



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

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## **ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME IN VIETNAM DURING 2008-2021**



## **Achievements in Implementing the Strategic Action Programme in Vietnam during 2008-2021**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Recognizing that actions were urgently needed to halt degradation of the environment of this marine basin, the countries of the region sought the assistance of UNEP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in preparing a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the issues and problems and their societal root causes as the basis for development of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The up-dated Strategic Action Programme was one of the anticipated outputs from the UNEP/GEF Project entitled “*Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand*” (SCS Project), and the document contains the final text as approved by all countries during the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Project Steering Committee in Hanoi, Viet Nam, August 2008. It was anticipated that the countries would commence implementation of the envisaged actions in 2008/2009 in parallel with the process in seeking further support from GEF for the SAP implementation.

The SAP established a series of objectives and priority costed actions for coastal habitats, land-based pollution management, and the over-exploitation of fish stocks in the South China Sea. In order to implement the SAP, at the regional level, the GEF adopted on November 03, 2016 the project entitled “*Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP Project)*”. It was noted that regional actions would contribute to achieving the target through: capacity building for activities at the national and local levels; provision of opportunities in exchange of experiences and good practices among countries in the region; common guidelines and other tools used by countries in management planning and practices; standardisation in regional synthesis and comparison; provision of sound scientific information for management; and encouraging governments at all levels to develop policy related to environment management. It was also emphasised that actions at the national and local levels are critical for success of the SAP targets. National Action Plans (NAPs) were developed in all participating countries and had been, or would be adopted by, governments to meet national priorities and to contribute to regional targets incorporated in the SAP.

As other participating countries, Vietnam developed the NAPs for habitat and land-based pollution management during the course of the SCS Project and have conducted a series of activities in implementing the SAP and NAPs since 2008. This evaluation provides evidences on proactive contribution of Vietnam in implementing the SAP and NAPs on mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and coastal wetlands and supports to estimate country co-finance for environment management in the SCS during last decade. The reviews of past activities and outputs would be helpful for seeking the gaps which shall be addressed in implementing the SCS-SAP project in 2022-2023.

### **EVALUATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **1/ Mangroves**

##### **SAP Targets and Summary of Achievements**

The Strategic Action Programme targets for mangroves in Vietnam focus on: improving the management of mangrove areas utilized for the sustainable use of non-mangrove resources. This will be achieved via the development and implementation of sustainable use management plans for 50,000 ha of mangroves, as well as the reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of mangrove areas in Vietnam. The Strategic Action Programme targets also focus on increasing the area of mangrove designated as a National Park or assigned Protected Area status by 30,000 ha. It will also result in the replanting of 8,000 ha of deforested mangrove land and the enrichment planting of a further 2,000 ha of mangrove to increase biodiversity. Priority areas for management include Tien Yen, Xuan Thuy, Can Gio and Ca Mau. There have existed

many activities using national resources for implementing the SAP in last years since 2008 with numerous outputs which are summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1. Summary of the SAP targets for mangroves and achievements during 2008-2021 in Vietnam

Regional output	SAP 2008 targets (ha)	Tien Yen	Xuan Thủy	Can Gio	Ca Mau	Total
1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas	30,000	1,608	7,100	32,589	52,378	93,675
1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas	0*	1,800		7,100		8,900
1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest	50,000	1,800	7,100	32,589	52,378	93,675
1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land	8,000	800	125	2,000	5,000	7,925
1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting	2,000	400	3,000	4,000	3,000	10,400
1.1.6 Monitoring of management effectiveness	N/A					

## Descriptions

### 1.1.1 Declaration of 57,400 ha of mangrove as National Parks and Protected Areas

[Please provide information: Name, category & area (ha) of mangrove site designated as national park or protected area, year and entity of adoption]

Can Gio mangrove Protected Forests (established in 1990), Xuan Thuy National Park (2003) and Dat Mui National Park in Ca Mau (2003) have been recognized as a World Biosphere Reserves in 2000, 2004 and 2009. Xuan Thuy National Park, Dat Mui National Park (in Ca Mau) is also have been recognized as a Ramsar Site in 1989 and 2013.

