

Working
together to
mitigate marine
plastic debris.



Supported by:
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PLASTIC
SMARTCITIES



PLASTIC PROGRAM NEWS

Issue 18 - Q4/2024

Project Mitigating marine plastic debris in Viet Nam (BMU) approved under Decision no. 1426/QĐ-BTNMT dated July 02, 2020, by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. The Project is funded by German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection. The project is expected to contribute tackling the incidence of negative impacts imposed by plastic waste on Viet Nam through facilitating the development of guidelines on policy advocacy and communication programs to capacity building, awareness raising and behaviour change, towards the mitigation of marine plastic debris. The project constitutes a potential contributor to the reduction of marine plastic debris in Viet Nam and the materialisation of the National Action Plan for Marine Plastic Debris Management in Viet Nam by 2030. The project is jointly implemented by the Viet Nam Agency of Seas and Islands, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, WWF-Viet Nam and local partners in 9 provinces/cities from October 2019 to December 2023.

Project “Hue - A Plastic Smart City in Central Viet Nam” (TVA) was built with the funding of WWF-Norway (through WWF-Viet Nam) and received by the Hue City People’s Committee. The goal of the project is to support the city in protecting its rivers and the ecosystem of its wetlands and coastal areas from plastic waste pollution, through a series of interventions with the participation of stakeholders including private-public sectors, and local communities, with the aim of reducing 30% of plastic waste leakage by 2024. The project is implemented over 4 years, from 2021-2024 with the ambition of making Hue become a plastic smart city by 2030.



An underwater photograph showing a diver in the background and a large, white, cylindrical object, possibly a piece of marine infrastructure or a large pipe, in the foreground. The water is clear and blue.

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COMMUNICATIONS

(BMU)

Training of Trainers on environmental education and reducing ocean plastic waste for key staff and teachers in coastal provinces and cities nationwide

Activity code: 1.3.3.1_2024

As part of the Training of Trainers (TOT) program on environmental education and the practice of reducing plastic waste in schools in coastal provinces/cities nationwide, the Project has collaborated with the Vietnam Nature and Environment Preservation Association to organize a two-day training course on December 10 and 11, 2024, in Hanoi. This course targets key staff and teachers from coastal provinces/cities in the Northern region. For the Southern region, the Project, in collaboration with Van Lang University, organized training course on December 12 and 13, 2024 for core staff and teachers from coastal provinces/cities.



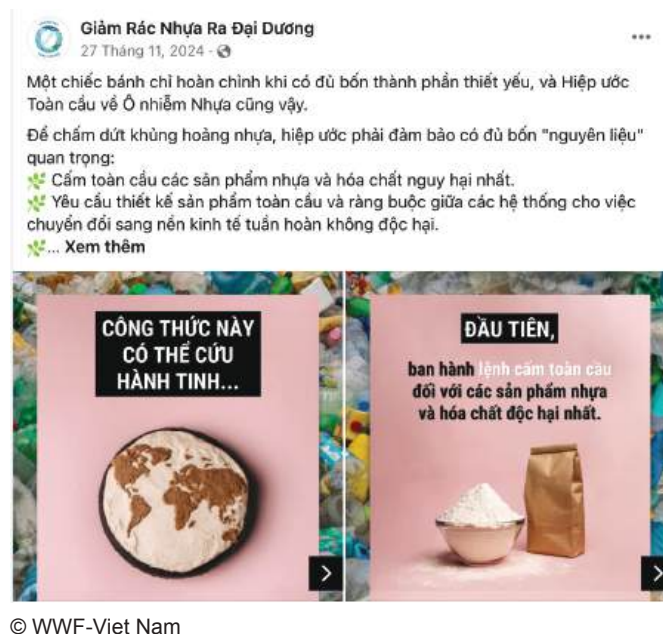
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Through a participant-centered approach, the training course not only provides general theories on reducing plastic waste and developing extracurricular plans and programs for students but also offers opportunities for participants to interact directly through group discussions and experience sharing among schools. Additionally, within the framework of the training sessions, the Project has introduced teaching tools to support representatives from participating schools in developing a suitable and practically implementable plastic reduction plan.

Along with the results from the training course for participants from coastal provinces/cities in the Central region, which will be held in the second quarter of 2024, the Project has completed the TOT training program on environmental education and ocean plastic waste reduction for over 150 core staff and teachers in coastal provinces/cities nationwide.

Promoting the outcomes from the Fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) regarding the Global Plastics Treaty

Activity code: 1.2.3.3_2024



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From November 25 to December 11, 2024, the city of Busan, South Korea, became the center of crucial discussions about the future of global plastics. The fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) brought together more than 3,800 delegates from over 170 countries and 600 organizations, all working towards an ambitious goal: adopting a global agreement to limit plastic production and eliminate toxic chemicals in the manufacturing process. During the nearly two-week conference, key issues were discussed passionately, from reducing plastic production to developing regulations on toxic chemicals. While many tense discussions took place, there were also hopeful moments of consensus. This was a positive signal that

the international community is coming together to address the problem of plastic pollution and protect the Earth.

Since the First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) in 2022, the Project has actively supported communication about the process of building and negotiating this historic Global Agreement. On the Project's official fanpage, 10 posts have provided updates on the INC-5. Additionally, three articles have been published in the Natural Resources and Environment Newspaper, helping to spread the message and support Vietnam's active participation in the negotiation process.

Conference to evaluate communication efforts to raise awareness and change behavior regarding plastic reduction

Activity code: 1.2.3.1_2024

On December 6, 2024, in Da Nang City, the Centre for Natural Resources and Environment Communication (CNREC) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment held a conference to evaluate communication efforts aimed at raising awareness and changing behavior regarding plastic reduction. The event was organised in a hybrid model, with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Departments of Natural Resources and Environment from various provinces and cities, international organizations, and socio-political organizations.

At the conference, representatives from the Project's Communication Component shared experiences in implementing behavior change communication campaigns, highlighted practical lessons, and made recommendations to improve communication effectiveness. The



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Project's outstanding results in reducing single-use plastics were also presented and disseminated to delegates.

The conference provided an opportunity for participants to discuss innovative communication solutions, contributing to the replication of effective models nationwide. The commitment to the 'Against Plastic Waste' movement continues to drive future communication initiatives, working towards a green, clean, and sustainable Vietnam.

Introducing plastic pollution reduction solutions at the Green Economy Forum & Exhibition (GEFE) 2024

Activity code: 1.2.1.1_2024

From October 21 to 23, 2024, WWF-Vietnam participated in the Green Economy Forum & Exhibition (GEFE) in Ho Chi Minh City, organized by the

European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (EuroCham), to showcase innovative solutions for tackling plastic pollution, implemented through two key



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projects: “Reducing Marine Plastic Waste in Vietnam” and “Hue – A Plastic Smart City in Central Vietnam.”

The “Mitigating marine plastic debris” project serves as a national model for collective action against “white pollution” in Vietnam. The Project focuses on reducing plastic waste leakage into the ocean by improving waste management

systems and fostering behavior change in coastal communities. Meanwhile, the “Hue: Plastic Smart City in Central Vietnam” initiative aims to position Hue as a leading local model for plastic reduction by integrating technology, engaging communities, and advancing policy reforms.

Through illustrated models, behaviour-change communication materials, and interactive on-site activities, WWF’s exhibition booth showcased practical, scalable solutions applicable to other regions. Additionally, it sought to attract further funding to accelerate Vietnam’s transition towards a circular plastic economy, contributing to global efforts in tackling plastic pollution.

Introduction to the comic book ‘Finding the Blue’ - environmental protection education for children

Activity code: 1.3.2.2_2024



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In the third and fourth quarters of 2024, the two projects, “Mitigating marine plastic debris in Vietnam” and “Hue – A Plastic Smart City in Central Vietnam,” collaborated to create and develop the comic book “Finding the Blue.” This innovative resource aims to educate children about the importance of reducing plastic waste and protecting the environment. Through an engaging storyline and relatable characters, the book takes young readers on an exciting journey to explore the negative impacts of plastic waste on nature and learn how small actions can help protect the planet.

Beyond its educational value, the comic book also provides entertaining moments with vivid illustrations and easy-to-understand language. “Finding the Blue” serves as an effective teaching tool in extracurricular programs, helping children develop environmental awareness from an early

age and contributing to building a young generation with a green and responsible lifestyle.

Read the comic book “Finding the Blue City” here: <https://vietnam.panda.org/?388956/Truy-tim-mau-xanh>.

Enhancing policy communication capacity (VASI Website)

Activity code: 1.2.3.6_2024

In the rapidly evolving era of digital transformation, optimising digital communication skills has become essential for effectively conveying messages on plastic waste reduction. Strengthening digital communication capacity is a key factor in enabling government agencies to better disseminate messages and promote plastic waste reduction actions within the community.

