CLIMATE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND INVESTMENT REVIEW (CPEIR) – PERIOD 2016-2020 - BEN TRE PROVINCE

1. Climate change in Ben Tre

General introduction

Ben Tre province has four large rivers surrounded by Tien Giang, Ba Lai, Ham Luong and Co Chien. With interlaced canals and 65 km of coastline, the province is ideally situated for waterway traffic.

In 2018, Ben Tre's population was estimated at 1.3 million. The gross regional domestic product (GRDP) per capita was VND 33.0 million (USD 1,433). The GRDP reached VND 41.9 trillion (USD 1.82 billion) in 2018, and the GRDP growth rate in recent years has exceeded 7.0%.

Ben Tre is an agricultural province, with demonstrated strengths in its marine economy. The province is focused on building a competitive advantage along the value chain of key agricultural products. Ben Tre currently has 02 industrial zones [including Giao Long (168 ha) and An Hiep (72 ha)], 10 industrial clusters, and 57 trade villages have been recognized.

The impact of climate change on Ben Tre

As a coastal province distinct for its numerous waterways, Ben Tre is significantly affected by climate change as evidenced by sea level rise, high tide, saltwater intrusion, landslides, and drought.

Activities to respond to climate change in Ben Tre

Provincial actions to address climate change have met some success. To start, raising community level awareness is underway. Hydro-meteorological information and salinity forecasts are updated regularly on the official provincial website across departments, agencies, and localities. A project building an automatic salinity monitoring system and water quality monitoring capacity is nearing completion allowing the provincial government to promptly inform the residents. Moreover, individual departments such as Science and Technology, Construction, and Natural Resources and Environment have carried out research and project activities to improve capacity to respond to climate change.

Regarding climate change adaptation, with the support of the AMD Ben Tre Project, the province has implemented projects to improve farmers' capacity to adapt to climate change; support livelihoods; integrated water management methodologies; address sea level rise for marine and coastal ecosystems; enact land use planning to meet socio-economic development strategy needs, as well as national security and defense.

2. Summary of Data on Climate Change Investment in Ben Tre

2.1 Budget sources for climate change investment

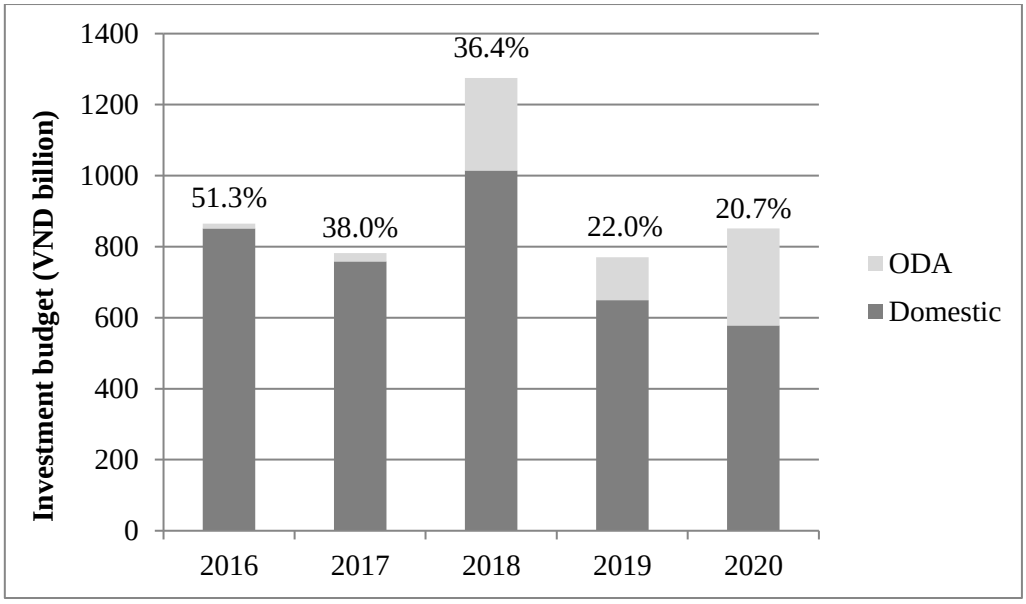


Figure 1: The total investment budget for climate change at Ben Tre *– the percentage that the climate change budget represents of the total Provincial development investment budget is shown as a % on the top of each bar.*

Table 1: Investment for climate change in Ben Tre by year from 2016 to 2020 and by capital source

Year	Domes. Invest. in climate change (billion VND)	Foreign investment in climate change (billion VND)	Total invest. in climate change (domes. + foreign capital) (billion VND)	Rate of domest. Invest. in climate change (%)	Rate of ODA Invest. in climate change (%)	Total public invest. of the province (billion VND)	Ratio of investment in climate change to total public investment of the province (%)
2016	851.6	13.1	864.8	98.5	1.5	1,686.1	51.3
2017	758.7	22.8	781.5	97.1	2.9	2,055.5	38.0
2018	1,014.9	259.8	1,274.7	79.6	20.4	3,502.9	36.4
2019	649.8	120.0	769.8	84.4	15.6	3,491.5	22.0
2020	578.2	273.6	851.8	67.9	32.1	4,121.8	20.7

