



Supporting Implementation of the Environment-Related SDGs in Viet Nam



Background

Policy framework

- National Action Plan for the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, promulgated by the Prime Minister under Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg dated 10th May 2017
- Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Action Plan for implementation of the environmental related SDGs (Decision No. 3756/QĐ-BTNMT issued by MONRE)
- Circular Stipulating Sustainable Development Statistical Indicators for Viet Nam (Circular No.03/2019/TT-BKHĐT issued by MPI)

Background

Institutional arrangement for implementation of VSDG

- MPI is in charge of overall implementation of VSDG
- Line Ministries (i.e. MONRE, MOIT, MARD) in charge of environmental targets in accordance with their mandates and function



Legal framework

Decision No. 622 / QD-TTg dated 10/5/2017 on the national action plan for the implementation of the 2030 task force assigned MONRE to implement 17 VSDs and 66 tasks.

VSDGs	Goal	Tasks
VSDG 3. Ensure healthy living and increased wellbeing for people of all ages	3.8a	2
VSDG 6. Ensure adequate and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation for all	6.1.d	1
	6.3.b	4
	6.4	5
	6.5	7
	6.6	8
VSDG 12. Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns	12.2.a	3
	12.4.b	2
	12.5.a	6
	13.1.a	3
VSDG 13. Respond timely, effectively with climate change and natural disasters	13.3.a	5
VSDG 14. Conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	14.1	6
	14.3	4
VSDG 15. Sustainable forest development and protection, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services development, desertification, deterioration and restoration of land resources.	15.1	4
	15.5	6
	15.6	4
	15.8	5
	17 goals	66 tasks

Objectives of the TA

- Identify Natural Resource and Environment (NRE) SDG priority targets and related indicators
- Engage stakeholders in cross-sectoral ways of working
- Initiate the collection of relevant data to achieve environmental outcomes.

