

Management Response to the Interim Evaluation of Improving the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities to Climate Change Related Impacts in Viet Nam¹

Project Title:	Improving the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change related impacts in Viet Nam
Project PIMS#:	5708
GE Project ID (PMIS):	FP013
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Context, Background, and Findings

The Interim Evaluation (IE) of the project “*Improving the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities to Climate Change Related Impacts in Viet Nam*” has been conducted in Nov and Dec 2019 to assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended Results. The Interim Evaluation also reviewed the project’s strategy and risks. This Interim Evaluation has been conducted as part of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan of the Project.

Progress towards results is as follows:

Objective/Output	Achievement Rating
Project Objective: Increased resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change related impacts in Viet Nam	Satisfactory
Output 1: Storm- and flood-resilient design features added to 4,000 new houses on safe sites, benefiting 20,000 poor and highly disaster-exposed people in 100 communes	Highly Satisfactory
Output 2: 4,000 hectares of coastal mangrove storm surge buffer zones regenerated using enhanced technological approaches	Moderately Satisfactory
Output 3: Increased access to enhanced climate, damage, and loss data for private and public sector application in all 28 coastal provinces of Viet Nam	Satisfactory
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	Satisfactory
Sustainability	Likely

¹ This template is in alignment with the [Management Response Template](#) for UNDP project-level evaluations in the Evaluation Resource Centre.

Main conclusions and recommendations from the IE team

1. The project is well-designed and relevant to addressing the environmental threats that Viet Nam is facing. It is also in line with the Government of Viet Nam's Sustainable Development Strategy (2011-2020) and Climate Change Strategy. The outcomes of the project intervention are likely to be sustainable.
2. The MTR team proposes 17 recommendations, of which 10 recommendations are on the monitoring and implementation of the 3 project outputs; 3 recommendations are on management; and 4 recommendations are on project sustainability.

Recommendations and Management Response

OUTPUT 1:

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 1:				
In some houses, the stairs are very steep, making it difficult for the disabled and the elderly to use the elevated space. The design needs to be improved to make it friendly to people with special needs.				
Management response: Agree.				
Nevertheless, in most of these cases, in order to save space, beneficiaries knowingly requested to reduce the area of the staircase.				
UNDP will carry out consultations with relevant stakeholders, including the Central Project Management Unit (CPMU), Project Management Unit of Component 1 and Provincial Project Management Units (PPMUs) to discuss and agree on steps to address this matter. Refer to Annex 1 for additional feedback provided by PMUs.				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking ²	
			Comments	Status ³
1.1. Carry out consultations with CPMU & MoC PMU and agree on next steps. .	2020 - 2021	UNDP, CPMU, MoC PMU,		Partially completed
1.2. Where applicable, supervise the construction and installation of stairs to make sure that the stairs have a reasonable, not too steep slope, and that the distance between stair steps is not too large.	2020 - 2021	PPMUs, Provincial Depts. of Construction, MoC PMU		Partially completed
1.3. Produce short video clips on basic technical requirements and the construction process for resilient houses.	2020	UNDP, MoC PMU		Pending

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 2:				
House design should also include toilet. Toilet should be women friendly.				
Management response: Partially agree.				
This was not required in the Approved Project Proposal, and was not included in the original design, as households already had existing toilets. To make the most of limited financial resources and to save costs, the design focused on accommodation and mezzanine sections of the house focusing on flood risk reduction elements. UNDP will consult with relevant PMUs to agree on a way forward. Any additional cost related to toilets will be covered by non-GCF resources (e.g. co-financing/government housing programme grant).				

² If the MTR is uploaded to the ERC, the status of implementation is tracked electronically in the Evaluation Resource Centre database (ERC).

