outcomes.	2. FINANCIAL (2.4. Fluctuation in credit rate, market, currency) - UNDP Risk Appetite: MINIMAL TO CAUTIOUS	Likelihood: 4 - Highly likely; Impact: 4 - Extensive; Risk level: SUBSTANTIAL (equates to a risk appetite of CAUTIOUS)	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 12.1: Regularly track currency trends and adjust financial planning accordingly. Risk Treatment 12.2: Prioritise activities to ensure that critical interventions are not affected by financial shortfalls. Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son
13**	There is a risk that provincial and city mergers in Viet Nam could cause further delays to project implementation.	The ongoing administrative restructuring of provinces and cities, expected to be completed by April 2025, may lead to	Similar to ministerial mergers, these administrative changes may cause delays in project approvals, coordination challenges, and	3. OPERATIONAL (3.2. Leadership and management) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN	Likelihood: 3 - Moderately likely; Impact: 3 - Intermediate; Risk level: MODERATE (equates to a risk	From: 17-Oct-23 To: 31-Mar-30	Vu Thai Truong	Risk Treatment 13.1: Maintain active engagement with local authorities to track and adapt to changes in governance and administrative structures to ensure continuity in project activities.

No.	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category (including Risk Appetite)	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
		jurisdictional changes, policy revisions, and administrative bottlenecks.	potential disruptions in planned activities, particularly in 2025-2026. This could impact project timelines, funding disbursement, and implementation efficiency.		appetite of EXPLORATORY)			Risk Treatment Owner: Le Van Son

At the time of the 2025 AWP preparation, the risk register was updated from its initial submission as part of the PIP package to GAC. The project revisited the risk register in late 2024 during the preparation of the 2025 Annual Workplan, at which point two new risks were added: Risk 10 and Risk 11.

The first additional risk relates to the institutional and organisational restructuring initiated by the Government of Viet Nam in late 2024, which may cause delays in project implementation and affect project disbursements, particularly during the first half of 2025. This risk stems from the merger of MARD with MONRE, which could lead to significant disruptions to the project. The restructuring is expected to create a transition and adjustment period, involving shifts in roles, responsibilities, and personnel, potentially resulting in temporary inefficiencies. Additionally, the process may introduce uncertainty regarding responsibilities and resource allocation within the Government. Changes in policies and procedures arising from the merger could further complicate and delay project implementation. Collectively, these factors heighten the risk of delays to project timelines and disbursements, particularly during the initial phases of the restructuring. This risk could impact key project activities such as procurement, contracting, and reporting, as administrative bottlenecks and slow approvals may hinder progress.

The second new risk concerns potential delays in the implementation of expected project interventions for the MPA in Hue City. This risk emerged following the Government of Viet Nam's decision to assign Son Cha Island to Da Nang, leading to administrative and jurisdictional changes. These changes were expected to introduce uncertainties in governance, resource reallocation, and procedural adjustments, potentially delaying project activities in Hue. At the time of AWP 2025 development, this risk also included concerns about the potential delay in establishing the PMU in Hue City. However, the Hue PMU was successfully established on time, ensuring that project activities in the province could proceed as planned, and so this aspect of Risk 11 has been removed.

In early 2025, two new risks were added to the project risk register: Risk 12 and Risk 13. Risk 12 pertains to the impact of foreign exchange rate fluctuations, specifically the weakening of the CAD against the USD, which has resulted in financial losses for the project. This could negatively affect implementation by reducing the scope of planned activities and expected outcomes. Risk mitigation measures include regular monitoring of currency trends and financial planning adjustments to prioritise critical interventions. Risk 13 relates to the ongoing administrative restructuring of provinces and cities in Viet Nam, expected to be completed by April 2025. Similar to ministerial mergers, these changes may introduce jurisdictional uncertainties, policy revisions, and administrative bottlenecks, potentially delaying project implementation and affecting timelines, funding disbursement, and coordination efforts. The project aims to mitigate these risks by maintaining active engagement with local authorities and adapting implementation strategies accordingly.

The project will continue to closely monitor these risks throughout 2025 and implement risk treatment measures as needed to mitigate potential impacts effectively.

D. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT

Table 4. Overview of monitoring and oversight activities.