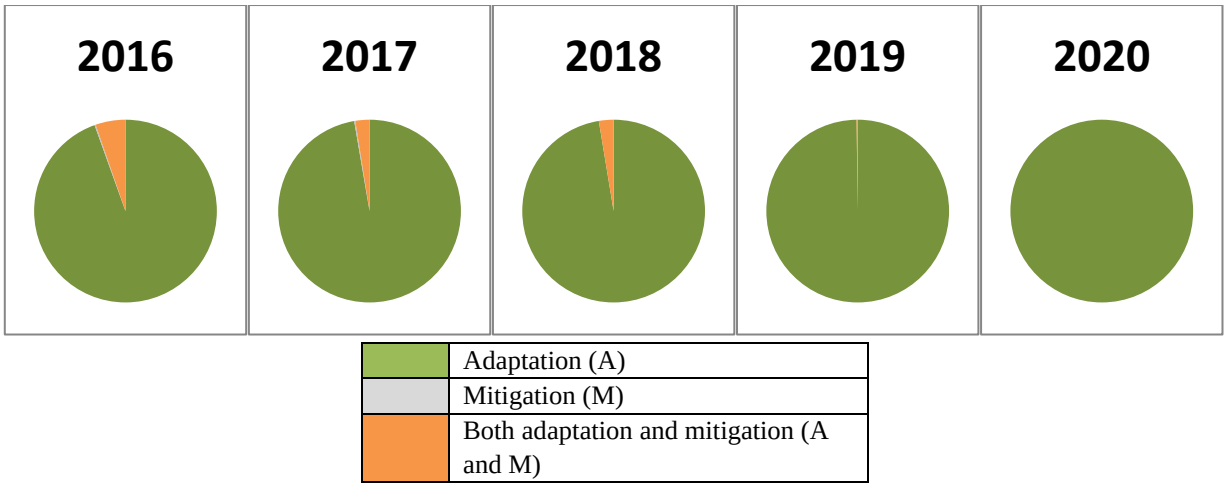
In Ben Tre province, average investment expenditure for climate change wass about VND 900 billion/year between 2016-2020. The highest investment budget was in 2018 with VND 1,275 billion, while the lowest was in 2019 with VND 770 billion.

Over the 5-year period, the average annual domestic expenditure on climate change investment was VND 770 billion, accounting for 85% of the total investment expenditure. ODA resources contributed VND 138 billion, accounting for 15%. The proportion of investment capital from ODA is trending upward from only 1.5% in 2016, to more than 32% in 2020.

Investment expenditure on climate change on average accounts for approximately 30% of the total development investment expenditure of the province during the 2016 – 2020 period, a relatively high percentage compared to other provinces in the Mekong Delta region.

2.2 Purpose of the investment budget for climate change

a) The "adaptation" or/and "mitigation" project type distribution:

