



## Annual Progress Report 2020

January – December 2020

### <Project Profile>

<b>Project code</b>	AFoCO/006/2014
<b>Project Title</b>	Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam
<b>Project Duration</b>	Start date: 29 April 2014 End date: 28 April 2023
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST)
<b>National Focal Point(s)</b>	Mr Tran Hieu Minh, Deputy Director of Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, VNFOREST
<b>Project Site</b>	Thai Thuy and Tien Hai Districts, Thai Binh Province
<b>Target Area</b>	Primary target area: PA 1 (Initiating Customized Restoration & Reforestation Models) Secondary target area: PA 2 (Supporting Research and Development in Climate Change Adaptation Approaches)
<b>Budget Source and of Finance</b>	Total: US \$2,050,000 - AFoCO: US \$1,900,000, funded by KFS - Viet Nam: US \$65,019, in-cash (2016-2023) US \$84,981, in-kind (2016-2023)
<b>Annual Budget and Source of Finance in 2020</b>	Total: US \$114,199 (excluding the carry-over) - AFoCO: US \$106,244 - Viet Nam: US \$7,955, in-cash contribution

### <Implementing Agency Profile>

<b>Name</b>	VNFOREST (Central Project Management Board under the VNFOREST)
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# **Annual Report 2020**

## **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 2021



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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
PSC	Project Steering Committee

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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 2020 annual objectives and outputs and targets of the project are described in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. 2020 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
2020 Target	Tending and protection of 30ha of the 2018 new plantation
Output 1.3	Supplementary planting of mangrove forest: 80 ha
2020 Target	Tending and protection of 30ha of the 2018 supplementary plantation
Output 1.4	Protect new afforestation and supplementary planting areas and existing mangrove areas: 960 ha
2020 Target	Protecting mangrove forest (900ha) including 800ha of existing forest, 40ha of forest planted in 2016 and 60ha of forest planted in 2017 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
2020 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
2020 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 2020

### 1. Completion status and milestones of project activities in 2020

This report covers a period of four quarters (from January to December 2020). Table 2 shows main activities conducted for this period and the respective completion status

**Table 2. Completion status in 2020**

No	Activites	Status of accomplishment
<b>I</b>	<b>MAIN ACTIVITIES</b>	
1	Tending and protection of mangrove forest planted in 2018 (60ha)	Implemented
2	Protection of mangrove forest (900ha, including 800ha of existing mangrove forest, 40ha of forest planted in 2016 and 60ha of forest planted in 2017 handed over for protection)	Implemented
3	Supplement equipment supply	Implemented
<b>II</b>	<b>SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
2019-4	(2019 Remaining) Project mid-term audit	On-going
1	Training courses (01 course)	Implemented
2	Communication	Implemented
3	National Technical Consultancy Agency (NTCA)	Implemented
2019-3	(2019 Remaining) Final payment to NTCA	Implemented
<b>III</b>	<b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</b>	
1	Central Project Management Board	Implemented
2	Provincial Project Management Board	Implemented
3	Contracted supporting staff	Implemented
<b>IV</b>	<b>OTHER COST/CONTINGENCY</b>	

### 2. Project management in 2020

#### 2.1. Project management

In the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 (MARD), internal regulation on planning and payment procedures as well as the AFoCO's regulation. This activity has achieved the following results:

- **Revision of 10-year work and budget plan:** As agreed at the 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the Project "Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam" under the Landmark Program held on 27 November 2019, the whole project activities will be completed in 2023 before the end of the Memorandum of Understanding between VNFOREST and Korea Forest Service (KFS) signed on 29 April 2014. Accordingly, all project activities will be finished before 29 April 2023, and the work plan and budget for the year of 2024 will be reallocated into work plans and budgets for the years between 2020 and 2023. Based on that, the revised 10-year work and the budget plan was agreed by the AFoCO Secretariat on 23 March 2020 (Letter Ref. No. IM-47) and approved by MARD under Decision No. 2030/QĐ-BNN-TC on 5 June 2020.

