



Annual Progress Report 2019

January – December 2019

<Project Profile>

Project code	AFoCO/006/2014
Project Title	Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam
Project Duration	Start date: 29 April 2014 End date: 28 April 2023
Implementing Agency	Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST)
National Focal Point(s)	Ms Nguyen Tuong Van, Deputy Director of Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, VNFOREST
Project Site	Thai Thuy and Tien Hai Districts, Thai Binh Province
Target Area	Primary target area: PA 1 (Initiating Customized Restoration & Reforestation Models) Secondary target area: PA 2 (Supporting Research and Development in Climate Change Adaptation Approaches)
Budget Source and of Finance	Total: US \$1,720,978 - AFoCO: US \$1,500,000, funded by KFS - Viet Nam: US \$47,747, in-cash (2016-2019) : US \$173,231, in-kind (2016-2019)
Annual Budget and Source of Finance in 2019	Total: US \$192,400 (<i>excluding the carry-over</i>) - AFoCO: US \$106,244 - Viet Nam: US \$9,073, in-cash : US \$43,364, in-kind

<Implementing Agency Profile>

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Annual Report 2019

Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam

Under
**AFoCo Landmark Program
Restoration Component**

Executed by
Viet Nam Administration of Forestry

January 2020



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFoCO	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
PMB	Project Management Board
RIFEE	Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Environment
VNFOREST	Viet Nam Administration of Forestry

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I. INTRODUCTION

The overall objective of the project is to sustainably rehabilitate and develop mangrove ecosystem, protect biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize impacts of climate change, protect the coastal dyke system, enhance knowledge related to mangrove forest and improve livelihoods of local people in the long-run. The 2019 annual objectives and outputs and targets of the project are described in Table 1 below.

Table 1. 2019 annual target by project output and objective in two project sites

	Description
Objective 1	New planting 80ha and supplementary planting 80ha of mangrove forest, and protecting 960ha of mangrove forest, including new planted area, supplementary planted area and existing area of mangrove forest
Output 1.1	Survey, develop a detailed design with maps on the new afforestation, supplementary planting and the protection of mangrove forest: 960 ha
Output 1.2	New planting of mangrove forest: 80 ha
Output 1.3	Supplementary planting of mangrove forest: 80 ha
Output 1.4	Protect new afforestation and supplementary planting areas and existing mangrove areas: 960 ha
2019 Target	Protection of 800ha of existing mangrove forest and 40ha of 2016 plantation handed over for protection
Objective 2	Raising capacity and enhancing knowledge through training and communications
Output 2.1	Develop a training plan based on training needs assesment
Output 2.2	Create elaborate publications for local communities, training documents on relevant technical topics such as seed selection, seedling production, planting and tendering techniques, protection of mangrove forests
Output 2.3	Develop and operate the community regulations on management and protection of mangrove forest in the communes of the projects
Output 2.4	Organize 10 1-day training courses for provincial technical staff and local communities, and one (1) thematic workshop on payments forestecosystem services and sustainable mangrove management
2019 Target	Organize 1 training courses on community-based mangrove forest management and protection
Output 2.5	Conduct two (2) study tours to Thailand and Indonesia to elarn from experiences on sustainable mangrove management and conservation and management of ecotourism for improving local livelihoods
Output 2.6	Develop and implement communication activities in the project areas
2019 Target	Produce and publish news on project and communication products
Output 2.7	Provide equipment for mangrove forest protection and development

II. RESULTS OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2019

1. Completion status and milestones of project activities in 2019

This report covers a period of four quarters (from January to December 2019).The Ta ble 2 shows main activities conducted for this period and the respective completion st atus.