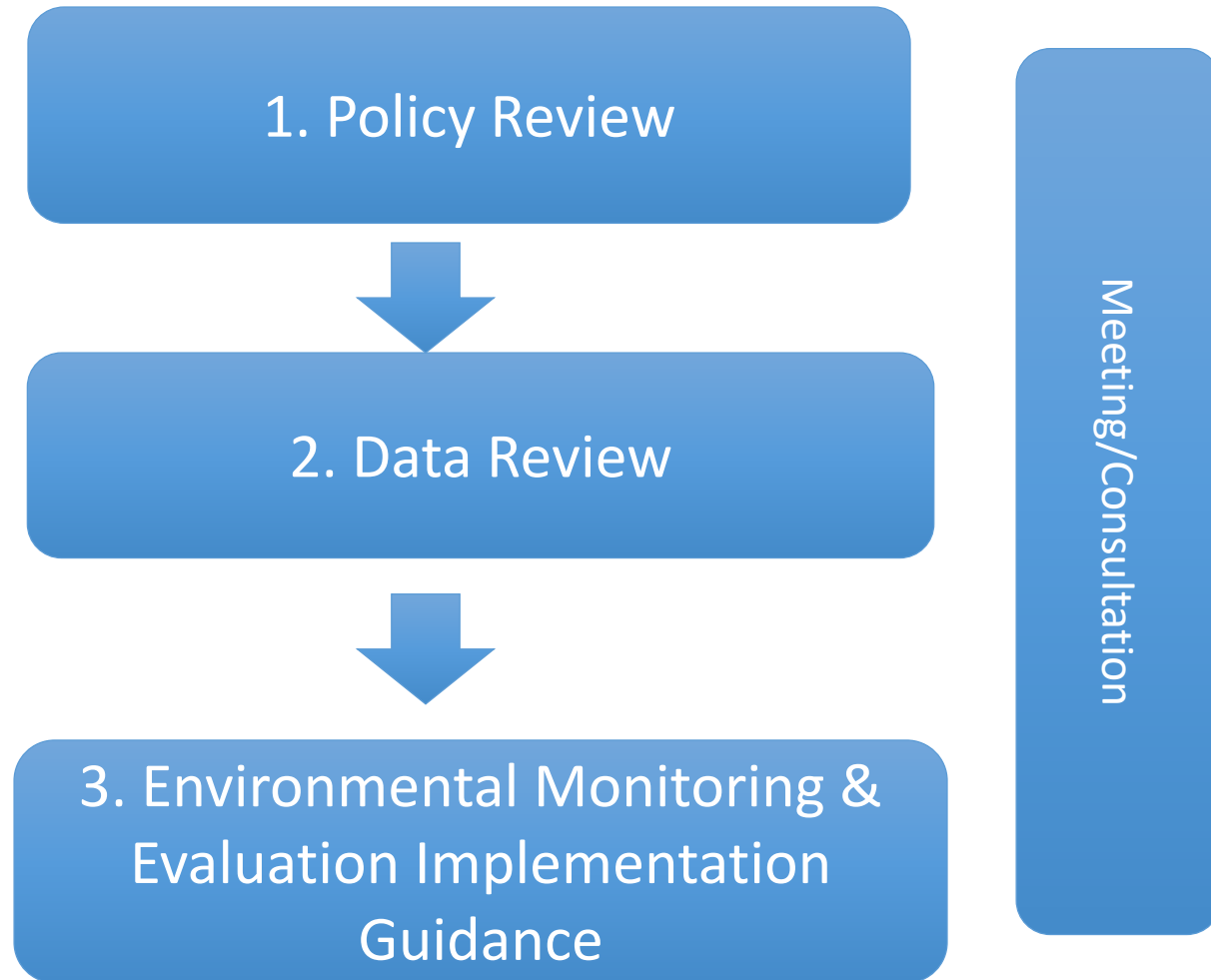


Implementation arrangement

- ADB: Executing Agency
- ISPONRE: Focal point to coordinate with line Agencies
- Working group: MPI, MARD, MONRE



Approach



Policy Review

The project identified the links between the environmental targets (where MONRE allocated responsibility) and existing environmental targets and then looked at the critical interlinkages with economic and social targets.

This was done using a Critical Policy Interlinkages Tool drawn from the SDG Interactions Framework



Theme	VSDG	VSDG Target
Pollution Control	11.6	Reduce adverse environmental impacts on people in urban areas including by strengthening the management of air quality, urban waste and other sources of waste
	12.4	By 2020, adopt and implement a lifecycle management approach to chemicals and wastes in accordance with international commitments that Viet Nam has signed, in order to reduce soil, water, air pollution and their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
Water	6.3	By 2030, improve water quality and successfully control sources of pollution, end the use of hazardous chemicals in agricultural, industrial and aquatic production that pollutes water sources and degrades biodiversity, treat 100% of hazardous wastewater; halve untreated urban wastewater; increase the safe re-use of water
	6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management by river basin, including trans-boundary water sources, through international cooperation
Land & Minerals	12.2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; reasonably exploit and economically, sustainably utilize mineral resources
	15.3	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world
Climate Change	13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and capacity in responding to natural and other disasters
Marine	14.1	By 2030, prevent, significantly reduce and successfully control marine pollution of various forms, particularly pollution from land-based activities, including solid waste, wastewater and organic substances pollution
	15.1	By 2030, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of important wetland eco-systems, eco-system services, particularly forest eco-systems and drylands in keeping with obligations under international agreements



Critical Implementation Issues

Lack of Policy Coherence

Need to:

- link VSDGs to existing environmental policy priorities.
- review how the achievement of the environmental VSDGs would positively or negatively reinforce the achievement of social and economic targets.

Lack of monitoring and evaluation

Limited data available for existing indicators.