- **Approval of the 2020 annual work and budget plan:** Based on the revised 10-year work and budget plan approved by the AFoCO Secretariat and MARD, the 2020 annual work and the budget plan was approved by VNFOREST under the Decision No. 173/QĐ-TCLN-KHTC on 25 June 2020. Accordingly, on 26 June 2020, the work and budget plan was allocated to the provincial Project Management Board (PMB).

- **Project monitoring activities:** The project monitoring activities have been conducted by the central and provincial PMBs and the National Technical Consulting Agency (RIFEE) on regular basis. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the project monitoring by AFoCO was carried out through on-line technical session between AFoCO, the central PMB and RIFEE on 18 August 2020 in order to assess the project progress in 2020 and discuss technical issues to ensure the sustainability of the project upon the completion on 29 April 2023. Particularly, from 23 to 27 June 2020, the inspection team assigned by MARD visited the project area to check and inspect the project implementation. The inspection team highly appreciated the achievement of the project, especially the forrest plantation, tending and protection as well as the project management.



*Inspection team checked the plantation sites in Thuy Xuan Commune*



*Online technical session on 18 August 2020*

- **Change of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) members and the central PMB staff:** Because Mrs. Nguyen Tuong Van, Deputy Head of PSC and the National Project Director, has retired since 1 November 2020, the PSC member and the central PMB staff have also been adjusted. The updated list of PSC members and the central PMB staff are detailed in Tables 3 and 4 below.

**Table 3. Updated list of PSC members**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Agency</b>
1	Prof. Dr. Pham Van Dien – Head of PSC	Deputy Director General	VNFOREST
2	Mr. Tran Hieu Minh	Deputy Director	Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, VNFOREST
3	Mr. Pham Xuan Thinh	Deputy Director	Department of Planning, Finance, VNFOREST
4	Mr. Trieu Van Luc	Director	Department of Forest Development, VNFOREST
5	Mrs. Nguyen Thi Nga	Deputy Director	Thai Binh Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
6	Mr. Vo Dai Hai	Director	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science
7	Mr. Park EunSik	Vice Executive Director	AFoCO Secretariat
8	Mr. Orlando A. Panganiban	Director of Cooperation and Project Division	AFoCO Secretariat
9	Ms. Ryang Soozin	Project Manager for Restoration Projects under Landmark Program	AFoCO Secretariat

**Table 4. Updated list of the PMB staff**

No.	Name	Position	Agency
1	Mr. Tran Hieu Minh	National Project Director	Deputy Director, Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, VNFOREST
2	Mr. Luu Tien Dat	Project Coordinator	Principle Official, Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, VNFOREST
3	Mr. Nguyen Duy Thanh	Project Chief Accountant	Head of Accounting Division of Accounting, Office of VNFOREST
4	Ms. Pham Minh Thu	Project Supporting Staff	Contracted staff

**- Organization of the 6<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting:** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 6<sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting was organized via virtual platform on 17 December 2020. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Tran Hieu Minh, Deputy Director of Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation under VNFOREST cum the National Project Director. The meeting focused on (i) reviewing the project progress and financial performance in 2020 and (ii) discussing the project activities in 2021 and other matters related to the project implementation, including the re-plantation of 6.9ha of planted forest devastated due to *force majeure* situations.



*The 6<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting on 17 December 2020*

- **Management of the project offices, equipment and vehicles:** The 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 approved by AFoCO and VNFOREST at the 2020 annual plan, the project has purchased additional project equipment to replace those which are fully depreciated or improperly worked.

- **Mid-term project audit for the period from 1/1/2016 to 31/12/2018:** The bidding plan for the project audit was adjusted by MARD under the Decision No. 3880/QĐ-BNN-XD on 30 September 2020. Accordingly, the procedures for selection of auditing agency were completed in accordance with current regulations.