Table 2. Completion status in 2019

No	Activites	Status of accomplishment
I	MAIN ACTIVITIES	
1	Tending and protection of mangrove forest planted in 2018 (60ha)	Implemented
2	Tending and protection of mangrove forest planted in 2017 (60ha)	Implemented
3	Protection of 800ha of mangrove forest, including 800ha of existing forest and 40ha of 2016 plantation handed over for protection	Implemented
II	SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	
2018-2	(2018 Remaining) Thematic workshop on mangrove forest	Implemented
1	Training courses (01 course)	Implemented
2	Communication	Implemented
3	National Technical Consultancy Agency	Implemented
2018-5	(2018 Remaining) Final payment to NTCA	Implemented
4	Project mid-term audit	Not yet implemented
III	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	
1	Central Project Management Board	Implemented
2	Provincial Project Management Board	Implemented
3	Contracted supporting staff	Implemented
IV	OTHER COST/CONTINGENCY	

2. Project management in 2019

2.1. Project management

In the 4th year of operation, the project has also been implemented and managed in accordance with the Master Financial Plan and Master Bidding Plan which were approved by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in 2016, internal regulation on planning and payment procedures as well as the AFoCO's regulation. This activity has achieved the following results:

- **Preparation and approval of the 2019 annual work and budget plan:** The 2019 annual work and budget plan was agreed by the AFoCO Secretariat on 13 February 2019 and approved by VNFOREST under the Decision No. 63/QĐ-TCLN-KHTC on 12 March 2019. Then, the work and budget plan was allocated to the provincial PMB on 20 March 2019.

- **Project monitoring activities:** Monitoring activities by central and provincial PMBs and RIFEE have been conducted on regular basis. Especially, on 18 June 2019, Mr. Nguyen Quoc Tri, Director General of VNFOREST, for the first time paid a visit to check and work with the project. He highly appreciated results that Thai Binh province has achieved in the work of forest rehabilitation, development and protection, especially raising awareness of local people about roles of mangrove forest in their lives and livelihoods. He also stressed that close cooperation among VNFOREST, central PMB, Thai Binh's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, provincial PMB, RIFEE, local authorities and local people in the project sites has helped the project achieve expected outcomes. He requested that the project should continue to effectively carry out the project activities in next years, focusing on development,

maintenance and protection of existing mangrove. Moreover, he affirmed that VNFOREST is willing to create favourable conditions for Thai Binh province, AFoCO and relevant stakeholders to develop and protect forests in the coming years.



Visiting project site in Thuy Xuan Commune



Meeting with the project at the provincial PMB's office

- **Organization of the 5th Project Steering Committee Meeting:** The 5th Project Steering Committee Meeting was held on 27 November 2019 in Thai Binh. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Pham Van Dien, Deputy Director General of VNFOREST, head of PSC, and Mr. Park Eunsik, Vice Executive Director of AFoCO Secretariat. At the meeting, it was noted that most of the activities had been accomplished as planned, with close cooperation among VNFOREST, Thai Binh DARD, local authorities, and the Secretariat. It was agreed to re-allocate the work plan and budget for the year of 2024 into the work plans and budgets for the following 3 years between 2020 and 2023. The annual work plan and budget for 2020 will be finalized in due course, upon revision based on the recommendations made at the meeting.



The 5th Project Steering Committee Meeting on 27 November 2019

- **Management of project offices, equipment and vehicles:** Project offices, equipment and vehicles have been well managed and regularly maintained in accordance with regulation on management and use of the project asset. As agreed at the 4th PSC meeting in 2018, additional budget for maintenance and fuel of speedboat in Dong Long Commune was provided.

2.2. National Technical Consulting Agency

Based on the Terms of Reference and consulting contract in 2019, the following activities were carried out by RIFEE:

- RIFEE assisted the central PMB to organize a training course for local authorities and local people inside and outside the project sites which was held on 23 November 2019 in Thuy

Xuan Commune. At the training, RIFEE provided updated regulations of the Forestry Law 2017 and relevant regulations on coastal forests, including mangrove forests.

- RIFEE participated in the workshop on “*Protection and development of mangrove forest in association with sustainable aquaculture production and ecotourism in Thai Binh province*” which was held on 26-27 November 2019. At the workshop, RIFEE provided a presentation on some modalities of aquaculture production in association with protection and development of coastal forests in the north of Viet Nam.



Presenting at the workshop on “Protection and development of mangrove forest in association with sustainable aquaculture production and ecotourism in Thai Binh province”

- Based on the “Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for Silvicultural Activities” approved by VNFOREST in May 2017, RIFEE has monitored and evaluated the progress and quality of silvicultural activities in 4 communes, including monitoring and evaluation of the tending activities and protection of existing mangrove forests and mangrove forests planted in 2016 – 2019, and reported to the central PMB.



