

Country Report- Viet Nam

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (MONRE)¹

1. Organisational Structure and Role:

In November 2002 the Government of Vietnam assigned the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) to take over responsibilities of state management of water resources as well as other natural resources and environment (land, minerals and environment). The Decree separates state water management functions under MoNRE from public water services delivery and specifically assigns to MoNRE the responsibility for:

- surveying and licensing basic water resource allocation
- survey, inventory and assessment of water resources and establishment of data bases
- implementation of measures to protect water resources
- Support for the National Water Resources Council.

Within the MoNRE, the Department of Water Resources Management (DWRM) has Functions to provide assistance to the Minister in implementing state management on water resources including rain water, surface water, ground water, and sea water within the territorial land and sea of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Powers and Responsibilities of DWRM

1. Develop legal documents, policies, strategies, planning, long-term, 5-year and annual plans, programs, objectives on water resources protection, exploitation, utilization and development; monitor and examine the implementation after being approved by the authorized agency;
2. Develop processes, procedures, standards, technical-economic norms on water resources management as assigned by MONRE, and submits them to the Minister for approval. Provide guidance and examine the implementation after being approved by the Minister
3. Submit to the Minister for approval on assignment and delegation in basic investigation on water resources; arrange and examine the implementation after being approved by the authorized agency;
4. Develop measures on protection of water sources, control of and prevention against water resources deterioration and pollution, rehabilitation of water resources aiming at improved integrated water resources management for river basins, reservoirs, aquifers to ensure the reasonability, economy, safety and sustainability in exploitation, utilization of water resources and submit them to the Minister for approval; monitor and examine the implementation after being approved by the Minister;

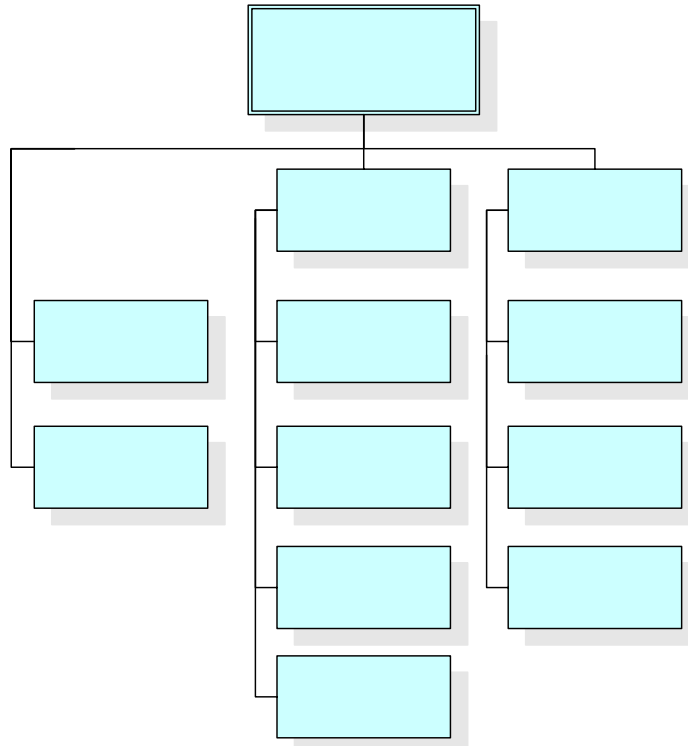
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5. Coordinate with agencies in MONRE, other related ministries, sectors and provinces in the control of and prevention against adverse effects caused by water;
6. Compile data, manage results of basic investigations, inventories and assessments of water resources; develop national water resources database and information exchange system as assigned by MONRE;
7. Submit to the Minister to define authorities and procedures on issuance, extension, revoke licenses on surveying, exploration, exploitation and utilization of water resources, and waste water discharge permits; arrange, direct and inspect the post-approval implementation after being approved by competent authorities.
8. Appraise projects and works in areas of water resources basic investigation, planning, plans and projects related to protection, exploitation, utilization and development of water resources as assigned by MONRE; inspect the post-approval implementation;
9. Submit the Minister to define orientations, measures and specific operational mechanism for public service agencies on water resources; direct and inspect the post-approval implementation as assigned by MONRE;
10. Direct and provide expertise and techniques on water resources management agencies at provincial and lower levels;
11. Implement international cooperation in water resources areas as assigned by MONRE;
12. Implement programs, projects and researches; apply advances of science and technology; provide technical and skill training on water resources management as assigned by MONRE.
13. Raise public awareness and disseminate legal documents on water resources; answer questions and interpret water resources policies and legislation for organizations and individuals as assigned by MONRE;
14. Keep relations with associations, non-governmental organizations; monitor and report to Minister on activities by associations and NGOs in areas of water resources;
15. Implement function as Office of National Water Resources Council;
16. Implement examination and coordinate with MoNRE's Inspectorate to inspect and deal with claims, denunciations and disputes on water resources as assigned by MONRE;
17. Manage and effectively use financial sources and other property assigned by the State; be responsible for financial and accounting of agencies under the Department according to current regulations;
18. Manage organization personnel and civil servants, provide professional training to staff of the Department as assigned;
19. Make inventory and periodical and irregular reports on the implementation of delegated tasks;
20. Conduct other tasks as delegated by the Minister.