#	Type of Activity	Date	Details	Key Findings / Recommendations	Responsible person with due date
1	Project site visit	1-2 August 2024	Field mission to gain a deeper understanding of the province's socio-economic priorities, reaffirm UNDP's long-term commitment to supporting sustainable development amid climate challenges, and advocate for the approval of the Project Document and the establishment of the PMU. The UNDP delegation, comprising the Deputy Resident Representative, Head of the Climate Change and Environment Unit, and Programme Management Specialist, met with the People's Committee and relevant provincial departments.	Not applicable	Not applicable
2	Project site visit	22-24 September 2024	Courtesy meeting between the Resident Representative of UNDP in Viet Nam, the Ambassador, Counsellor of Development, and First Secretary of the Embassy of Canada, and the Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Binh Dinh province. The meeting focused on expediting the approval of the VNCSCC project.	Not applicable	Not applicable
3	Capacity building & training	16-17 January 2025	PMU training workshop focused on building the capacity of provincial stakeholders by equipping them with the necessary knowledge and tools for effective project implementation.	There was active participation and strong leadership for all provincial/city PMUs, as well as engagement of both the GAC and UNDP project teams. Key topics, including those related to financial management, reporting, safeguards, gender equality and women's empowerment, and communications, among others, were	Not applicable

				covered. It was a fruitful first official project event, which enhanced capacity of provincial/city partners and laid a strong foundation for future collaboration on project interventions.	
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Note: Regarding upcoming monitoring and oversight activities, project teams from both GAC and UNDP will undertake a field mission to Hue City and Soc Trang Province during the week of 24 March 2025. This mission will include key meetings, thematic discussions, and site visits. Additionally, a training session on gender equality, women's empowerment, and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH) for PMU staff is scheduled for late March. We are currently planning for these activities, and detailed reporting on them will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

E. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Please choose the Gender marker rating of this project: ☒ **GEN-3**; ☒ **GE 2 (GAC)**

Table 5. Overview of GEWE in the project.

Implementation		
1	Whether this project directly, or indirectly resulted / would result in the promotion of gender equality, such as promoting women's advancement, strengthening women's decision-making role, assisting women with caring responsibilities in taking care of her families etc.?	Yes, the project's second Intermediate Outcome (Component 2) is specifically focused on enhancing the performance and leadership of women and women-led organisations in initiating nature-based climate solutions. Additionally, gender equality considerations are integrated across all project components.

2	Whether part of the resources has been allocated in a manner that intentionally, or unintentionally addressed/ would address the identified needs of women and men?	A total of 23.5 percent of the project’s overall budget or 30 percent of non-project management resources has been allocated to the second Immediate Outcome (Component 2). Furthermore, additional resources have been invested in gender-responsive interventions across the project to address the needs of both women and men. According to the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) Strategy and Action Plan, the project applies an intersectional approach, considering not only sex and gender identity but also other factors such as age, education, marital status, socioeconomic class, ethnicity, race, disability status, geographic location, and sexual orientation. These factors can influence individuals' access to, participation in, and benefits from the project. The GEWE Strategy and Action Plan also highlights the importance of engaging men in awareness-raising activities to reduce gender-based discrimination while ensuring the maximum participation of and benefits for women and women-led organisations. This approach has been reinforced in the Communication Strategy (Annex 15 of the Project Implementation Plan/Initial Report) and the Communication Plan. Additionally, a new “Gender in Communication” subsection has been included in Section 3.2 (Gender Priority) and Section 4.4 (Gender in Communication – Action Plan) of Annex 16 to the PIP/IR (GEWE Strategy and Action Plan). To support the implementation of the GEWE Strategy and Action Plan, a dedicated Gender and Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist has been recruited as a core member of the project team. GEWE considerations were introduced at the PMU training in January 2025, and a comprehensive GEWE and PSEAH training for three PMUs is planned in Hue City for late March. This will be led by UNDP’s Senior Gender Expert and will include participation of GAC’s Gender Equality Expert and other members of the UNDP project team.
3	Have women and men been equally involved in programme/project activities? Please indicate the representation rate of women in each activity of the programme /projects; and also briefly explain if the project is taking measures to increase women participation.	Gender representation will be monitored throughout project implementation. At the PMU training workshop in January 2025, there were 29 participants, of whom 15 were women (52 percent), and the issue of increasing women’s participation and leadership was highlighted at the training.

