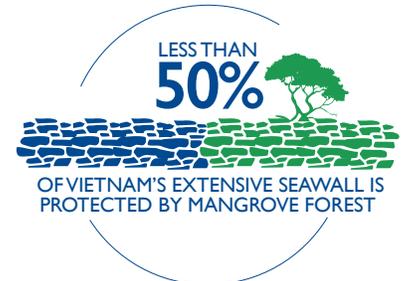
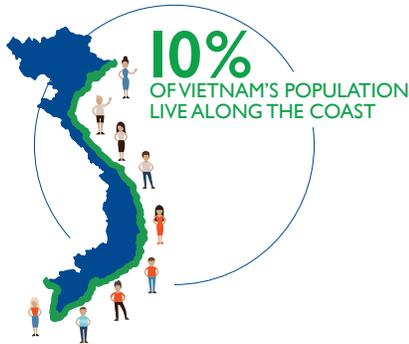


# PROPERTY RIGHTS MATTER FOR COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

## VIETNAM, COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT, AND USAID

Vietnam looks to the sea for livelihoods and economic growth. With 9 million people living in coastal areas, many of which rely on the protection of seawall systems and mangrove forest, Vietnam has a high degree of vulnerability to coastal erosion, storm surge, and sea level rise. In this coastal landscape, there is a complex mix of uses from gleaning a variety of aquatic resources, to small-scale fisheries, to aquaculture, and clam farming. At times, there can be conflicts between these differing uses. The Government of Vietnam has a number of policies and laws related to coastal zone management that address this important resource and, in 2016, added a Coastal Forest Decree to improve the consistency of coastal forest management, including mangrove forests. In support of this decree, USAID, partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), piloted participatory coastal spatial planning and mangrove co-management processes to inform coastal zone management, as well as to support vulnerable livelihoods in the face of economic and environmental changes.

### WHY UNDERTAKE COASTAL SPATIAL PLANNING IN VIETNAM?



### HOW USAID HELPS

Over the past three decades, Vietnam has expanded mangrove forest coverage along its coastline in order to protect coastal areas and communities. Through its Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program, and Tenure and Global Climate Change Program (TGCC), USAID joined this effort by working with three communes in Tien Lang district of Haiphong municipality to develop coastal zone profiles in order to support participatory coastal spatial planning and mangrove co-management. The profiles were developed with the aid of a bottom-up participatory coastal resource assessment and mapping approach, which sought to increase participation among local resource users, particularly women and vulnerable populations, in management planning. The methods deployed by TGCC were shared widely, particularly with MARD, as it scaled up its multi-province coastal forest management program. These methods drew upon USAID's global programs and used technical inputs such as:



# PILOTS TO INFORM POLICY AND SCALING

**STEP 1 - Stakeholder Engagement:** USAID developed and piloted posters and outreach materials on the Coastal Forest Decree of 2016 and the pilot process, reaching thousands of stakeholders in Tien Lang district.



**STEP 2 - Participatory Mapping and Coastal Resource Assessment:** Working with commune and district government and the local Women's Union, communities participated in taking stock of the current state of coastal resources and competing land and coastal zone uses at the commune and district level. These resulted in coastal profiles and a series of participatory maps covering over 10,000 hectares of coastal forest and nearshore waters.



**STEP 3 - Coastal Spatial Planning:** Communities developed scenarios on resource use zones and identified policy and governance issues constraining development through multi-stakeholder dialogues.



**STEP 4 - Coastal Spatial Management Plan:** A selected planning scenario was used to develop a spatial management plan, which provided actionable, local level goals to guide district and commune development. These goals aligned with national development planning that involved dissemination of maps and outreach.



**STEP 5 - Mangrove Co-Management:** Communities evaluated options for mangrove management and planning to reduce conflict and ensure effective mangrove conservation for protecting coastal infrastructure.



**International Cooperating Partners:** Lessons learned from USAID's pilot informed the World Bank Forest Sector Modernization and Coastal Resilience Enhancement Project.

**Local and International CSOs:** Women's Union mobilized communities and integrated management best-practice to supplement their mangrove planting success.

**National Government:** Evaluated the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of scaling up the pilot process to support implementation of the Coastal Forest Decree.

**Local Government:** District and commune government led the bottom up planning process to open dialogue on conflicts and management challenges. Government gained capacity in spatial data collection, management, and map production.

**Aquaculture Operators, Clam Farmers, Small-scale Fisheries, & Coastal Gleaners:** USAID's pilot integrated the social and economic priorities of these stakeholders into a single plan that considered their tenure insecurities over investment and resource rights.