The DWRM also is the standing Office of the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) to supports the NWRC which was established to advise the Government of Viet Nam on:

- Strategies and policies on national water resources,
- Major river basin plans,
- Plans for major inter-basin diversions,
- Projects for protection, exploitation and utilization of water resources and projects for flood control and overcoming the adverse effects caused by water where such projects require Cabinet approval,
- Management, protection, exploitation and utilization of international water sources and settlement of any disputes,
- Resolution of conflicts regarding water resources between ministries and branches, between ministries & provinces, cities directly under the central control.



Organisational Chart of the Department of Water Resources Management

2. Challenges and Proposed measures on IWRM

Challenges

Water is an essential resource and has a critical role in the sustainable development of the country. Water resources management efforts have resulted in substantial achievements. However, in comparison with development needs there are still many shortcomings in terms of planning, management, utilization and protection of water resources.

Water resource management is a critical component of Vietnam's overall strategy for poverty reduction and economic development. Viet Nam has a long history of water management related to its monsoon climate. Irrigation and drainage have allowed intensive paddy production while flood control works have greatly reduced the risk to large populations living in the lowland deltas and coastal areas. However, a number of water-related challenges have increased in recent times. Water quality is deteriorating in many areas due to urban and industrial activities and saline water intrusion is increasing as dry season river flows are reduced. Although Viet Nam has adequate water resources overall, local and seasonal shortages are increasing, causing impacts on water users and the environment.

The recently established DWRM now is operating in a complex policy environment, attempting to bring a strategic approach to water resource management and the provision of advice to the government regarding water policy. And has limited experience in development policy and planning activities for water resources

Proposes

- National Water Resources Strategy (developing)
- Working paper on national goals for water (developing)

Water resource economics tools to river basin planning; policy development, and water resource protection, management and allocations (to be developed);