³ Status of Implementation: Completed, Partially Completed, Pending.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
2.1 Carry out consultations with Women Union, CPMU and MOC PMU and consider developing an additional design with toilet included.	2020 - 2021	UNDP, Women Union, CPMU, MOC PMU		Partially completed
2.2 Develop criteria and identify families who is in greatest need of the new house design inclusive of a toilet.	Apr-May 2020	UNDP, Women Union, CPMU, MOC PMU, PPMUs		Pending
2.3 Carry out consultations with selected households on the new design with the toilet and encourage them to construct toilets with attention to making them women-friendly.	2020 - 2021	PPMUs, Dept. of Construction, MoC PMU		Pending

OUTPUT 2:

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 3:				
<p>There is a need to follow up closely to make sure that enrichment plantation is conducted to fill the gaps created by dying saplings.</p> <p>Some land has still not been found for new plantations and replenishment. In Ca Mau, it was learned that they are planning to pay households to protect existing old mangrove forests that are distributed in the new areas (not planted by this project), and count areas of those old forests towards the achievement of this project's target. As per the project plan, they are supposed to conduct plantation, regeneration, and enrichment within those plantation sites where gaps have been created due to dying saplings.</p> <p>Filling gaps created by dying saplings is part of the plantation contract, which commits the contractor to plant and maintain the quality of the plantation for four years after the initial year of plantation. Hence, province and district forest offices and project offices in the provinces should be instructed to avoid such a practice.</p>				
Management response: Agree.				
UNDP will follow up with relevant PPMUs and will ensure that PPMUs strictly follow legal documents (such as the PIM and national/provincial guidelines) to prepare service contracts with plantation contractors to meet technical and financial requirements from the project and the government. Refer to Annex 1 for additional feedback provided by relevant PPMUs.				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
3.1. PPMUs should consult with DARD experts on contract arrangement for plantation and regeneration for each case.	2020-2021 (Before signing of contracts with selected contractors)	5 PPMUs, CPMU, UNDP		Partially completed
3.2. Frequent information exchange with contractors and field monitoring to ensure contracts are fully implemented.	On monthly basis throughout 2020-2021 (until all contracts are fulfilled)	All 5 PPMUs		Partially completed
3.3. PPMUs should follow government and project guidelines on the plantation process (from field survey, technical design, plantation). The approval process will confirm the correct work through annual acceptance check and relevant document signed by relevant parties.	2020-2021 (At field survey and technical design stage)	PPMUs, DARDs, PPC		Partially completed

3.4 Together with VNFOREST and PMU Component 2, UNDP to carry out spot checks (twice annually) to a selected number of sites per province.	2020-2021	UNDP, VNFOREST, PMU Component 2		Pending
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Interim Evaluation Recommendation 4:

Since a large area of plantation is assigned to Ca Mau province, where plantation is easier and the costs are not as high, there is a possibility of saving plantation costs from Ca Mau and using that for other provinces where costs will be higher than provisioned.

There should be the flexibility to transfer budget from one province to another. Any savings should be used strategically, including the application of innovative approaches for mangroves, housing design and construction, or alternative livelihoods for households impacted by the project (e.g. organic shrimp value chain). Moreover, contractors are using FPB to find seedlings, labor, and sites for plantation. Their real costs are far less than what has been budgeted by the project. It seems that norms are not the problem (see 3.2.2 for more detail). Hence, cost-effective and innovative options should be adopted in plantation activities.

Management response: Agree.

Site selection will be discussed and agreed by government and informed by criteria detailed in the Project Documents to ensure the greatest impact for resources. Progress will be provided to GCF through the annual APR process. As agreed in the FAA, any major changes⁴ will be communicated to GCF prior to any related activities taking place.

UNDP will work with VNDMA, Central PMU, PMUs of all three components, and all other PPMUs to discuss and propose the adjustment or re-allocation of funding among activities under each output, including Output 2. This review will also look into potential reallocation of funds between outputs, and between provinces as required. The proposed changes on the use of saved funds under Output 2 and other outputs will be submitted to the Project Steering Committee and decisions will be approved by the National Project Director and UNDP Resident Representative. Refer to Annex 1 for additional comments.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
4.1. UNDP, VNDMA, CPMU and PPMUs to review budget balance under Component 2 and develop an action plan on the use of these savings within the framework of the project.	Mar-June 2020	UNDP, VNDMA, CPMU, PPMUs		Partially completed
4.2. UNDP to present proposed action plan at the Project Steering Committee for final endorsement by all stakeholders for implementation.	June 2020	UNDP, VNDMA, CPMU, PPMUs		Pending

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 5:

Knowledge exchange visits should be organized between communities/farmers from different districts/provinces to share experience.

Management response: Agree.

A number of PPMUs have included study visits in their AWP for farmers and local staff to share relevant good practices and experiences within and outside project areas. Refer to Annex 1 for details.

