



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: VIET NAM

Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture (GEF ID: 10573)

GEF Agency: WWF US

Lead Executing Agency: Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

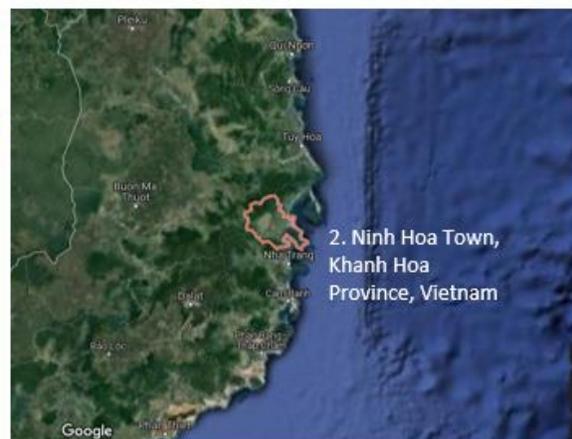
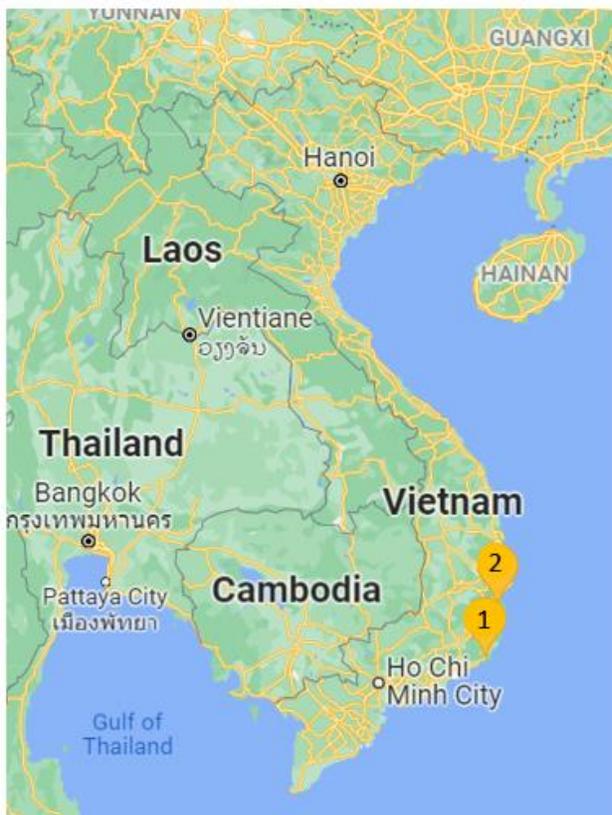
Vietnam National Executing Agency: Directorate of Fisheries

February 28, 2022

1. Introduction

The project “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture” contributes to the broad goal of enhancing the well-being of people based upon the environmental, social, and economic benefits that seaweed generates. It seeks to do so by *creating new sustainable seaweed value chains that will deliver ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits*. The ecosystem services include the assimilation of excess nutrients from coastal waters, with associated environmental benefits that include mitigation of ocean eutrophication and acidification as well as improvement of habitat for marine life. Downstream of the farming segment of the chain, additional environmental benefits will be derived from the deployment of biorefinery technology in the production areas and the manufacture of seaweed-based products that are biodegradable, such as bioplastics and those that either require do not require much energy to produce or are substitutes of products that do. Social and economic benefits include the diversification of livelihood options, improved household and community revenues and opportunities for equitable participation of women and men in the improved or new livelihood opportunities along the value chain.

In Vietnam, the three sites are in two neighboring South-Central provinces with a fairly significant seaweed production and history of seaweed farming: Ninh Thuan and Khanh Hoa (see the map below). The two sites selected for piloting of *Kappaphycus* (Phuoc Dinh commune, Thuan Nam district of Ninh Thuan and the Van Phong Bay seaweed planning area, Van Ninh district of Khanh Hoa) have been zoned for off-the-coast aquaculture development. The third site is for *Caulerpa* sp. in Ninh Hoa town of Khanh Hoa as well. The sites for the pilot demonstration farms were selected and confirmed following stakeholder consultation processes at several levels – national, provincial and commune levels..



The project objective “to create new sustainable seaweed value chains that will deliver ecosystem services and provide socioeconomic benefits” will be achieved through four components:

1: Regional capacity building for seaweed aquaculture. Under this Component, the project will develop plans, tools, and trainings to build a supportive regional enabling environment for seaweed aquaculture. This will include development of a Regional Guide for Seaweed Aquaculture in the Region, to be adopted by the SEAFDEC Governing Council, standards for seaweed aquaculture that are adapted to the region and encompass operational, environmental, and consumer safety (adapted from global guidance from the Safe Seaweed Coalition), and trainings and capacity building to support both the plan and adoption of the standards. Such a regional approach will support the region’s capacity to further expand, modernize and establish a strong influence in global seaweed value chains.

2: Enabling Environment for Seaweed Aquaculture in Philippines and Viet Nam. Involves creating an enabling environment for seaweed aquaculture at the national level. A governance framework comprising policy, regulatory and technical guidelines for seaweed aquaculture (including offshore seaweed farming) will be developed. The project will support processes to identify suitable areas for seaweed expansion, and to formulate and operationalize management plans specific to such areas, with accompanying plans and coordination mechanisms (provincial/national/regional/global) to support this component.

3: Seaweed Value Chains (production + processing). This will require working with producers (organized into associations or cooperatives) to pilot farms in areas farther than current sites (i.e. off-the-coast or off-shore) that will serve as proof of concept for seaweed production in these environments. Demonstration farms will be established within national marine spatial plan (MSP) frameworks, and with the specific goal of advancing uniformly accepted risk assessment, rapid alert systems and data collection in order to develop safe modes of production, focusing on food safety, occupational safety and environmental safety and in order to overcome barriers of insufficient information that directly limit off-take agreements among global supply chain actors, contribute to the low level of regulations, and represent a barrier for insurability. The project will also support seaweed value chain initiatives to address barriers to production and processing. This includes establishing new biorefinery and processing solutions closer to the site-level, both to increase livelihood benefits for coastal seaweed farmers and to develop markets for value-added seaweed products (thereby encouraging additional seaweed aquaculture, that then compounds the environmental benefits).

Knowledge Management, M&E, and IW Learn (regional). The project will support knowledge sharing and monitoring and evaluation. Project activities will be monitored and communicated through multiple channels, including through IW:LEARN. In this way the project will utilize and expand on current baseline activities in the seaweed industry in the Philippines and Viet Nam to promote the interests of seaweed farmers and their communities, and grow the global market for seaweed in a sustainable and responsible fashion.

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan is specific to Viet Nam (Component 2 and Component 3). Stakeholder Engagement Plans have also been prepared for Philippines and at the Regional level.

2. Regulations and Requirements

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan adopts an inclusive and transparent consultation process to solicit feedback from the government, private sector, civil society organizations, affected/beneficiary

communities, and other stakeholders that may be identified in the course of the review. The SEP is based on WWF Guidelines for consultation and stakeholder engagement. It covers the cycle of engagement— from gathering comments, processing and responding to these comments, and ensuring that the responses are disclosed to the stakeholders.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) builds on stakeholder consultations undertaken during the project design stage to identify key project stakeholders, their involvement in the project, and the roles and responsibilities in the execution of this Plan.

The PMU is responsible for ensuring compliance with the GEF and WWF standards on Stakeholder Engagement, specifically the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement and the associated Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement. The WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement requires the regional (SEAFDEC) and executing agency and – through the national executing agencies (BFAR and D-Fish) to engage national and local stakeholders — including project affected groups, local organizations, local (provincial and municipal) governments, agencies and institutions operating in the locality, and non-government organizations -- throughout the life of the project; communicate significant changes to project stakeholders and consult on potential risks and impacts; establish a grievance redress mechanism and register and respond to grievances throughout project execution.

WWF-US, as the GEF Project Implementing Agency, is responsible for oversight. SEAFDEC, BFAR and D-Fish are responsible for executing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan in compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.

As a recipient of finances from GEF, SEAFDEC, BFAR and D-Fish need to abide by WWF-US's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework, as detailed in the Environmental and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures document.