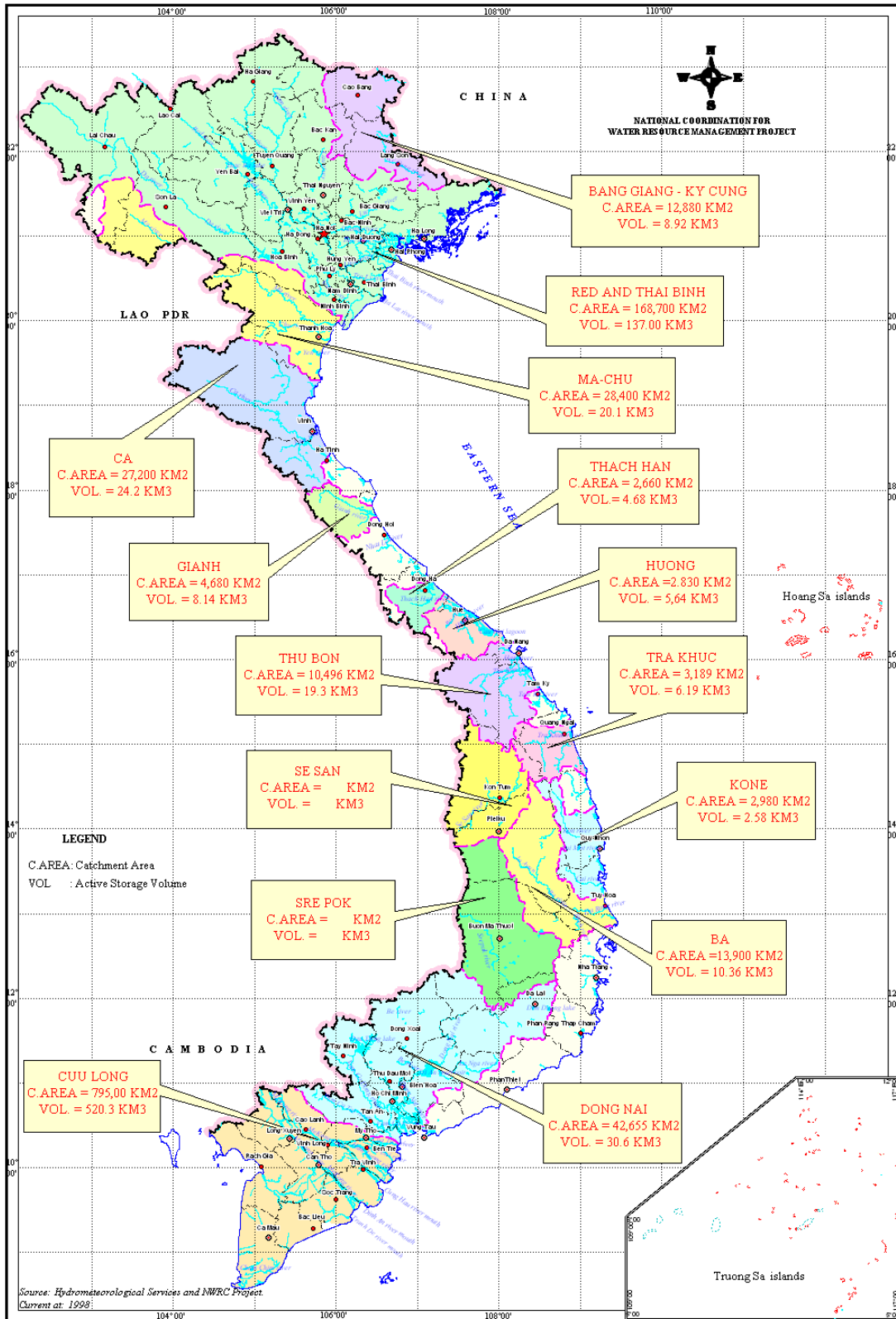
3. Background, issues, challenges

Vietnam lies in the tropical monsoon region, with a Annual average Rainfall (X_0) of about 1,960 mm and a system of densely located rivers and canals. There are as many as 2,360 rivers over 10 km long which have a perennial flow, and 15 basins with an area of more than 2,500 km² of which 10 river basins are of over 10,000 km² in area. These account for 80% of the total area of Vietnam.

