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HSBC joins hands with WWF-Vietnam to generate 150-ha of mangrove forest in Mui Ca Mau National Park and fight climate change

*** Bank joins hands with WWF Vietnam on a five-year mangrove restoration and carbon sequestration project ***

*** The mangrove trees will form a buffer between the land, sea and rivers, helping to maintain this patch of the Mekong Delta and shielding it against natural disasters ***

(Ho Chi Minh City) – HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd. – HSBC Vietnam has partnered with WWF-Vietnam, to implement a mangrove forest restoration project in Mui Ca Mau National Park in the southernmost tip of mainland Vietnam.

The five-year VND10 billion project will generate 150 hectares of mangrove forest that will in turn help address serious socio-environmental challenges, such as climate change, water security, water pollution, food security, human health and disaster risk management.

According to HSBC's recent report "*Tackling the next crisis*", for Asia, climate change is defined as the crisis of the century, not the coronavirus pandemic and Vietnam is among the countries that can be most impacted. Ho Chi Minh City is among many cities in Asia (besides Mumbai, Shanghai, Bangkok and Jakarta) that are being increasingly threatened by rising sea levels. The country is also ranked in the top five for agricultural sector risk scores by Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and HSBC and typhoon-induced damage on agricultural production is set to increase. On the other hand, Asia is not just on the receiving end of climate change: it has become an integral part of perpetuating the problem. The region has accounted for 87% of global greenhouse gas and 78% of CO2 emissions growth since 1990. Among reasons which could be so preventable, deforestation has become a major emissions contributor in Southeast Asia including Vietnam.

"We intend to actively contribute to Vietnam's efforts in tackling climate change which is a critical issue facing the country. HSBC provides funding to assist with preserving the environment and helping support activities that also protect and enhance nature so that future generations can live in a cleaner, greener, safer and more sustainable world," said Tim Evans, CEO of HSBC Vietnam. "By investing in this project in Mui Ca Mau National Park, HSBC Vietnam will play an important part in building Vietnam's resilience against natural disasters and climate change so that families, communities and businesses can thrive in the future".

Within the scope of the project, HSBC Vietnam works alongside conservationist experts from WWF-Vietnam to develop a far-reaching and innovative programme that will nurture the vulnerable ecology of Mui Ca Mau National Park, the Mekong Delta and beyond. The project is expected to support Vietnam's commitment in the Paris Agreement which is a 8% reduction in emissions by 2030 (compared to business as usual levels) or 25% conditional,

upon international support. Specifically, the project will also support the country's pledge of increasing forest cover to 45%.

150-ha mangrove forest is regenerated by applying newly developed natural mangrove regeneration technology to ensure the highest possibility of tree growth. When reaching maturity, this 150-ha mangrove forest will be able to sequester at least 20,000 tonnes of carbon per year, reducing CO2 levels. The mangrove trees will also form a buffer between the land, sea and rivers, helping maintain this patch of the Mekong Delta and shield it from natural disasters.

In addition, this new forest area will provide ecosystem services for more than 10,000 households to be protected from flooding and to improve their fishery spawning ground by up to 350-390 tonnes of seafood per year. This project is also poised to explore best management practices and disseminate those to buffer zone communities for alternative livelihood solutions.

Another component of the project will also feature an education programme on forest protection and biodiversity conservation for about 3,000 households in the core zone of the national park, raising their awareness about conservation issues.

Especially the project framework will also involve the prolonged engagement of HSBC staff volunteers who will deliver a genuine impact on the ground through the delivery of environmental services within the national park.

Mr. Van Ngoc Thinh, Country Director of WWF-Viet Nam said: "The multi-year dynamic partnership between HSBC and WWF-Viet Nam is ramping up in the super year 2020. It truly provides a unique platform and multiplies the impact of the HSBC Water Programme which has benefited more than 2.5 million people in total across five major river basins of the world. The green and just response to the current environmental crisis as a whole at the heart of recovery strategies, investments and decisions and actions through this partnership will contribute to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 to reach sustainable development goals and future proof our country."

"The contribution of corporates in the community cannot just be limited to conducting business in a sustainable manner, and/or contributing to the overall economic growth of the country but they must also use their resources to try to minimise any negative environmental impact and help improve the living standards of the community", added Mr. Evans, "With a presence of 150 years in Vietnam and as a leading international bank, we also see part of our mission in the country to help preserve its nature and environment".

This project is just one of many exciting initiatives that coincides with the 150th anniversary of HSBC's first arrival in Vietnam.

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Note to editors:

HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd.

HSBC has been in Vietnam for 150 years – the bank first opened an office in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) in 1870. HSBC was the first foreign bank to launch its locally incorporated entity on 1 January 2009 as HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd. The bank's current network includes two branches and five transaction offices in Ho Chi Minh City, one branch and four transaction offices in Hanoi, and two full-service branches in Binh Duong and Da Nang. HSBC is one of the largest foreign banks in the country in terms of investment capital, product range, and customer base.

WWF

WWF is an independent conservation organization with over 30 million followers and a global network active in nearly 100 countries. Our mission is to stop the degradation of the Earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. We accomplish this by conserving the world's biodiversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. Visit www.panda.org/news for the latest news and media resources, and follow us on Twitter [@WWF_media](https://twitter.com/WWF_media).

HSBC's latest climate commitment

On 9 October 2020, HSBC announced an ambitious plan to prioritise financing and investment that supports the transition to a net zero global economy, citing a landmark opportunity to build a thriving, resilient future for society and businesses.

The bank is committing to align its financed emissions – the carbon emissions of its portfolio of customers – to the Paris Agreement goal to achieve net zero by 2050 or sooner. HSBC has both the scale and global reach to play a leading role in guiding its customers through this transition and helping them to achieve this ambitious goal. The bank also aims to be net zero in its operations and supply chain by 2030.

To achieve this ambition, HSBC aims to:

- Align its business activities to the goals of the Paris Agreement and a pathway to net zero by 2050 or sooner
- Enhance its support for customers in their transition to low carbon, providing dedicated financing support and advice for their unique transition journeys
- Unlock new climate solutions by creating one of the world's leading natural capital managers, creating a USD100m venture debt fund for CleanTech innovation, and launching a philanthropic programme to donate USD100m to bring new solutions to viability and scale
- Work in partnership with its peers, customers, regulators, governments and wider society to effect change across the financial system

More project information

WWF Vietnam has a long historical involvement in the Mekong Delta as well as strong experience in mangrove regeneration activities and mangrove forest management. Their joint project in Mui Ca Mau National Park is also in line with the Government's policy, receiving strong support from the Province and local authorities.

Mui Ca Mau National Park is a key area of the Ca Mau World Biosphere Reserve, one of Vietnam's RAMSAR (wetlands of world importance). Founded in 2003, and covering an area of 41,862 ha, the park is home to a diverse ecosystem with more than 400 species, including more than 40 endangered species such as Otter, Fishing Cat and Reticulated Pythons.