Human Resources		
4	Has gender expertise/knowledge been included in TORs for projects' consultancies, reviews, procurements, consultancy teams, etc.?	Yes, all TORs have been reviewed and screened by the UNDP Gender Focal Point to ensure the integration of gender considerations. Furthermore, in order to encourage women to apply, the Terms of Reference include the following statement: "Female candidates are strongly encouraged to submit bids. In cases where candidates are equally qualified, preference will be given to female candidates."
5	Have all project staff (incl. project manager) responsible for the different stages of work (design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) been briefed or given training on gender issues?	Yes, staff involved in project design, as well as the Programme Management Specialist, have received gender training. UNDP mandates all staff to complete gender and PSEAH training as a compulsory requirement. New project personnel will also be provided with training and briefing sessions on GEWE, with access to gender-related resources from UNDP's country and regional offices.
Monitoring & Evaluation		
6	Have gender-disaggregated data and indicators (qualitative or quantitative) been collected or compiled to monitor the process and outcome of this project?	Yes, gender-disaggregated data is being collected as part of the project's monitoring framework.
7	Have relevant gender issues been raised at project meetings, ensuring discussion of the impact of the project on gender equality in the country?	Yes, gender-related discussions are integrated into project meetings to assess and enhance the project's contribution to gender equality.
Communication		
8	Are both women and men represented and visible in the	Yes, these considerations have been incorporated into the project's Communication Strategy and will be closely monitored throughout project implementation to ensure gender-sensitive representation.

	communication products? Are gender stereotypes avoided (avoid portraying childbearing as the sole responsibilities of mother), and women's needs are reflected, and voice supported?	
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F. MEDIA EXPOSURE

Table 6. Overview of project's communication activities and media exposure.

#	Details of communications activities	Date	External link (if applicable)
1	Viet Nam Climate-Smart Coastal Communities project page on UNDP Viet Nam website <i>The website is featured on the Facebook page "Coastal resilience to climate change."</i>	11/13/2024	https://www.undp.org/vietnam/projects/viet-nam-climate-smart-coastal-communities-vncscc https://www.facebook.com/vungvenbienvabiendoikhihau
2	Facebook post on the PMU training in January 2025	1/24/2025	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16C8MkusZm/
3	Facebook post on the project introduction at the Environmental Protection Conference in Fisheries 2024	11/20/2024	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1A3CxvdQgg/
4	Facebook post on UNDP and the Canadian Embassy's field trip to Binh Dinh	10/1/2024	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18HUXB8LBR/
5	Design of standee and banner for the project	11/21/2024	-
6	News article: "Survey of Project Implementation Sites for Coastal Communities Adapting to Climate Change in Binh Dinh"	9/25/2024	https://thuysanvietnam.com.vn/khao-sat-dia-diem-thuc-hien-du-an-cong-dong-ven-bien-thich-ung-voi-bien-doi-khi-hau-tai-binh-dinh/
7	Facebook post on "Collaboration between UNDP and Binh Dinh for sustainable development"	9/24/2024	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/d1FXxz8R7ARXddw9/
8	Facebook post from Ambassador of Canada to Viet Nam on field trip to Binh Dinh	9/24/2024	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/TcZcr2MJWSyyBqs8/

9	Facebook post from the Embassy of Canada to Viet Nam on field trip to Binh Dinh	9/26/2024	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ycZaHdeViVvEMQCP/
10	Binh Dinh News article: "Chairman of the Binh Dinh Provincial People's Committee, Pham Anh Tuan, Meets with the UNDP Working Delegation in Viet Nam and the Canadian Embassy in Viet Nam"	9/23/2024	https://binhdinh.gov.vn/tin-tuc/hoat-dong-cua-lanh-dao/chu-tich-ubnd-tinh-pham-anh-tuan-lam-viec-voi-doan-cong-tac-cua-undp-dai-su-quan-canada-tai-viet-nam.html
11	Binh Dinh Online article: "Canadian Embassy and UNDP survey climate change adaptation project site"	9/25/2024	https://baobinhdinh.vn/viewer.aspx?macm=5&macmp=5&mabb=283957
12	Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Binh Dinh Province: "Canada Funds Coastal Community Climate Change Adaptation Project in Viet Nam"	9/26/2024	https://stnmt.binhdinh.gov.vn/vi/news/moi-truong/canada-tai-tro-du-an-cong-dong-ven-bien-thich-ung-voi-bien-doi-khi-hau-tai-viet-nam-498.html
13	Tai Nguyen & Moi Truong article: "Canadian Embassy and UNDP Support Coastal Communities in Binh Dinh in Adapting to Climate Change"	9/25/2024	https://baotainguyenmoitruong.vn/dai-su-quan-canada-cung-undp-ho-tro-cong-dong-ven-bien-binh-dinh-thich-ung-bien-doi-khi-hau-380653.html

G. KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Table 7. Overview of project's knowledge products.

#	Title	Type	Target audience	Status
1	Viet Nam Climate-Smart Coastal Communities project two-pager	<i>Others</i>	General audience	<i>Achieved</i>
2	First draft of VNCSCC Project Implementation Manual (PIM)	<i>Others</i>	Project partners	<i>Achieved</i>

Prepared by: VNCSCC Project Team, UNDP Viet Nam

Reviewed and cleared by the UNDP Programme Officer: Le Van Son

Reviewed and cleared by the UNDP RBM: