



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP) Project

Second Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Land-Based Pollution (RWG-LBP)

11-12 November 2024, Shenzhen, China

Status of Preparation and Implementation of Land-Based Pollution Activities

VIET NAM

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Main achievements on land based pollution control in VietNam

- People's Awareness, particularly policy maker's awareness a on environmental protection, marine environmental protection, has been increased.
- Government agencies promulgated policies, regulations, technical guidelines as legal basis for controlling environmental pollution in production, business and daily activities.
- controlling environmental pollution and controlling marine environmental pollution has achieved certain achievements minimizing environmental pollution and environmental marine pollution; actively and strictly controlled a large amount of waste sources in industrial parks, industrial clusters, and craft villages.
- Strengthen human resources including raising capacity building to control environmental pollution; enhance the coordination between central and local levels in controlling and monitoring environmental pollution
- Applying many synchronous solutions on treating waste management, gradually recycling and reusing waste instead of landfilling.
- Environmental quality has improved, and air pollution levels have decreased as pollution in inner-city rivers and lakes tends to decrease. Surface water pollution only appears mainly in downstream areas passing through large urban areas.
- The work of protecting and restoring important natural ecosystems and expanding the area of natural heritage conservation areas has been promoted

Legal framework, policies and regulations on environmental protection issued 2023

- 06 Decrees
- 02 Resolutions
- 08 Prime Minister Decisions
- 42 Circulars from line – Ministries under Viet Nam





Legal framework, policies and regulations on environmental protection issued 2023 and 2024

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Law No. 28/2023/QH15 of the National Assembly: Law on Water Resources. Code number, 28/2023/QH15. Date of promulgation, November 27, 2023. Effective date, July 1, 2024

GOVERNMENT

- Decision No. 146/QD-TTg dated February 23, 2023 of the Prime Minister promulgating the National Plan for Responding to Waste Incidents for the 2023-2030 Period
- Resolution No. 48/NQ-CP dated April 3, 2023 of the Government approving the Strategy for Exploitation and Sustainable Use of Resources and Protection of the Marine and Island Environment by 2030, with a Vision to 2050
- Decree No. 22/2023/ND-CP dated May 12, 2023 of the Government amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Decrees related to business activities in the field of natural resources and environment
- Decision No. 1251/QD-TTg dated October 26, 2023 of the Prime Minister approving the Program to Enhance the Capacity for Preventing and Responding to National Environmental Incidents by 2030
- Decision No. 29/2023/QD-TTg dated December 19, 2023 of the Prime Minister on the documents, procedures and order for determining investment projects using outdated technology, posing a potential risk of environmental pollution and resource-intensive



Legal framework, policies and regulations on environmental protection issued 2023 and 2024

GOVERNMENT

- Decision No. 161/QD-TTg dated February 6, 2024 of the Prime Minister on approving the Plan for implementing the Water Resources Planning for the period 2021 - 2030, with a vision to 2050
- Decision No. 224/QD-TTg dated March 7, 2024 of the Prime Minister on approving the national environmental monitoring master plan for the period 2021 - 2030, with a vision to 2050
- Decree No. 57/2024/ND-CP dated May 20, 2024 on the management of dredging activities in the area seaport waters and inland waterway waters
- Decision No. 496/QD-TTg dated June 11, 2024 of the Prime Minister on promulgating the National Plan on management and elimination of ozone-depleting substances and controlled greenhouse gases
- Decision No. 611/QD-TTg dated July 8, 2024 of the Prime Minister approving the National Environmental Protection Plan for the period 2021 - 2030, with a vision to 2050
- Decision No. 13/2024/QD-TTg dated August 13, 2024 of the Prime Minister promulgating the list of sectors and facilities emitting greenhouse gases that must conduct greenhouse gas inventories (updated)



Legal framework, policies and regulations on environmental protection issued 2023 and 2024

