

CASE STUDY 1-5

Adaptation Policy Planning

Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development Plans in Vietnam



Photo: Yuki Kato/JICA

Outline

Background

Vietnam is considered to be one of the countries most affected by climate change. Its Mekong Delta is one of the deltas most vulnerable to a rising sea level, according to the “National Strategy on Climate Change.”^[1]

Recently, the frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as floods, landslides, inundations, and droughts have increased, causing great human and property losses—damaging socio-economic and cultural infrastructure. The most vulnerable sectors include food security and agriculture, water resources, industries, transport, and urban development.

These challenges are pressuring Vietnam to step up its policy-making efforts and measures to enhance public awareness and capacity to address climate change impacts, while also promoting economic development. Vietnam has seen high economic growth rate in the past decades; however, the recent growth rate has been less impressive.

Contents

Climate change-related policies have been integrated into the basic economic development plans such as “Socio Economic Development Strategy” (SEDS) and “Socio Economic Development Plan” (SEDP).

Environmental management responsibilities in Vietnam are scattered among different ministries and implementation responsibilities are often delegated to provincial and district levels. Within the climate change policy framework, the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MONRE) is mainly responsible for the “National Strategy on Climate Change.” On the other hand, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) is responsible for the “Green Growth Strategy” (GGS), which focuses more on climate change mitigation aspects in terms of promoting national economic growth (See Figure 1-5-1).



Mangrove rehabilitation for coastal management

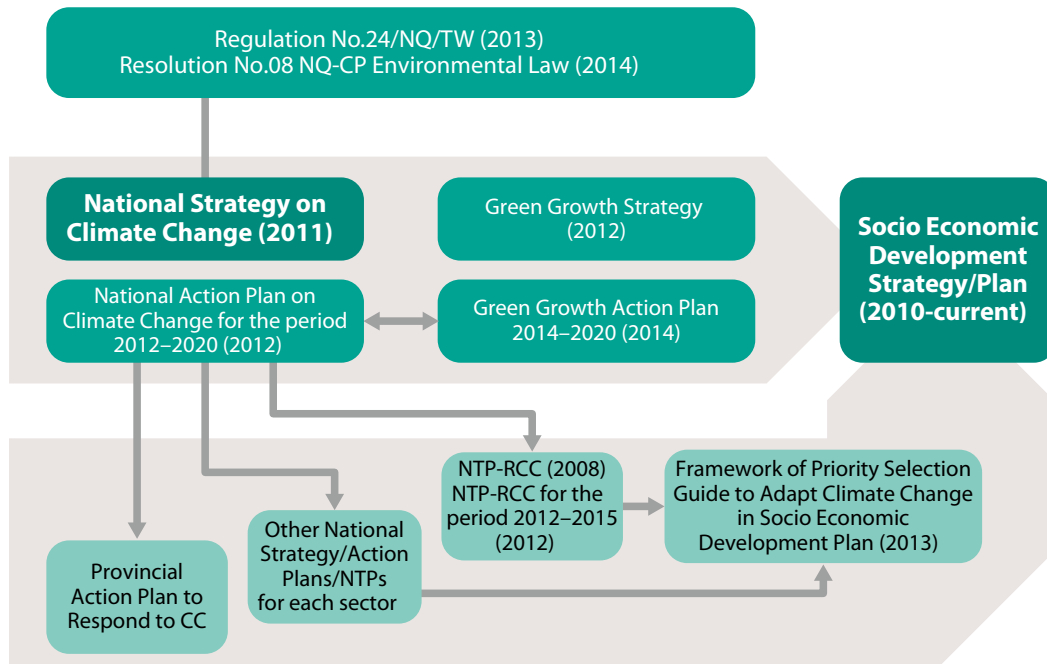


Figure 1-5-1 Policy Framework for Mainstreaming in Vietnam [2]

Institutional arrangements

The Prime Minister heads the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), which includes ministers of MONRE, MPI, the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and the Ministry of Transport (MOT) etc. as committee members (See Figure 1-5-2).

MONRE provides secretariat functions for NCCC and coordinates related stakeholders such as ministries and provincial governments for developing and revising the National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (NTP-RCC).