Measuring the growth of young seedling

- RIFEE has already reviewed and re-checked in the fields on the basis 10% of area of silvicultural activities.

- As agreed at the 4th PSC meeting in 2018, RIFEE has conducted assessment of degradation of 3ha *Kandelia obovata* in Thuy Xuan Commune, Thai Thuy District and recommendations on solutions. The assessment report was presented at the 5th PSC meeting on 27 November 2019.

In general, RIFEE has closely coordinated with the central and provincial PMB to conduct consulting activities in accordance with the Terms of Reference and signed consulting contract for the year of 2019.

3. Results of implemented activities in 2019

According to the detailed annual work and budget plan for 2019 which was endorsed by the donor and approved by VNFOREST under the Decision No. 63/QĐ-TCLN-KHTC on 12 March 2019, the following activities were completed:

3.1. Objective 1: New planting, supplementary planting and protection of mangrove forest
Specific outcomes of the Objective 1 are as follows:

- Tending and protection of 60ha of mangrove forest planted in 2018;
- Tending and protection of 60ha of mangrove forest planted in 2017;
- Protection of 840ha of mangrove forest, including 800ha of existing mangrove forest in 4 communes and 40ha of 2016 plantation handed over for protection.

In accordance with the annual plan, results of the Objective 1 are as below:

Activity 1: Tending and protection of 60ha of mangrove forest planted in 2018

60ha of mangrove forest planted under the 2018 annual plan, including 30ha of new plantation and 30ha of supplementary plantation, has been well grown, tended and protected. Poor-grown or dead seedlings have been replaced by qualified seedlings in accordance with current regulations and technical guidelines of the project. Garbages, shipworms have been removed frequently. Planted forests have been well protected by communal forest protection groups. Up to present, there have not been any violation cases to the planted forests.

Moreover, the provincial PMB has frequently checked, supervised and directed the tending and protection of planted mangrove forest.

The growth indicators of mangrove forest planted in 2018 are presented in Tables 3 and 4 below.

Table 3: Growth indicators of 2018 new plantation

No.	Planting lot	Area (ha)	Location	Planting species	Growth			According to Decision No. 1205/QĐ-BNN-TCLN
					Average height (m)	Average root collar diameter (cm)	Survival rate (%)	Survival rate after 2 years (%)
I THAI THUY DISTRICT								
1	Lot 01	15	Thụy Hải	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.5	1.5	80	≥ 60
2	Lot 01	7	Thụy Xuân	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.5	1.7	85	≥ 60
II TIEN HAI DISTRICT								
1	Lot 01	1	Đông Long	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2	1.2	75	≥ 60
2	Lot 02	2	Đông Long	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.5	1.5	80	≥ 60
3	Lot 01	5	Đông Hoàng	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	3	1.8	90	≥ 60
	TOTAL	30						

Table 4 : Growth indicators of 2018 supplementary plantation

No.	Planting lot	Area (ha)	Location	Planting species	Growth			According to Decision No. 1205/QĐ-BNN-TCLN
					Average height (m)	Average root collar diameter (cm)	Survival rate (%)	Survival rate after 2 years (%)
I THÁI THỤY DISTRICT								
1	Lot 02	15	Thụy Hải	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.5	1.8	80	≥ 60
2	Lot 02	7	Thụy Xuân	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.5	1.5	75	≥ 60
II TIỀN HẢI DISTRICT								
1	Lot 03	3	Đông Long	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2	1.5	80	≥ 60
2	Lot 04	3	Đông Long	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2	1.5	80	≥ 60
3	Lot 02	2	Đông Hoàng	<i>Avicennia marina</i>	1.5	1	85	≥ 60
	TOTAL	30						



2018 plantation forest in Thụy Hải Commune

Activity 2: Tending and protection of 60ha of mangrove forest planted in 2017

60ha of mangrove forest planted under the 2017 annual plan, including 30ha of new plantation and 30ha of supplementary plantation, has been well grown, tended and protected. Poor-grown or dead seedlings have been replaced by qualified seedlings in accordance with current regulations and technical guidelines of the project. Garbages, shipworms have been removed frequently. Planted forests have been well protected by communal forest protection groups. Up to present, there have not been any violation cases to the planted forests.

Moreover, the provincial PMB has frequently checked, supervised and directed the tending and protection of planted mangrove forest.