Should it still be applicable, the project will follow government-mandated restrictions and adhere to public health agency guidelines and precautions to protect personnel from infection and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement

The WWF GEF Agency requires all GEF projects comply with GEF and WWF standards on Stakeholder Engagement, specifically the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement and the associated Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement. Stakeholder engagement is an overarching term that encompasses a range of activities and interactions with stakeholders throughout the project cycle and is an essential aspect of good project management.

The WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement requires the Executing Agency to engage stakeholders throughout the life of the project; communicate significant changes to project stakeholders and consult on potential risks and impacts; establish a grievance redress mechanism and register and respond to grievances throughout project execution, and; disseminate information in a way that is relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful, easily accessible. The Standard on Stakeholder Engagement promotes an inclusive process to support the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that help to identify and manage risks, and which encourage positive outcomes for stakeholders and project activities.

3. Project Stakeholders

National Government Entities

Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands – VASI under MoNRE: the function and responsibility, includes submitting to MoNRE the strategies for sustainable exploitation and utilization of natural resources and environmental protection of sea and islands; marine spatial master planning; master plan on sustainable exploitation and utilization of natural resources in coastal areas. For open sea areas which are greater than 6 nautical miles from the coastline, the MoNRE will issue the permission on rights to exploit and use the water surface.

Directorate of Fisheries - DFISH (under MARD): overall state management of aquaculture and fisheries, directly works to advise on policies for MARD, developing directions, planning for the sector matching with the marine spatial master plan as well as coordinating with the relevant provinces, ministries, industries to organize for policy development and implementation.

Sub-national Government Administrations

Ninh Thuan and Khanh Hoa **Provincial People’s Committees – PPC**: provincial development planning which includes marine resources development, and organizing to implementing in-line with the national planning and policies. The PPC will issue the permission on rights to exploit and use the water surface, which are less than 6NM from the coastline. The PPCs will cooperate with MARD and MoNRE to implement the planning, policies in the sea areas that are greater than 6NM and trans-provinces. There are competitions between seaweed aquaculture and other sectors such as tourism, resort, seaport, and cements on the water allocations. These issues need to be analyzed and discussed when developing the provincial development planning.

Ninh Thuan and Khanh Hoa **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARDs)** are the specialized agencies under the Ninh Thuan and Khanh Hoa PPC responsible to advise and assist the PPC in performing the function of state management in the province. There are several sub-departments under DARD, specially the Fisheries sub-department and Extension service center are directly in charge of farming technological transferring and capacity building for seaweed farmers. At the present, seaweed aquaculture mostly take place in waters less than 6 NM, therefore, the DARD/ sub-Departments are directly stakeholders in decisions/ influence the seaweed development in the provinces.

District People’s Committees (DPCs) has the right to issue the permission to exploit and use the water surface for which the area is up to 2 ha without any tax if the water is allocated for the farmers. Under the District People Committees, the District Agriculture Offices will support the DARD and DPC in implementing the capacity building and monitoring on seaweed aquaculture.

NGOs

Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD) is a Vietnamese non-governmental, non-profit organization (VNGO) based in Ha Noi and working on marine conservation and coastal development. MCD has conducted several projects engaging the coastal community along Vietnam. MCD could be engaged for capacity building, including gender analysis and engagement, for the community development.

IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative is an organization (Foundation) that works with businesses, financiers, governments and civil society to realize sustainable trade in global value chains. IDH and their partner is developing a methodology on GHG emission, water use and eutrophication. The methodology is being piloted by companies in the shrimp, tilapia and pangasius value chain. IDH is a potential stakeholder in this project in a PPP arrangement for seaweed sector development.

Multilaterals

World Bank/IFC

The World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. Its five institutions share a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development. WB has committed to cooperate and support the Government of Vietnam to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Of which, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. While, the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) focuses on strengthening the private sector in developing countries. IFC will invests, mobilizes financing from third parties, and advises the private sector, including small and medium enterprises with strong growth potential.

Community Based Organizations (cooperatives, etc.)

There is no farmer group or cooperative in seaweed aquaculture areas currently. But there are potential to establish farmer groups or cooperatives, because this is agreed upon by stakeholders during the consultation meetings from the farmers, local government and local seaweed companies.

Local Communities

Seaweed farmers and the local communities in the district of Ninh Hoa (Province of Khanh Hoa) and the district of Thuan Nam (Province of Ninh Thuan) are key stakeholders to the project. The communities will be the beneficiary from an expansion of seaweed farming and the expected higher incomes and more employment opportunities in the seaweed value chain. Farming households will benefit from new, improved practices and production system, and from value adding enterprises.

Private Sector

Vietnam Seaculture Association. Members will be cooperators in the Project, Association has a strong interest in promoting industrial scale offshore seaweed farming.

Hoa Trinh company located in Phuoc Dinh commune, Thuan Nam district, Ninh Thuan province. The company is headed by a woman and employs 10 fulltime and 10 part-time workers half of the workforce being women. The company buys fresh and dried *Kappaphycus* from farmers in the locality and neighboring provinces for pre-processing. They also import the dried *Kappaphycus* from the Philippines and Indonesia. They sell the RDS to the processing companies, domestic markets and to the US. The company is providing microfinances to local farmers who then sell their harvest to the company. Located locally, Hoa Trinh company is willing to participate with the project as member of seaweed farmer groups.

Son Hai Carrageenan., Jsc located in Thuan Bac district, Ninh Thuan province, this is a small processing company (15 employees) with extracting carrageenan from *Kappaphycus*. The company buy the dried *Kappaphycus* from Hoa Trinh, and other agents.

Long Hai Co.,Ltd located in Hai Duong city, Hai Duong province (North of Vietnam) is biggest seaweed processing company, extracting the carrageenan and making added value products such as varied jellies and drinking. Mainly their market is domestics and export in some countries: Myanmar, Lao, Cambodia, North Korea, Russia, German.

VINABS located at Vạn Lương commune, Vạn Ninh district, Khánh Hoà province, which can work with *Kappaphycus* seedling and rotational seedling among seaweed provinces, and can providing technical and leading as a cooperative member with *Kappaphycus* farmers in Khanh Hoa province if the project establishment.

There are around 20 SME working on the seagrape product, 90% of them selling on the domestic market as seagrape food. Some companies such as Tri Tin (Khanh Hoa), Hai Nam Okinawa (Binh Thuan) seagrape companies are also working for exporting. Both companies are production and processing, which raw product buy from surround farmers. Tri Tin has started to establish the linkage with the farmers, but as a small company, the scale of linkage is limitation of 5-10 ha of seagrape production.

Super Truong Phat Plastic Joint Stock Company located in Ha Noi as input material company. Currently, the company is having the projects on open sea aquaculture including seaweed in Ninh Thuan and Khanh Hoa, Vung Tau provinces. Super Truong Phat is potential stakeholders for participating as the input material supplier of seaweed aquaculture, co-pilot of seaweed aquaculture or IMTA models in the open seas areas.

Academia

Nha Trang Fisheries University: Source of planting material, collaboration in training; establishment and operation of a local seed nursery.

Research Institute of Aquaculture No 3: collaboration in the assessment of technical and economic performance of pilot farms; technical advice. Operation of seedling selection and nursery.

Nhatrang Institute of Technology Research and Application (NITRA) is one of best organization having the information, data on taxonomy of seaweed, researches, experts of seaweed in Vietnam. NITRA is working on scientific and technology activities and applications in the fields of marine biology and biotechnology. This should be engaged for database of the seaweed, the piloting in application of innovative materials or/and processing high value products.

Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF) is public research institute, having the good expert team in the field of seaweed diversity and resources, updating and connecting the stakeholders in the seaweed fields. a potential stakeholder for technical working group, surveying and consultation on the national seaweed planning.

Institute of Oceanography is public research institute, the Institute has many data on the seabed, climate/ weathers, sea currents, and potential areas, species, which can develop seaweed aquaculture. Potential for technical working group, baseline study, surveying and consulting on the national seaweed planning.