Basins Over 10,000 Km²	Basins 2,500 – 10,000 Km²
<i>Bang Giang and Ky Cung</i> <i>Hong (Red) and Thai Binh</i> <i>Ma</i> <i>Ca</i> <i>Vu Gia and Thu Bon</i> <i>Ba</i> <i>Srepok</i> <i>Se San</i> <i>Dong Nai</i> <i>Cuu Long</i>	<i>Thach Han</i> <i>Huong</i> <i>Tra Khuc</i> <i>Kone</i> <i>Gianh</i>

Most of the surface runoff in Vietnam is from rainwater, which is about 650 cubic kilometers annually. Total annual discharge of all rivers is about 847 10⁹ m³, in which incoming flow volume from outside Vietnam is 507 10⁹ m³ and total flow volume generated from inside the country is 340.10⁹ m³, accounting for 60% and 40% respectively. The Mekong River's total runoff accounts for 59% of the total national runoff, followed by the Red River with 14.9%, and the Dong Nai River with 4.3%. The runoff of Ma, Ca, and Thu Bon is approximately 20 km³ each, and the Ky Cung, Thai Binh, and Ba Rivers 9 km³ each. Total runoff of rivers in Vietnam accounts for about 2% of the total runoff of all rivers in the world.

MAJOR RIVER BASINS



Issues, challenges

POPULATIONS INCREASING AND INDUSTRIALISATION

POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

Policies and secondary legislation under the Law on Water Resources are not complete. The LWR does not cover the regulation of water bodies nor does it clearly mention water requirements for ecosystem protection.

The capacity to develop strong policy and secondary legislation under the LWR is limited. Awareness of the LWR, secondary legislation is still at a low level.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

Some overlap of responsibilities among Government Agencies.

Lack of integrated river basin planning and management

Institutional strengthening and capacity building is needed at both the central level.

WATER RIGHTS AND RESOLUTION OF WATER DISPUTES

Lack of secondary legislation on water allocation and water rights.

Ineffective in inspection and enforcement and conflict resolution activities.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Water resources data and information is still scattered in different agencies and ministries. A mechanism for information exchange among agencies have been developed and being implemented but not effective.

Monitoring networks are insufficient, data quality is not high, the linkage between surface and groundwater has not been surveyed.

TRAINING, AWARENESS IMPROVEMENT AND CONSULTATION

The level of awareness, skills and technology for integrated water resources management and new functions for its implementation is fairly low at both the national and provincial level.

FINANCING

Budget for water resources development and management is limited and has not met the demand of the sector.

There is a lack of long term financial strategy including state budget, international assistance, private investment and using fees.

Vision and concrete action

The National Strategy for Protection and Sustainable Development of Water Resources now being prepared upon the planning, plans as well as the coordination among ministries, sectors and localities together with the State's mechanisms and policies and complete, effective implementation measures, of which the National Goals for Water Resources is one of the leading component of the National Strategy.

Inventory appraisal for Water resource

Review and update the Law on Water Resources other By-law are Developing to create legal corridor for water resources management.

Develop priority policy needs in the water sector, such as:

- water allocation and water rights, including surface and groundwater licensing and wastewater discharge licensing,
- population migration for resettlement,
- investment in the multi-purpose water resources projects,
- policy on water conflict settlement and administrative procedures,
- natural disaster mitigation

Developing and upgrading water Resources monitoring network

Develop integrated river basins planning and Management, prioritize the formulation of river basin planning criteria, approve the river system planning

Equip measuring, analysing, computation and management facilities for water resources management

Long term financial investment strategy based on various sources of budget for the management of water resources

Pilot test in priority areas, and implement a system for licensing water use and wastewater discharge

Training and awareness raising at all levels.

Supplement teaching materials and educational programs on water resources at the universities

Evaluate the management, exploitation and use of the international rivers in the boundary areas. Establish the information exchange network among the water resources coordination and management agencies for international rivers.

Formulate the water resources information system and provide timely and accurate information for the water resources users.

Effective operation of water resources inspection

4. Some Achievement

- National Water Sector Profile
- National Water Resources Atlas
- Water resource information management
- Licensing for water use and water discharge (under developing)
- Integrated river basin management (under developing)