Key action(s)	Time frame		Tracking
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⁴ Any reallocation among the funded activity's outputs described in the signed FAA resulting in a variation of more than ten percent (10%) of the previously agreed budget for the output to which budget is reallocated must be approved in writing by the Fund in advance.

		Responsible unit(s)	Comments	Status
5.1. PPMUs to prioritize capacity building activities in their AWP, including visiting sites with relevant good practice models.	June 2020 (at annual review stage)	PPMUs		Pending
5.2. Documentation of study visits to widely share successful modalities.	Quarterly- 2020	PPMUs		Pending

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 6: Due to low economic return from mangroves compared to aquaculture, farmers are less interested in the mangrove forestry program. There are several crops as well as other interventions (including fruit trees) identified/developed for brackish soil conditions. It is recommended to promote such salinity tolerant interventions (e.g., fruit tree species) which will contribute to protect from tides/flood and also provide good economic return for the farmers. Some salt-tolerant fruit trees are Coconut palm, Date palm, Fig (*Ficus carica*), Key lime (*Citrus aurantiifolia*), Pomegranate, Pummelo (*Citrus maxima*).

Management response: Agree.

UNDP will discuss options with the PMU of Component 2 and develop livelihood recommendations to all relevant PPMUs. Refer to Annex 1 for details.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
6.1. UNDP to carry out consultations with PMU/Component 2 to discuss options and agree on next steps.	May 2020	UNDP, CPMU, PMU C2		Partially completed
6.2 PPMUs to organize consultation meetings at communes to identify and select suitable models, taking into consideration fruit trees and salt-tolerant species where possible.	May-July 2020	PPMUs		Pending

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 7:

In Ca Mau, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) made the requirement to maintain an equal proportion of shrimp/crab aquaculture and mangrove area to get organic certification or certify their shrimp as organic. Such practices help to protect mangrove forests, so these should be practiced in other project areas as well by communicating with the DARDs of respective provinces or at the central level.

Management response: Agree.

To clarify: this request was not from Ca Mau DARD, but from local farmers. The proportion of shrimp/crab aquaculture and mangrove area is 40% for aquaculture and 60% for mangroves. This is in line with the legal documents (i.e. Decree 156/2018 on the implementation of the Forestry Law).

The Project Management Unit of Component 2 will consult with Ca Mau PPMU and other PPMUs for the replication of this model in other areas.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
7.1. Relevant PPMUs provide clear information to farmers on the correct proportion of aquaculture and mangrove areas for organic farming practices.	2020-2021 (During the implementation of livelihood models)	PPMUs		Pending

7.2. PPMUs to ensure close monitoring and technical support for shrimp farmers to ensure compliance with technical instructions.	2020-2021 (During the implementation of livelihood models)	PPMUs		Pending
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OUTPUT 3:

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 8:				
Initiate as early as possible the activities related to disaster risk insurance and risk transfer mechanisms, as these types of activities will take time to prepare and implement.				
Management response: Agree.				
In line with the Project Document, and a number of consultancies carried out in 2019 and planned for 2020, UNDP and VNDMA are planning a number of activities in 2020 and 2021 related to disaster risk insurance and risk transfer mechanisms. Refer to Annex 1 for details.				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
8.1 Based on the outcomes of consultancies carried out in 2019, and specific activities planned for 2020, UNDP and VNDMA to review progress and discuss a course of action, including recruitment of relevant experts.	Q2 2020	UNDP, VNDMA, MARD, CPMU		Partly Completed
8.2 UNDP and VNDMA to undertake a study on opportunities for Viet Nam to participate in the regional and global disaster risk insurance schemes, including Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF).	Q2-Q4 2020	UNDP, VNDMA		Pending

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 9:				
Databases at the local level should be made compatible with the national database so that they can also be used by the central government in its planning activities.				
Management response: Agree.				
The project is implementing a number of activities to make databases at the local level compatible with the national database. The on-going work related to development of Risk Packs for seven provinces has developed recommendations for a series of trainings to be carried out in communities on how to enter the most suitable community-based data and information relevant to the national system. A number of other trainings are being planned, including the application of new software for communities to analyse and input risk data into VNDMA's information management system, which is shared nationwide.				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
9.1 Finalize and disseminate the outcomes of the Risk Packs.	Feb – June 2020	UNDP, VNDMA, CPMU		Partly completed
9.2 UNDP and VNDMA to discuss the potential for replicating Risk Pack work in the remaining 21 coastal provinces.	May-June 2020	UNDP, VNDMA		Pending
9.3, Integrate data collection in the Training of Trainers and Training of Facilitators on CBDRM	June – July 2020	VNDMA, MARD, CPMU		Partly completed

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 10:

The community-based disaster management report prepared following the ToF for each commune is very complicated for local leaders to understand. Information in the report needs to be updated every year, and commune leaders have mentioned that they don't have the budget or human resources to do so.

The reports should be simplified and sent to relevant commune leaders, and its use explained to them. Key information in the report should be identified so that communities are able to update only those parts each year.

Management response: Agree.

Series of meetings and training sessions will be carried out to discuss revision of the reporting format and ways of involving communities and local leaders in order to ensure that the report will be simplified and relevant for use by community members, commune leaders and local authorities. Refer to Annex 1 for additional information.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
10.1 UNDP and CBDRM Team to discuss options for simplifying the report and its contents.	Apr - May2020	UNDP, VNDMA		Partially completed
10.2 Organize online and offline meetings and trainings on CBDRA, including an updated reporting system and ways to approach local leaders and authorities.	Apr – July 2020	VNDMA, MARD, CPMU, PPMU, and UNDP		Partially completed

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT:**Interim Evaluation Recommendation 11:**

There is a need to improve monitoring at the local and provincial levels so that enrichment plantation will be properly done.

Benefits from shrimp and crab farming are higher than mangroves, so farmers are less interested in planting mangroves. The return from mangroves will come only after 15-20 years and will also not be very high. There is a possibility that farmers may not plant mangroves in a sufficient area or do enrichment on time, leading to lower survivability.

Management response: Agree.

PPMUs will continue and enhance their cooperation with technical staff of VNFOREST (PMU of Component 2) and will further enhance their monitoring, ensuring that the plantation and regeneration activities are in line with the technical requirements of the approved designs.

The acceptance checks will be conducted to ensure that the quality of plantation forest is in line with the required surviving rates based on the provisions of Circular 15/2019 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Project will continue to support communities with livelihood activities in the first year for those who are affected by mangrove plantation and regeneration to encourage people to implement mangrove plantation and regeneration activities in accordance with technical requirements.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
11.1 PPMUs to conduct regular field monitoring visits with technical staff from DARD to ensure the quality requirements are met.	Quarterly	VNFOREST, PPMU, Provincial forest departments, FMB		Partially completed
11.2 PPMUs to ensure VNFOREST conducts acceptance checks on the implementation plan submitted by the contractors.	2020-2021	VNFOREST, PPMU, Provincial forest departments, FMB		Partially completed

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 12:

Involvement of Women Unions at the commune level is encouraging, but involvement at the provincial level and central level is weak because Women Unions are neither represented in the project board nor on the monitoring team. They should be included in the monitoring activities of the project.

Management response: Agree.

New training courses for national trainers will involve gender training, with contributions from the Women Unions in curriculum development and facilitation. Women Unions will be formally invited for membership in the Project Board, and will be invited to participate in the project monitoring activities.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
12.1 Conduct licensed training for national trainers to involve inputs and contribution from the WU	Q2 and Q3 2020	UNDP, VNDMA, CPMU, PPMU		Partially completed
12.2 UNDP and VNDMA to formally invite Women Union to take a membership role at the Project Board	Apr-May 2020	UNDP, VNDMA, CPMU		Pending
12.3 UNDP, VNDMA, CPMU, PMUs and PPMUs to invite Women Union to take part in the relevant project monitoring activities.	2020-2021	UNDP, VNDMA, CPMU, PMUs, PPMUs		Partly completed

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 13:

It was observed that household poverty status changes over the course of time due to different factors. The project has already initiated regular monitoring and updating of poor households for providing project benefits. This monitoring should be continued.

Management response: Agree.