4. Summary of any previous stakeholder engagement activities

The National Stakeholder Consultation Workshop in July 2021 was attended by 31 representatives of companies, institutions, Universities and local authorities of provinces. This included representatives from the Directorate of Fisheries and other Departments and Agencies (RIA 2, RIFM, Provincial authorities), Nha Trang University, NGOs (WWF, MCD, ICAFIS, IDH), Vietnam Seaculture Association (VSA), and private industry (Tri Tin, Hai Nam, Tien Thinh, Truong Phat Food companies). The stakeholders agreed that a business model or models should be identified to develop the value chain for certain products based on market studies. This has implication on the choice of species to culture. Three possible species were named: *Kappaphycus* spp for carrageenan, *Gracilaria* spp for agar, and *Caulerpa* sp for food. There is a need to support seed improvement and promote good farming practices and new technology, preferably through the aquaculture associations.

The private sector favors the development of industrial scale farming.

The project development team consulted D-fish after the national stakeholders meeting and agreed, among others, that national seaweed development plan should be formulated to contribute to Marine Spatial Planning, which will be conducted by MONRE; the Project should help identify the potential areas for seaweed aquaculture and provide guides for the development of the value chain for seaweed cultured in an industrial scale. The plan must be consistent with the socio-economic plans of the provinces. Following the meeting with D-Fish, the Team carried out a desk study to narrow down potential sites and species based on the current status of seaweed culture in Viet Nam. The number of prospective areas was narrowed down to the provinces of Ninh Tuan and Khanh Hoa, The prospective species are *Kappaphycus* in Ninh Tuan and *Caulerpa* in Khanh Hoa.

Local Stakeholders Consultation

Two rounds of online provincial stakeholder consultations were conducted. In these meetings (see Annex 1 for participant list), the project design team and provincial stakeholders shared information on the seaweed aquaculture status in the prospective areas for the project, discussed project activities, and potential sites for the pilot farms. Phone, email contacts with key informants and with two groups (via chats on social network) were conducted to gather information and consult on the project plans and design.

The second consultation round was done in four in-person meetings from 14 to 16 Dec 2021 with Ninh Thuan and Khanh Hoa seaweed stakeholders. Additionally, 31 questionnaires were administered to stakeholders along the seaweed value chain, non-seaweed farmers, and scientific experts.

At the provincial meetings, the provinces of Ninh Thuan and Khanh Hoa agreed with the proposed activities of the project, particularly the seaweed value chain development; a detailed cooperation arrangement was suggested to be developed and agreed between the provincial authorities and the project.

The draft of a new aquaculture plan for Ninh Thuan province scales down the existing seaweed aquaculture Zone D from 235 ha to 100 ha. (The province has allocated much of the coastal areas for tourism). However, the plan allocates a 350 ha area in two new zones (Zone C1 and C2) for mariculture including seaweed. The province authority suggested that the project should not only focus on Zone D but extends its scope to Zone C, which is in Ninh Hai District, which is adjacent to Nanh Thuam, the district

that has jurisdiction over Zone C. Hoa Trinh pre-processing company expressed its willingness to join as a member of cooperative, should the project establish one.

Khanh Hoa has good conditions for seaweed farming, including *Kappaphycus* and *Caulerpa* species. In 2020, there were more than 47 ha planted to *Caulerpa* sp. and *Kappaphycus* sp. *Caulerpa* output was 414 tons mostly in Ninh Hai ward. The Aquaculture Plan to 2025 sets aside only 80 ha for seaweed farming. But it also provides for an assessment of other suitable areas for mariculture including seaweed farming. The commune authorities, farmers and the Tri Tin company are very supportive of the idea to establish a sustainable seagrape supply chain.

As with other coastal provinces, aquaculture is in competition with other sectors, especially tourism, seaport, and other industries

Women participation in *Kappaphycus* and seagrape production are 50% and 60% respectively, mostly in harvesting; men do the heavier tasks. In the the pre-processing stage 80-90% women participate. Most are seasonal workers. There is no explicit prohibition on women's participation in seaweed farming, but there is gender bias in the work division and pay between men and women. In the traditional view, men often do the heavier tasks and activities that take place at sea, while women take care of housework and the lighter but typically meticulous onshore tasks, such as cleaning, hanging, drying, and sorting the raw dried seaweed according the observable quality. The wages of the men are 20% more than the women's because they perform the heavier tasks¹.

Currently, there is no ethnic minority group working in the seaweed sector. However, expansion of the seaweed sector could attract minority groups from other areas.

The Validation Workshop was held on February 16, 2022 and was attended by 42 representatives of companies, institutes, universities and local authorities of provinces and seaweed farmers. This included representatives from the Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish), Representatives of Departments and Agencies (RIA 3, Ninh Thuan, Khanh Hoa, Binh Thuan, Phu Yen DARDs), Sub-Department of Aquaculture of Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, Binh Dinh, Binh Thuan, Phu Yen provinces, Agriculture Extension Center of Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Sub-Department of Rural Development of Khanh Hoa, Research institutes: RIFM, Nha Trang University, NGOs/CSOs (WWF Vietnam, GIZ), Vietnam seaculture Association, Private sector (Tri Tin Company, VINABS Company), Seaweed farmers from Ninh Thuan, Khanh Hoa, Consultant team, WWF US, SEAFDEC (via zoom). The stakeholders agreed with the seaweed project proposed activities for Vietnam. They highlight on the aspects of improving the quality of seedling and culture technology to enhance productivity; establishing the cooperatives of seaweed aquaculture and supporting to organize production and transfer technology to the seaweed farmers, and facilitate to link with the private sector. Engaging the participation of the private sector to improve the value chain for the seaweed industry based on the existent value chain.

5. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to ensure appropriate and consistent involvement of project stakeholders in every stage of the project implementation, supporting effective communication

¹ See the gender analysis section.

and working relationships. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will ensure that the views and inputs of stakeholders are taken into consideration throughout project implementation.

No	Stakeholder type	Name	Interests (stake) in the project	Frequency of Engagement/ Project Years	Engagement During Project Implementation
1	Central government agency	MARD/D-FISH	-Beneficiary from capacity building, better planning and management of seaweed sector, participation in global/regional seaweed fora. - Issue fisheries policies and directives to manage fisheries and mariculture, including seaweed aquaculture. - improvement of seaweed technical standards	Workshops, in person, email, phone calls Representation in PMU Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project implementation (strategic direction, workplans, budgets, progress monitoring, issue resolution) • Grievance redress mechanism • Alignment with Govt priorities, policies and strategies
2	Central government agency	MoNRE/VASI	Information for conducting marine spatial planning; approve projects in the marine areas (offshore) >6Nautical Miles from shoreline Developing and directing marine environmental monitoring. Interest in the development of tools to measure the carbon and nutrient capture in the ocean	Workshops, Quarterly; Yrs1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing and consulting on the seaweed aquaculture planning. • Participation in project planning. review workshops and seminars at national levels.
3	Central government agency	MOIT (Industry and Trade)	Supporting information on the seaweed market requirements, support the seaweed processing companies to promote trades, particularly the seaweed export.	Workshops, email, events, PMU meetings/ Every 6 months from Y2,3,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the project reviews; • Investment seminars/ forums

4	Provincial government agency	DOIT	Supporting the seaweed SMEs on market information, trading promotion events, registration of trademark or brands	Workshops, email, events, PMU meetings Yrs 2,3,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial PMU units • Mechanism for sharing information in the pilot provinces, particularly with the seaweed companies.
5	Provincial government agency	DoNREs	Enforcing the marine spatial planning in the province according the marine spatial master planning. Implementing the marine environmental monitoring, environmental pollution management among stakeholders in the province/ project sites.	Workshops, email, events,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting to participating the seaweed aquaculture planning.
6	Provincial government agency	DARD	<p>- Beneficiaries in the project participation in terms of provincial seaweed planning, implementing the pilot activities. Improve seaweed crop calendar, techniques. Support to harmonize the beneficiaries and conflicts between seaweed aquaculture and other aquaculture stakeholders. Facilitate to form the seaweed farmer groups/ cooperatives</p>	Workshops, email, events, PMU meetings Every 6-months, Y1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop clear collaboration/ division between national and provincial PMU • Provincial project implementation (strategic direction, workplans, budgets, progress monitoring, issue resolution). • Grievance redress mechanism