To address this need, the Project collaborated with experts to support policy communication and optimise digital content. In Q4/2024, a guideline on website content optimisation was

developed to improve the visibility of the Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI) portal at www.vasi.org.vn on Google. The guideline focuses on SEO (Search Engine Optimization) techniques, ensuring that articles are quickly indexed and reach a wider audience.

Additionally, articles on the VASI portal have been optimized to share plastic waste management experiences from Southeast Asian countries. These valuable lessons provide practical insights for policymakers to enhance waste management efficiency and develop sustainable solutions.

Handover and operational support for the Project’s information portal

Activity code: 1.1.2.1_2024

Launched in October 2020, the website of www.giamracnhua.vn has become a key platform for sharing information on communication activities, business engagement, education, and media

relations within the scope of the Project. With a user-friendly and intuitive interface, the website effectively supports plastic waste reduction programs.

Recently, the website was handed over to the Department of Science, Technology, and International Cooperation under the Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI). After taking over management, the department's team has actively developed and updated content, publishing over 10 articles and news pieces related to VASI's activities, the project's progress, and the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations, covering discussions from the fourth session in Canada to the fifth session in Busan, South Korea. These updates aim to spread awareness about environmental protection.

In addition, technical experts have supported improvements in page load speed, enhanced security through the HTTPS system, and ensured compatibility across multiple electronic devices.

The handover and maintenance of the website giamracnhua.vn ensure that information on plastic waste reduction continues to be widely disseminated, contributing to raising public awareness.

Promoting and advocating the reduction of single-use plastic packaging in e-commerce

Activity code: 1.2.2.4

In Q4/2024, the project continued to implement advocacy activities and promote the reduction of single-use plastic packaging in e-commerce. During this phase, a report was completed based on engagement with 15 merchants operating on e-commerce platforms.

The report focuses on key topics, including: The current state of single-use plastic packaging in e-commerce; Merchants' awareness of the impact of plastic packaging; Consumer demand for green consumption; Solutions for reducing plastic packaging in e-commerce.

The engagement results show that sellers on e-commerce platforms wish to transition to using environmentally

friendly packaging. Specifically:

- Proposing the development of various types of green packaging that meet quality, aesthetic, and cost criteria.
- Enhancing public awareness of green consumption, thereby promoting consensus among businesses, consumers, and logistics providers.
- Requesting regulatory support in developing sustainable packaging standards and promoting awareness campaigns.

Thus, advocating for the reduction of plastic packaging in e-commerce not only helps limit plastic waste pollution but also creates momentum for businesses to transition to sustainable business models.

Communicating the Project's results through media channels

Activity code: 1.2.3.1



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In the fourth quarter of 2024, several articles sharing the project's results and success stories were published across various media channels, targeting different audiences. The articles focused on the Project's key achievements in Con Dao, Phu Yen, Da Nang, and Ha Tinh, contributing to the spread of the message on plastic reduction and environmental protection.

Key media channels:

- Natural Resource and Environment Magazine: This platform published several articles that provide in-depth analysis of the Project's activities and outcomes, including English-language articles about The Plastic Smart Cities

program, which were featured on the magazine's English website. The articles not only reflect the achievements but also offer recommendations and guidance on applying the model in other countries.

- The official website of the Vietnam National Authority of Tourism (vietnamtourism.gov.vn): This site shared successful models related to plastic reduction at sustainable tourism sites.
- Environmental News: Focuses on real-life stories from local communities, helping to spread awareness within the community.

These communication activities not only raise public awareness about the importance of plastic reduction but also lay the groundwork for scaling up successful models both domestically and internationally.

Disseminating the project's results through communication about the models and experiences from Phu Yen and Con Dao

Activity code: 1.1.4.1_2024

On October 4, 2024, in Phu Yen, the workshop titled “Sharing experiences in implementing successful models and initiatives in localities for managing and reducing plastic waste” was held. On this occasion, the project organized a field trip for reporters from The People’s Deputies Newspaper and VTC News Online, allowing them to engage with local leaders, conduct interviews, and learn more about the models implemented. The post-workshop articles emphasized the importance of scaling up low-cost, easily implementable models that deliver high environmental impact, making a meaningful contribution to environmental protection.

Following this, on November 29-30, 2024, a team of reporters from Vietnam Television (VTV1) conducted

a documentary in Con Dao, capturing the project’s exemplary models, such as the “Green Schools”, waste classification at source, and the “Green Offerings Basket” initiative. The documentary also highlighted local efforts in waste management and air quality improvement through the use of advanced measurement equipment.

These media activities have effectively amplified the project’s key lessons and successes. Collaborating with media has not only brought the project’s message closer to the public but also created a positive ripple effect, encouraging other localities to participate in and adopt plastic reduction models.



POLICY AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

(BMU)

WWF's workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Indonesia

Activity code: 2.2.4.1_2024



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The 2024 WWF Global annual workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) took place in Jakarta, Indonesia, from October 8 to 11, 2024, providing a key opportunity to connect representatives from 13 national offices, including WWF-Vietnam.

This workshop was not only a chance for network members to recognize

achievements but also to share challenges in implementing EPR in each country. Additionally, technical knowledge on EPR and the circular economy, along with strategies for WWF's next-phase activities, were key topics covered in the workshop sessions. Discussions focused on legal frameworks for EPR, expanding EPR initiatives and integrating them into Plastic Smart Cities programs, enhancing corporate engagement in EPR implementation. Vietnamese representatives shared and discussed the Project outcomes and experiences across all workshop topics. Furthermore, new opportunities for the continued implementation and development of EPR were actively explored during the sessions, paving the way for WWF's next phase of EPR initiatives.

Consultation meeting on green e-commerce criteria set

Activity code: 2.1.1.8_2024

The Project has been implementing the research, survey, and recommendation of safe management practices for household solid waste (including plastic waste) since June 2024. This includes developing a set of criteria to guide the assessment and identification of green e-commerce enterprises, sustainable e-commerce models, and

alternatives to non-biodegradable plastic packaging.

In October 2024, the consulting team finalized the Criteria Set and held an expert consultation meeting to review the research results. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Project, the consulting team, Vietnam

E-commerce and Digital Economy Agency, Vietnam E-commerce Association (VECOM), digital enterprises, and several university experts. During the meeting, delegates were provided with updates on the policy and legal framework for environmental protection in the e-commerce sector for the 2026-2030 period, as well as an overview of the environmental and e-commerce criteria sets.

Notably, the Green E-commerce Criteria Set was introduced for the first time, with stakeholder feedback being actively collected. According to the consulting

team's research, green e-commerce is defined as online business practices aimed at reducing waste, greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, traffic congestion, and noise, while promoting environmental responsibility throughout the business process, from production and supply to consumers, and through collection, recycling, and reuse. The Criteria Set is expected to serve as a foundation for supporting the sustainable and environmentally friendly development of e-commerce in Vietnam, including efforts to reduce packaging waste, materials, and plastic tools."

Technical workshop "Towards Busan - a scenario for Vietnam"

Activity code: 2.3.1.4_2024_VASI

On November 5, 2024, in Hanoi, the technical workshop "Towards Busan - Scenarios for Vietnam" was held ahead of the 5th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) for the Global Plastics Treaty. The workshop aimed to consult and develop Vietnam's negotiation strategy and scenarios.

The event was chaired by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), with the support of WWF-Vietnam, within the framework of the Project, NPAP, and UNDP. At the workshop, Ms. Nguyen Thi Dieu Thuy, Director of the Plastic Reduction Program at WWF-Vietnam, expressed expectations for INC-5, emphasizing that, in addition



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to contributing to the success of the Global Plastics Treaty, the session would provide Vietnam with an opportunity to assert its leadership role in the region in the fight against plastic pollution, becoming a model for plastic waste reduction, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

Supporting the Vietnamese delegation's participation in the 5th session (INC-5) of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Legally Binding Global Plastics Treaty

Activity code: 2.3.1.1_2024_VASI



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The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Global Plastics Treaty (INC-5) was held in Busan, Korea, from November 24 to December 2, 2024. Following a series of technical assistance activities—including research on the impact of increasing multilateral organizational involvement in plastic pollution management on negotiations; identifying criteria for problematic and avoidable plastic products and proposing

a roadmap for their management and reduction; assessing the current status of marine plastic debris in Vietnam; and sharing international perspectives, including WWF's position on the draft elements of the Global Plastics Treaty to provide recommendations for Vietnam's negotiation strategy. The Project also sponsored four delegates from the Vietnamese negotiating team to attend the session.

The negotiations lasted over a week but concluded without a final treaty version agreed upon by all nations, leaving some disappointment. However, WWF remains optimistic, as the strong call from most governments for legally binding global measures to end plastic pollution signals continued progress.

