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Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program



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

(Photo: USAID-funded ARBCP/Winrock International)

The USAID-funded Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program is enhancing climate change resilience planning and action from community to national level. The program will put into practice the national policies and strategies on response to climate change and low emissions development with a focus on reducing emissions from forestry and agriculture sectors and strengthening climate-smart livelihoods and settlements, particularly in rural areas. Addressing long-term climate change risks and gender vulnerabilities in both forest and delta landscapes are key program objectives.

SUPPORTING LAND-USE PRACTICES WHICH MAINTAIN FOREST RESOURCES AND ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through improved forest management and afforestation together with investment in promoting climate resilient livelihoods are the basis for the sustainable landscapes approach in Vietnam's forested areas. Training programs within provinces will demonstrate methods for achieving measurable improvements in carbon stocks and environmental services as well as leveraging ecosystem service financing. The provinces of Thanh Hoa and Kon Tum have been selected as pilots for moving Green Growth strategies and policy into practice through innovative land-use planning that is inclusive of local government, civil society, and the private sector.

INCREASING RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND LIVELIHOODS

The delta areas of the Mekong and Red Rivers – home to some of the most heavily populated and economically productive areas of Vietnam – are increasingly exposed to climate-related hazards such as storm, flooding, drought, salinity and sea level rise. Working initially with local governments and communities in Long An and Nam Dinh provinces, the program will support commune-level action planning to empower community members to identify risks and to take action for improving long-term resilience. In addition, the program will engage with local, provincial and national level stakeholders to build capacity to address long-term climate change risks across provinces in each river delta. The program recognizes that decision making for sustainable, climate-resilient development requires not only an appreciation of local concerns, but also a sound knowledge of practical, science-based adaptation strategies and inter-provincial coordination and cooperation.

The five-year program, began in late 2012, is being implemented by Winrock International in partnership with Government of Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and provincial governments, and other partners including the Netherlands Development Organization, American Red Cross, Vietnam Red Cross, and Center for Sustainable Rural Development.

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July 2013