7	Provincial government	Provincial People's Committees	Issue Provincial Development Plan (including seaweed), direct implementation of fisheries policy in the province. Approve projects in the sea areas <6 NM. Support to harmonize the beneficiaries and resolve conflicts between seaweed aquaculture and other sector stakeholders.	Meetings, consultations Quarterly Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory on policy, rules and regulations to implement the Provincial Development Plan relevant to seaweed aquaculture. • Advisory on conflict management.
8	District government	DPC	Issue the water surface area lease (< 2 ha), implementation of supporting policies such as new rural development, poverty reduction measures; Issue farming license (<2ha)	Meetings, consultations Monthly Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory on district rules and regulations; monitoring of compliance to licensing requirements
9	Financial institutions	Banks (Agribank, VBPS, commercial banks)	The VBPS is supporting the poor with small loans on favorable terms (without collateral) . This may be suitable for the seaweed farmers Agriculture bank is specific bank for agriculture mortgage loans. The other commercial banks can support seaweed SMEs in the business development planning. Besides, some commercial banks can re-lend to farmers entrusted loans of international finance institutions.	Consultations Twice yearly Yrs 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing project information. • Negotiate with the banks to develop loan packages for farmers and value adding enterprises along the seaweed value chain.
10	CSO	ICAFIS	Supporting the farmers in adopting sustainable practices; connecting with other stakeholders based on requirements of sustainable seaweed aquaculture. Brings farmers' interests in national forums, program planning and policy formulation.	Twice Yearly Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory and partnership in promoting good management practices for farming

11	CSO	MCD	Share their experiences in coastal community development; training/ building capacity for coastal communities on gender equality. Bring women farmers' voices in higher levels discussions and forums.	Twice Yearly Yrs 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory and provision of expertise in gender and cooperative development and conduct of training courses.
12	NGO	WWF Vietnam	Support to the sustainable production and processing practices. Participation in the assessment of the projects; knowledge communication. Consult on the carbon and nutrient capture tools.	Ongoing/ Continuous Years 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite as advisor or as member of working groups.
13	NGO	IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative	Experience to works in multiple sectors with over companies, CSOs, financial institutions, producer organizations and governments towards sustainable production and trade. Support to collaborate for engaging private sector, PPP of seaweed sector.	Twice Yearly Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite as advisor or member of working groups, value chain development
14	Private sector	Input Supplied Companies: Super Truong Phat,	Providing seeds, materials, supporting capital. This stakeholder can participate in implementing the seaweed aquaculture pilot model in the open sea by providing specific materials for the pilot farm(s) along with other private companies Engaging for join-venture entity with seaweed producers to call for investments.	Quarterly Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage for co-finance in implementing the pilot models by providing specific materials for the pilot farms. • Engage for joint-venture investment seminars.
15	Private sector	Input Supply Agents	Mainly providing seaweed planting material	Monthly Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assurance of reliable supply of good quality propagules

16	Private sector	Processing companies: Tri Tin, Son Hai, Long Hai, VINAFCO	Beneficiaries from improved seaweed technology and RDS quality, and an efficient value chain. Engaging for join-venture entities with seaweed producers to call for investments.	Monthly Yrs 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage for value chain improvement, promoting the adoption of sustainable farming practices and compliance with quality and safety standards, co-financing of the pilot farms (Caulerpa), processing and biorefinery.
17	Private sector	Pre-processing facilities: Hoa Trinh, VINASB,	Collecting and buying in small batches – they are accessible to small farmers. Applying sustainable seaweed aquaculture practice and standards; traceability, and cost efficiency in handling and transport.	Monthly Yrs 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage for value chain improvement and farmers' participation and compliance with standards.
18	Private sector	Collectors	Buying the product directly from farmers with small volume.	Monthly Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage for assuring an equitable share of farmers of the market value of their products.

19	Local people	Seaweed farmers	The entire community is a beneficiary from an expansion of seaweed farming and the expected higher incomes and more employment opportunities in the seaweed value chain. Farming households will benefit from new, improved practices and production system, and from value adding enterprises.	Continuous Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish farmer groups or cooperatives for improving capacity in seaweed aquaculture and value addition, strengthening their participation in the value chains, access to finance and bargaining skills. • Grievance redress mechanism
20	Local community	Coastal fishermen	In the current areas there is no conflict between marine culture and coastal fisheries. In the future, there may be conflicts with seaweed farmers by their fishing areas being limited.	Continuous Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communication strategy to prevent, mitigate or resolve conflicts over the use of a common resource – the sea. The strategy is based on an approved and widely accepted marine spatial plan and zoning. • Fishers may also be encouraged to farm seaweed. • Opportunities for seasonal employment of local fishers in the seaweed value chain; • Grievance redress mechanism

21	Associations	Vietnam Seaculture Association	<p>Members will benefit from technological innovations and expansion of the seaweed industry; seaweed is added to the opportunities in mariculture scientific and business development.</p> <p>Policy advocacy and feedback on seaweed aquaculture, particularly on marine spatial planning, seaweed development planning, and providing information to decision-makers on formulation or revisions of provincial development plans.</p> <p>Contribute expertise and advice for baseline study, research, and monitoring and evaluation.</p>	Ongoing Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection with investors on enterprises along the seaweed value chain. • Cooperation in promoting a socially and environmentally responsible reputation of the seaweed sector. • Exploration of the potential for establishing industrial-scale seaweed farms in windfarm areas as well as use of seaweed in IMTA systems
22	Union	Vietnam Farmer's Union	Supporting capital and techniques from their funding/ programs.	Weekly Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VFU members will be encouraged to join the cooperative to be organized. Project would harness their experience in managing a farmers' group.
23	Union	Women's Union	Can benefit from the capacity building components of the project to further empower the women and promote gender equity; More opportunities for women employment in the seaweed value chain.	Every two weks Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the cooperatives to be formed; • Participation in project activities (post-harvest activities, farming) • Access to grievance mechanisms;

24	Private sectors	Tourism operators; companies; resorts	Potential competition with the seaweed sector in the use of the marine areas	Quarterly Yrs 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find ways to use seaweed products in the tourism services: such as food, cosmetics, etc., and to include seaweed farms and community value adding enterprises in ecotourism itineraries.
25	State owned entity	Seaport sectors	Potential competition with the seaweed sector in the marine/coastal spatial area uses	Quarterly Yrs 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent information in seaport zoning, • Review and update in provincial development planning, • Frequent and open communication.
26	Private sector	International seaweed producers	Potential investors in open sea/ offshore seaweed farming and processing of higher value products	Yearly Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars and business forums to share information on project results and potential investment opportunities.
27	Private sector	Offshore aquaculture producers	Potentially invest in offshore seaweed aquaculture or in IMTA in offshore areas	Yearly Yrs 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information of baseline study to identify areas suitable for seaweed aquaculture and the technical and economic performance of pilot farms

28	Research institutes	Research Institute for Aquaculture No 3 (RIA III)	Provision of scientific support in seed improvement, seed selection, nursery or seed bank establishment and operation, and production, Collaborating facilities and expertise.	Quarterly Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in the technical working group, • Advice on the management of pilot farms
29	Research institutes	Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF)	The Institute can use the project farm to test the performance of the seedlings that they have developed. Having a good expert team on seaweed diversity and resources, the Institute has the opportunity to participate in the The expert consultations to formulate the national seaweed strategy and plan.	Quarterly Yrs 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in the technical working group, expertise for conducting the baseline studies, and formulation of the national seaweed strategy.
30	Research institutes	Institute of Oceanography	Support to provide data on the seabed, climate/ weather, sea currents prevailing in the potential areas. Oceanographic information also informs site as well as species selection.	Yearly Years 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in the technical working group, expertise for participating or/and consulting on the concut of the baseline study.
31	Research institutes	Nha Trang Institute of Technology Research and Application (NITRA)	Collaborate in scientific and technology activities and applications in the fields of marine biology and biotechnology. NITRA has an ectensive and high quality data, information and expertise in taxonomy of seaweed. It has a strong research capability on seaweeds of Vietnam.	Yearly Years 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in the technical working group, expertise for participating or/and consulting the baseline study; • engage in developing a database on seaweed and in the application of innovative materials and techniques in production of higher value products

32	Research institutes	Nha Trang University	Provision of scientific support; undertaking of research activities related to seed improvement, seed selection and seedbank establishment and operation. Use of facilities and expertise for trainings.	Yearly Years 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in the technical working group, policy advocacy workshops, • Advice in the management of the pilot farms..
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6. Resources and Responsibilities

The WWF GEF Project Agency is responsible for oversight. The lead Executing Agency (SEAFDEC) and the Viet Nam national Executing Agency (D-fish) are jointly responsible for executing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and overall compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement. A Project Manager will be recruited to the Project Management Unit at SEAFDEC to ensure overall execution of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement. He/she will oversee implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan at an overall project level.