At central level - MONRE

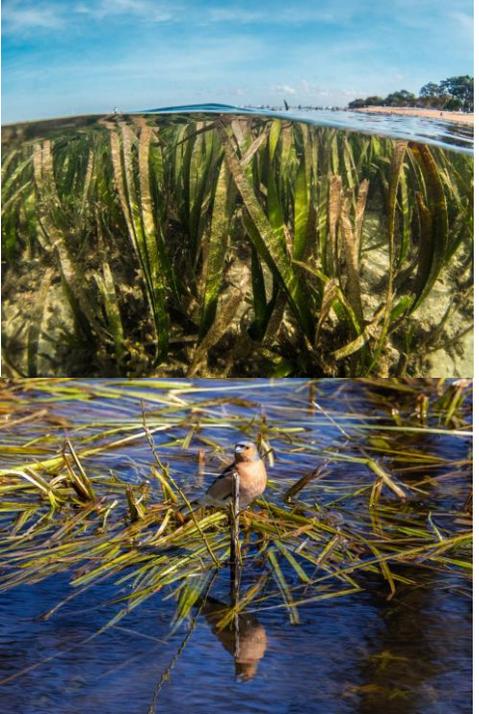
- Circular No. 01/2023/TT-BTNMT dated March 13, 2023 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment promulgating national technical regulations on ambient environmental quality
- Circular No. 13/2023/TT-BTNMT dated October 16, 2023 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Technical regulations on monitoring and providing information and data on hydrometeorological monitoring for specialized hydrometeorological stations
- Circular No. 15/2023/TT-BTNMT dated October 30, 2023 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Regulations on providing and sharing information and data on monitoring natural resources and the environment
- Circular No. 20/2023/TT-BTNMT dated November 30, 2023 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Promulgating national technical regulations on collection, transportation, storage, recycling, re-use of use and treatment of controlled substances
- Circular No. 22/2023/TT-BTNMT dated December 15, 2023 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment regulating the system of statistical indicators and statistical reporting regime for the natural resources and environment sector
- Circular No. 23/2023/TT-BTNMT dated December 28, 2023 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment amending and supplementing a number of articles of Circular No. 20/2016/TT-BTNMT dated August 25, 2016 of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment regulating the establishment, exploitation and use of databases on marine and island resources and environment
- Consolidated document No. 10/VBHN-BTNMT dated January 30, 2024 Decree on collection, management, exploitation and use of information and data on natural resources and environment
- Consolidated document Decree No. 11/VBHN-BTNMT dated January 30, 2024 detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Minerals
- Circular No. 01/2024/TT-BTNMT dated February 2, 2024 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Stipulating norms for activities of implementing strategic environmental assessment of planning



Legal framework, policies and regulations on environmental protection issued 2023 and 2024

At central level- Other ministries

- Circular No. 65/2023/TT-BTC dated October 31, 2023 of the Ministry of Finance Stipulating the collection rate, collection, payment, management and use of fees for exploiting and using environmental data
- Circular No. 99/2023/TT-BQP dated November 30, 2023 of the Ministry of National Defense Stipulating technical safety and environmental protection inspection of motor vehicles in the Ministry of National Defense
- Circular No. 71/2023/TT-BCA dated December 18, 2023 of the Ministry of Public Security Stipulating environmental inspection of wastewater of the People's Public Security Forces
- Circular No. 38/2023/TT-BCT dated December 27, 2023 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Stipulating technical regulations for measuring, reporting, appraising greenhouse gas emission reduction and greenhouse gas inventory in the Industry and Trade sector
- Circular No. 57/2024/TT-BTC dated August 1, 2024 of the Ministry of Finance Guiding the management and use of deposits for environmental improvement and restoration in mineral exploitation activities and waste burial activities at the Environmental Protection Fund



Legal framework, policies and regulations on environmental protection issued 2023 and 2024

At Provincial levels – Some examples

- Resolution No. 16/2023/NQ-HDND dated July 31, 2023 of the People's Council of Tra Vinh province on collection rates and units for calculating environmental protection fees for mineral exploitation applied in Tra Vinh province
- Decision No. 46/2023/QD-UBND dated September 27, 2023 of the People's Committee of Ha Nam province on regulations on collection rates and units for calculating environmental protection fees for mineral exploitation in Ha Nam province
- Resolution No. 14/2023/NQ-HDND dated December 12, 2023 of the People's Council of Phu Tho province on Regulations on collection rates and units for calculating environmental protection fees for mineral exploitation in Phu Tho province



Research and Assessments

Research and Assessment

1. Nguyen Thi Hong Yen and Nguyen Phuong Dung, (2023), Marine pollution management in response to plastic waste under international law and national law – challenges and implications for developing countries: a case study of Vietnam, *Asia Pacific Journal of Environmental Law*, Volume 26: Issue 2

<https://doi.org/10.4337/apjel.2023.02.02>

2. Thanh-Thien Tran-Lam, Thuy Cam Quan, Minh Quang Bui, Yen Hai Dao, Giang Truong Le, (2024), Endocrine-disrupting chemicals in Vietnamese marine fish: Occurrence, distribution, and risk assessment, *Science of The Total Environment*, Volume 908, 15 January 2024, 168305

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3. Anh, N.T., Thuan, D.D. (2023). Perspectives and Orientations of the Communist Party of Vietnam on Environmental Protection. In: Briesen, D., Das, S.P. (eds) *Media, Politics and Environment*. Springer Studies in Media and Political Communication. Springer, Cham.

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4. Nguyen, B.T.N., Kansal, M.L. & Nguyen, HH. Soil Quality Assessment Towards its Sustainable Management in Thai Binh Mangrove, Vietnam. *Water Air Soil Pollut* 235, 479 (2024).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11270-024-07259-2>

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6. Hong Anh Do, Thanh Vinh Pham, Thi Thao Van Le, Tuan Minh Vu, Tuan Luong Truong, Trung Hieu Nguyen, Thi Thuy Lan Le, Van Khanh Do, & Thi Sanh Le. (2023). ASEAN's soft law on marine environmental pollution. *The VMOST Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 65(3), 99-108.

[https://doi.org/10.31276/VMOSTJOSSH.65\(3\).99-108](https://doi.org/10.31276/VMOSTJOSSH.65(3).99-108)

Research and Assessments

Research and Assessment

7. Thao Xuan Thanh Le, Manh Tuan Duong, Long Duc Huynh, Huyen Thu Pham, Toi Van Pham, Manh Van Do, Risk assessments of microplastic exposure in bivalves living in the coral reefs of Vietnam, *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, Volume 209, Part A, 2024, 117111, ISSN 0025-326X,

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2024.117111>.

8. Nhu-Thuc Phan, Le Xuan Thanh Thao, Van Manh Do, D. Duc Nguyen, Assessment of microplastic presence in coastal environments and organisms of Da Nang, Vietnam,

Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 204, 2024, 116516, ISSN 0025-326X,

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2024.116516>.

9. Dao Van Hien, Dong Ha My, John D. Orbell, The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the seawater quality of Ha Long Bay, Vietnam, *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, Volume 201, 2024, 116242, ISSN 0025-326X,

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2024.116242>.

10. Van Manh Do, Van Tuyen Trinh, Xuan Thanh Thao Le, Duy Thanh Nguyen, Evaluation of microplastic bioaccumulation capacity of mussel (*Perna viridis*) and surrounding environment in the North coast of Vietnam, *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, Volume 199, 2024, 115987, ISSN 0025-326X,

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115987>.

11. Van-Hao Duong, Thanh-Xuan Pham-Thi, Tai-Tue Nguyen, Viet-Dung Luu, Dang-Quy Tran, Tien-Manh Nguyen, Trung-Thanh Tran, Thanh-Nam Nguyen, Characteristics of 210Po in Asian overbite clam (*Potamocorbula laevis*) from the coastal area at Thai Binh province, Vietnam, *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, Volume 194, Part A, 2023, 115425, ISSN 0025-326X,

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12. Thanh-Thien Tran-Lam, Thuy Cam Quan, Phuong Thi Pham, Anh-Tuyet Thi Phung, Minh Quang Bui, Yen Hai Dao, Occurrence, distribution, and risk assessment of halogenated organic pollutants (HOPs) in marine fish muscle: The case study of Vietnam, *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, Volume 192, 2023, 114986, ISSN 0025-326X,

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Monitoring status and trends of changes, specially in the identified hot spots and monitoring stations

- Viet Nam currently has 65 national automatic continuous environmental monitoring stations, including:
 - 22 surface water monitoring stations,
 - 37 ambient air quality monitoring stations,
 - 06 coastal seawater quality monitoring stations).
- At the same time, there are nearly 1,800 monitoring stations from localities and enterprises across the country transmitting data to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, serving well the management work.



Monitoring status and trends of changes, specially in the identified hot spots and monitoring stations

Water environment – key observations

- Water environment quality in watershed such as Hong - Thai Binh, Ma - Chu (North); Ca - La, Huong, Vu Gia - Thu Bon (Central) and Dong Nai, Thi Vai, Tien (South) watershed is quite good, the average annual values of parameters at some monitoring locations have little fluctuation over the years and there are not many unusual fluctuations compared to 2022, river water can be used for domestic water supply, aquaculture, irrigation and other similar purposes.... At hot spots of water pollution on rivers and tributaries of the Nhue - Day river watershed and the Cau watershed; the Bac Hung Hai irrigation system; the point from Ong Buong bridge to An Loc bridge on the Saigon river, pollution is still occurring and has not been thoroughly controlled.
- Pollution points on the Nhue river, section through the city. Hanoi and Hanoi's inner-city rivers (To Lich, Kim Nguu, Set, ...), the annual average values of parameters (COD, BOD5) and (NH₄⁺, NO₂⁻) at some continuous monitoring points from 2019 to 2023 all exceed the permissible limits of QCVN 08-MT:2015/BTNMT (type B1) and QCVN 08:2023/BTNMT (level C) - QCVN on surface water quality; the reason is due to receiving a large amount of domestic



Monitoring status and trends of changes, specially in the identified hot spots and monitoring stations

Water environment – key observations

- The situation of salinity intrusion in estuary areas tends to increase, typically in the estuary areas of the Vu Gia - Thu Bon River, the Vam Co River and rivers in the Southern region; The cause is the impact of over-exploitation and over-use of surface water, groundwater and climate change.
- Coastal seawater environment at some times of the year, especially at the monitoring sites near coastal river mouths, seawater is turbid, TSS and Ammonium content exceeds the permissible limits of QCVN 10:2023/BTNMT - QCVN on seawater quality.

Monitoring status and trends of changes, specially in the identified hot spots and monitoring stations – 2023 index

Air environment – key observations

- According to monitoring results, in 2023, air pollution in our country still occurs at some times of the year, concentrated in large cities such as Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, ... where there is high traffic density and strong industrial development. Pollution is still mainly due to dust parameters, especially fine dust PM2.5 and has clear seasonal manifestations, typically in the winter months in the North and tends to increase compared to the average of 2022
- For rural and mountainous areas, the air quality is quite clean, however, some rural areas are affected by craft village activities, small-scale industrial activities, and mineral exploitation, and the air quality shows signs of local pollution
- Other parameters in the air such as NO₂, O₃, CO, SO₂ are mostly low in value, fluctuate little compared to the same period in 2022, and mostly meet the allowable limits of QCVN 05:2023/BTNMT - QCVN on air quality.





Monitoring status and trends of changes, specially in the identified hot spots and monitoring stations

Soil environment – key observations

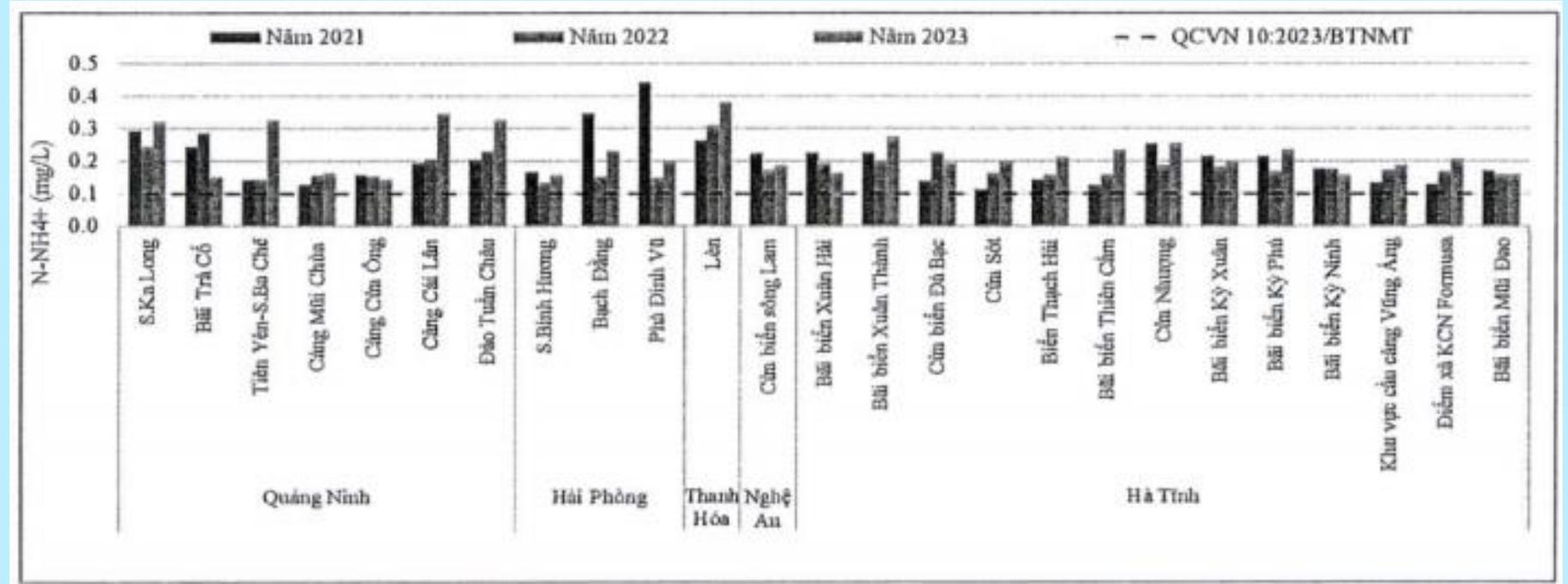
- In general, the quality of the agricultural land environment in 2023 is quite good, with no signs of pollution. However, the quality of soil environment in some industrial areas, agricultural monoculture, and craft villages shows signs of local decline due to the impact of production waste and the unreasonable use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- The situation of land degradation, landslides in mountainous areas, river banks, coastal areas; salinization of cultivated land tends to increase in quantity, level and scale, affecting the safety and production activities of people; The main causes are the overuse of chemical fertilizers, continuous cultivation of one crop, lack of measures to improve the soil properly and weather factors



Monitoring status and trends of changes, specially in the identified hot spots and monitoring stations

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Marine Water Quality Index



Coastal seawater $N-NH_4^+$ values in some localities in the Northern region in the period 2021-2023