Supporting the Vietnamese delegation at the 2024 East Asian Seas Congress

Activity code: 2.3.1.2_2024_VASI

The Project supported the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment delegation in attending the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress, hosted by PEMSEA, from November 5 to 9, 2024, in Xiamen, China. This international conference

brought together nearly 1,000 delegates from 20 countries around the world. The Vietnamese delegation was led by Mr. Nguyen Duc Toan, Director of the Vietnam Agency of Seas and Islands and Director of the Project Management Board. In the

Activity code: 2.1.5.1_2024



major businesses, NGOs, universities, research institutes, and leading experts in circular economy (CE).

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PLASTIC SMART CITIES

(BMU)

Workshop on sharing experiences and outcomes of evaluating the effectiveness of models within the framework of Plastic Smart Cities in Vietnam

Activity code: 3.1.2.1_2024



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On October 4, 2024, in Tuy Hoa City, Phu Yen Province, the Project organized a technical workshop to share experiences in implementing successful models and initiatives at local levels, while also discussing the results of pilot model effectiveness assessments within the Plastic Smart Cities (PSC) program.

During the workshop, various presentations and discussions were held on experiences in implementing pilot models from different partners, including enhancing urban waste management and expanding waste collection

systems, reducing plastic pollution through innovative solutions, plastic waste reduction practices in tourism and education sectors and community engagement initiatives led by social organizations to raise public awareness.

Additionally, the findings from an independent evaluation of pilot models within the PSC program in Vietnam were presented to attendees, including those involved in the management, operation, and direct beneficiaries of these models. The assessment was conducted systematically and scientifically, and the workshop was highly appreciated by participants for providing a valuable forum for discussion.

The event generated dynamic exchanges, with valuable feedback, recommendations, and insights recorded to improve, sustain, and scale up the models in the future.

Support data digitization and software development to enhance solid waste management in Ha Tinh

Activity code: 3.3.2.5_2024

In line with Plan No. 832/UBND-TNMT dated April 3, 2024, issued by the Ha Tinh City People's Committee regarding

the implementation of the 2024 Plastic Waste Management Action Plan, which aims to finalize the city's solid waste

management plan and pilot models under this framework, and to effectively implement Plan No. 119/KH-UBND dated August 29, 2024, on data digitization and the development of a household waste management software system, the Project has collaborated with the city to carry out the following key activities:

- Developing a comprehensive waste source database for the entire city
- Providing technical infrastructure (software) and managing the database (user accounts).
- Conducting training sessions and transferring software management to the responsible units.



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These tasks were carried out in Q4/2024, with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Ha Tinh City serving as the lead agency and GRAC Technology Joint Stock Company as the service provider. In 2025, the city will allocate funding to maintain and operate the model.

Supporting the improvement of the waste separation and collection system in Dong Hoi City

Activity code: 3.3.2.5_2024



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Dong Hoi is the 10th city to sign a commitment to participate in the Plastic Smart Cities program in Vietnam and has issued Action Plan 174/KH-UBND dated April 16, 2024 of Dong Hoi City People's Committee on implementing activities on plastic waste management in

Dong Hoi City in 2024 - 2025. To support Dong Hoi City in strengthening household waste management, improving the collection system, and preventing the loss of plastic waste into the environment, the Project has collaborated with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the City's Public Service Management Board. This collaboration has led to an agreement to add new equipment to the city's waste collection system and to research and renovate existing equipment to improve work efficiency and reduce the labor burden on sanitation workers. These support includes:

- 50 HDPE waste bins (240 liters each).
- 30 waste collection devices for tourist beaches.
- Upgrading the beach screening machine (installing an additional waste container, towing hooks, and other components).
- 10 recycling waste collection devices along coastal roads (scheduled for handover in Q1-2025).

With these additions, it is expected that the management and collection of urban waste in Dong Hoi City will significantly improve, contributing to the creation of a greener, cleaner, and more beautiful living environment for local residents. This initiative aligns with the city's sustainable tourism development goals and aims to minimize waste pollution.

Finalizing the draft proposal for household waste management in Dong Hoi and organizing a local consultation workshop

Activity code: 3.3.2.5_2024

To support Dong Hoi City in developing a project for Household Solid Waste Management (HSWM), including separation, collection, storage, transportation, and treatment of solid waste in compliance with the Law on Environmental Protection 2020, the Project has mobilized technical and financial resources, with a consulting team from the University of Sciences, Hue University. The team conducted research and developed a draft urban solid waste management proposal, ensuring feasibility with local conditions and the waste management strategies of Quang Binh Province and Dong Hoi City.

Accordingly, the consulting team has undertaken the following tasks:

- Reviewing the legal framework and current practical status related to the planning and implementation of solid waste management/domestic waste management in Dong Hoi City.



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- Surveying and assessed the current status of emissions and HSWM in the city, as well as the orientation and demand for waste separation at source, collection, and treatment of domestic waste in Dong Hoi.
- Developing a plan for the classification, collection, storage, transportation, and treatment of domestic waste for Dong Hoi City with a vision to 2030, integrating legal and practical considerations along with the waste management planning and orientation in Quang Binh Province.

The draft proposal will be circulated for written consultation with relevant agencies under the Dong Hoi People's Committee in January 2025. Feedback

and suggestions will be collected and incorporated, after which the consulting team will refine and finalize the proposal for submission to Dong Hoi City.

Deploying a plastic reduction school model in Dong Hoi city

Activity code: 3.4.2.4_2021



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The Project has collaborated with the Department of Education and Training of Dong Hoi City to implement pilot activities aimed at reducing plastic waste in the city, including:

- Conducting awareness campaigns on plastic reduction in schools through

school radio, communication posters, and social media.

- Developing lectures that integrate content on plastic reduction.
- Implementing the separation and collection of recyclable waste at selected schools.
- Piloting leaf composting at select schools.

To support these activities, the Project has provided 47 plastic reduction communication posters to all schools in the city, donated 10 recyclable waste sorting devices to 10 schools, and distributed 5 leaf composting tools to 5 pilot schools.

Enhancing the collection of used pesticide packaging in Dong Hoi

Activity code: 3.3.2.3_2021

To improve the collection rate of hazardous plastic waste—used pesticide packaging, the project has supported installing collection tanks in agricultural areas in Ha Tinh, Rach Gia, and A Luoi. In Q4/2024, this initiative was expanded to Dong Hoi City. Following a proposal from the Dong Hoi City People's Committee, the Project has supported



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the construction and installation of 99 small tanks (0.6 - 0.7m³ per tank) and 5 centralized tanks (6m³ per tank) across 4 communes and wards. Additionally, 7 handcarts have been provided to assist with the transfer of waste from small tanks to centralized tanks. The Project has also donated 30 sets of protective equipment to 6 wards and communes involved in the collection of pesticide packaging. The protective equipment includes clothing, boots, glasses, hats, masks, and gloves to ensure the safety of the collection teams in each ward and commune.

After the handover of infrastructure and equipment, the Dong Hoi People's Committee will take over responsibility for ongoing collection efforts in agricultural areas and contract licensed waste treatment units to properly collect and dispose of this hazardous waste. Additionally, local authorities in each commune/ward will continue to raise awareness among farmers; encouraging proper disposal and promoting monitoring and enforcement of environmental protection regulations.

Promoting women's movement in environmental protection and urban plastic waste reduction

Activity code: 3.3.2.3_2021, 3.3.2.3_2023



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1. In Q4/2024, the Hà Tĩnh City Women's Union continued to develop and expand the following models:

- Guidance on Indigenous Microorganism (IMO) production and application of IMO in household organic waste treatment after source separation.
- Construction and installation of "Green Houses" for collecting recyclable waste in

the community to raise charity funds for the Women's Union.

Accordingly, three training courses were conducted, with the main instructors being members who had been trained and possessed extensive practical experience. A total of 180 new trainees, all members of the Women's Union, participated in the production and application IMO in organic waste treatment at households. Additionally, 10 Green Houses for collecting recyclable waste were provided to branches in the city, contributing to the collection of an average of 60 kg of recyclable waste per month per Green House, which in turn supported the City's charity fund.

2. In Dong Hoi: In Q4/2024, the Dong Hoi City Women's Union, in collaboration with the Project, launched the plastic bag reduction market model at Dong Hoi Market and Nam Ly Market—the two largest markets in the city. The model primarily focuses on raising awareness among traders and consumers about reducing plastic bag usage and increasing the reuse of old plastic bags. The Project supported the design and installation of 12 plastic reduction communication posters (6 posters per market) in high-traffic areas and provided 4 cabinets for storage of clean plastic bags for reuse (2 cabinets per market). Additionally, the Women's Union and the Project collaborated with the Market Management Boards to conduct direct communication efforts and use the market's loudspeaker system to promote the reduction of plastic waste and encourage the reuse of plastic bags. Over the two months of the model's implementation, members



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of the City Women's Union contributed 30 kg of plastic bags to the 4 cabinets, contributing to behavior change among many participants.