### 1.1.2 Designation and plans for the management of 166,600 ha of mangrove as non-conversion, sustainable use areas

[Name and area (ha) of each mangrove site under management plan for sustainable use. Indicate status in mapping, site characterizations and management plan endorsement for priority mangrove sites]

Since 2000, Dong Rui, Tien Yen, Quang Ninh commune government has made adjustments in policies, called for investment projects from NGOs, used the budget in the government's afforestation programs to plant trees and recover the destroyed mangrove area. In recent years, especially in the period of 2015 - 2019, the area of mangroves has increased to nearly 2,000 ha.

Since 2000, Can Gio mangrove forest has been managed by the Mangrove Protection Forest Board under Can Gio District People Committee and is recognized as a Biosphere Reserve. Currently, Ho Chi Minh City

is preparing a profile to nominate Can Gio Mangrove Forest as a Ramsar site. People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City and Can Gio Districts mandated policies as well as investment funds not only to replant mangroves but also to protect, manage mangroves. Many stakeholders take part in management, protection of large mangrove forest in Can Gio, such as Can Gio Protection Forest Management Board, the People's Committees of communes, towns with forests, Border guard posts, Navy, Police and units/households contracted to forest protections.

#### 1.1.3 Reform of laws and regulations for the sustainable use of 602,800 ha of mangrove forest

[Name and area (ha) of previously unmanaged mangroves for which regulations/ordinances are adopted to enable sustainable management]

Since 2008, there have been significant changes in policies related to mangroves. Impacts of climate change and sea-level rise have been observed in Vietnam and those have been integrated into socio-economic development plans as well as into sustainable development by the Government of Vietnam. In 2008, the Prime Minister also signed Decision No 26/2008/QĐ-TTg on “Mechanisms and policies to support socio-economic development in Mekong River Delta provinces through 2010, including protection and expansion of mangrove forests in the region”.

Decree No 119/2016/ND-CP on contributing to the protection, management, and sustainable development of special-use forests in the coastal and Island areas for climate change adaptation. This encourages the private sector to participate in the management, protection, and development of coastal and island mangrove forests. With those efforts, the mangrove forest areas increased and reached 213,142 ha in 2017.

Some articles of the laws and regulations for the protection and the sustainable use of forests including mangrove forests have been reformed in recent years after Forest Law 2017. Some specific regulations for local protection and the sustainable use of mangrove forests have also been established in Xuan Thuy, Can Gio, and Ca Mau.

In addition, various policies and schemes related to mangroves have been issued and implemented such as: Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy 2006-2020; Forest protection and development plan for the period 2011-2020; Target Program for Sustainable Forestry Development for the period 2016-2020; REDD+ Program to 2030; Decision No. 770/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister in 2019 on adjustment and supplementation of objectives and tasks for the implementation of the Project on protection and development of coastal forests to respond to climate change in the period 2015- 2020. The issued policies has facilitated and encouraged the reforestation of Vietnam's coastal mangrove forests to increase.

#### 1.1.4 Replanting of 21,000 ha of deforested mangrove land

*[Name and area (ha) of deforested mangrove land rehabilitated at each site]*

No detailed information available for descriptions.

#### 1.1.5 Biodiversity increased for 11,200 ha of mangrove forest via enrichment planting

*[Name and area (ha) of the site where biodiversity increased and information on increased biodiversity, considering ecological & environmental indicators at enrichment planting sites, including: forest cover; number and diversity of true mangrove species; and size and abundance of Scylla spp and Sesarma spp]*

No detailed information available for descriptions.

#### 1.1.6 Monitoring of management effectiveness

*[Site name and its area (ha), used indicators, frequency, period and information on habitat improvement, if any]*

No detailed information available for descriptions.