MONRE has primary responsibility for oversight and facilitating environmental quality standards, land administration, and sustainable natural resources use and conservation, including land use planning and integrated water management at the river basin level.

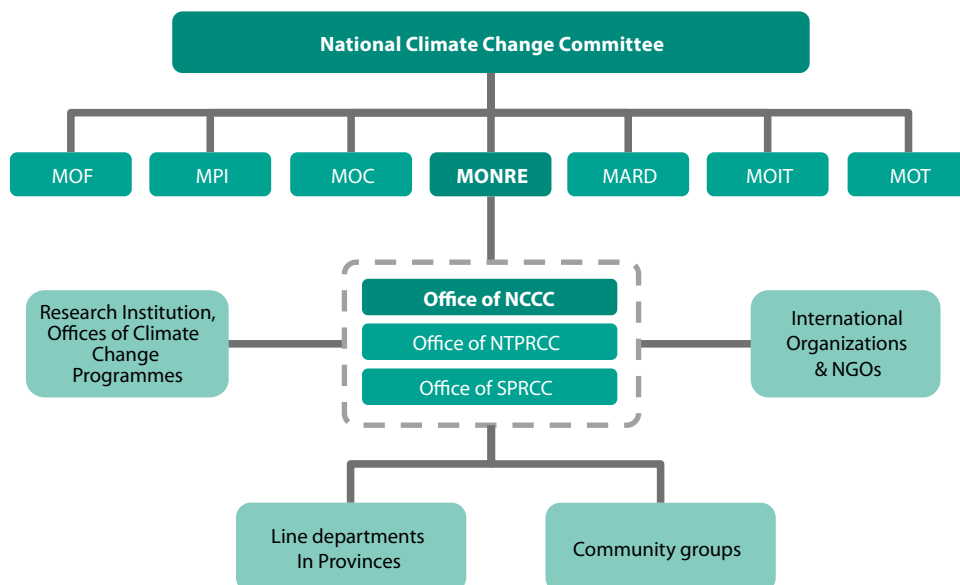


Figure 1-5-2 Institutional Arrangements for Climate-Related Policies in Vietnam [3]

Process

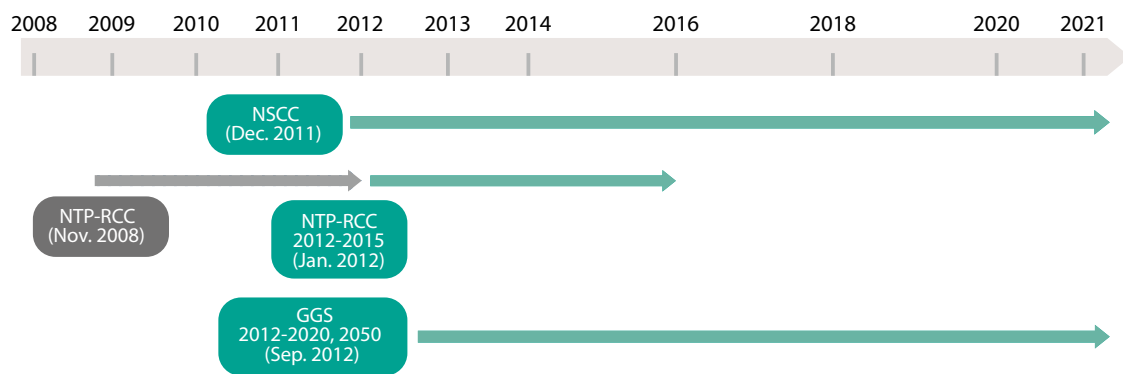


Figure 1-5-3 History of Policy Framework for Climate Change in Vietnam

In Vietnam, the “National Strategy on Climate Change” (NSCC) and NTP-RCC are the two key climate change policies. In the development process, it is required that considerations regarding climate

change issues should be integrated into all new development strategies and policies. The procedure is called *mainstreaming climate change* (See Figure 1-5-3).

Startup

The Government of Vietnam approved a series of climate-related policies, including “National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (2012)” (NTP-RCC), “National Strategy on Climate Change (2011),” and “Green Growth Strategy (2012).” All the policies are developed, referring to the national economic development plan, which is “Socio-Economic Development Strategy/Plan (2010)” (SEDS/SEDP).

