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PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The European Union, the Agence Française de Développement, and Ca Mau Province accelerate the implementation of a project to protect the coastline, restore coastal ecosystems, and enhance climate change resilience.

CA MAU, VIETNAM - June 13, 2026 - With the support of the European Union (EU) under the Global Gateway strategy, which prioritizes sustainable infrastructure and climate resilience, in partnership with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Ca Mau Province hosted the Coordination Workshop for the Project *"Construction of West sea dike from Cai Doi Vam to Kenh Nam and embankments to prevent coastal erosion at critical sections from Ong Doc estuary to Bay Hap estuary, Ca Mau province"*. The event was attended by representatives from the Ca Mau Provincial People's Committee, AFD, the European Union, and relevant provincial departments and agencies.

Mr. Roberto Ruiz Ruiz, Head of Finance and Contracts at the Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam, stated: *"Through the Global Gateway strategy and the Team Europe approach, the European Union is committed to delivering concrete actions to support Vietnam and Ca Mau Province in effectively responding to climate change. This project – which combines robust technical infrastructure with nature-based solutions, such as mangrove restoration – represents our concrete steps towards directly protecting the safety and livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities, while meaningfully contributing to the sustainable socio-economic development of the entire Mekong Delta region."*

In the context of climate change exerting increasing impacts on the Mekong Delta—particularly with coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and the degradation of mangrove ecosystems becoming severely critical - the Project is being implemented to enhance the resilience of coastal communities in Ca Mau Province, safeguard residents' livelihoods, and promote sustainable socio-economic development. The conference serves as an opportunity for all parties to review the project's implementation progress, evaluate the outcomes of deployed activities, discuss the action plan for the second half of 2026, and agree on solutions to ensure the quality, effectiveness, and sustainability of both structural and non-structural investment components.



*This document is supported by the European Union and Agence Française de Développement.
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With a total investment of 849 billion VND, utilizing an ODA loan from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), a grant mobilized from the European Union (EU), and counterpart funding from the local budget, the project demonstrates the joint commitment of Vietnam and its European development partners in advancing climate change adaptation solutions based on both technical infrastructure and natural ecosystems.

Mr. Julien Seillan, Country Director of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in Vietnam, emphasized: *"Ca Mau Province is one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change in Vietnam, particularly coastal erosion and sea-level rise. Recognizing these challenges, AFD is committed to supporting the province in developing integrated and sustainable coastal protection models under this project. A key feature of this approach is the integration of gray infrastructure, such as sea dikes, with green infrastructure, including mangroves and coastal protection forests, creating a stronger and more resilient coastal defense system. In partnership with the European Union and local authorities, we aim not only to safeguard coastlines and local livelihoods, but also to promote biodiversity conservation and strengthen integrated coastal zone management for future generations."*

Alongside the structural components, which include an approximately 19-km sea dike and an 11-km anti-erosion embankment system, the project also implements numerous non-structural activities. These include mangrove restoration and management, climate-resilient livelihood support, and community awareness-raising on coastal ecosystem protection, with a special focus on supporting the development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy for Ca Mau Province.

During the 2026-2028 period, the project expects to support the new planting of approximately 100 hectares of mangroves, establish and operate 45 farmer groups, implement climate-resilient livelihood models for over 1,000 households, simultaneously strengthen the role of women in economic development activities, and mainstream climate-resilient coastal management activities into existing sectoral plans.

Mr. Lam Van Bi, Vice Chairman of the Ca Mau Provincial People's Committee, stated: *"In less than two years since signing the financing agreement in 2024, we are thrilled to witness the highly encouraging progress being made on the project, particularly with the West sea protection dike, which has reached nearly 80% completion. For the government and people of Ca Mau, these are not merely concrete breakwaters but a vital shield protecting the safety and livelihoods of thousands of coastal households. Today's coordination workshop stands as a testament to the close and practical partnership of the European Union and AFD, helping Ca Mau Province to confidently advance toward completing the entire project by 2028. This will establish a large integrated "Grey" and "Green" system*





which, coupled with the enhanced capacity of local residents and authorities, will contribute to the sustainable development of Ca Mau's Western coastal region”.

The Project Coordination Workshop marks a significant milestone in the project's implementation process while continuing to consolidate the collaboration among local authorities, international donors, and the community. This aims to build a safe, sustainable Ca Mau coastal zone with greater resilience to the challenges of climate change.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Event

The event is organized to enhance communication and coordination among project stakeholders while discussing upcoming implementation plans. Attendees include representatives from the Ca Mau Provincial People's Committee, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam, and relevant parties, seeking to strengthen coordination and promote solutions for coastal protection, mangrove ecosystem restoration, and climate change resilience for coastal communities in Ca Mau Province.