Policy Target	Monitoring & Evaluation	Implementation Priority
Coherence of Priorities	Quality Data Available	Focus on maintaining efficiency
Coherence of Priorities	Quality Data Unavailable	Focus on improving M&E
Unclear Priorities	Quality Data Available	Focus on policy coherence
Unclear Priorities	Quality Data Unavailable	Focus on improving M&E & policy coherence



2. Data Review Approach

- a) Carried out an Environmental Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT) From UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics
- b) A further assessment was undertaken on the departmental collection of environmental statistics in light of requirements in the January 2019 Decision on Statistical Quality Management.
- c) Indicator assessment. The 9 selected VSDG targets had 26 indicators that were specified either in the:
 - MONRE Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Action Plan for implementation of the environmental related SDGs
 - MPI Circular Stipulating the set of Sustainable Development Statistical Indicators of Viet Nam

The indicators were reviewed in terms of:

- consistency,
- comparability of methodology to international standards
- data availability.



Data Processes Assessment

The assessments highlighted:

- No regular M&E training for Staff at either National or Provincial Levels
- Lack of quality assurance for NRE statistics.
- No plan to ensure statistical quality
- Lack of guidance on security of statistical information
- No assessment of the effectiveness of current data collection methods and so limited opportunities to seek to improve.
- Different Ministries may hold relevant administrative records or data but do not have data sharing mechanism
- Limited national databases
- Limited data has been digitized and so requires manual updating.