In Viet Nam, D-fish will be responsible for overseeing stakeholder engagement with communities and local partners. D-fish will recruit a Safeguards and Gender Specialist who will be responsible for implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan, and will report to the D-fish PMU Project Manager. Budget has been allocated for travel, monitoring, and implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan, and Environment and Social Management Framework.

7. Grievances Mechanism

A grievance is a concern or complaint raised by an individual or group negatively affected by project activities. A Grievance is not: (a) A question or suggestion for the project; or (b) An appeal or request for assistance.

Both concerns and complaints can result from either real or perceived impacts of the project's operations, and may be filed in the same manner and handled with the same procedure outlined in the GRM. Therefore, an effective and independent Grievance Redress Mechanism that collects and responds to stakeholders' inquiries, suggestions, concerns, and complaints is necessary to the project. The Project may have direct and indirect effect on a large number of communities and stakeholders living within or outside the project implementation areas.

The Objectives of GRM

The Objectives of the grievance mechanism are:

- (i) To provide stakeholders with a clear process for providing comment and raising grievances;
- (ii) To allow stakeholders the opportunity to raise comments or concerns anonymously through accessible channels;
- (iii) To structure and manage the handling of comments, responses and grievances, and allow monitoring of effectiveness of the mechanism; and
- (iv) To ensure that comments, responses and grievances are handled in a fair and transparent manner.

The Project Management Unit will establish specific roles and responsibilities related to the process below at the project inception workshop for resolving any and all grievances related to the project. All grievances will be reviewed and responded to in writing within 7 working days of receipt.

Country Level Grievance Resolution Mechanism

The GRM shall constitute an integral part of the Project and assist the PMU in identifying and addressing the needs of local communities. Both complaints and responses shall be recorded in the Grievance

Register for monitoring. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response, the grievance may be appealed in writing to the focal point at D-Fish or to the WWF US GEF Agency. The country-level grievance resolution mechanism will be developed at the inception workshop and finalized in the first three months of project implementation.

The GRM should be constituted as a permanent and accessible institutional arrangement for addressing any grievances arising from the implementation of project activities. It is in the interest of the Project to ensure that all grievances or conflicts that are related to the Project activities are appropriately resolved at the lowest level possible, without escalation to higher authorities or the initiation of court procedures. Project Affected Communities will therefore be encouraged to approach the Project's GRM for dispute settlement.

GRM Principles and Types of Grievances

This will include seven steps described below and demonstrate a typical grievance redress mechanism. The GRM shall operate based on the following principles:

- (i) Fairness: Grievances are assessed impartially, and handled transparently.
- (ii) Objective and independence: The GRM operates independently of all interested parties in order to guarantee fair, objective, and impartial treatment to each case.
- (iii) Simplicity and accessibility: Procedures to file grievances and seek action are simple enough that project beneficiaries can easily understand them.
- (iv) Responsiveness and efficiency: The GRM is designed to be responsive to the needs of all complainants. Accordingly, officials handling grievances must be trained to take effective action upon, and respond quickly to, grievances and suggestions.
- (v) Speed and proportionality: All grievances, simple or complex, are addresses and resolved as quickly as possible. The action on the grievances or suggestion is swift, decisive, and constructive.
- (vi) Participation and inclusiveness: A wide range of affected people – particularly communities and vulnerable groups – are encouraged to bring grievances and comments to the attention of the project implementers. Special attention is given to ensure that poor people and marginalized groups, including those with special needs, are able to access the GRM.
- (vii) Accountability and closing the feedback loop: All grievances are recorded and monitored, and no grievance remains unresolved. Complainants are always notified and get explanations regarding the results of their complaint. An appeal option shall always be available.

Complaints may include, but not be limited to, the following issues:

- a) Allegations of fraud, malpractices or corruption by staff or other stakeholders as part of any project or activity financed or implemented by the Project;
- b) Environmental and/or social damage/harm caused by projects financed or implemented (including those in progress) by the Project;
- c) Complaints and grievances by permanent or temporary workers engaged in project activities.

Complaints could relate to resource efficiency; negative impacts on public health, environment or culture; destructive of natural habitats; disproportionate impact on marginalized and vulnerable groups; discrimination or harassment; violation of applicable laws and regulations; destruction of physical and cultural heritage; or any other issues which adversely impact communities or individuals in project

areas. The grievance redress mechanism will be implemented in a culturally sensitive manner and facilitate access for vulnerable populations.

GRM Procedures

The Project will be administered by the PMU. The Safeguards & Gender Specialist will be in charge of the operation of the GRM at the PMU and will be responsible for collecting and processing grievances that relate to activities in the landscape. The GRM will operate according to the following procedures.

1. Submitting complaints: Project Affected People or interested stakeholders can be submitting grievances or complaints directly to the PMU through a variety of communication channels, such as phone, regular mail, text messaging/SMS, or in-person, or by visiting the local PMU offices. It is important to enable to separate channels for complaint submissions in order to ensure that project affected people have sufficient opportunities to lodge their complaints to impartial and neutral authorities.
2. Processing complaints: All grievances submitted to the PMU shall be registered and considered. A tracking registration number should be provided to all complainants. To facilitate investigation, complaints will be categorized into four types: (a) complaints relating to non-performance of the Project obligations and safeguards-related complaints; (b) complaints referring to violation of law and/or corruption while implementing project activities; (c) complaints against authorities, officials or community members involved in the the Project management; and (d) any complaints/issues not falling in the above categories.
3. Acknowledging the receipt of complaints: Once a grievance is submitted, the Safeguards & Gender Specialist at the PMU shall acknowledge its receipt, brief the complainant on the grievance resolution process, provide the contact details of the person in charge of handling the grievance, and provide a registration number that would enable the complainant to track the status of the complaint.
4. Investigating complaints: The Safeguards & Gender Specialist at the PMU will gather relevant information, conduct field visits as necessary, and communicate with all relevant stakeholders as part of the complaint investigation process. The PMU dealing with the investigation shall ensure that the investigators are neutral and do not have any stake in the outcome of the investigation. A written response to all grievance will be provided to the complainant within 10 working days. If further investigation is required, the complainant will be informed accordingly and a final response will be provided after an additional period of 10 working days. Grievance that cannot be resolved by grievance receiving authorities/office at their level should be referred to a higher level for verification and further investigation.
5. If the grievance is in any way related to the behavior or actions of the Safeguards & Gender Specialist, it may be submitted directly to the Project Manager, another member of the PMU, or it may be submitted directly to the WWF GEF Agency.
6. Appeal: In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the response provided by the GRM, he/she/they will be able to submit an appeal to the D-Fish focal point, the SEAFDEC PMU, or WWF GEF Agency within 10 days from the date of submission.
7. Monitoring and evaluation: The Safeguards & Gender Specialist will prepare semi-annual reports with full information on the grievances received and their investigation status which the Project Manager shall submit to the WWF GEF Agency and the SEAFDEC PMU as part of the regular project progress reporting.

Information about channels available for grievance redress shall be widely communicated in all project affected communities and with all relevant stakeholders. The contact details (name, phone

number, mail and email address, etc.) of the Safeguards & Gender Specialist in the Project PMU should be disseminated as part of all public hearings and consultations, in the local media, in all public areas in affected communities, or project activity area sites.

The GRM seeks to complement, rather than substitute, the judicial system and other dispute resolution mechanisms. All complainants may therefore file their grievance in local courts or approach mediators or 25 arbitrators, in accordance with the legislation of Viet Nam. In addition to the project specific GRM, a complainant can submit a grievance to the WWF GEF Agency.