In the coming period, the Women's Union will continue to collaborate with the Market Management Board to promote and encourage traders at the markets to effectively operate the model of cabinets for reusing old plastic bags. At the same time, they will conduct awareness campaigns to mobilize city residents to actively reduce the use of plastic bags and other disposable plastics.

Continue to encourage and monitor activities for bringing waste ashore in Vung Ro, Dong Ha Town, Phu Yen Province

Activity code: 3.3.2.7_2024

To maintain the results achieved from eliminating pollution hotspots and implementing interventions to prevent recontamination in Vung Ro Bay, Dong Hoa Town, Phu Yen Province, targeting floating fish farm owners, the Project has agreed on a coordination plan with the People's Committee of Hoa Xuan Nam Commune and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Phu Yen

Province. This plan includes continuing to strengthen communication and advocacy efforts in Vung Ro Bay, enhancing monitoring activities, reminding all floating fish farm owners to bring waste ashore, conducting periodic clean-up operations to remove plastic pollution hotspots, including long-accumulated waste in the bay.



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At the end of November, the Hoa Xuan Nam Commune People's Committee mobilized the community to participate in cleaning up the remaining plastic waste on the main beach, collecting nearly 8 tons of waste, most of which was plastic. In December, the Project continued its support by providing 154 additional regulation signs on bringing

waste to shore, as well as 310 mesh bags for 154 new boats and rafts in the area, to ensure that boat owners are aware of local regulations. The Hoa Xuan Nam Commune People's Committee has consistently carried out awareness campaigns, installed regulatory boards, distributed mesh waste bags, and monitored compliance with waste disposal regulations throughout Q4/2024 and into 2025.

This activity is one of the most notable initiatives carried out in Phu Yen in 2024 with the Project's resources, and also one of the initiatives requiring significant effort from all stakeholders to sustain results. Particularly, the strong and continuous involvement of local authorities in management, operation, and monitoring efforts remains a critical factor in achieving those above success.

The workshop on summary of the model “Mobilizing fishermen to bring waste ashore” in Phu Yen in 2024

Activity code: 3.3.2.6_2024

In accordance with the Plan No. 24/KHPH-STNMT-SNN&PTNT-WWF dated May 2, 2024, between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Phu Yen Province, and the Project, the implementation of mobilizing fishermen to bring waste ashore model at four fishing ports: Dong Tac, Phu Lac,



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Tien Chau, and Dan Phuoc has been successfully carried out, yielding many positive results.

On December 20, a symmary workshop for the 'Mobilizing Fishermen to Bring Waste Ashore' model was jointly organized in Tuy Hoa City, with nearly 60 participants from government agencies, the Phu Yen Fishing Port Management Board, representatives of four fishing ports, and over 20 fishermen representing nearly 500 participants in the model. At the event, stakeholders reviewed the activities and achievements in 2024, highlighting:

- 493 out of 500 fishing vessels were selected to participate in the model.
- 434 out of 495 vessels (88%) signed commitments and received support.
- 373 out of 434 (86%) committed boats were recorded bringing waste ashore and handing it over to the Fishing Port Management Board.
- A total of 5,346 kg of waste was collected, with 55% recycled and 45% non-recycled.

During the workshop, stakeholders also discussed the future direction of the model in 2025, emphasizing the role of local stakeholders in gradually taking ownership, operating, and maintaining the model.

Summary workshop on the 2024 plastic waste management plan in A Luoi District and Discussion on the 2025 Plan

Activity code: 3.3.2.3_2024



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On December 27, 2024, the Project, in coordination with the People's Committee of A Luoi District, organized a workshop "Reviewing the implementation of the 2024 plastic waste management plan and discussing the 2025 plan" in

A Luoi District. Representatives from relevant departments, unions, and the People's Committees of communes/towns attended the workshop.

On behalf of the District People's Committee, the A Luoi District Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE) presented a report on key achievements in implementing the 2024 plastic waste management plan. Accordingly, with strong support and coordination from the project, most activities outlined in the plan were effectively and practically implemented by stakeholders. Notably, these include

efforts to complete the process of collecting, transporting, and treating household waste in the expanded areas of Hong Bac, Hong Thai, and A Roang communes, as well as the collection, transport, and treatment of hazardous waste (such as pesticide packaging) and support for local initiatives.

These achievements serve as a crucial foundation for A Luoi District to become more proactive in securing both financial and technical resources for the operation and management of waste.

Enhancing communication activities on single-use plastic reduction at Han Market, Da Nang, targeting foreign tourists

Activity code: 3.3.2.2_2023

Continuing the implementation of Plan No. 1681/KH-SCT dated June 28, 2024, issued by the Đà Nang Department of Industry and Trade on the Plastic Waste Reduction Market Model at Hàn Market in 2024, the project collaborated in Q4/2024 with the Department of Industry and Trade, Da Nang Market Management and Development Company, and Han Market Management Board to carry out various coordinated awareness-raising activities and events.

Key activities implemented in Q4/2024 included:

- Designing visual communication materials (banners and posters).
- Producing a video guide on plastic-free shopping and visiting Han Market.
- Developing and recording public announcements on plastic-free shopping, which were broadcast regularly through the market's loudspeaker system.



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- Training local vendors on communication skills to promote plastic reduction to tourists and introducing the Eco-bag Station initiative.

Notably, all communication materials and products were developed in multiple languages (Vietnamese, English, and Korean) to effectively engage and influence the identified target audience.

Consultation workshop on proposal for tourism promotion and communication plan for Con Co Island district aligned with plastic waste reduction goals

Activity code: 3.4.3.1_2024



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On November 28, 2024, in Dong Ha City, Quang Tri Province, the Project collaborated with the People's Committee of Con Co Island District to organize a consultation workshop focused on the proposal for tourism promotion and communication planning for Con Co Island District, with an emphasis on reducing plastic waste. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Department of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of the province, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Management Board of Con Co Island Marine Protected Area), as well as relevant district agencies and organizations, and tourism businesses in Con Co.

During the workshop, the Project team presented a report outlining proposed

ideas and communication plans to promote tourism in Con Co Island District while aligning with plastic waste reduction objectives. The report was developed based on surveys, research, and consultations with multiple stakeholders and introduced innovative ideas to enhance sustainable tourism while promoting environmental protection and plastic waste reduction. The report also outlined the overall strategic direction, detailed activities for the communication plan, as well as the implementation roadmap and solutions for mobilizing appropriate financial resources. The workshop participants highly appreciated and supported the proposals, providing additional valuable insights and feedback to refine the plan further.

Concluding the program, the leaders of the People's Committee of Con Co Island District acknowledged and highly appreciated the coordination and support provided by the Project in developing a practical and strategic technical document. This plan serves as a crucial foundation for guiding tourism development in the district while ensuring cultural, natural, and environmental conservation.

Support the Management Board of the Con Co Island Marine Protected Area in ocean plastic waste collection to reduce impacts on marine ecosystems

Activity code: 3.4.3.1_2024

To support the reduction of the negative impacts of waste (especially plastic waste) on marine ecosystems in the Con Co Island Marine Protected Area, the Project has coordinated with and assisted the Management Board in implementing the plan “Collecting waste and ghost nets on coral reefs in the Marine Protected Area and the Seabed of Con Co Port in 2024.” Accordingly, the Project provided the Management Board with several technical diving equipment items, including breathing apparatus, compasses, diving knives, and buoys. Additionally, the Project helped mobilize resources (divers and vehicles) to carry out three waste and ghost net collection campaigns in 2024.

Through three implementation phases, a total of 6.7 hectares of reef and seabed



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area (Port area) were cleaned, and waste was collected, with 133.2 kg of plastic waste properly disposed of. Preliminary analysis indicates that the primary components of the collected waste include fishing nets, cans, and various types of rubber. Other types of waste, such as beverage cans, plastic bottles, food packaging, nylon bags, and personal care products, were discharged into the sea by fishermen while anchoring their ships in the port.

Supporting the initiatives of the Dong Ha City Women's Union in communication efforts to reduce plastic waste and collect recyclable materials.

Activity code: 3.4.3.1_2024

In Q4/2024, the project collaborated with and supported the Dong Ha City Women's Union in implementing various initiatives to promote plastic reduction

awareness, particularly focusing on reducing single-use plastic bags in traditional markets. As part of this, the project provided the Women's Union



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with 300 mesh shopping bags, which were distributed to key members of the Union’s grassroots units to encourage and mobilize members to bring their own bags or food containers when shopping at the market. Additionally, the Project collaborated with the City Women’s Union to conduct surveys and install informational panels on reducing plastic bag at key traditional markets in the city.

