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Climate change affects planning

HCM CITY — Urban development and zoning in HCM City urgently should incorporate strategies to adapt to climate change, a recent conference heard.

The city would be one of the 10 cities in the world most affected by climate change, said Dao Anh Kiet, director of HCM City's Department of Natural Resources and Environment and deputy head of the city's Climate Change Prevention Steering Committee.

Kiet said early signals were already here with higher rainfall, higher tides and more floods during the raining season.

German experts suggested more reservoirs be built to manage surface water in the rainy season, and more grassy parks in the city's downtown.

Nguyen Thi Cam Van, an official from the department, responsible for land zoning, said the city had 121,000ha of agricultural land but nearly a third of it would be rezoned for construction.

Reservoirs should be built to compensate for the loss of drainage capacity associated with the conversion of farmland, she said.

Due to climate change, since 1998, the city has experienced a lot of heavy rain and floods. Up to 154 wards and communes have regular floods, according to the International Centre for Environmental Management. The number of city wards affected by climate change will grow to 177, or between 60-70 per cent of the city's area.

According to HCM City Steering Centre for Flood Prevention, there are 2,008km of river and canal and 1,050km dyke in the city, with around 200km of dykes in the city. Kiet said climate change was already playing a factor in urban planning and an overall plan was on its way. — VNS



HCM City residents face even higher tides and flooding with climate change.
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