Among these climate-related policies, climate change considerations are integrated into all new development strategies and policies. Therefore, mainstreaming adaptation has been conducted in their decision-making process.

table of adaptation measures and selection criteria is developed to select appropriate adaptation measures.

Integrating Adaptation into Strategies and Plans

The target of climate change responses should become one of the targets of upper strategies and plans.

Climate change issues should be integrated into existing strategies, planning processes, and plans appropriately.

Weighting climate change aspects based on criteria should be employed to prioritize existing development plans.

Screening and Identifying Adaptation Options

In the screening process, the following points are assessed:

- Whether it is necessary to consider climate change in socio-economic strategies and plans.
- Whether the region or sector is vulnerable to climate change.
- Whether socio-economic development will increase the adaptive capacity and miss opportunities caused by climate change.

Identify adaptation measures: Provide a list of adaptation measures based on consultations with expert and matrix tables on climate change impacts on sectors, corresponding adaptation measures, and relevant agencies.

Select adaptation measures: Based on the criteria, such as effectiveness, cost, and feasibility, etc., a matrix

Implementing Strategies and Plans

Under NSCC, a phased approach is adopted for implementation. The specific contents are;

- Period of 2011–2012: Urgent activities must be conducted.
- Period of 2013–2025: To become a modern industrial country after 2025, adaptation and mitigation activities should be carried out.
- Period of 2026–2050: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions must be a criterion in socio-economic development activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The following items are to be monitored and considered:

- Evaluating integration of adaptation into policy documents
- Evaluating implementation of policy documents

Lessons Learned and Policy Recommendations

Well-coordinated policy cooperation among relevant sectoral strategies and action plans

Well-coordinated inter-ministerial cooperation is the key to the successful integration of adaptation into related policies. The Government of Vietnam has already established a variety of sectoral strategies and action plans, including National Target Programs (NTPs) in major sectors such as water management and land management. Therefore, it is important to consider how climate change issues should be integrated into the existing development plans appropriately.

In the planning process, it is important to maintain consistency between climate-related policies and existing economic development plans. When climate-related policies such as “National Strategy on Climate Change” were newly developed in 2011, the latest basic economic development plans such as SEDS (2011–2020)/SEDP (2011–2015) at the time had been referred to. This is a core concept called *mainstreaming adaptation*.

Developing specific procedures for mainstreaming adaptation

To further promote mainstreaming adaptation into development plans, it would be useful to present specific procedures for relevant ministries. “Tagging and Scoring” has been applied so that climate-related policies and measures can be clearly defined. As a trial for tagging and scoring, the Climate Public Expenditure and Investment Review (CPEIR) was

established. The results have contributed to enhancing the capacity to analyze the initial phase of the implementation of key climate change and green growth policies.

Knowledge sharing for promotion of regional planning processes

To promote regional planning processes, it is important for the national government to share knowledge and information with local governments. Currently, MONRE and other ministries have engaged in disseminating knowledge and information on how to implement regional planning on adaptation so that local governments can implement adaptation policies and measures by themselves. However, there are many challenges that need to be addressed. For example, local governments lack the capacity to manage climate-related data and information and to develop regional adaptation plans.

In Vietnam, the Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN) under MONRE has played an essential role to share information and knowledge with local governments. IMHEN has disseminated knowledge and information such as climate projections and impact assessments datasets on a regional basis. IMHEN has already launched pilot projects to support several provincial governments to handle climate-related datasets. Through those activities, capacity building and collaboration among national and local governments can be further enhanced.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Le Minh Nhat
Climate Change Adaptation Division
Department of Meteo-Hydrology and
Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resource
and Environment, Vietnam
Tel: +84 4 3775 9382 Fax: +84 4 3775 9382

SOURCES

- [1] The Government of Vietnam, National strategy on climate change, 2011 (Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in Decision 2139/QĐ-TTg on December 05, 2011)
- [2] Le Minh Nhat, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, National strategies on integrating climate change adaptation, April 2015
- [3] Asian Development Bank, Environment and climate change assessment, 2013