The PMU and PPMUs are closely working with the Departments of Construction and Provincial People's Committees to review and approve the housing list annually to ensure the identification of beneficiaries.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
13.1 PPMUs to continue monitoring the household poverty status, and ensure that list of beneficiaries are approved by the Provincial People's Committee.	Annually	CPMU, PPMU		Partly completed

SUSTAINABILITY:**Interim Evaluation Recommendation 14:**

Resilient houses last longer and serve for at least 20-30 years, so there is a high demand from vulnerable coastal areas for such houses. The GoV should continue to invest in resilient housing, and should attract the private sector for their engagement and contribution in order to address high demand. Local NGOs could also be specialized in low-cost resilient housing so that they will be able to continue to offer these services with funding from the GoV, the private sector, or communities.

Management response: Agree.

The Ministry of Construction (MOC) is planning to conduct a study in 28 coastal provinces for a new storm- & flood-resilient housing support programme. It will propose the basic criteria of resilient design, financing options, and support mechanisms on house construction for poor households faced with housing difficulties in the coastal districts of Viet Nam's 28 coastal provinces.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
14.1 UNDP, MOC and PMU Component 1 to discuss details of the planned study and agree on next steps.	Apr 2020	UNDP, MOC, PMU Comp1		Completed
14.2 UNDP, MOC and VNDMA to discuss the potential role of private sector and other stakeholders in the new resilient housing programme	Apr- May 2020	MOC, UNDP, VNDMA		Pending

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 15:

Attract the private sector so that more livelihood activities can be implemented for poor households to improve their economy, thereby strengthening their resilience to climate change and disasters.

Management response: Agree.

UNDP will organize consultations with VNFOREST, VNDMA, CPMU, PMU of Component 2, and relevant PPMUs and discuss option to engage private sector in implementing activities related to livelihoods: approach, mechanisms, limitations, etc.

A feasibility study on mapping the private sector in 5 provinces is required to better understand any connections, interests, and collaboration opportunities.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
15.1 The project to conduct a “fast-track” study to identify collaboration opportunities with the private sector on potential livelihood interventions for vulnerable communities (with an understanding of their interests, i.e., working fields, priorities for any particular groups, duration, mechanisms, etc.)	Q2-Q3 2020	CPMU, Component 2, UNDP, PPMUs		Partially completed
15.2. The project to conduct consultation meetings with potential actors in the private sector (identified following the “fast-track” survey under 15.1 above) to further discuss options and agree on next steps.	Q3/ 2020	CPMU, Component 2, UNDP, PPMUs		Pending
15.3. The project to conduct a research on the participation of the private sector in disaster risk reduction and climate change to provide recommendations for sustainable local planning.	Q2-Q3 2020	VNDMA, MARD, UNDP		Partially completed

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 16:

Trainings on CBDRM should also cover district-level leaders so that planning can be made more evidence-based and can help to mainstream considerations of climate change and disaster risk into development and socio-economic planning processes.

Management response: Agree.

Previously, trainings on CBDRM were also provided to district-level leaders (through the provincial TOT trainings), but the number of district leaders who participated was limited. Going forward, trainings on CBDRM will involve district-level staff to support authorities in decision making with the most appropriate approaches to enhance socio-economic planning processes.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking
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			Comments	Status
16.1 Project to ensure participation of district level staff in the training of facilitators and CBDRA on data collection.	June – Dec 2020	VNDMA, MARD, CPMU, PPMU		Partially completed

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 17:

VNDMA, VNFOREST, and UNDP should discuss with the provincial and district authorities regarding potential funding support for the protection of the mangroves from government resources to make sure that these activities are continued beyond the project.

For provinces where local funding is not available, alternative solutions need to be identified to cover the cost of plantation and protection of mangroves beyond project phase.

Management response: Agree

This issue will be discussed in the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting in 2020.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
17.1 Conduct 4 th PSC meeting to review project funding and expenditures and agree on solutions to mobilize co-financing after project completion.	Q2-Q3 2020	VNFOREST, MARD, UNDP, and 7 provinces		Pending

⁶⁷ This template is in alignment with the [Management Response Template](#) for UNDP project-level evaluations in the Evaluation Resource Centre.

⁶⁸ If the MTR is uploaded to the ERC, the status of implementation is tracked electronically in the Evaluation Resource Centre database (ERC).

⁶⁹ Status of Implementation: Completed, Partially Completed, Pending.

Annex 1: Additional Feedback and Comments

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 1:

In some houses, the stairs are very steep, making it difficult for the disabled and the elderly to use the elevated space. The design needs to be improved to make it friendly to people with special needs.