## 2/ Coral reefs

### SAP Targets and Summary of Achievements

Status in 2008 indicated that 5 sites among 9 priority sites in Vietnam were under management with medium management effectiveness. The targeted coral reef area to be added for management through SAP implementation was 3,300 ha, bringing the total area across the nine sites under management to 5,570 ha. The implementation of the Strategic Action Programme also aims to increase the management effectiveness across all nine sites from non-existing and/or medium to high. Table 2 below highlight the SAP targets and achievements of Vietnam in implementing the Sap during 2008-2021.

Table 2. Summary of the SAP targets for coral reefs and achievements during 2008-2021 in Vietnam

	Managed in 2008	SAP target area (ha)*	Total area (ha) ** managed until 2021	Capacity (high, medium, low)	Management approach (ha)	Management tools (ha)	Monitoring (ha)
Cu Lao Cham	100		356	High	67.2	288.8	X
Nha Trang bay	100		754	Low		754	X
Con Dao	1,000		914	High		914	X
Phu Quoc	0		290	Medium		290	X
Ninh Hai	1,070		1,303	High		1,303	X
Ca Na bay	0		506	Low		506	X
Ha Long - Cat Ba	N/A		74	Medium		74	NA
Hai Van - Son Tra	0						
Bach Long Vi	0		1,578	Low		1,578	NA
Total	2,270	5,570	5,776			5,776	

\* No target in ha indicated for each site, total targets = managed in 2008 (2,270 ha) + added for management (3,300 ha)

\*\* Area (ha) under sustainable management with sufficient capacity, approach reformed, tools applied and stress reduced

### Descriptions

#### 1.2. 110,430 ha of coral reef at 46 priority sites managed sustainably

[Provide data and information of each site where coral reefs were managed, considering reef area (ha) under sustainable management with sufficient capacity, approach reformed, tools applied and stress reduced

The National Action Plan for coral reefs in Vietnam focused on: establishing legislation and institutional arrangements for effective nation-wide coral reef management; increase awareness of managers and communities on the ecological roles and economic values of coral reefs to gain support for coral reef conservation and management; and establishing institutional arrangements for coral reef management. In connection to this, the Prime Minister of Vietnam issued Decision No. 742/2010/QĐ-TTg on the approval of planning of the system of marine protected areas of Vietnam. To date, 11 MPAs for coral reef

management have been established and are operational. The total area of marine component of 8 target sites mentioned above (Table 2) is some 156,676 ha with more than 5,776 ha of coral reefs involved. Compared to the target of 5,570 ha of coral reefs proposed in the SAP for 9 sites in 2008, the area of coral reefs has currently been managed at 8 MPAs, getting over 260 ha

1.2.1 Management capacity (number/levels human resources, facilities and equipment, and sustainable financing mechanisms) built for 46 coral reef sites

*[Status of management capacity, including: Human resource capacity; Facilities and equipment; and Sustainable financing of each site, if any]*

For the site of Cat Ba National Park, the available human resources of forest rangers (60 staff) permanently located at the control stations around the forest boundaries doing additional patrolling and enforcement activities for the marine environment nearby, working together with 7 staff being directly responsible for marine conservation has been considered as a good human resource for effective management of the MPA. On the other hand, the annual budget quoting from the environment protection tax has been considered as a sustainable fund maintaining management activities of the MPA.

1.2.2 Management approaches and policy, legal & institutional reforms (integrated, community-based, multiple use) improved at 46 coral reef sites

*[Status of institutional reform for multi-sectorial, community-based and multiple use coral reef management of each site, if any]*

At some MPAs, such as Hon Mun and Cu Lao Cham, pilot models of community-based management of MPAs, especially for the protection and conservation of coral reefs, have been tested (**years, area in ha**). Although to date, there has been minimal replication or scaling-up of these approaches. Ecotourism has also been tested at these sites, and while the potential for expansion in this area is significant, there are needs for models that relate to sustainable financing and embrace a human rights-based approach to the distribution of the benefits associated with private sector tourism operations.