**2.2. National Technical Consulting Agency**

Based on the Terms of Reference for RIFEE in 2020 and the 2020 consulting contract between the central PMB and RIFEE, RIFEE has supported the central and provincial PMBs to carry out the following activities:

- RIFEE assisted the central PMB to organize a training course for local authorities and local people the the project sites which was held on 13 December 2020 in Dong Long Commune, Tien Hai District, Thai Binh Province. At the training, RIFEE provided updates on the results of baseline study on ecotourism in Thai Binh province.

- Based on the “Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for Silvicultural Activities” approved by VNFOREST in May 2017, RIFEE has checked, monitored, evaluated, and reported the quality and progress of silviculture activities, including forest tending and protection.

- RIFEE has coordinated with the central and provincial PMBs and Thai Binh Forest Protection Department to conduct final verification of the quality of forest planted in 2016 and 2017 in prior to be handed over to communes for protection.

- RIFEE has re-checked the silviculture activities in the field on the basis of 10% of the area of the silviculture activities and reported to the central PMB.

- As agreed at the 5<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting held on 27 November 2019, RIFEE has carried out a baseline study on ecotourism in Thai Binh province. The preliminary result of the study was presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting on 17 December 2020.

In general, RIFEE has closely coordinated with the central and provincial PMB to conduct consulting activities in accordance with the 2020 Terms of Reference and signed consulting contract.

**3. Results of implemented activities in 2020**

According to the detailed annual work and budget plan for 2020, which was endorsed by AFoCO on 23 March 2020 and approved by VNFOREST on 25 June 2020 under the Decision No. 173/QĐ-TCLN-KHTC, the following activities were completed:

**3.1. Objective 1:** New planting, supplementary planting, tending and protecting mangrove forest

Specific outcomes of the Objective 1 are as follows:

- Tending and protection of 60ha of mangrove forest planted in 2018;
- Protection of 900 ha of mangrove forest, including 800ha of existing forest, 40 ha of forest planted in 2016 and 60ha of forest planted in 2017 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 the supplementary plantation, has been well tended according to the plantation designs approved by VNFOREST. Trees have been well grown in accordance with requirements as regulated by MARD under the Decision No. 1205/QĐ-BNN-TCLN dated 8 April 2016 on issuing technical guidelines for plantation of mangrove species as well as in accordance with technical guidelines of the project. According to the Decision No. 1205/QĐ-BNN-TCLN, the survival rate shall reach at least 70%, 60% and 50% after 1 year, 2 years and 3 years, respectively; and trees shall be evenly distributed over the plantation area.

The growth indicators of mangrove forest planted in 2018 are presented in Tables 5 and 6 below.

**Table 5. 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 3 years (%)
<b>I</b>	<b>THAI THUY DISTRICT</b>							
1	Lot 01	15	Thụy Hải Commune	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.6	6	79.2	≥ 50
2	Lot 01	7	Thụy Xuân Commune	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.5	6.5	79.2	≥ 50
<b>II</b>	<b>TIEN HAI DISTRICT</b>							
1	Lot 01	1	Đông Long Commune	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	1.5	2	40	≥ 50
2	Lot 02	2	Đông Long Commune	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.5	6	82.8	≥ 50
3	Lot 01	5	Đông Hoàng Commune	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.6	8	78	≥ 50

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>						
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**Table 6. 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 3 years (%)
<b>I</b>	<b>THÁI THỤY DISTRICT</b>							
1	Lot 02	15	Thụy Hải Commune	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.4	5.5	80	≥ 50
2	Lot 02	7	Thụy Xuân Commune	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.4	5.5	83.3	≥ 50
<b>II</b>	<b>TIỀN HẢI DISTRICT</b>							
1	Lot 03	3	Đông Long Commune	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	2.0	6	83.3	≥ 50
2	Lot 04	3	Đông Long Commune	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	1.8	7	80	≥ 50
3	Lot 02	2	Đông Hoàng Commune	<i>Avicennia marina</i>	1.0	8	83.3	≥ 50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>						



*The plantation forest in Thuy Hai Commune in 2018 (left) and in 2020 (right)*

As of December 2020, the 2018 plantation forest has been well tended and protected according to the approved plantation designs, the density has been ensured and trees have been evenly distributed over the plantation area. Trees have been well grown, breathing roots have strongly developed. At some plots, for example plot 01 at Thuy Xuan Commune and plot 01 at Dong Hoang Commune, the forest canopy has gradually been closed.

