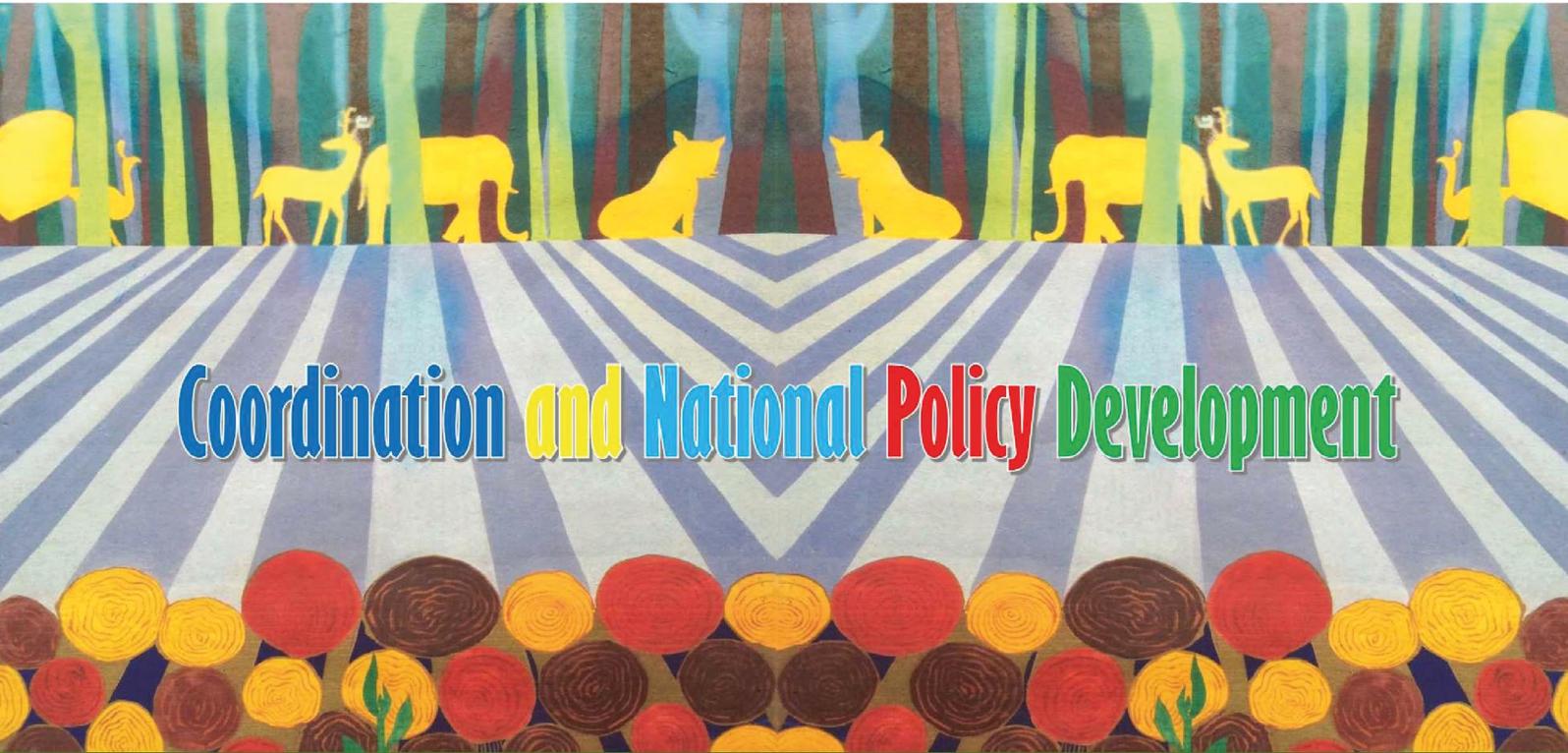


Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program



Coordination and National Policy Development

The USAID-funded Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program (2012–2017) promotes knowledge-sharing around climate change issues and supports the development and review of national policies and guidelines.