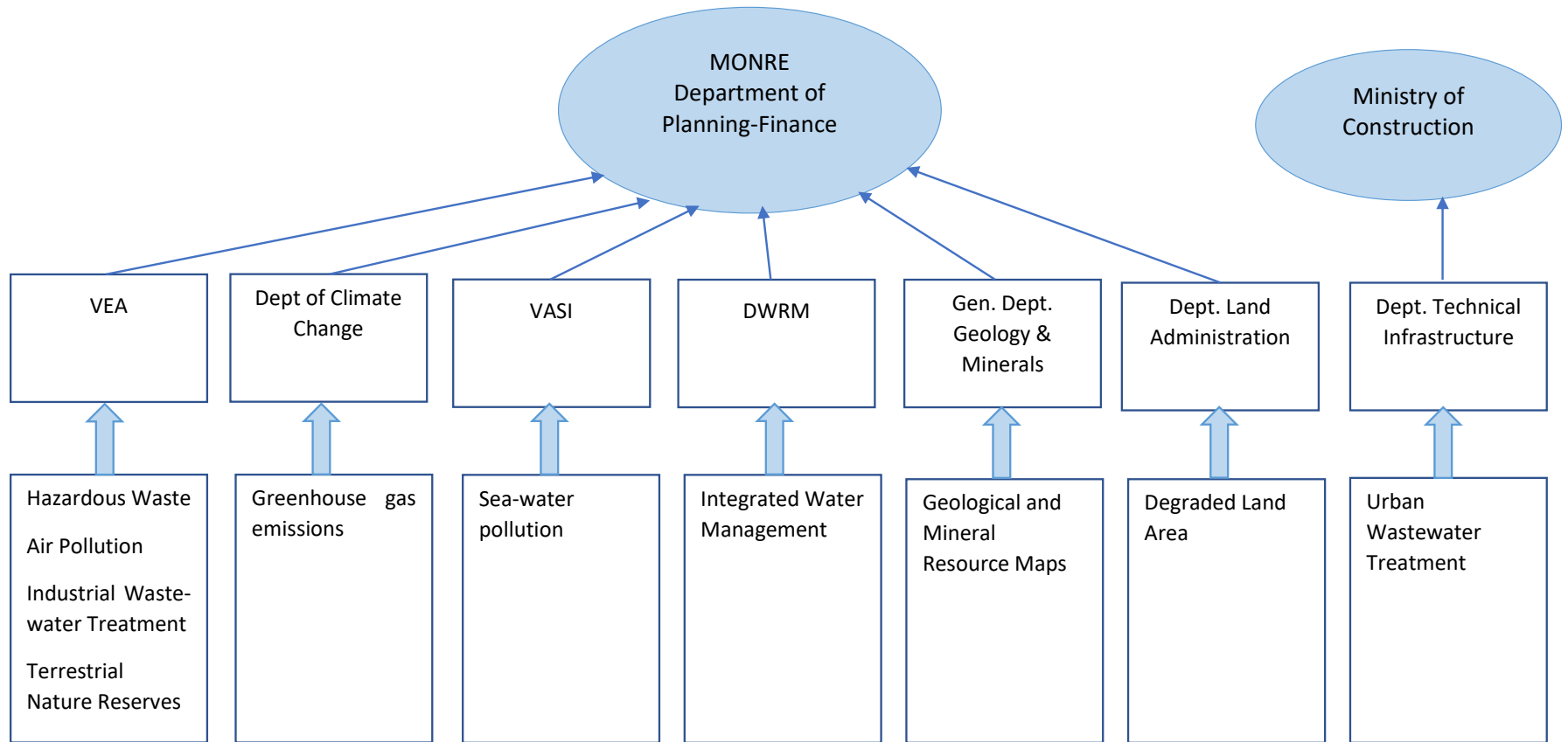


10 Prioritised Indicators

1. Proportion of hazardous waste collected and treated (NSIS)
2. Concentration of substances in the air
3. Greenhouse gas emissions per capita (NSIS)
4. Proportion of urban wastewater collected and treated up to standards and technical regulations
5. Proportion of industrial parks and export processing zones with centralized wastewater treatment systems satisfying the environmental requirements
6. Content of substances in seawater environment in estuarine, coastal, and offshore areas
7. Proportion of large, important reservoirs on river basins operating according to the inter-reservoir coordination regulations
8. The proportion of the terrestrial area being covered by geological and mineral resource maps (%)
9. Degraded land area (NSIS)
10. Proportion of terrestrial nature reserves in the total natural land area (NSIS)



Consolidated Indicator Guidance





3. Environmental Monitoring & Evaluation Implementation Guidance

Key Principles

1. Targets can only be achieved where there is a co-ordinated policy response
2. Indicators should inform management decisions
3. Ensure professional oversight and quality control of data management
4. Apply new technologies and new sources of data collection
5. Increase data sharing



**POLICY
COHERENCE**



**DATA
MANAGEMENT**

Co-ordinated Policy Response

Action 1: Link Environmental Targets to social and economic targets

- Take account of drivers and pressures outside MONRE's mandate that will impact on achievement of targets
- Engage other Ministries where achievement of environmental objective will be critical to achievement social & economic targets

Action 2: Link & Prioritize Environmental Targets

- Integrate request for new or amended indicators into existing indicator system
- Maintain an index of indicators that relate to different indicator codes to minimise confusion and streamline sharing information with different audiences

Data Informs Management Decisions

Action 1: Link investment to environmental criteria

- Aligning environmental indicators with management decisions such as budget allocation is the most significant way to facilitate progress in implementation.
- Include criteria in the draft decision of principles and criteria for investments for the Medium Term Investment Plan (MTIP) and/or Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI)

Professional Oversight

Action 1: Strengthen Professional Management

- Provide regular training for staff
- Enhance collaboration among Ministries/departments

Action 2: Self-assessment of Statistical quality

- Annually assess activities against check-list of criteria for quality statistics management

Apply new technologies & sources data collection

Action 1: Monitor data collection effectiveness

- Monitor both in terms of investment & staff resourcing.

Action 2: Increase third party data sharing & outsource data collection

- Where third party sources are perhaps more comprehensive or more trusted than Government

Action 3: Increase digital monitoring

- Develop a Digital Monitoring Plan using the Principles for Digital Development

Data Sharing

Action 1: Clearly Advise Provinces on data that can be shared

- The Department of Information Technology & Data Resources should provide annual guidance on data sharing and link Provincial environment webpages to the MONRE webpage



Lessons & Next Steps

Take forward actions in Environmental Monitoring & Evaluation
Implementation Guidance

Lessons

- Complexity requires prioritising actions and phasing implementation
- Look at data monitoring systems. What's working and what's not working? Develop a common understanding of issues with stakeholders.
- Review how data links back to decision-making and improving outcomes.