Additional feedback from PPMUs on Recommendation 1:

Households are supported by relatives, neighbors, or commune officials in special cases (people with disabilities and the elderly can still have difficulty using the stairs, even when the stairs are less steep) when a staircase is needed to access the floor to avoid flooding during the flood season. In some areas, people only use the stairs when severe floods occur, and since this situation does not occur many times per year they prioritize and save the space for other purposes (e.g. as a living room or bedroom), which is why they requested to reduce the area of the stairs, leading to the steep staircase slope. Given the fact, that the elevation of the new foundations and ground floor level is significantly higher and is above the highest level of flooding that has ever occurred, then those houses received support from the project are resilient with flooding.

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 3:

There is a need to follow up closely to make sure that enrichment plantation is conducted to fill the gaps created by dying saplings.

Additional feedback from PPMUs on Recommendation 3:

- PPMUs work closely with plantation contractors to strictly implement the signed contracts. The service contracts for plantations clearly state that contractors take full responsibility for plantation in the 1st year and for maintenance during the 4 following years at the verified and accepted locations.

Feedback from Ca Mau PPMU: The Ca Mau PPMU closely follows the instructions in Document 819/TCLN-PTR dated 30th June 2019 issued by VNFOREST (Instructions to implement Component 2) where criteria for plantation and protection are clearly described.

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 4:

Since a large area of plantation is assigned to Ca Mau province, where plantation is easier and the costs are not as high, there is a possibility of saving plantation costs from Ca Mau and using that for other provinces where costs will be higher than provisioned.

Additional feedback on Recommendation 4:

At the bi-annual progress meeting in 2019, the National Project Director and UNDP Resident Representative in Viet Nam agreed to flexibly apply unit prices/cost norms for mangrove plantation and regeneration, depending on local conditions. These flexible cost norms will ensure the achievement of the project's goal of 4,000 hectares of mangrove forests within the agreed budget.

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 5:

Knowledge exchange visits should be organized between communities/farmers from different districts/provinces to share experience.

Additional feedback on Recommendation 5:

In 2019, Nam Dinh PPMU had a 1-week visit for farmers, district and commune staff to Thanh Hoa to study mangrove regeneration and the active participation of communities in forest protection. And Quang Ngai PPMU organized two 1-day visits for farmers and commune staff to a good duck-raising model and market outlets within the district.

In 2020, Quang Ngai PPMU is planning to have a 1-week visit to a mangrove plantation site in Thua Thien-Hue.

In the livelihood program, PPMUs have included an evaluation/review meeting for all livelihood models where farmers and commune staff from non-project sites are invited to share lessons learnt.

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 6:

Due to low economic return from mangroves compared to aquaculture, farmers are less interested in the mangrove forestry program. There are several crops as well as other interventions (including fruit trees) identified/developed for brackish soil conditions.

Additional feedback on Recommendation 6:

There will be consultation meetings with farmers, commune staff, FPMB staff, and provincial/district staff to identify suitable livelihood models and select households. A list of income-generating interventions (including fruit trees and salt-tolerant species) will be discussed by farmers, then the one(s) with the most potential will be selected for implementation. Furthermore, findings and recommendations from CARE International in Viet Nam (study conducted in 2018) are used as entry points for discussion.

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 8:

Initiate as early as possible the activities related to disaster risk insurance and risk transfer mechanisms, as these types of activities will take time to prepare and implement.

Additional feedback on Recommendation 8:

In September 2019, the project carried out one technical study on innovative financing for disaster and climate change impacts in Viet Nam. The report assessed financial risk sharing options and disaster risk finance strategy. In the next step during Q2 of 2020, the project team will carry out further related activities, including a study on opportunities for Viet Nam to participate in the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) to increase access to financial schemes and insurance related to large-scale disaster- and climate-related catastrophes, thus increase preparedness, resilience, and cooperation.

Interim Evaluation Recommendation 10:

The community-based disaster management report prepared following the ToF for each commune is very complicated for local leaders to understand.

Additional feedback on Recommendation 10:

As part of the ongoing trainings, the final day of the CBDRM training courses are used to present the CBDRA report to the trainees (communal leaders and staff). The comments/feedback of commune leaders and participants are included in the report as proof of local authority recognition. As a way forward, the commune leaders and participants are recommended to utilize the reports and recommendations in the annual DRR management planning process.