WWF GEF Agency Grievance Mechanism

Project-affected communities and other interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the WWF GEF Agency. Contact information of the WWF GEF Agency will be made publicly available.

A grievance can be filed with the Project Complaints Officer (PCO), a WWF staff member fully independent from the WWF GEF Agency, who is responsible for the WWF Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at: Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org.

Mailing address:

Project Complaints Officer Safeguards Complaints,
World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Complaints may be submitted in the Affected Party's native language and should include the following information:

- Complainant's name and contact information;
- If not filed directly by the complainant, proof that those representing the affected people have authority to do so;
- The specific project or program of concern;
- The harm that is or may be resulting from the project;
- The relevant Environmental and Social Safeguards policy or provision (if known);
- Any other relevant information or documents;
- Any actions taken so far to resolve the problem, including contacting WWF;
- Proposed solutions; and
- Whether confidentiality is requested (stating reasons).

The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online or over the phone through an independent third-party platform at <https://report.whistleb.com/en/wwf>.

8. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be monitored and reported on throughout implementation. The following comprises the monitoring and reporting activities to be undertaken with

respect to stakeholder engagement by the SEAFDEC PMU at the regional level and by the National PMU in Viet Nam:

- The SEP will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary at an annual Reflection Workshop. The review will ensure that the list of project stakeholders and methods of engagement remain appropriate.
- Activities related to stakeholder engagement will be documented and reported by the PMU every 6 months in a Project Progress Report (as part of regular reporting). The project Results Framework and Annual Work Plan and Budget will track beneficiaries of the project and activities related to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Stakeholder Engagement will be evaluated by **independent consultants** recruited for the project midterm and terminal evaluation.

The **WWF GEF Agency** will undertake annual supervision missions to ensure compliance, and report on progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan annually to the GEF through Project Implementation Reports.

Appendix 1: Systematic Documentation of Stakeholder Consultations

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
June 24, 2021	Consultation workshop	Via Zoom Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the project and its expectation outcomes. • Current seaweed status and issues and potentialities. • Consulting on the stakeholders should involve in the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of “offshore” should be clarified in terms of distance and depth. Because those will effect on the relavant stakeholders or/and Navy, coast guards in terms of security as well. • Current seaweed producers in Vietnam are small-scale farmers. And there are some potential investors for industrial scale such as sea areas of windfarm, integrated with fish cages with Norway technology,... • Seaweed seedling, intensive processing of seaweed are issues of the sector in Vietnam. It needs to invest on the seed technology and deep processing technology to increase the productivity as well as the added value products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF Vietnam • Consultant team • VSA • IDH
July 16, 2021	Stakeholder consultation workshop	Via Zoom Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a shared understanding from stakeholders about the project. • Review criteria for site selection to implement the GEF seaweed project in Vietnam and identify 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirement of seaweed offshore aquaculture is not suitable with Vietnam context and the objective is improve the communities’ livelihood. Discuss with the donor about the criteria on site selection especially the off-shore area criteria. • Site selection should combine with current’s farming and species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish) • Representatives of Departments and Agencies (RIA 2, Provincial authorities), • Research institutes: RIFM, Nha Trang University,

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
			<p>short-list of candidate sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify seaweed species of focus. • Discuss interest and potential cooperation with stakeholder partners in Vietnam. 	<p>Example: (<i>Kappaphycus</i> spp.) for carrageena extraction in the middle and the south, red seaweed (<i>Gracilaria</i> spp.) in the middle and the north of Vietnam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific division of work and role for the private sector. • Vietnam seaculture Association (VSA) will cooperate with the private sector to propose some suggestion for project proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs/CSOs (WWF Vietnam, MCD, ICAFIS, IDH), • Vietnam seaculture Association (VSA) • Private sector (Tri Tin Company, Hai Nam Company)
July 28, 2021	National stakeholder consultation workshop	Via Zoom Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site selection for seaweed culture and next steps • Policy gaps • Expectations of DFISH in implement the Seaweed project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D-FISH agreed on selection 02 sites include 01 site in Southern of Central of VN (Ninh Thuan – Khanh Hoa- Binh Thuan) and 01 site depend on a desk study of the consultant team and consult with industry. How to get 02 objectives not only improve livelihood for the community but also promote the sustainable seaweed value chain. • For component 2: focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study on the status of the seaweed sector of Vietnam. - Based on the study, develop Vietnam seaweed aquaculture planning up to 2030, vision to 2045 (example) - Mainstreaming the seaweed aquaculture planning into “Marine spatial Planning” which will be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D-Fish • WWF Vietnam • Consultant team

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
				<p>conducted by MONRE the Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation with industry to find out the second site - Consultant team may not go to the field for the site visit due to covid-19, need to discuss with Pete/Rachel in the next call for replaced solutions in consultation with stakeholders. 	
August 24, 2021	Ninh Thuan provincial stakeholder consultation workshop	Via Zoom Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the project to local authorities; • Discussing and collecting more information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current status of seaweed farming in Ninh Thuan province: achievements, difficulties/challenges, the provincial orientation in seaweed farming development; - Understanding more about the province seaweed aquaculture development plan and related policies; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local authorities highly appreciate the project in the term of exploring the nearshore resources sustainably and improving the livelihood of coastal communities; • The project is suitable for smallholder fishermen who have to need to change livelihood (offshore fishermen or cage farming); • The current seaweed farming area in Ninh Thuan area is small (15 ha of farming area and 450 tons of fresh seaweed harvested in 2020); The area of seaweed farming has been decreased in recent years; • Seaweed producers in Ninh Thuan mainly are smallholder families in coastal communities and they are not yet organized in farmer groups or cooperatives; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D-Fish • WWF Vietnam • Ninh Thuan DARD • Ninh Thuan fisheries department • Consultants

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding more about seaweed processing companies, farms and the provincial sustainable seaweed value chain development and livelihood; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmed seaweed species are <i>Kappaphycus</i> (open sea) and <i>Caulerpaceae</i>. The quality of seaweed breed is degraded; • The seaweed value chain linkages are weak both among producers as well as with other actors; • Local authorities have not particular policies relating to seaweed farming activities; 	
August 25, 2021	Khanh Hoa provincial stakeholder consultation workshop	Via Zoom Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the project to local authorities; • Discussing and collecting more information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current status of seaweed farming in Khanh Hoa province: achievements, difficulties/challenges, the provincial orientation in seaweed farming development; - Understanding more about the province seaweed aquaculture development plan and related policies; - Understanding more about seaweed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmed seaweed species are <i>Kappaphycus</i> (since 1998) and <i>Caulerpaceae</i> (since 2004); farming techniques is simple; • Last year, There are 10 ha of <i>Kappaphycus</i> seaweed farming and 37,4 ha of <i>Caulerpaceae</i> seaweed farming; • Local farmers also harvest <i>Sargassum pallidum</i> seaweed to sell local traders, local traders export them to china market; • <i>Sargassum pallidum</i> seaweed areas play the role of nurseries for fishes, so it is very important to manage harvesting activities and protect the seaweed areas to protect fisheries resources. The area can reach 1000 ha; • For <i>Caulerpaceae</i> seaweed farming, Ninh Hoa is a good place for pilot farming, it is farmed on ponds; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D-Fish • WWF Vietnam • Khanh Hoa fisheries department • Consultants

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
			<p>processing companies, farms and the provincial sustainable seaweed value chain development and livelihood;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For <i>Kappaphycus</i>, <i>Gracilaria</i> seaweed farming, Nha Phu bay and the south area of Van phong gulf are suitable places. Cage farming can be used for the seaweed to prevent damages from fish and strong waves; • The sea area at the distance of 3 nautical miles offshore is very potential for seaweed farming; • It is potential to improve livelihood for coastal communities special for livelihood transition for nearshore fishermen because Khanh Hoa province planned to decrease nearshore fishing activities; • As Fisheries law, the sea area from 0 to 3 nautical miles offshore, the district level will be responsible for administration management. For the sea areas from 3 sea miles to furthers, Khanh Hoa fisheries department is responsible for administration management; • The planned area for seaweed farming is small (80 ha in 2025 and 50 ha in 2035), however, seaweed farming can take advantage of a lot sea surface or we can integrate seaweed farming with fish farming; 	

