

National Policy of Viet Nam for Coastal and Marine Development

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The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Viet Nam.

With a large seas and over 3260 km of coastline (except the island's coastline), Viet Nam has expended the development activities in the coastal and marine areas. The development of industrial activities, tourism, aquaculture, agriculture, port and shipping, urban expansion in Viet Nam have generally been concentrated in the coastal areas. The industrial activities, tourism and urbanization are likely to increase in the coastal areas in the future due to unchecked population growth and developmental needs of the country.

The paper presents an overview of development potentials in coastal and marine areas of Viet Nam, the status of coastal and marine management and its needs for national policy for coastal and marine development, including integrated coastal management (ICM), primary efforts and future challenges in ICM. Although in recent years, the country has received the international supports in ICM, but its coastal areas and seas are being managed under 15 different sectors or ministries. It means that the sectoral management is dominated and the benefit conflicts in multi-use is increased.

To overcome the above challenges, the Government has emphasized the integrated manner in managing coastal areas, seas and islands and the institutional framework of ICM in the country has been formulated in the last year. And Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI) under Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) has been appointed by the Government to conduct the function of integrated and unified state management for coasts, seas and islands in Viet Nam. The Governmental Decree No. 25/2009/ND-CP on Integrated Marine Resources Management and Environmental Protection dated 6 March 2009 (in force in May 2009) is first integrated governance policy in the field of coast, sea and island management in Viet Nam. The Law of Marine Resources and Environment Protection and Law of ICM are in process of preparation. The national program on ICM for 14 coastal provinces in Central Viet Nam is in implementation phase and since next year the ICM will be scaled up for 14 remaining coastal provinces with PEMSEA assistance.



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The paper also emphasizes on institutional and policy responses in Viet Nam, as well as evaluation and lessons learnt from processes of national policy development and implementation for coastal and marine areas, including coastal and marine spatial management, marine use planning, including coastal use zoning in Viet Nam in the next some years towards sustainable development of coastal and marine areas. In this case, cross-sectoral management and collaboration, as well as local participation are essential.