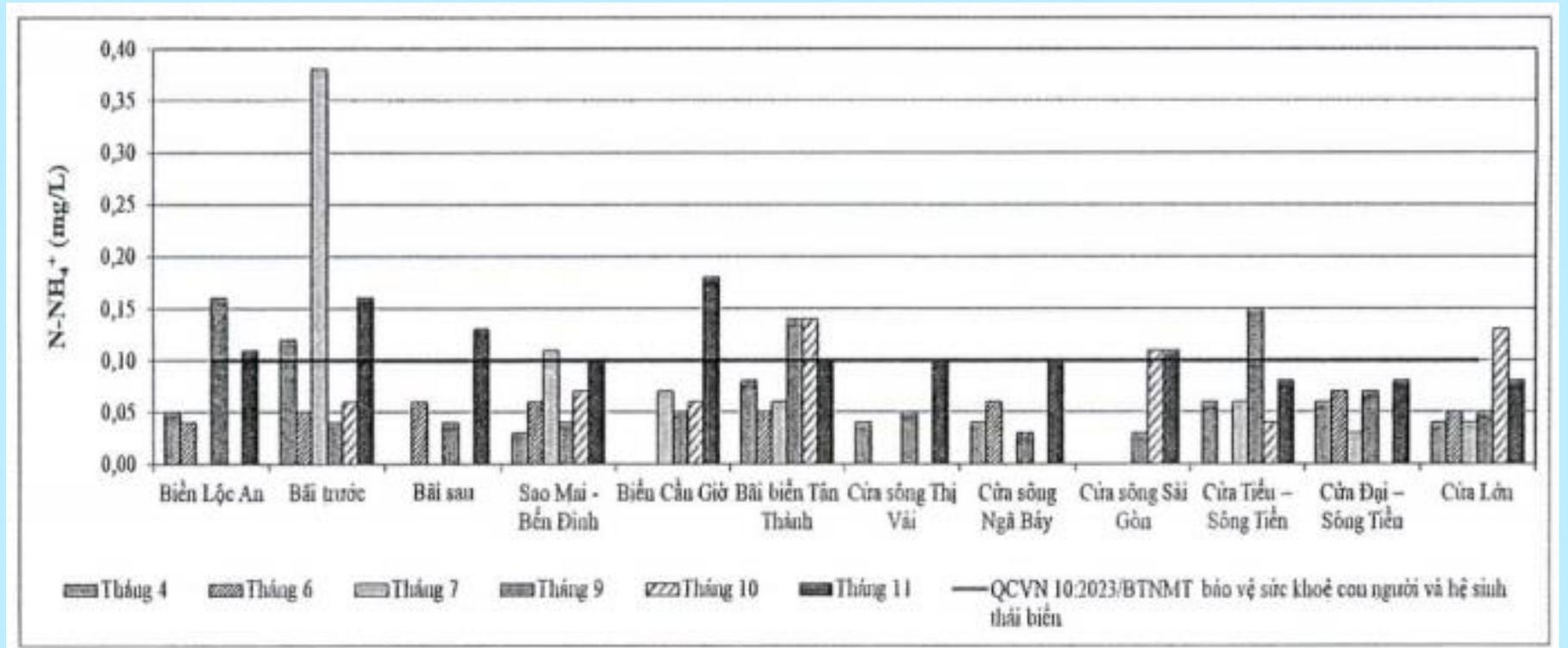
Source: Synthesis of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (2023)



Monitoring status and trends of changes, specially in the identified hot spots and monitoring stations

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Marine Water Quality Index



Coastal seawater N-NH4 values in some localities in the Southern region in 2023

Source: Synthesis of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (2023)



Recommendations

- Continue to improve the policy framework and regulations on environmental protection and marine environment protection in order to balance the economic development and environmental protection.
- Strengthening implementation capacity: Legal documents have been issued, but inadequacies and overlaps still hinder the law enforcement process.
- Controlling environmental pollution from land to sea is a difficult and complex task that requires large resources of people, vehicles and equipment. Viet Nam has faced difficulty balancing financial resources for environmental protection and economic development.
- The act of discharging waste into the environment and causing environmental pollution does not have strict sanctions. In the coming time, there needs to be a decree administrative sanctions in the field of environmental protection and marine environment protection.
- Responsibility of waste source owners, especially coastal industrial zones that are not good enough and still have concealed discharge behaviors.



Status on coordinating national activities and contributing regional activities for 2025-2026

Expert/s to join TDA team

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2. Fish and Fisheries : **Assoc.Prof.Dr. Nguyen Thanh Nam**

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3. Pollution - Nutrients, Waste Water, Plastics: **Dr. Tran Anh Tuan**, Specialist

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4. Socioeconomics and Livelihoods - Blue Economy, Vulnerabilities to climate change and natural extreme events :

Specialist Tran Thi Thu Ha

5. Governance: **Dr. Pham Thi Hai Lien**

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Time schedule for signing PCA

- Waiting for official approval of the policy to participate in the SCS SAP Project from the Prime Minister very soon to get approval from Prime Minister this week.
- The PCA will be signed after the project document is approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. We try to sign the PCA in the early of 2025.

Recommendations

- Extend the project implementation period of time. Even the PCA can be signed in the early of 2025 that means Viet Nam will have only 24 months for implementation the project and get the expected outcomes. That would be a challenge for Viet Nam.
- Viet Nam will shortly amend the law of nature resources and environment of sea and islands, we strongly ask for support from this project, in term of technical inputs, knowledge, best practices.

An aerial photograph of a tropical bay, likely in Southeast Asia, featuring vibrant green water, numerous limestone islands with lush vegetation, and several white tour boats. The scene is captured from a high angle, showing the intricate shapes of the islands and the scattered boats across the water. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

THANK YOU!