The Project also supports the Dong Ha City Women’s Union in expanding the ‘Green House’ model for collecting recyclable waste and selling it to raise social welfare funds. Accordingly, a total of 28 “Green Houses” were handed over to the Dong Ha City Women’s Union, distributed among nine wards in the city in December 2024.

Raising awareness activities focused on environmental protection and plastic waste reduction in Dong Ha will continue to be coordinated by the Project and the City Women’s Union in the coming period. Notably, the results of these initiatives will be shared and disseminated through social media platforms to broaden outreach and create a significant impact among Women’s Union members and the wider community of Dong Ha City.

Media event: “Dong Ha youth together to reduce plastic waste”

Activity code: 3.4.3.1_2024

On 15 December 2024, in Dong Ha city, Quang Tri Province, The Project, in collaboration with the City Youth Union of Dong Ha, organized the media event “Dong Ha Youth together to reduce plastic waste.” The event attracted over 100 delegates from the Quang Tri Provincial Youth Union, the Fatherland Front and city associations, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the key members of the Youth Union from various agencies, schools, and 9 wards in the city.



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During the program, youth union members of Dong Ha city accessed to various content related to the current plastic waste pollution situation and its impact on health and socio-economic/environmental factors; the role and proactive efforts of the Youth Union force in environmental protection and plastic waste reduction; some results and lessons learned from plastic reduction initiatives led by youth, presented by representatives from A Luoi District Youth Union, Thua Thien Hue Province

(a project site) and some Youth Union units from Dong Ha City. Youth union members representing different unit also share ideas and proposal for the 2025 Environmental protection and plastic waste reduction plan, with enthusiasm and active participation.

On this occasion, the Project supported the Dong Ha City Youth Union with equipment to implement the “Green Sunday” program—launching environmental clean-up activities.

Pilot implementation of collecting, sorting, and composting at households in Dong Ha City

Activity code: 3.4.3.1_2024

To support Dong Ha city in piloting the separation, collection, and composting of food waste at households, the Project has coordinated with the Dong Ha City Women’s Union, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and the People’s Committees of Dong Luong, Dong Thanh, Dong Giang, Dong Le, and Ward 5 to implement the pilot program of waste classifying, collecting, and composting at the household level.

In Q4/2024, the Project, in partnership with the Women’s Union and relevant agencies, organized five technical training sessions with the participation of over 400 delegates. The training focused on detailed guidance on waste separation at the source according to Decision



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No. 35/2023/QĐ-UBND, techniques for collecting and using microbial preparations (synthetic) and indigenous microorganisms (produced by households using available materials). A total of 150 households (30 per ward) were selected for the pilot program, and five community monitoring teams (each with three members) were established to support

the coordinating unit (Women's Union of Dong Ha City) and the project's advisory team in monitoring and facilitating the implementation.

The handover of equipment and technical guidance will be completed in January

2025, while household implementation will be continuously monitored for three months to assess effectiveness; findings then will be summarized and reported to provide objective recommendations for potential scale-up.

Organizing a plastic waste reduction awareness events for school in Vinh Hung

Activity code: 3.2.4.1_2024

On October 17th and 18th, 2024, the project collaborated with the Vinh Hung District Education Department to organize three communication events at three schools, including Vinh Hung Town Secondary School, Vinh Binh Primary and Secondary School, and Tuyen Binh Primary and Secondary School. The activities included Golden Bell Challenge competitions, drawing contests on the theme of plastic waste reduction, zero-plastic-waste food stalls, student sharing sessions on waste reduction actions,

waste sorting games at the source, and plastic waste reduction diaries.

The events at these three schools contributed to raising students' awareness about reducing single-use plastic items, sorting and processing plastic waste, changing students' attitudes and behaviors, and enhancing their responsibility in environmental protection. Notably, with the plastic-free food stalls, the events demonstrated that "zero-plastic-waste" events are feasible.

Supporting the expansion of vermicomposting models from household waste and water hyacinth

Activity code: 3.2.3.1_2024

Following the success of two vermicompost production models from household waste and water hyacinth, the Project continues to support the expansion of five more models in five communes in Vinh Hung district, as proposed by the Farmers' Association.

This serves as a foundation for the locality to perfect the rearing process and expand it across the entire district from October to December 2024.

During the implementation process, the vermicomposting model has helped

farmers improve their livelihoods by utilizing organic waste, water hyacinth, and cow manure to raise worms, thereby creating valuable vermicompost for crops and worm meat for livestock, poultry, or market sale.

The success of the vermicomposting model has not only brought economic benefits to farmers but also significantly contributed to reducing environmental

pollution locally. The application of this model has helped reduce odors from drying cow manure. In addition, the model helped control water hyacinth overgrowth, a plant that clogs waterways and degrades water quality. By utilizing these organic materials for vermicomposting, the local environment has improved, contributing to the betterment of the community's quality of life.

Summary workshop on plastic-free school model

Activity code: 3.2.4.1_2024

After 7 months of implementation, the summary workshop for the plastic free school model was held on December 14, 2024, with the participation of 33 delegates, including officials, staff, and teachers from the Department of Education and Training (DoET), representatives from the three schools participating in the model, and other primary, secondary, and high schools in Vinh Hung district. At the workshop, the management boards of the three pilot schools affirmed their commitment to

continuing the model. Other schools expressed interest in adopting the model, emphasizing that raising awareness through communication is a key driver for plastic waste reduction. Additionally, a representative from DoET provided updates, stating that a district-wide Plastic-Free School implementation plan has been developed, with a dedicated budget allocated. Schools requiring funding for implementation can submit proposals to DoET for budget allocation.



FISHERIES AND MARINE PROTECTED AREA

(BMU)

Ocean plastic waste collection on coral reefs in marine protected areas (MPA)

Activity code: 4.2.3.2 (4.2.2.3)-2024



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Cu Lao Cham MPA:

From November 25 to November 26, 2024, the Management Board of Cu Lao Cham MPA presided over the implementation of the second phase of waste monitoring, cleaning and catching crown-of-thorns starfish in the reef area with the participation of members of the Core Group and Sao Viet Travel Company Limited in 6 areas.

The total amount of waste collected in the reef areas in this phase was 190 kg, 3 times the amount collected in the first phase.

Kien Giang MPA:

From November 25, 2024 to December 4, 2024, Management Board of Kien Giang MPA organized the second round of cleaning coral reefs at coral reefs in the locations of biodiversity monitoring, annual marine waste monitoring of Phu Quoc MPA and reefs with many tourists visiting for diving and watching coral.

After 10 days of implementing the reef cleaning activities, the total amount of garbage collected (after draining) was 2,771.1 kg. The total amount of waste collected in the second phase of 2024 (2,771.1 kg) was higher than that of the second phase of 2023 (1,411.67 kg); partly due to the large number of volunteers registering to participate, businesses operating in the MPA. This shows that the activity has maintained a fairly good spread to the community in recent years, a good sign for the community to join hands to protect the environment of Phu Quoc to become cleaner and cleaner.

Con Dao National Park

In November 2024, the Management Board of Con Dao National Park collected waste in 5 coral reef areas in the marine reserve. The total amount of plastic waste collected was 300kg. On November 18 and December 3, 2024, 04 National Park staff and 08 volunteers conducted waste monitoring at the Bai Bang - Dat Tham eco-tourism route and Hon Bay Canh. The results of the waste monitoring of the eco-tourism route showed similarities in the composition of plastic waste (quantity and volume) at the 2 tourist destinations; plastic waste accounted for 85% in quantity and 63% in total collected waste. Through monitoring waste generated from tourism activities, it shows the

necessity of raising awareness among tourists as well as the National Park needs to issue regulations and strictly

monitor on not bringing disposable plastic products when visiting the eco-tourism route.

Cu Lao Cham beach cleaning activity

Activity code: 4.2.2.3-2024

From November 23 to November 24, 2024, the Management Board of Cu Lao Cham Marine Protected Area (MPA) implemented a plan to monitor waste and clean up 6 beaches with the participation of 48 people from the Cu Lao Cham MPA Management Board, Tan Hiep Commune People's Committee, the Cu Lao Cham Marine Environmental Action Group, villagers, and local youth.

At the beaches, the total amount of waste collected on all 6 beaches this time was approximately 5 tons of waste, of which the total amount of waste collected at Xep beach was still the highest with 1,350 kg, accounting for 30% of the total amount collected at the beaches, although it was regularly collected. At Tra beach and Nan

beach, the amount of waste collected was about 2.5 tons, including 22 bags of plastic bottles (about 20kg/bag), 12 bags of foam buoys (marine tools) estimated at 10kg/bag, in addition to ropes, old nets, and large-sized plastic bags.