1.2.3 Management tools (licensing and permit systems, seasonal closures, zoning) developed and utilized to address key threats at priority sites

*[Status on management tools developed, adopted and applied at priority coral reef sites, including also MSP, MPAs, fisheries sanctuaries...]*

In the period of 2010 to 2020, 8 of 9 sites proposed in the SAP (Ha Long-Cat Ba, Bach Long Vi, Cu Lao Cham, Nha Trang Bay, Ninh Hai/Nui Chua, Ca Na Bay/Hon Cau, Con Dao and Phu Quoc) have been established as marine protected Area (MPAs) or National Parks (NP) in the MPA systems in Vietnam. The site of Hai Van-Son Tra has been investigated and proposed as a national MPA since 2017 but not been established.

For the site of Cu Lao Cham, the revised zoning plan was approved by the Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee (PPC) under the Decision Number: 09/2020/QD-UBND dated on 17 July 2020 and the management plan for the period of 2019-2023 was also adopted by Hoi An City People's Committee under the Decision No. 882/QD-UBND dated on 23 May 2019 with a total budget of 67.11 billion VND (about 2.96 million USD), averaging 7.38-18.80 billion VND/year. Most of the activities are mainly focused on: 1) Development and completion of institutional frameworks; 2) Communication and raising awareness; 3) Implementation of research on application and technology transfer for enhancement of conservation effectiveness; 4) Support and development of sustainable community livelihood; 5) Patrolling and enforcement; 6) Monitoring; and 7) Sustainable development. In the period of 2019-2024, the MPA has been conducting the project entitled "Mainstreaming Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation Objectives into Socio-Economic Development Planning and Management of Biosphere Reserve in Viet Nam" funded by GEF (referring to the BR project), in which the budget lines for

implementing 2 key components included: 1) Sustainable uses of resources, MPA management and biodiversity-friendly development activities integrated into management; 2) Knowledge management, gender mainstreaming, and monitoring and evaluation of the project, with a total amount of 645,000 USD. In addition, the annual budget quoting from the entrance fees of the MPA in the period of 2015-2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak ranged between 12.12-28.75 billion VND/year (Statistical Data of the Cu Lao Cham MPA Management Board in 2020) has been considered as a sustainable funding for maintaining conservation activities of the MPA during the last decade and in the next future.

For the site of Con Dao, Ba Ria-Vung Tau PPC issued Decision No. 1668/QD-UBND dated 18 June 2020 on approval of the forest sustainable management plan of Con Dao NP to 2030, in which the revised zoning plan of marine component is composed of 14,000 ha with a proposed budget in the period of 2021-2025 of 53.70 billion VND (about 2.65 million USD). In addition, annual budget quoting from the entrance fees in the period of 2014-2018 ranged between 1.88-2.18 billion VND/year (Statistical Data of Con Dao NP in 2019) and that may be increased to 6.38 – 9.34 billion VND/year in the period of 2021-2025 have been considered as a sustainable funds for maintaining management activities of the NP. With an advantage in having a good human resource of forest rangers permanently locating at the control stations around the NP who can take responsibilities in patrolling and enforcement of marine waters nearby could also be considered as an important resource for effective management of forest and marine resources of the NP. The results from recent study reported that management activities has clearly contributed to effectiveness of the NP, in which cover of hard corals were recovered after impacts from natural disasters in 1997-1998 (Linda typhoon and bleaching event) with an overall mean cover of 49% in 2019; increase in density of seagrasses (1,000 shoots/m<sup>2</sup>); and more than 100,000 juveniles of marine turtles per year were released to the marine environment in the period of 2000-2019 (Vo Si Tuan et al., 2020).

#### 1.2.4 Established mechanism for monitoring coral reef management

[Description of mechanism established for monitoring coral reef management effectiveness and stress reduction (indicators, frequency, number of stations, period & and information on habitat improvement, if any)]

Analysis of data collected from 105 transects at 54 sites in the six major reef monitoring areas between 2015 and 2017 shows that coral reefs in the coastal waters of Vietnam had a mean live coral cover of 33.3 ± 18.7% (range 3.1–86.9%), in which hard coral cover was 29.2 ± 20.3% and soft coral cover was only 4.1 ± 8.6%. Among them, the reefs in fair condition (26–50% cover) occupied 50% of the total, 35.2% were in poor condition (<25% cover), 14.8% in good condition (51–75 % cover), while no reefs were in excellent condition (>75% cover). Between 2001 and 2017, mean hard coral cover was stable from 2001 to 2005 (23.1–28.8%), increased to 33.3% in 2010, notably declined to 27.5% in 2011 after mass bleaching occurred in 2010, and remained at 27.6% in 2015. Following this decline, the mean cover of hard corals increased to 32% in 2016 and 34.2% in 2017.