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market access is the biggest difficulty for seaweed farmers, they depend totally on local traders; 	
August 31, 2021	Private sector consultation workshop	Via Zoom Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the project to the companies; Getting more understanding about the provincial seaweed farming activities, plan, orientation, related policies and other issues including value chain linkages, local community livelihood, gender issues... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Caulerpaceae</i> and <i>Kappaphycus</i> are 02 potential species for development in Vietnam Around 80% of <i>Caulerpaceae</i> seaweed volume is for exporting to the US, Japan, Korea. US is the biggest market; the remaining is for the domestic market. <i>Caulerpaceae</i> seaweed farming creates employment and income for local people in recent years. The international market requires a high standard on food safety, The total structure investment (fix cost) is 600 – 700 million/1000 m2 based on the <i>Caulerpaceae</i> seaweed farming area context. The domestic demand for <i>Caulerpaceae</i> seaweed is still small. But on the domestic market, the local authorities/retailers do not control the quality well. We need to control quality better to keep domestic market; In order to promote <i>Caulerpaceae</i> seaweed value chain, it is needed to ensure market, improve processing facilities, and support farmers to have better finance access. The 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WWF Consultants Tri Tin Company

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
				<p>processing and exporting companies should be the head of the value chain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tri Tin Company worked with experts from Netherland to pilot new models of farming <i>Kappaphycus</i> seaweed on canvas strips. The volume can reach 800 tons of fresh seaweed /ha/year. The cost of canvas strips is expensive even the lifetime of canvas strips can last for five years. Tri Tin company are finding the alternative material, polymer/polypropylene canvas is potential material. Tri Tin company will pilot; • About <i>Sargassum pallidum</i> seaweed: The scientist in Vietnam tried to extract value substance but not very successfully. • In the southern part of Vietnam, a kind of seaweed specie which looks like Caulerpaceae seaweed can be the potential to extract some high-value chemicals because they grow naturally (the Ramimosa species). Some seaweed species also grow naturally in shrimp ponds in Vietnam. So it is potential in here too, need more studies • Caulerpaceae seaweed farming is located in Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Ninh 	

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
				<p>Thuan, Binh Thuan.... Ho Chi Minh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai are also potential for Caulerpaceae seaweed farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the process, most of workers are is women. In the traditional farming method, most of the activities are done by men because the harvesting work requires labor have to snorkel to pond floor to collect Caulerpaceae seaweed. But if application of grilled farming methods, women will participate more. 	
November 18, 2021	Consultation workshop	Via Zoom Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on interventions of the project component 3. The role of VSA can participate to the projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from companies and researchers indicate lot potential for value chain development VSA have their members as companies, which are working in the seaweed such as Tri Tin, Hai Nam Okinawa,... who are buying from the small scale farmers currently, that can participate the project. Besides, VSA can support to find and connect with the importers,... VSA perspectives with the seaweed sector: it needs to work as industrial scales for doing seaweed aquaculture in the open sea incooperate with windfarm, ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VSA (including private companies as VSA's members) WWF Vietnam Consultant team

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
December 14, 2021	Provincial Stakeholder consultation meeting	Department Agriculture and rural development (DARD) of Ninh Thuan Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the project to the participants; • Introducing the proposed activities for Vietnam, focus on components 2 and 03, focus on the activities in Ninh Thuan province • Collect feedback/suggestions from participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants agreed with the proposed activities of the project, when implementation the activities in Ninh Thuan province, the project team should be detailed on how to cooperate with the provincial authority. • Ninh Thuan province has 265 ha (235 ha at D zone (Phuoc Dinh commune, Thuan Nam district) and 30 ha at Dam Nai (Ninh Hai district) for <i>Kappaphycus</i> aquaculture. In the new planning (still at the draft version), the area for seaweed will be scale down at zone D to 100ha and establish new zone C with 1,260 ha for multi-species farming, include seaweed. • In the period 2011 – 2015, more than 3,500 tons with more than 200 ha of <i>Kappaphycus</i> produced in Ninh Thuan province, but recently years due to market fluctuation, weather conditions (temperature) and lack of quality of seedling, there were only 16 ha for <i>Kappaphycus</i> aquaculture, which produces 450 tons of fresh <i>Kappaphycus</i> in 2020. • Suitable temperature for <i>Kappaphycus</i> (<i>Kappaphycus alvarezii</i>) (25°C -30°C), if the water's temperature is over 30°C, lead to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF • Consultants • DARD • Aquaculture department • Seedling center • Agriculture extension service center • Truong Phat company

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
				<p>disease of <i>Kappaphycus</i> (ice-ice disease), and <i>Kappaphycys</i> growth not well. There are other species (similar family): <i>Kappaphycus striatus</i>, and <i>Eucheuma denticulatum</i> can grow in the warmer water temperature (25-32°C).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition with other sectors, particularly for tourisms caused to scale down the area for marine culture including seaweed. • In 2015, there is the model applied “net cage” for <i>Kappaphycus</i>, but still have some challenges such as high-cost investment, not convenient for cleaning the <i>Kappaphycus</i>, mesh size of the net was not suitable that still had eaten by fishes. • Aquaculture department suggests the project should not only focus on zone D, but also extend to zone C – Ninh Hai District (next to Thuan Nam) (C1 and C2 with a total 340ha) for marine culture. Zone C is the new area, planned for marine culture, include C1,C2,C3 and C4 with 1,260 ha. This planning is mentioned in the draft provincial planning of Ninh Thuan province, expectation the planning will be approved in 2022. 	

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of management, the Department of Environment and Natural resource; and the Department of Agriculture and rural development of Ninh Thuan province issued the regulation on guidance producer to register marine areas for marine farming including seaweed, based on decree 11/2021/ND-CP, on the assignment of certain sea areas to organizations and individuals for exploitation and use marine resources and decree 26/2019/ND-CP on guidelines for implementation of the law on fisheries • Quality of <i>Kappaphycus</i> seedling is not good, should have the activity on improving the quality of <i>Kappaphycus</i> seedling • Main crop for <i>Kappaphycus</i> is from April - Sep annually, • Supper Truong Phat provide the material for marine culture, plastic HDPE full package (net package length x wide x depth (6m x 2m x 0.8m), cost 3,6 million VND • 07-08 kg of fresh <i>Kappaphycus</i> equivalent to 1 kg of dried <i>Kappyphycus</i>. • The most challenges for <i>Kappaphycus</i> are market price 	

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
				fluctuation, eaten by fish, weathers (warm temperature, wave)	
December 14, 2021	Community consultation workshop	Phuoc Dinh commune, Thuan Nam district, Ninh Thuan Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the project to the participants • Introduce the proposed activities for Vietnam, focus on components 2 and 3, focus on the activities in Ninh Thuan province • Collect feedback/suggestion from participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phuoc Dinh commune, Thuan Nam district is the biggest areas for <i>Kappaphycus</i> farming. In the peak period of <i>Kappaphycus</i> farming, there were 107 households cultivating 82 ha with production range from 25 to 30 tons of fresh weight. • 100% farmers apply rope-tie method for <i>Kappaphycus</i> farming. This is the traditional farming, which apply the cutting and multiplying methods, which low productivity. • In 2020, there was only few of households (5-7 households) cultivated, due to market price was low, weathers, eaten by fish • Main crop for <i>Kappaphycus</i> is from April to Sept, • Most challenges for <i>Kappaphycus</i> are market fluctuation, eaten by fish, weather (from Oct – March) have big wave and high temperature not suitable for <i>Kappaphycus</i>, rotten disease. • Cost for production is around 50 – 60 million vnd per ha include material for farming, seedling, and hired labour, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF • Consultants • Aquaculture department • Commune authority • Women union • Farmers

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total revenue is around 125 mil – 150 mil vnd (if the market price is 5,000 vnd for 01kg of fresh weight, profit around 50 – 70 mil vnd/ha/year) • 100% people in the commune is Kinh people, there are not ethnic group people or indigenous people in the area. • The participants are very support the idea to develop seaweed project in the area, can help them promote the <i>Kappaphycus</i> and increasing the income. • There are male and female join in the <i>Kappaphycus</i> farming, example: male (farming preparations, tie rope, floating plastic, take care of <i>Kappaphycus</i>, harvest on the sea), women (tie <i>Kappaphycus</i> to the rope, clean up the <i>kappaphycus</i>, harvest, drying and sell on the shore), there are no prohibited women to do the works as men, but custom/ culture, mainly men works with activities in the sea and women do the activities on the shore. • They also support the idea establish the cooperative/association, with join of company (as cooperative member) to buy their products and technical training, pilot model. 	