The waste found this time was mainly fishing gear such as ropes, nets, fishing lines (stuck together to form a mass buried under the sand), large-sized waste causing difficulties in the collection process. At Bac beach, about 300kg of large-sized ghost nets (fake trawl nets) were collected buried under the sand. In addition, there were many large-sized foam buoys and plastic bottles (appearing a lot at Xep beach, Tra beach, Nan beach).

Communication and education on waste management and plastic reduction at Cu Lao Cham schools

Activity code: 4.2.1.4-2024

1. Regular activities of the "I love my homeland's sea and islands" Club

In the Q4/2024, the Management Board of Cu Lao Cham Marine Protected Area (MPA)

continued to organize the "I love my homeland's sea and islands" Club periodically once a month with the participation of 20 students/time. The activities were held on weekends so they



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did not affect their studies. The students also wanted to maintain the Club in the following year so that they could have more useful playgrounds, learn and experience.

2. Student Expression Forum

After more than 20 days of implementing the contest from the preliminary round to the final round, the “Student Expression” contest with the theme of the environment for secondary school students in Tan Hiep commune, organized by the Management Board of Cu Lao Cham MPA in coordination with Quang Trung Primary and Secondary School, concluded and awarded prizes to students of grade 8 at the Quang Trung Primary and Secondary School Hall. The Organizing Committee awarded 03 teams

(3 students/team) in the final round. The first prize team will receive a certificate of merit from the Management Board of Cu Lao Cham MPA to encourage their spirit.

3. “Mystery under the ocean” contest

On November 1, 2024, the Management Board of Cu Lao Cham MPA coordinated with Quang Trung Primary and Secondary School - Tan Hiep Commune, Hoi An to organize the Golden Bell Contest “The mystery under the ocean” for students from grades 6 to 9. The contest is organized in the form of “Golden Bell” with 04 rounds. In particular, the highlight of the contest is the bell simulation with the “Parrotfish” model made from broken fishing gear, which can hold trash. The main questions and topics of the contest focused on the following issues: Learning about the value of forest and marine biodiversity in Cu Lao Cham; activities in the protection and restoration of ecosystems in the region and questions related to plastic waste and environmental protection. As a result, the Organizing Committee awarded 01 first prize, 01 second prize, 01 third prize and 01 collective prize to individuals and groups that excelled in the rounds.

Spreading the material recovery facility (MRF) model in the community in Cu Lao Cham

Activity code: 4.2.1.4-2024

1. “Green Saturday” Campaign

Similar to Quarter 3, the “Green Saturday” Campaign is implemented

by the Management Board of Cu Lao Cham Marine Protected Area (MPA) in coordination with the Women’s Union

of Tan Hiep Commune periodically once a month. The activity is implemented to spread awareness about the role and significance of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). It mobilizes people to sort waste at the source and make use of recycled plastic bottles, cans, and fruit peels (oranges, grapefruits, pineapples). People can exchange these items for detergent and compost produced from MRF facilities. The total number of participants in the 4th quarter was nearly 144 people, mainly women and students of 03 villages of Ong beach, Lang beach, Huong beach. The amount of detergent exchanged after 03 implementation phases was 125 liters and 95 kg of compost, collecting 117 kg of recycled waste and 81 kg of fruit peels.

Throughout the implementation phases, the program received active cooperation from the Women's Union at the commune and village levels on mobilizing people to collect waste in exchange for gifts. The implementation sites were easily accessible and attracted public attention.

Continue to communicate to tourists and businesses about reducing plastic waste through the pilot activity “Deposited point for water bottles and fruit boxes”

Activity code: 4.2.2.2-2024

In order to raise awareness among tourists, the community and stakeholders about increasing solutions to replace single-use plastics in tourism activities, the Management Board of Cu



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2. Recognizing households for excellent source waste separation

On October 19-20, 2024, the Management Board of Cu Lao Cham MPA coordinated with the Women's Union of Tan Hiep Commune to jointly implement the activity “Recognizing households for excellent source waste separation”. The activity was implemented with the participation of more than 40 people from the Women's Unions of 3 villages Lang beach, Ong beach, and Huong beach. Each gift for the community that has done well in separation waste is an environmentally friendly item such as mesh bags, thermos bottles, and detergent produced by the MRF facility.

Lao Cham Marine Protected Area (MPA) has deployed the model of “Deposited water bottles” and “Deposited fruit boxes”. This activities will contribute to mobilize travel companies to build tours

to Cu Lao Cham that incorporate practical instructions on reducing single-use plastics, contributing to making Cu Lao Cham a green destination

Through the implementation through the coordination of the Cu Lao Cham Tourism Association, 05 companies have been mobilized to participate in the model of deposited water bottles, including 03 travel and sightseeing companies and 02 diving companies, including: Thanh Thuy, Bien Dao, Cu Lao Xanh, Phuc Hai and Sao Viet. These companies have extensive experience in travel and tourism activities and regularly participate in environmental protection and biodiversity activities launched by



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the Management Board. Regarding the “Consignment Fruit Box”, there are also 05 households registered to participate. All of these businesses and households have signed a commitment to implement and will apply it during the 2025 tourist season, record data and report monthly to the Cu Lao Cham Marine Protected Area Management Board.”

Communication “Reducing plastic waste to develop sustainable Phu Quoc tourism” at ports and marine passenger transport

Activity code: 4.2.3.4-2024



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From October 9 to 11, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Phu Quoc City in coordination with the Project; Clean

and Green Phu Quoc Volunteers;; Hoa Binh Ham Ninh Joint Stock Company; Superdong Kien Giang High-speed Ferry Joint Stock Company; Express Phu Quoc High-speed Ferry Company; Binh An-Ha Tien Transport Joint Stock Company, Thanh Thoi One Member Co., Ltd. organized a communication campaign “Reducing plastic waste to develop sustainable Phu Quoc tourism”. The main activities in this communication campaign are (i) providing 5,000 “Plastic Waste-Free Phu Quoc Tourism” handbooks to 2 ports and 5 passenger transport companies

at sea, to be attached behind passenger seats on ships and at information counters at waiting rooms, (ii) showing animated videos promoting plastic reduction on each voyage, (iii) posting communication posters at the ports and on ships. These activities aim to provide information

and call on ship crew, local people and passengers using passenger transport vehicles at sea to limit the use of single-use plastic products or reuse them to join hands in building Phu Quoc - Towards an island city without plastic waste.

Communication “Reducing plastic waste to develop sustainable Phu Quoc tourism” at Phu Quoc International Airport

Activity code: 4.2.1.2-2024

On December 25, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Phu Quoc City coordinated with the Project and Phu Quoc International Airport to implement plastic reduction propaganda at the port, including: (1) installing 2 vertical LED media screens at the domestic and international arrival terminals, (2) Arranging 500 plastic-free Phu Quoc travel handbooks at information counters managed by the port. The communication program takes place on the occasion of Christmas and New Year 2025. This is the time when Phu Quoc welcomes a large number of tourists to visit, travel and relax. Therefore, it will increase access to information about the city's efforts in solid waste management and plastic waste reduction, while calling on people and tourists to join hands to limit single-use plastic products, contributing to protecting the pearl island to become increasingly green, clean and beautiful.



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Fashion contest honors the beauty of recycle and reuse products

Activity code: 4.2.2.3-2024



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December 17, 2024, the Project in collaboration with the Phu Quoc City Women's Union, organized the "Recycled Fashion" contest with the theme "The beauty of recycled and reused products". The event attracted the participation of 70 delegates, including leaders from the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, representatives of the Women's Union of Communes and Wards, and residents involved in the action education communication program in Phu Quoc.

Ten teams from eight communes and wards showcased spectacular performances with outfits made from old clothes, used fabric scraps, and fashion accessories such as hats, hairpins, bags, shoes, and jewelry recycled from plastic products.

The event provided a healthy, beneficial playground that inspired and promoted the creative abilities of women, with initiatives to "create a new life cycle" for used items, especially those related to plastic. It contributes to the common goal of "Phu Quoc towards a plastic-free island" and increases interest and promotes the search for solutions, and creativity in reduce-recycle-reuse practices.

On this occasion, the project and the Phu Quoc City Women's Union also awarded prizes for 14 exemplary stories of 2024 about households practicing waste collection, waste separation, and plastic reduction.

Tho Chau conducted communication activities to reduce single-use plastics and collect waste toward a plastic-free island

Activity code: 4.2.2.3-2024

On December 5, 2024, the Project, in cooperation with the People's Committee of Tho Chau commune and the Tho Chau Sea Border Guard,

organized a communication event to encourage fishing boats, fishermen, and aquaculture households to bring waste back to shore for the environment and

sustainable livelihoods, with the theme was 'Tho Chau - A Plastic-Free Island.' The event was attended by leaders and officials of the Tho Chau commune People's Committee, Tho Chau Sea Border Guard, Tho Chau fishing port management team, and notably 20 fishing boat owners, fishermen, and aquaculture households in Tho Chau commune.

