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Putting Ideas to Work

Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program

Promoting practices that restore degraded landscapes and support climate-smart livelihoods



Landscape in Thanh Hoa, where the livelihoods of many ethnic minority groups depend on forest products. (Photo: USAID/Vietnam)

GVN Counterpart: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Duration: 2014 – 2017

Prime Implementer: Winrock International

Planned Budget: \$25.5 million

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Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program

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The USAID-funded Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program supports Vietnam's transition to climate resilient, low emission, sustainable development. The program helps put national policies and strategies into practice to respond to climate change, with a focus on reducing emissions from the forestry and agriculture sectors and strengthening climate-smart livelihoods. Addressing long-term climate change risks and gender vulnerabilities in both forest and delta landscapes are key program objectives.

SUPPORTING LAND-USE PRACTICES THAT PROTECT FOREST RESOURCES AND ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through improved forest management, a strengthened financial base for forest protection, and increased promotion of climate resilient livelihoods are the basis for the sustainable landscapes approach in Vietnam. The work focuses on Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces.

INCREASING RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND LIVELIHOODS

Working with local governments and communities in Long An and Nam Dinh provinces, the program supports commune-level action planning to empower community members to identify risks and take action to improve resilience. The program also engages with local, provincial, and national stakeholders to address long-term climate risks across provinces in the Red River and Mekong deltas.

SUPPORTING COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The program works with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and related organizations at the national level to enhance coordination among projects and donor programs, which informs development of policies and practical guidelines for technical and management issues in forest and delta areas.

RESULTS

To date, the program has been effective in laying the foundation and building capacity for achieving green growth, sustainable forest management, REDD+ and equitable payment for forest environmental services in Nghe An and Thanh Hoa. In Nam Dinh and Long An the program has improved the understanding of climate change and disaster risk for 30,000 people by training, assessing their vulnerability and helping communities develop climate adaptation plans. Climate-smart agriculture pilot projects have been conducted to develop climate-resilient livelihoods in both forested and delta areas.