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December 14, 2022	Stakeholder consultation meeting and field visit	Phuoc Dinh commune, Thuan Nam district, Ninh Thuan Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the project; • Introduce the proposed activities for Vietnam, focus on components 2 and 03, focus on the activities in Ninh Thuan province • Possibility of company participating to the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoa Trinh company is the big company that buys <i>Kappaphycus</i> products (black and white color of dried <i>Kappaphycus</i>) from the farmer directly or the other broker in other provinces, • They buy both fresh and dried <i>Kappaphycus</i>, the capacity of this company is around 800 tons/ year of dried weight of <i>Kappaphycus</i>, they also import 500 to 1,000 tons/ year from the Philippines. • Their market for both Domestic market and US market, for Domestic market they sell directly to a big company called Long Hai company for extract the carrageenan. For US market, they export the white dried <i>Kappaphycus</i>. • The company hires 10 – 20 labors (depending on peak season), 50% are women. • The cost for daily labor is around 250,000 vnd/person for women, 300,000 vnd for men. The difference is due to physical works. • They also provide loans for farmers (5-10 million) to buy seedlings at the beginning of the crop, • The company is keen to join with the project, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF • Consultants • Aquaculture department • Hoa Trinh Company

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December 16, 2021	Provincial Stakeholder consultation meeting	Aquaculture Department of Khanh Hoa province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the project to the participants; • Introducing the proposed activities for Vietnam, focus on components 2 and 03, focus on the activities in Khanh Hoa province • Collect feedback/suggestions from participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khanh Hoa has good conditions for seaweed farming, include <i>Kappaphycus</i> and <i>Caulerpaceae</i> • In 2020, there are 47.4 ha cultivate for <i>Caulerpaceae</i> and <i>Kappaphycus</i> with 414 tons, for <i>Caulerpaceae</i> mostly in Ninh Hai ward, Ninh Hoa town, Khanh Hoa • According to aquaculture planning, up to 2025 there are only 80ha for seaweed farming, but need to make the assessment where can be used for marine-culture including seaweed. • Aquaculture department of province support the idea to build up the supply chain for seaweed in Khanh Hoa, • Khanh Hoa has the same problem with other coastal province, that is Aquaculture is competition with other sector, especially tourisms, seaport, other industry. With the current areas, there is no conflict with marine culture and coastal fishermen. • The challenge for seaweed are there is no supply chain, market price fluctuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF • Consultants • Aquaculture department
December 16, 2021	Stakeholder consultation	Tri Tin company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the proposed activities for Vietnam, focus on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company locate at Ninh Hai ward, produce <i>Caulerpaceae</i> for exporting, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF • Consultants

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
	meeting and field visit		<p>components 2 and 03, focus on the activities in Khanh Hoa province</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of company participating to the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ben (owner of company) who is pioneer person in Caulepaceae culture, • Company has 50 workers (90% are women), average salary 5mil. vnd/month , 03 main products for exporting fresh seagrapes, dehydrated seagrapes and Seagrape powder, with 13%, 86% and 1% respectively of total revenue of 1million USD, net profit 33% (330,000 USD per year) • The exporting market (80%): US, Korea, Japan and Portugal and domestic market (20%) • Production raw material: 25% from owned farm, 25% from brokers and 50% from direct farmers • The company is willing to implement some pilot models in the near future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot model seagrapes plant in plastic frame in earth ponds • Pilot model seagrapes plant in plastic frame in earth ponds combine with sea-cucumber • Pilot seagrape plant in the open sea. • The company support the idea to establish the association, farming contract link with group producers/ cooperative, it's convenient for company to join, due to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquaculture department • Companies

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				<p>company locate at the same district with the farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The another company working with <i>Kappaphycus</i> as VINABS located at Vạn Lương commune, Vạn Ninh district, Khánh Hoà province, which can work with <i>Kappaphycus</i> seedling and rotational seedling among seaweed provinces, and can work with <i>Kappaphycus</i> farmers in Khanh Hoa province 	
December 16, 2021	Community consultation workshop	Ninh Hai ward, Khanh Hoa province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the project to the participant; Introduce the proposed activities for Vietnam, focus on components 2 and 03, focus on the activities in Khanh Hoa province Collect feedback/suggestion from participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 14 people (2 women) join the meeting. Seagrape was introduced by Tri Tin company in 2007, up to now more than 58 households cultivating with around 30 ha, average 5,000 m²/household. Most of farms shifted to seagrape from shrimp, sea-snail or salt ponds Production range from 10 to 20 ton/ha/year with fresh weight, most of farmers learned experience from other by themselves, Cost of production for seagrape for 01 ha: pond investment around 300mil vnd for pond preparation (long term used 10 years), 100 mil for rope, net (3-5 year), seedling 20 mil vnd, harvest cost 200 mil (10k vnd/kg, estimate 20 tons/ha/year). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WWF Consultants Aquaculture department Tri Tin, VinaBS Companies Local authority of Ninh Hai ward Women union Farmers

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market price for seagrapes from 20k vnd – 35k vnd/kg (depend on the quality of the product). • The salinity for seagrape from 30 – 35ppt, most of farms connect direct to the sea, this condition is suitable except the time (Oct-Dec) due to rain/storm. • The most challenge for seagrapes: (1) market price, (2) farming techniques and (3) disease include worm-seaweed, un-known disease, low salinity. • All people are Kinh people, there is no ethnic minority or indigenous people. • Women participate 60% on the seagrape production, particularly in the harvesting phase for picking the seagrape. While men are mainly handling the heavier works. • Total cost per ha/year: 175 – 275 mil vnd/ha/year • Total revenue: 200 – 700tr/vnd/year • Net profit around 25mil – 425mil vnd/ha/year • Local authority, farmers and company are very support for the idea to establish the seagrape value chain, not only provide technologies for farms, but also create the 	

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				sustainable for seagrape value chain.	
February 16, 2022	Validation Workshop	Nha Trang city, Khanh Hoa province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the studies of the seaweed value chain, Stakeholder engagement and Gender Action Plans, and the Seaweed policy analysis under the scope of the project; • Introduce the final draft of project proposed activities for Vietnam • Collect feedback/suggestion from participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants mostly agreed with the seaweed project proposal for Vietnam. • Considering different seaweed species and expanding the project areas to other provinces as Phu Yen, Binh Dinh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai. • Reducing number of staff from 6 to 5 staff and allocating that staff budget for implementing the activities and piloting the seaweed aquaculture models, especially establishing the cooperatives of seaweed aquaculture and supporting to organize production and transfer technology to the seaweed farmers. • Improving the quality of seedling and culture technology to enhance productivity. Especially providing adequate and good quality of seaweed seedling to ensure timely crop season. • Engaging the participation of the private sector to improve the value chain for the seaweed industry based on the existent value chain. Ensuring the market for seaweed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish) • Representatives of Departments and Agencies (RIA 3, Ninh Thuan, Khanh Hoa, Binh Thuan, Phu Yen DARDs), • Sub-Department of Aquaculture of Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, Binh Dinh, Binh Thuan, Phu Yen provinces • Agriculture Extension Center of Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa. • Sub-Department of Rural Development of Khanh Hoa • Research institutes: RIFM, Nha Trang University, • NGOs/CSOs (WWF Vietnam, GIZ), • Vietnam seaculture Association (VSA)

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				products. Establish the cooperatives to link with the private sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector (Tri Tin Company, VINABS Company) • Seaweed culture farmers from Ninh Thuan, Khanh Hoa • Consultant team • WWF US, SEAFDEC (via zoom).