According to WWF-Viet Nam's 2024 assessment report on solid waste situation in Tho Chau commune, the island generates an average of 674 tons of solid waste per year, equivalent to 1.85 tons per day. Aquaculture facilities account for 12.62% of the total waste generation on the island. In aquaculture households, old fishing gear and nets caught in cages account for 38.18%. Therefore, communication with boat owners, fishermen, and aquaculture households to bring waste back to shore for proper disposal is crucial in reducing plastic waste leakage into the sea and making Tho Chau a plastic-free island.



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At the communication event, fishermen watched a video about the marine plastic waste pollution and actions that fishermen, fishing boat owners, and aquaculture households should take to mitigate this issue. Ten boat owners and aquaculture households signed commitments to sort waste on boats, floating houses, and fish cages and to bring waste back to shore. WWF-Viet Nam provided mesh bags for collecting waste on boats and depositing it in bins at the port as regulated. In the coming months, the People's Committee of Tho Chau commune, in coordination with the Tho Chau Border Guard Station, commits to mobilizing the remaining 72 fishing boat owners and aquaculture households."

Launching ceremony of the 9th Green Collection Station in Phu Quoc City

Activity code: 4.2.3.1-2024

On December 7, 2024, in Bai Thom Commune, Phu Quoc, Kien Giang, the Project, in collaboration with the Youth Union, the People's Committee of Bai Thom Commune, and the Youth of Bai Thom Commune, organized the launching event of the Green Station.

This station is the ninth in Phu Quoc City and is strategically located near the main road and a densely populated residential area in Da Chong village. Its purpose is to provide a clean and hygienic space for collecting household solid waste.



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Over 50 officials, youth union members, armed forces, students, and residents participated in a clean-up activity. Furthermore, the Youth Union of Bai Thom Commune implemented

the “Golden Hour” program, where participants exchanged trash for essential items and learning tools. On the first day, they collected 70.5 kg of solid waste, including 45 kg of recyclable waste and 25.5 kg of non-recyclable plastic waste. Similar to other communes and wards, Bai Thom Commune Youth Union commits to continue mobilizing social resources to maintain clean-up activity and the golden hour program on the first Saturday morning of the following months.

Empowering young filmmakers: visual storytelling workshop in Phu Quoc city

Activity code: 4.2.3.2-2024

On December 7 and 8, 2024, The Project coordinated with Phu Quoc Youth Union to organize a training class “Filmmaking camp - Photo stories telling” for 60 student union members from three (03) schools, including An Thoi High School, Duong Dong High School and Phu Quoc High School.

Recognition of the importance of youth in resolving environmental problems and protecting nature. Therefore, updating new knowledge and communication skills with many diverse forms has and will help young people become environmental ambassadors. Thereby contributing to building Phu Quoc city into a green, clean, beautiful and livable island city.



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After 2 days of training, from personal smartphones, the students created 10 short videos with various genres, from reports, and television commercials to short films. The video content reflects the current plastic waste situation in Phu Quoc city, the solutions that need to be implemented, and the urge for the cooperation of people and city authorities to solve this problem. All are shown through the lens and perspective of young people.

Raising public awareness of not discharging plastic waste in the Marine Protected Area

Activity code: 4.5.2.1_2024



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From October 1, 2024 to October 4, 2024, the Management Board of Kien Giang Marine Protected Area coordinated with the People's Committees of An Thoi Ward and Ham Ninh Commune to carry out propaganda activities to raise public awareness of not discharging plastic waste in the Marine Protected Area. This activity attracted the participation of 158 people in Rach Ham, Bai Vong, Ward 5 and Ward 2 hamlets. These are hamlets and wards with a large number of people working in the fishing industry.

At the communication session, representatives of the Management Board of Kien Giang Marine Protected

Area presented the content of the formation process of Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area; scope, area, and boundary of the Marine Protected Area; biodiversity, ecosystem distribution, spawning grounds, breeding grounds/areas for maintaining aquatic breeds in Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area; introduced aquatic species with high economic value, endangered, precious, and rare aquatic species; activities that violate the regulations on the management of the Marine Protected Area and the activities of the Kien Giang Marine Protected Area Management Board. Main sources of waste; the impact of plastic waste on the coral reef ecosystem, seagrass beds; the impact of plastic waste on the landscape, environment and organisms; the impact of plastic waste on humans; the level of penalties for the act of dumping and dumping household waste in the wrong place; actions that should and should not be taken to support the protection of the Marine Protected Area; specific actions to reduce plastic waste.

Green Offering Basket Week - Towards a green future in Con Dao

Activity code: 4.5.5.1_2023

Continuing the communication activity "No offerings, no burning of votive paper and no bringing of single-use

plastic products to sites and relics in Con Dao", with positive results and response from tourists in implementing the Green

Offering Basket with the 5K criteria: no foam for flower arrangements, no offerings of votive paper, no single-use plastic products, no plastic bottles, no plastic bags.

In the Q4/2024, the Con Dao National Monuments Conservation Center (the Center) implemented the “Green Offering Basket Week”, from the 1st to the 7th of each month, while maintaining the “Green Offering Basket Saturday”. After 3 months of implementation, the number of Green Offering Baskets implemented in accordance with the 5K criteria accounted for 99% (equivalent to 9,500 Green Offering Baskets).

According to the Center’s records on the remaining days of the month, many tourists also implemented the Green Offering Basket. At the same time, according to observations from the air quality meter at Hang Duong Cemetery, the air quality index AQI was all below 100 (average and good air quality) compared to the day of offering and burning votive paper which was above 150 (unhealthy



© Con Dao National Monuments Conservation Center

air quality). According to information from the Center, from January 1, 2025, the Center will apply the Green Offering Basket on all days of the year and at all relic sites.

The issuance of policies with a suitable and practical roadmap in the propaganda work of saying no to disposable plastic products and not offering votive paper has brought impressive results; demonstrating the determination of local authorities at all levels and the consensus of people and tourists, together aiming to reduce 30% of plastic waste leakage to the environment in Con Dao.

Increase the capacity to receive and cover against waste dispersion at Bai Nhat, Con Dao district

Activity code: 4.3.4.7_2024

In 2024, the Project will coordinate with the People’s Committee of Con Dao district and the consulting unit to conduct a feasibility assessment of increasing the capacity to receive waste and cover

it with a trash net at Bai Nhat. According to a report from 2020, Bai Nhat landfill is the only concentrated landfill in Con Dao district, currently storing more than 70,000 tons of waste for many years.



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Every year, Con Dao has an additional 549.5 tons of plastic waste stored at the open landfill (Bai Nhat). This amount of plastic waste is still on the ground, right next to the coast, so there is a high risk of plastic waste spreading.

In August and September 2024, the consultant team conducted a survey, measured the current site and developed a construction design plan to increase the capacity to receive waste and cover it with a screen to prevent waste from spreading at Bai Nhat.

On October 8, 2024, the Project and the consultant team held a meeting with the District People's Committee to agree on a construction plan at Bai Nhat. It is expected that after construction, Bai Nhat can receive an additional 23,292 m³, equivalent to 9,950 tons of waste. At the meeting, the District People's Committee agreed with the construction plan as proposed by the consultant and noted the leachate collection and treatment system.

In December 2024, the Project will conduct bidding procedures for the construction package to increase the capacity to receive and cover the trash screen at Nhat landfill. In the first quarter of 2025, the Project will sign a contract with the selected contractor. The construction package of phase 1 is expected to be completed in March 2025.



PROJECT “HUE - A PLASTIC SMART CITY IN CENTRAL VIET NAM”

(TVA)

Project closing workshop 2021-2024 and expansion implementation 2025

Activity code: 1.3.9



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On the morning of November 15, 2024, the Project in coordination with the Hue City People's Committee organized the Project Completion Workshop for the period 2021-2024 and Expansion Implementation in 2025.

The workshop was attended by Mr. Phan Quy Phuong - Vice Chairman of the Thua Thien Hue Provincial People's Committee, Mr. Vo Le Nhat - Chairman of the Hue City People's Committee, Mr. Van Ngoc Thinh, General Director of WWF-Viet Nam and more than 150 delegates from Departments, Boards, People's Committees of districts and towns in Thua Thien Hue province, People's Committees of wards and communes in Hue City, Project partners and local communities. In particular, the workshop also had the participation of Ms. Hilde Solbakken - Norwegian Ambassador in Viet Nam.