Goals of the USAID Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program

The five-year USAID Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program (VFD) helps to move Vietnam's progressive and proactive climate change policies into practice. Focusing on sustainable natural resource management, improving land use planning and engaging communities in developing action plans to address climate risks and vulnerabilities, the program supports Vietnam's transition towards a , low emission, climate resilient development pathway. The program is built around three main components:

- **Coordination and National Policy Development:** At the national level, the program aims to support government stakeholders in developing and reviewing climate change policies.
- **Sustainable Landscapes:** Interventions under this component aim to improve natural resource management and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in larger forested landscapes in Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces, north-central Vietnam.
- **Adaptation:** Through this component the program aims to strengthen climate resilience and reduce disaster risks in Vietnam's coastal delta areas, while also supporting climate-smart livelihoods.

Under the Coordination and National Policy Development component, VFD supports the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and other government institutions in mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into policies, programs and planning processes at the national level.



The program enhances coordination among stakeholders to maximize the impact of climate change programs and promote synergies. Best practices and lessons learned are synthesized to support knowledge sharing and inform designated departments at the national level in the review and development of policies and technical guidelines.

Supporting Vietnam's transition towards a low emission, climate resilient development pathway

Coordination and National Policy Development component: key activities and achievements

VFD supports the Government of Vietnam in responding to climate change by operating along three lines of action: policy development, institutional capacity building, and coordination and sharing lessons learned.

I. Policy Development

VFD's multidisciplinary team of experts helps develop and review national policies and legislation for actively addressing climate change challenges. Key achievements include:

- **Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES):** VFD supports a revision of the national PFES legislation and contributed to a decree on non-compliance. Communities of Practice were organized for knowledge sharing.
- **Forest management and protection:** VFD supported the development of new policies on the management and protection of coastal forests and natural production forests, to promote the preservation of critical ecosystem services.
- **Water resource management:** VFD supported a review of the implementation of the Water Resource Management Strategy 2009-2015 and provided recommendations on mainstreaming climate change in the 2016-2020 strategy.
- **Disaster risk reduction:** VFD supported the development of a policy mandating communes to conduct Community-Based Disaster Risk Assessments and develop Disaster Preparedness Plans.

II. Capacity Building

Successfully developing and implementing climate change policies requires sufficient institutional capacity at the local, subnational and national levels. VFD strengthens the capacity of government personnel through training programs on climate change and by providing tools and guidelines:

- **Thematic capacity building programs:** VFD provided trainings on PFES, Provincial REDD+ Action Plans, disaster risk management and dam infrastructure safety to government officials at the provincial and district levels.
- **National climate change training program:** A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Ho Chi Minh Academy to develop a national training program to support government officials in integrating climate change and green growth considerations into planning and decision making.
- **University curriculum:** VFD has begun supporting the Vietnam Forestry University in developing climate change modules for formal integration into Bachelors and Masters level degree programs.
- **Assessing climate change risks:** VFD supports the development of a tool and web-based resource centre to support banks and industrial investors in assessing climate risks for all large projects under consideration for investment.

III. Coordination & sharing lessons learned

VFD coordinates stakeholders working on common climate change initiatives in order to achieve synergies, and promotes sharing of experiences and lessons learned.

- **Inter-provincial collaboration in the Red River Delta:** VFD supports five northern provinces in developing a joint investment proposal for inter-provincial collaboration on common climate change challenges in the Red River Delta.
- **Emission Reductions Program Document (ERPD):** VFD is leading coordination efforts for the development of an ERPD for six north-central provinces that will be submitted to the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Fund.
- **Monitoring, reporting & verification (MRV) protocol:** VFD coordinated the development of a common MRV protocol for low GHG emissions rice, which will allow for comparisons between different rice production models.
- **Climate smart agriculture stock taking exercise:** VFD supported a nationwide exercise to map out over 50 ongoing and past climate smart agriculture and animal husbandry projects, with the aim of identifying and sharing best practices and lessons learned.



Gender mainstreaming

Gender is addressed as a crosscutting theme throughout VFD's work. Women are involved both as leaders and beneficiaries of the capacity building programs and interventions. Gender analyses are undertaken to ensure policy design is gender-sensitive and contributes to women's empowerment.

VFD cooperates with local Women's Unions and other relevant actors such as UNWOMEN, National Women's Union, CARE, Oxfam and Climate Change NGO working group to maximize the effects of the communication and advocacy efforts.

The way forward

Through the Coordination and National Policy Development component, VFD works to strengthen the capacity of government institutions and create an enabling policy environment for addressing climate change challenges.

It is anticipated that this solid national framework will guide the implementation of effective climate change projects and programs across the country, now and in the future.