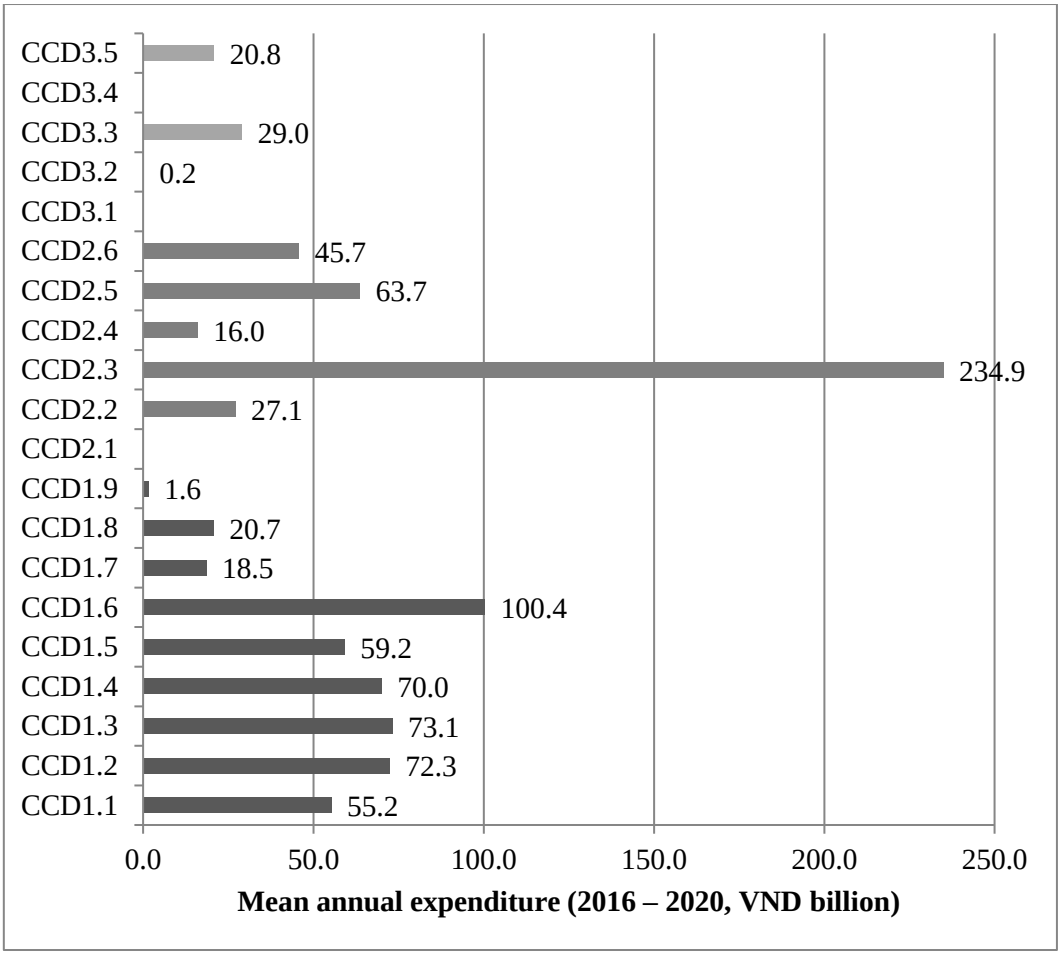


Detailed investment data for climate change adaptation and mitigation

Billion Dong	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
Adaptation (A)	817.5	94.5%	760.7	97.3%	1,241.1	97.4%	768.5	99.8%	851.8	100.0%
Mitigation (M)	1.4	0.2%	1.3	0.2%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Both adaptation and mitigation (A and M)	45.9	5.3%	19.5	2.5%	33.7	2.6%	1.3	0.2%	-	0.0%

Over the 5-year period, most investment is found to be dedicated to climate adaptation, accounting for more than 97%. Projects addressing mitigation have a total investment of only VND 2.7 billion. Some mixed adaptation and mitigation projects have accrued investments of more than 100 billion, or 2.2%. These mixed projects are forest protection and development, preventing soil erosion, sedimentation of mangrove trees and projects on quality improvement, value-added agricultural products, and biogas program development.

b) Allocate investments in response to climate change (CCD) according to specific tasks (Average annual spending in the 2016-2020 period; Unit: billion dong)



Considering topic areas to address climate change , the five most invested include: task CCD 2.3 (i.e., traffic adaptation to climate change, average investment of VND 235 billion/year, accounting for 25.9%), followed by CCD 1.6 (Rural Development and Food Security, VND 100.3 billion/year, 11%), CCD 1.3 (Irrigation, VND 73.1 billion/year, 8.1%), CCD 1.2 (Saline intrusion, VND 72.3 billion, 8%), CCD 1.4 (Dyke and river protection embankment, VND 69.9 billion, 7.7%).

In addition, there are 11 other investment areas related to climate change, accounting for 0.2% - 7% such as CCD 2.5 (Disaster-resilient specialized infrastructure, 63.7 billion/year) and CCD 1.9 (Biodiversity and conservation, 1.6 billion/year).

In terms of policy, investment activities in the above order (i.e., CCD 2.3, CCD 1.6, CCD 1.3…) have not been clearly mentioned in Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), Plan for Implementation of Paris Agreement (PIPA). However, these activities are consistent with National target program to respond to climate change (NTP-RCC) to 2015 as well as with local provincial context.

2.3 Budget expenditure from ODA

Here are the 05 (five) biggest ODA projects for climate change (Project name, funding source, investment period, share of total ODA investment):

1. 7456219 - AMD Project (Mekong Delta Climate Change Adaptation) (2016-2020, 30.5%).
2. Building infrastructure for sustainable livelihood development for people in Ba Tri coastal area, Ben Tre province to adapt to climate change (under Component III, Project "Total climate resilience integration and sustainable livelihoods in the Mekong

Delta ", borrowed from the World Bank) (2016-2020, 24.5%)

3. Project on domestic water supply for Cu Lao Minh area's population in the condition of climate change and sea level rise (2016-2020, 14.6%)
4. Project on constructing sea dykes to prevent saline intrusion in combination with roads connecting coastal districts of Binh Dai - Ba Tri - Thanh Phu (2016-2020, 14.4%)
5. Integrated climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods in the Mekong Delta (MD-ICRSL) WB9 (2016-2020, 10.7%)

2.4 Policy and planning instruments

Instrument	Yes (√) or No (X)
Local NTP-RCC, report period to 2015	√
Climate Change Action Plan	√
Green Growth Action Plan	X
Plan for Implementation of Paris Agreement	√
Others: none	