The growth indicators of mangrove forest planted in 2017 are presented in Tables 5 and 6 below.

Table 5: Growth indicators of 2017 new plantation

No.	Planting lot	Area (ha)	Location	Planting species	Growth			According to Decision No. 1205/QĐ-BNN-TCLN
					Average height (m)	Average root collar diameter (cm)	Survival rate (%)	Survival rate after 3 years (%)
I	THÁI THỤY DISTRICT							
1	Lot 01	6	Thụy Hải	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	1.8	4 - 5	80	≥ 50
2	Lot 02	4	Thụy Hải	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	1.7	4 - 5	80	≥ 50
3	Lot 01	7	Thụy Xuân	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.5	5	85	≥ 50
4	Lot 02	3	Thụy Xuân	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	1.7	5	80	≥ 50
II	TIỀN HẢI DISTRICT							
1	Lot 01	10	Đông Long	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.5	6	80	≥ 50
	TOTAL	30						

Table 6: Growth indicators of 2017 supplementary plantation

No.	Planting lot	Area (ha)	Location	Planting species	Growth			According to Decision No. 1205/QĐ-BNN-TCLN
					Average height (m)	Average root collar diameter (cm)	Survival rate (%)	Survival rate after 3 years (%)
I THÁI THỤY DISTRICT								
1	Lot 03	8	Thụy Hải	Sonneratia caseolaris	2	3 - 4	75	≥ 50
2	Lot 03	7	Thụy Xuân	Sonneratia caseolaris	1.5	3 - 4	80	≥ 50
3	Lot 04	3	Thụy Xuân	Kandelia obovata	0.8	1	55	≥ 50
II TIỀN HẢI DISTRICT								
1	Lot 01	5	Đông Hoàng	Sonneratia caseolaris	2	5	90	≥ 50
2	Lot 02	7	Đông Long	Sonneratia caseolaris	2	4	80	≥ 50
TOTAL		30						



2017 plantation forest in Dong Long Commune

Activity 3: Protection of 840 ha of mangrove forests, including 800ha of existing mangrove forests and 40ha of mangrove forest planted in 2016

Based on the principle contracts on mangrove forest protection between the provincial PMB and 4 communes, 800ha of existing mangrove forests have been continuously protected. The four communes have directed communal forest protection groups to strictly patrol the forests and promptly prevent and detect any violations to the forests. Up to present, 800ha of existing mangrove forests have been well protected without any detected violation cases. The propaganda on the important roles of mangrove forests have also been conducted monthly through communal voice stations and promoted through village and commune meetings in order to raise awareness on mangrove forest protection, promptly detect violations to the forests and report to local authorities. Furthermore, the provincial PMB has regularly checked and technically instructed four communes to complete forest protection task.

Payment for forest protection activity was transferred to 4 communes two times, in June and in December 2019 after the check-and-acceptance of forest protection activity, of which 90% was directly transferred to communal protection groups and 10% was kept by communal People’s Committees as management fee to cover regular meetings related to forest protection. Detail of 800ha of mangrove forests for protection is presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Details of 800ha of existing mangrove forests for protection

No.	Location	Area (ha)
I	Thai Thuy District	450
1	Thuy Xuan Commune	215
2	Thuy Hai Commune	235
II	Tien Hai District	350
3	Dong Long Commune	225
4	Dong Hoang Commune	125
	Total	800



Checking forest by provincial PMB and communal forest protection group

Regarding 40ha of 2016 plantation handed over for protection, this area has not yet been handed over to communes for protection for the reason that in accordance with regulations and technical guidelines of the project, planted mangrove forests will be handed over to communes for protection after enough 36 months of tending. It is expected that this area will be handed over to communes for protection in Quarter 1 of 2020.