In more than 3 years of implementing intervention activities, the Project has achieved remarkable results in reducing plastic waste in Hue, including collecting and managing 570 tons of plastic waste lost to the environment through activities.

At the event, leaders of Thua Thien - Hue province, Hue city and WWF-Vietnam and partner units exchanged, discussed, and evaluated the implementation process of the Project, drawing lessons and good models to orient the plan to continue implementing and expanding the Project in 2025, thereby proposing documents for approval.

Through the initial achievements, the Project expects Hue City to continue to effectively implement activities in the coming time, aiming to build Hue into a typical plastic-reducing urban area in Central Vietnam, a model for other cities to learn and develop.

Scrap collectors' cooperative helps increase recycling rate in Hue city

Activity code: 2.2.2

The Scrap cooperative is a model of association of women who buy scrap, established by the People's Committee of Huong So Ward and the People's Committee of An Dong Ward under the sponsorship of the Hue City Women's Union and the support of the Project. The cooperative helps organize scrap collection activities, thereby increasing the efficiency of collecting and classifying recyclable waste. The activities of the Scrap Cooperative also contribute to creating jobs, improving livelihoods, working conditions, and health for informal scrap and scrap collectors. When people in Hue City have recyclable waste and scrap and do not know how to handle it, they can immediately contact the Scrap cooperative for on-site collection.



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Rest station providing free drinking water for tourists coming to Hue

Activity code: 2.3.7

In order to encourage people and tourists to reduce the use of disposable plastic bottles and always bring their own water bottles to refill their water while visiting tourist attractions, in 2023 - 2024, the Project has sponsored a total of 09 rest stations and free drinking water dispensers for the following units: Hue Monuments Conservation Center, Hue Green Park Center, Bao Vinh Ward People's Committee and Phu

Mau Commune People's Committee to receive, manage, operate and exploit the facilities.

People and tourists can use the above facilities when visiting the city's prominent tourist attractions: Gia Long, Minh Mang and Dong Khanh Tombs, Thien Mu Pagoda, Ban Nguyet - Ben Me Bridge, Vong Canh Hill, Bao Vinh Ancient Town and Sinh Village Wrestling Arena.



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To view the digital map of rest station and free drinking water dispensers built by the Project and the Provincial Department of Tourism, residents and tourists can access the website: <https://khamphahue.com.vn/Du-lich>.

Through this activity, the Project hopes to contribute to saving resources, developing sustainable tourism, reducing plastic generation and pollution in Hue city.

Reduced 18 tons of plastic waste through applying participatory action-oriented method

Activity code: 2.1.4



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October 25, 2024 - The Project organized a summary of the model on waste separation at source and plastic waste reduction using the Participatory Action-Oriented (PAOT). Within the framework of the Project, PAOT is applied to promote plastic reduction behaviors in households and individual businesses in the city.

After more than 17 months of implementation with 3 implementation

phases, the communication activities to change plastic reduction behavior applying the Action Education method have achieved many positive results: 15,182 households were communicated to reduce plastic with 44,251 household visits; 492 businesses were communicated to reduce plastic with 1,214 household visits; reduced over 18 tons of plastic waste...

In addition, one of the important factors for the Project to successfully apply this method is to successfully build a team of propagandists with the enthusiastic and energetic participation of 612 members. In addition to guiding people, they are also typical examples in practicing plastic reduction solutions for relatives and the surrounding community to follow.

The summary event shared the results of implementing plastic reduction communication activities using above method; shared the progress,

advantages, and difficulties in mobilizing people to implement and discussed the direction of expanding the model.

More than 350 teachers attend training on plastic reduction and waste classification at source

Activity code: 4.1.3

On October 30, 2024, at Duy Tan Hotel (Hue City), the Project coordinated with the Provincial Department of Natural Resources and Environment to organize training courses on environmental protection, communication on reducing plastic waste, and sorting waste at source for officials of the Department of Education and Training, teachers of kindergartens, primary schools, and secondary schools in Phong Dien, Quang Dien, Phu Vang, Phu Loc districts, Huong Tra town, and Huong Thuy town.

Experts from the Provincial Department of Natural Resources and



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Environment introduced the 2020 Law on Environmental Protection to the delegates, providing guidance on implementing the model of sorting waste at source and reducing plastic waste, especially focusing on how to effectively apply the above models in schools.

Festival and Seminar on connecting green consumer supply ecosystem

Activity code: 2.2.2

In the context of the increasing demand for sustainable development and environmental protection, on October 30, 2024, Hue College of Tourism coordinated with the Project to organize the Festival & Seminar "Connecting the green supply - consumption ecosystem". The event

includes two main parts: Green Product Exhibition and Seminar on "Connecting the green supply - consumption ecosystem".

The event attracted the participation of more than 250 delegates from



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Departments, Boards, and Branches of Thua Thien Hue province, businesses in the fields of tourism, restaurants, hotels, and representatives of sustainable development business organizations inside and outside the province and 30 booths selling green, environmentally friendly products.

The event is also an opportunity for tourism - service businesses to connect

directly with 30 green product suppliers or look up 150 suppliers nationwide through the search platform built by the Organizing Committee at Link.

The Festival & Seminar “Connecting the Green Consumption Supply Ecosystem in Hue City” is not only an opportunity to display environmentally friendly products and services, but also to promote businesses in Thua Thien Hue province and neighboring areas to build a network, share experiences, expand practices and spread sustainable values. Thereby, contributing to encouraging the community to move towards a green consumption lifestyle and environmental protection.”

Ambassador of Norway to Vietnam visits the Project models

Activity code: 1.3.9

On November 14 and 15, 2024, Ms. Hilde Solbakken, The Norway's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Vietnam, visited the successful models of the Project.

The Ambassador visited and talked with the An Dong Ward Scrap Collector's Cooperative - an initiative of the Project to support informal collectors in Hue. The Ambassador also learned about the improvements in the lives and work of the Cooperative members after participating in the Project as well as their contributions



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to the development of a model to reduce plastic waste in the local community.

The Ambassador visited the educational model and practiced plastic waste

reduction tourism activities at Hue College of Tourism and Villa Hue Hotel. In particular, the Ambassador participated in a session to experience the “Plastic Reduction School” activity at Phu My Secondary School, Phu Vang District, Thua Thien Hue Province.

Through the tour of the models, Ambassador Hilde Solbakken highly appreciated the efforts of the Project in the plastic waste reduction activities of Hue city in particular and Vietnam in general.

Communication activities on “Bringing trash to ashore” and giving plastic reduction gifts to fishermen in Thuan An

Activity code: 1.4.3



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On the morning of November 21, 2024, the Hue City Labor Federation coordinated with the Project to launch the Thuan An Fisheries Union and promote fishermen to “bring trash to shore”.

Accordingly, the Thuan An Ward Fisheries Union consists of 302 members who are fishermen at sea. The Executive Committee consists of 9 members, with Mr. Tran Van Cuong as Chairman of the Union.

At the ceremony, Mr. Tran Van Cuong, Chairman of the Union, on behalf of the

Thuan An Fisheries Union, pledged to continue and call for spreading the “Bring trash to shore” activity, contributing to protecting aquatic resources and keeping the ocean blue, clean and beautiful.

On this occasion, the Hue City Labor Federation and the Project presented 111 gifts including plastic waste reduction items, labor safety and hygiene tools, national flags and essential necessities. These gifts not only support and encourage the spirit of resilient fishermen to go out to sea and join hands to affirm the sacred sovereignty of the Fatherland’s seas and islands, but also aim to protect the environment and reduce ocean plastic pollution.

Representatives of international NGOs visited the Project model

Activity code: 1.3.7

Within the framework of the 2024 Meeting of Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations in Thua Thien Hue Province, delegates attending the Conference visited the model of waiting stations and free drinking water dispensers in the area of Thien Mu Pagoda and Vong Canh Hill.



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Delegates highly appreciated the effectiveness of the model in encouraging people and tourists to reduce plastic waste in Hue city and expected that the

Hue Project - Plastic-reducing urban areas in Central Vietnam will continue to implement good models, contributing to building a green, clean and bright city.

The project was honored at the event to reward typical examples in the movement to build Hue city “Civilized - Friendly - Safe - Rich in identity”

Activity code: 1.3.9



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On the afternoon of December 5, 2024, within the framework of the event to reward typical examples in the movement to build Hue city “Civilized - Friendly - Safe - Rich in identity” in the

period of 2020 - 2024, the Project is proud to be honored by Hue City in the activities of implementing the program “Green Sunday” and “Sunday for the community”.

This is a commendation from Hue City in recognition of the efforts of the Project to contribute to building a green, clean, bright city, an ASEAN Clean Tourism City and a national Green City.





For more information please contact:

**“REDUCING PLASTIC WASTES IN VIET NAM
PROGRAM”**



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