However, 1.4 ha of plantation forest in Dong Long Commune (lot 01 and 02) has been devastated due to change of land condition, change of natural flow, deep tidal flooding and occurrence of a vortex.



*The devastation of 1 ha of plantation in Dong Long Commune (Lot 01) due to deep tidal flooding, occurrence of a vortex*



*The devastation of 0.4 ha of plantation forest in Dong Long Commune (Lot 02) due to deep tidal flooding, occurrence of a vortex*

**Activity 2:** Protection of 900 ha of mangrove forests, including 800ha of existing mangrove forests and 40ha of forest planted in 2016, and 60 ha of forest planted in 2017 handed over for protection.

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. As of December 2020, 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, supervised the forest protection of 4 communes, as well as provided technical instructions to these communes to complete the forest management and protection task.

Payment for forest protection activity was transferred to 4 communes two times, in July and December 2020 upon the completion of check-and-acceptance of forest protection activity. Detail of 800ha of mangrove forests for protection is presented in Table 7 below.

**Table 7. Forest area under protection in communes**

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



*Patrolling forest by communal forest protection group*



*Meeting between the provincial PMB and communal forest protection*

Regarding 100ha of plantation forest in 2016 (40 ha) and 2017 (60 ha), this area has been tended and protected according to the approved plantation designs. As of December 2020, the plantation forest has well grown, trees have been evenly distributed over the plantation area, the forest canopy has been closed, breathing roots have strongly developed. Most of the area of the 2016 and 2017 plantation forest has been identified as forest except for 5.5ha of the 2017 plantation forest, including 3ha of supplementary plantation forest in Thuy Xuan Commune and 2.5ha of new plantation forest in Dong Long Commune. This area has been devastated due to change of land condition and change of natural flow. In 2021, the area of forest which has been identified as forest will be handed over to communes for management and protection. The detailed verification of the 2016 and 2017 plantation forest are presented in Tables 8, 9 and 10 below.

**Table 8. Verification of the 2017 new plantation forest**

No.	Planting lot	Plantation design (ha)	Area qualified for forest (ha)	Planting species	Survival rate (%)	Average height (m)	Average root collar diameter (cm)
<b>I</b>	<b>Thai Thuy District</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>				
1	Lot 01 – Thuy Xuan Commune	7	7	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	85	2.9	9.3
2	Lot 02 – Thuy Xuan Commune	3	3	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	75	2.2	7.2
4	Lot 01 – Thuy Hai Commune	6	6	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	80	2	6.4
5	Lot 02 – Thuy Hai Commune	4	4	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	80	2.1	7.1
<b>II</b>	<b>Tien Hai District</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7.5</b>				

7	Lot 01 – Dong Long Commune	10	7.5	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	75	3.5	11.3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>27.5</b>				

**Table 9. Verification of the 2017 supplementary plantation forest**

No.	Planting lot	Plantation design (ha)	Area qualified for forest (ha)	Planting species	Survival rate (%)	Average height (m)	Average root collar diameter (cm)
<b>I</b>	<b>Thai Thuy District</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>				
1	Lot 03 – Thuy Xuan Commune	7	7	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	75	2.1	6.8
		3	0	<i>Kandelia obovata</i>	Degradation of 3ha of <i>Kandelia obovata</i> due to change of land condition		
2	Lot 03 – Thuy Hai Commune	8	8	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	70	2	6.2
<b>II</b>	<b>Tien Hai District</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>				
1	Lot 02 – Dong Long Commune	7	7	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	80	2.3	7.1
2	Lot 01 – Dong Hoang Commune	5	5	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	90	2.8	7.6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>				