Forest planted in 2016 in Thuy Xuan Commune

3.2. Objective 2: Raising capacity and enhancing knowledge through training and communications

The following activities under Objective 2 were carried out in 2019:

Activity 1: *Thematic workshop on mangrove forest and ecotourism*

The workshop on “*Protection and development of mangrove forest in association with sustainable aquaculture production and ecotourism in Thai Binh province*” was held on 26-27 November 2019 in Thai Binh. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Pham Van Dien, Deputy Director of VNFOREST, and Mr. Park Eunsik, Vice Executive Director of AFoCO Secretariat. Attending the workshop, there were about 60 participants from VNFOREST, Thai Binh province, 4 communes in the project site, Xuan Thuy National Park, central and provincial PMBs, RIFEE and AFoCO Secretariat. The workshop was organized aiming at: (i) sharing orientations on protection and development of mangrove forest ecosystem in Thai Binh province; (ii) sharing experience on models of sustainable aquaculture production and ecotourism development in association with protection and development of mangrove forests; and (iii) discussing on how to ensure harmonization between protection and development of mangrove forests and sustainable aquaculture and ecotourism development in Thai Binh province.

Opening the workshop, Mr. Pham Van Dien highly appreciated successful implementation of the project in a timely and effective manner thanks to close cooperation between VNFOREST, Thai Binh province, AFoCO Secretariat and local authorities and local people in the project sites. Additionally, Mr. Dien requested that the province should continue to effectively carry out the project activities in next years, focusing on development, maintenance and protection of existing mangrove forests as well as development of sustainable livelihood modalities in association with mangrove forests at localities. He also highlighted that outcomes of the project are very important and meaningful not only for Thai Binh province but also for achieving key targets of Viet Nam’s forestry sector, contributing to promotion and replication of successful results of the forestry of AFoCO countries at regional and international scale. Mr. Dien affirmed that VNFOREST is willing to create favourable conditions for Thai Binh province, AFoCO and relevant stakeholders to develop and protect forests in the coming years.

Speaking at the workshop, Mr. Park Eunsik highly appreciated efforts of VNFOREST, Thai Binh province, local authorities and local people in the project sites during the project implementation. Through visiting mangroves, he has well acknowledged challenges that Thai Binh province has been facing with due to negative impacts of climate change on lives and livelihoods of local people. Besides, he also recognized potentials of mangrove forests as well as outcomes of the project and emphasized that in coming years, AFoCO will continue

to cooperate with Viet Nam to tackle challenges to maintain the stability of mangrove forests in the province, contributing to promotion of livelihood for local communities.

Within the framework of the workshop, participants had opportunity to visit two households in Dong Long commune which are developing livelihood from aquaculture production and processing of *Sonneratia caseolaris* fruits.



Workshop on “Protection and development of mangrove forest in association with sustainable aquaculture production and ecotourism in Thai Binh province” on 27 November 2019



*Visiting a household processing *Sonneratia caseolaris* fruits in Dong Long commune*



Sharing experience on aquaculture production by a farmer in Dong Long commune

Activity 2: Organization of training courses

In order to raise awareness for local people inside and outside the project sites about legal regulations regarding mangrove forest and penalties for administrative violations against forestry regulations, a training course was held on 23 November 2019 in Thuy Xuan Commune. Attending the training, there were about 50 participants from 4 communes in the project sites and some coastal communes having mangrove forests in Thai Binh province. At the training, participants were updated with new regulations of the Forestry Law regarding mangrove forest and the Decree No. 35/2019/NĐ-CP dated 25 April 2019 guiding penalties for administrative violations against forestry regulations.



Activity 3: Communications

Similarly to previous years, communications and progaganda about the project have continued to be strengthened in 2019 via the following activities:

- Dissemination activities about the project and roles of mangrove forest have been regularly conducted in the province and the project sites through monthly news on communal voice stations or integration with commune and village meetings.
- News on Thai Binh television and newspaper about the mangrove forests and project activities, have been produced, for example:
 - + Roles of local people in protection and development of mangrove forests: <http://thaibinh.tv.vn/tin-tuc/81/51262/phat-huy-vai-tro-nguoi-dan-trong-bao-ve-va-phat-trien-rung-ngap-man>
 - + News about the workshop on “*Protection and development of mangrove forest in association with sustainable aquaculture production and ecotourism in Thai Binh province*” on Thai Binh television (<http://thaibinh.tv.vn/tin-tuc/82/50327/hoi-thao-bao-ve-va-phat-trien-rung-ngap-man>) and Thai Binh newspaper (<https://baothaibinh.com.vn/tin-tuc/49/91625/hoi-thao-bao-ve-va-phat-trien-rung-ngap-man-gan-voi-nuoi-trong-thuy-san-va-phat-trien-du-lich-sinh-thai-ben-vung-o-tinh-thai-binh>)
 - + Thai Binh focuses on protection and development of mangrove forests: <https://baovemoitruong.org.vn/thai-binh-chu-trong-cong-tac-bao-ve-va-phat-trien-rung-ngap-man/>
 - + Sustainable livelihood from mangrove forests: <http://thaibinh.tv.vn/tin-tuc/21/50351/phat-trien-sinh-ke-ben-vung-tu-rung-ngap-man>
- As agreed at the 4th PSC meeting 2018, project technical guidelines, including (i) Instruction on nursery technique for 3 mangrove species; (ii) Develop seedling standard, approval standard for silviculture activities; (iii) Guidance on new planting and supplementary planting technique for 3 mangrove plant species; (iv) Guidance on mangrove forest community-based management; and (v) Monitoring and evaluation plan of silviculture activities, have been published and shared with AFoCO. These guidelines will also be shared at the upcoming international events hosted or coordinated by AFoCO.



Technical guidelines were displayed at the workshop on “Protection and development of mangrove forest in association with sustainable aquaculture production and ecotourism in Thai Binh province” held on 27 November 2019

- Promotional items, such as New Year calendar; A5 notebooks; handbook on mangrove forest plantation, tending and protection; posters, have been produced and distributed to stakeholders at central and provincial levels.



Handbook on mangrove forest plantation, tending and protection



Posters about the project were displayed at the workshop on “Protection and development of mangrove forest in association with sustainable aquaculture production and ecotourism in Thai Binh province” held on 27 November 2019

- Especially, experience and achievements of the project have been shared at national and international workshops, for example at the International Workshop on Achievements and Way Forward of AFOCO held on 23 April 2019.



Dr. Pham Duc Chien from Viet Nam Academy of Forest Science shared project implementation and achievements at the International Workshop on Achievements and Way Forward of AFOCO held on 23 April 2019

Activity 4: Mid-term project audit

Following the master work plan of the Project, external audit will be conducted in 2019 and 2024 with the aim of (i) providing expert advice on the financial situation of the project and (ii) assessing the conformity of the project's financial management, accounting and internal controlling system. The mid-term audit is for the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018.

Terms of Reference for the external audit was prepared by the central PMB and agreed by the AFoCO Secretariat on 7 October 2019. Then the Terms of Reference was submitted to VNFOREST for approval. It was approved by VNFOREST on 13 December 2019 under Decision No. 393/QĐ-TCLN-KHTC.

Upon approval of the Terms of Reference by VNFOREST, In accordance with the Law on Bidding, next steps will be conducted in accordance with the Law on Bidding, including call for tenders, tender assessment, tender selection, etc. As such, the mid-term audit has not yet been conducted in 2019 as planned. This activity will be expectedly conducted in first half of 2020 upon completion of bidding procedures as regulated by the law.

III. CONCLUSION

1. General conclusion

Overall, the 2019 activities have been implemented as planned and achieved targeted criteria. Planted forests have well grown, existing forest have been safely protected.

2. Advantages

- Favourable weather in 2019 has helped tending and protection of planted forests on schedule.
- Active participation of local people in forest tending and protection, increased awareness of local people on roles of mangroves.
- Attention from VNFOREST, provincial and local authorities about forest management, protection and development of mangrove forest, provincial orientations to develop ecotourism linked to mangrove forest
- Close cooperation among central PMB, provincial PMB, RIFEE and AFoCO Secretariat

3. Disadvantages

- Change of natural flow has caused sedimentation and erosion in some plantation areas, for example:
 - + Natural phenomenon of sand accretion has caused degradation of seedlings at 2 lots of 2018 new planting and supplementary planting in Thuy Hai Commune (30ha)
 - + There is 01ha affected by natural flow at the 2017 new planting lot in Dong Long Commune (10ha), additional planting has been conducted many times but the current survival rate is about 60%.
 - + Regarding 3ha of *Kandelia obovata* in Thuy Xuan Commune, seedlings have still been degraded.
- There is not enough information and experience about monitoring, management, tending of plantation forest after being handed over to communes for protection, so it is difficult to assess whether forests have been well managed and protected or not.