

**Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in general,  
and of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 1997-2002 in particular,  
during the period since the National Report prepared in 1995  
for Ramsar COP6 and 30 June 1998**

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Contracting Party:  
**Socialist Republic of Vietnam**

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority  
**Vietnam Ramsar Convention Section,  
National Environment Agency,  
Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment**

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**Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 1  
To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.**

1.1 No.

**Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 2  
To achieve the wise use of wetlands by implementing and further  
developing the Ramsar Wise Use Guidelines.**

2.1 We have started to develop National Strategy for Management and Conservation of Wetlands in Vietnam (First Draft in Vietnamese has been completed).

In co-operation with IUCN Vietnam, we have completed a Proposal for a National Wetlands Programme for Vietnam.

- a. The Programme will concentrate on creating a mechanism for co-ordinating wetland use, management and conservation activities at national and local levels; establishing a National Working Group on Wetlands; identifying some typical wetland sites for demonstration activities on wetland wise use and management.
- b. Proposal for a National Wetlands Programme for Vietnam will be submitted to the Government, as well as to international donors concerned for technical and financial supports.
- c. The Programme is closely related to the National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development, the National Biodiversity Action Plan since the Programme plays supplementary role to those Plans.

2.2 No.

2.3 If the Programme is realised, the responsibility for implementing it with a cross-sectoral committee, consisting of Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Aquatic Products, Ministry of Planning and Investment, General Department of Tourism, The Office of the Government, Provincial Authorities.)

2.4 There is intention that all Provinces of Vietnam should have their own Plan for Wetlands Wise Use, management and Conservation.

2.5 For the time being, there is no separate legislation concerning wetland management and conservation.

Wetlands in general now are under responsibility of many Ministries, therefore, there is a lot of overlaps and conflicts in utilisation of wetlands. Because of that, wetland losses are increasing, e.g. destroying mangroves for shrimp cultivation, filling-up lakes and other water bodies for industrial and urban development...

2.6 There is no specific effort made for integrated wetland management and conservation. However, the issues of wetland conservation have been mentioned in some legal documents, such as the Law on Environmental Protection and some other legal documents of the Government.

2.7 No.

2.8 For implementing of the Law on Environmental Protection, each development project should prepare and submit to the Government EIA Report for appraisal. Any development establishment having its wastewater discharged into water bodies should meet effluent standards issued by the Government.

2.9 Not yet.

2.10. Yes.

2.11. A special programme is going on to identify criteria for establishment of wetland protective areas for inclusion in the National System of Natural Protected Areas (at present there is a system of National Protected Areas consisting of nearly one hundred ones, but all of them are related to in-land forests.)

2.12 There have been organised some workshops, seminars for managers, scientists as well as local people to promote awareness on the role of wetland conservation and management for economic development and nature conservation, especially those organised in the wetland areas of national and international importance, e.g. in the Mekong Delta, the Red River Delta, in the estuarine areas, in the typical lagoons of the middle part of the country.

2.13 Not yet.

### **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 3**

#### **To raise awareness of wetland values and functions throughout the world and at all levels**

3.1 No.

3.2 Not yet.

### **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 4**

#### **To reinforce the capacity of institutions in each Contracting Party to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.**

4.1 Not yet.

4.2 a. Yes. For implementing Directive No 36/ CT-TW dated 26 June 1998 of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam on *Strengthening environmental protection in the period of industrialisation and modernisation of the country*, there has been being prepared a Programme to include environmental issues into educational system of Vietnam. In this Programme, we do believe that the wetland issues to be included.

b. Not yet.

c. Not yet.

d. Yes. There have been some people gained wetland-related training locally (workshops, seminars...) as well as internationally (training courses, ...).

### **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 5**

#### **To ensure the conservation of all sites included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List).**

In Vietnam, there only one Ramsar Site (Xuan Thuy Wetland), for which a formal management plan is being implemented.

At the present, there is a lot of difficulties in management of this Site due to unidentified stable institutional establishment responsible for management of the Site.

## **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 6**

**To designate for the Ramsar List those wetlands which meet the Convention's criteria, especially wetland types still under-represented in the List and transfrontier wetlands.**

6.1 Yes. There has been completed a small project for wetland inventory covering several sites located in the Northern part of the country.

There is intention to undertake further inventory of other wetlands depending on future available funding.

6.2 Yes. There is an initial list of important wetlands, which is now being updated basing on the criteria to be developed as mentioned above under Item 2.11.

6.3 To be identified.

6.4 To be developed.

6.5 It is intending to include in the Ramsar list some wetlands (Tam Nona, Con Van, Tam Giang-Cau Hai,...)

6.6 No.

6.7 No.

## **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 7**

**To mobilise international co-operation and financial assistance for wetland conservation and wise use in collaboration with other conventions and agencies, both governmental and non-governmental.**

7.1 No.

7.2 No.

- 7.3
- a. Convention on Biological Biodiversity (National Environment Agency)
  - b. Framework Convention on Climate Change (General Department of Meteorology and Hydrology)
  - c. Convention of to Combat Desertification (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)
  - d. No.
  - e. The World Heritage Convention (Ministry of Culture and Information)

7.4 No.

7.5 No.

7.6 Yes. It annually allocated under development projects for Land use of different Ministries. So it can not be identified separately.

7.7 No.

7.8 No.

**Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 8**  
**To provide the Convention with the required institutional mechanisms and resources.**

8.1 Not yet.

8.2 Not in arrears.

**Final comments:**

10.1 In order to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan actively and effectively, may we suggest to rename the “Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as waterfowl habitat” to the “Convention on Wise Use, Management and Conservation of Wetlands”. It is because of the following reasons:

- a. The people misunderstand that the aim of the Convention is to deal with only wetlands of international importance and waterfowl, not to deal with wetlands in general, especially wetlands of national importance.
- b. Also, because of this misunderstanding, the people expect that by joining the Convention the local can get a lot of funding and other support from international communities. Consequently, it is too difficult to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan in Vietnam, and perhaps, in other countries also, because of the lack of local financial resources.

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