*New planted forest in Dong Long Commune in 2017 (left) and in 2020 (right)*

**Table 10. Verification of the 2016 new and supplementary plantation forest**

No.	Planting lot	Plantation design (ha)	Area qualified for forest (ha)	Planting species	Survival rate (%)	Average height (m)	Average root collar diameter (cm)
<b>I</b>	<b>NEW PLANTATION</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>				
1	Lot 02 – Thuy Xuan Commune	10	10	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	85	3.5	11.8
2	Lot 02 – Dong Long Commune	10	10	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	84	3.1	10.9
<b>II</b>	<b>SUPPLEMENTARY PLANTATION</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>				
1	Lot 01 – Thuy Xuan Commune	10	10	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	79	3.3	9.8
2	Lot 01 – Dong Long Commune	10	10	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	79	3	9.1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>				



*New planted forest in Thuy Xuan Commune in 2016 (left) and in 2020 (right)*

### **3.2. Objective 2: Supporting activity**

#### ***Activity 1: Training course***

In order to provide updated legal regulations in the forestry sector to local communities, the central PMB in collaboration with the provincial PMB and RIFEE organized a training course on 13 December 2020 in Dong Long Commune, Tien Hai District, Thai Binh Province. There were about 50 participants to the training coming from VNFOREST, central and provincial PMBs, RIFEE and 4 communes in the project sites, of which female participants accounted for about 10%. At the training, the participants were provided updates on forest protection activities of 4 communes, legal regulation on penalties for administrative violations against forestry regulations. Besides, the participants were also provided preliminary results of baseline study on ecotourism in Thai Binh province by RIFEE.



*Training for 4 communes on 13 December 2020*

**Activity 2: Communications**

Similarly to previous years, communications and progaganda about the project have continuously been 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 and articles about roles of mangrove forest were posted on the provincial newspapers or portal, such as:

+ Article “Tien Hai: Protection and development of mangrove forests” on Thai Binh portal: <https://thaibinh.gov.vn/tin-tuc/van-hoa-xa-hoi/tien-hai-bao-ve-phan-trien-rung-ngap-man.html>;

+ Three parts of the Article “Mangrove forest: Disaster shield” on Thai Binh newspaper: <https://baothaibinh.com.vn/tin-tuc/90/99778/rung-ngap-man-la-chan-thien-tai-ky-i>; <https://baothaibinh.com.vn/tin-tuc/190/99831/rung-ngap-man-la-chan-thien-tai-ky-2>; <https://baothaibinh.com.vn/tin-tuc/90/99944/rung-ngap-man-la-chan-thien-tai-ky-3>.

- Promotional items, such as New Year calendar, have been produced and distributed to stakeholders at central and provincial levels.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

#### **1. General conclusion**

Despite the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, all the 2020 activities have been implemented as planned and achieved the target. Planted forests have well grown, existing forest have been safely protected.

#### **2. Advantages**

- Favourable weather in 2020 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
- ODA budget is provided in timely manner and in accordance with the project document

#### **3. Disadvantages**

- Change of natural flow has caused sedimentation and erosion in some plantation areas, for example:
  - + 2 lots of 2018 new plantation in Dong Long Commune (Lot 01 and Lot 02): due to natural phenomenon causing erosion, trees are degraded and died (1,4ha).
  - + New planting lot in Dong Long Commune in 2017: there is 2.5ha degraded due to change of natural flow in estuary area, leading to current survival rate of about 30%
  - + Regarding 3ha of *Kandelia obovata* in Thuy Xuan Commune, seedlings have still been degraded.
  - + 3ha of *Kandelia obavata* in Thuy Xuan Commune in 2017: Trees are degraded due to long tidal flooding time, unable to become forest.