Project Overview

The Project "Construction of the western sea dyke from Cai Doi Vam to Kanh Nam and erosion control embankments for critical coastal sections from Song Ong Doc estuary to Bay Hap estuary, Ca Mau Province" was approved for investment policy by the Prime Minister under Decision No. 1135/QĐ-TTg dated September 4, 2019.

The project has a total investment of over 849 billion VND (31.93 million EUR), of which the ODA loan from AFD is 510 billion VND (19.17 million EUR) and the non-refundable grant mobilized by AFD from the European Union is 100 billion VND (3.76 million EUR), in accordance with the Loan Agreement and Grant Agreement signed on August 22, 2024, between AFD and the Ministry of Finance.

The counterpart funding from Ca Mau Province for the Project is 239 billion VND. The project implementation sites cover four coastal communes: Cai Doi Vam, Nguyen Viet Khai, Phu Tan, and Song Doc (Ca Mau Province). The project implementation period, as per the loan and grant agreements with AFD, spans from 2024 to 2027.

The project aims to control high tides, prevent coastal erosion, restore approximately 2,000 hectares of protection forests, safeguard over 15,000 hectares of productive land, and contribute to the socio-economic development of the coastal area. Concurrently, the project supports sustainable livelihood activities, mainstreams gender equality, and enhances climate change adaptation capacity for local communities.

Project implementation status as of the end of May 2026



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Regarding the civil works utilizing the loan capital, three construction packages are currently underway. By mid-2026, the project is recording highly positive progress. The Western sea protection embankment from the Ong Doc estuary to the Bay Hap estuary has achieved nearly 80% completion, while the Western sea dike segments have also officially commenced construction, targeting the completion of all civil works by the end of 2027.

In parallel, technical assistance activities utilizing the non-refundable grant from the European Union have been implemented with the support of the Technical Assistance (TA) Consultant since January 23, 2026. The TA Consultant is tasked with supporting the Ca Mau Construction Project Management Board in implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the overall project; assessing and developing integrated gray-and-green coastal protection infrastructure solutions; concurrently developing the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy; and assisting coastal residents in managing mangroves and conducting livelihood activities.

Currently, the TA Consultant is actively coordinating with the Ca Mau Construction Project Management Board to deploy work contents and promote the implementation of 2026 livelihood activities. This includes surveying, designing, and formulating mangrove planting plans for the 2026-2028 period, as well as reviewing and evaluating the institutional framework for the development of Ca Mau Province's Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy.





BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About the WARM Facility

The WARM Facility (Water and Natural Resources Management Fund) for the 2020-2033 period, with a total value of 33.5 million euros delegated by the European Union to AFD Vietnam, aims to implement the Team Europe commitments (**#TeamEurope**) in preparing and supporting the execution of infrastructure investment projects in the water and natural resources management sector to strengthen Vietnam's climate change resilience. The experience gained from these projects contributes to enhancing the strategic dialogue of the EU and AFD with the Government of Vietnam on climate, environment, and natural resources.

About the European Union

The European Union is an economic and political union of 27 European countries. It is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. It acts globally to promote sustainable development of societies, environment and economies, so that everyone can benefit.

The European Union launched in 2021 the **#GlobalGateway** strategy that provides the framework for the EU's external action in an evolving international context, to deepen engagement in quality infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries around the world and strengthen the global economy.

#TeamEurope approach: The EU and its Member States work together as #TeamEurope for their joint external action becomes more than the sum of its parts. Jointly, they are one of the most important donors in grants to Vietnam. EU grants to Vietnam are used in line with the country's socio-economic policies and come in support of the government's efforts to restructure the economy with the aim of ensuring long term growth and welfare for its citizens.

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vietnam_en

About the Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) helps advance France's policy on sustainable investment and international solidarity. Through its public sector and NGO financing operations, research and publications (Editions AFD), sustainable development training programs (AFD Group Campus) and awareness-raising activities in France, AFD finances, supports and drives the transition to a fairer, more resilient world.

Alongside our partners, we provide sustainable solutions for – and with – communities. Our teams are working on over 2 700 projects in the field, in over 115 countries, including France's overseas territories, to support projects for climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality and global health. The AFD Group (including Proparco and Expertise France) plays



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a pivotal role in fulfilling the commitment of the French Government and citizens to implementing the SDGs.

Working by your side, toward a world in common.

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