Monitoring data from most of the areas indicate that the densities of larger snappers, emperors, sweetlips, jacks and trevallies, rare and have not recovered after more than ten years of establishment and management as marine protected areas such as at Cu Lao Cham between 2004 and 2016 (Nguyen 2017), Nha Trang Bay between 2002 and 2015 (Nguyen 2015) and Phu Quoc between 2006 and 2019 (Nguyen 2019). In addition, a notable decline in the mean density of sea urchins (*Diadema* spp.) in Phu Quoc MPA from harvested due to a rapid increase in the number of tourists and their consumption demand (Nguyen et al. 2019). Bleaching events have become more frequent and intensive in recent years, severely impacting coral reefs in Vietnam. The bleaching events were mainly recorded during May–June in 1998 (Vo 2000), 2010 (Nguyen et al. 2011), 2015, and 2016 (Thai et al. 2016). Outbreaks of Crown of Thorn Starfish (COT) commonly recorded in several areas such as Nha Trang Bay in 2002 (Vo et al. 2004) and 2015 (Nguyen 2015), Tho Chu islands in 2013 (Vo 2013), and Van Phong Bay and Cam Ranh Bay in 2020 (Nguyen, V.L. *unpublished data*).

### 3/ Seagrass

#### SAP Targets and Summary of Achievements

For Vietnam, the Strategic Action Programme targets four seagrass sites and would result in an increase in seagrass area under management by 5,050 ha. The four sites are located at the Phu Quoc archipelago; Con Dao Islands; Thuy Trieu; and Tam Giang. In last dozen years, there existed some activities to implementing the SAP and Seagrass NAP supported by central and local governments. The table 2 below summarizes achievements during 2008-2021 under every regional outputs of the SAP for seagrass in Vietnam.

Regional Output	SAP target (ha)	Phu Quoc	Con Dao	Thuy Trieu	Tam Giang	Total	
1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totaling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations	5,050	6,925	200		2,071	9,196	
1.3.2 Amended management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions and policy, legal and institutional reforms			200			200	
1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project		6,825				2,071	8,916
1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring seagrass habitat management							

#### Descriptions

1.3.1 Twenty seagrass areas totaling 26,036 ha under sustainable management with supporting laws and regulations

*[Name, area (ha) of every site under sustainable management, taking account that management regulations exist & laws and regulations enacted for seagrass management]*

Phu Quoc: Phu Quoc islands was established as a marine protected area (MPA) in 2007 under Decision No. 19/QĐ-UBND of the People's Committee of Kien Giang<sup>1</sup>. Since 2007, Phu Quoc MPA (PQMPA) has received the full attention of the governments, international organizations and NGOs that supports many programs and activities. According to the review report of the 10-year operation and management of Phu Quoc MPA, MPA staff, stakeholders, local authorities, and relevant actors were involved in technical training, seminar, study tours and workshops to improve MPA management effectiveness, such as biodiversity monitoring, sustainable finance, law enforcement communication skills and awareness-raising programs. One of the successes was to build 03 community volunteer groups with about 30 members, including 02 scuba diving teams, that conducted regular monitoring of the core areas of marine ecosystems (corals and seagrasses) in Hon Thom, Bai Thom, Ham Ninh communes. Besides improving the effective management of MPA, PQMPA had worked with research institutes to grow and plant corals that were

<sup>1</sup> <https://vbpl.vn/TW/Pages/vbpqen-toanvan.aspx?ItemID=4384>



naturally more resilient for regenerating degraded reefs. The total planting coral area was about 140m<sup>2</sup> in Hon Roi hamlet (Hon Thom commune). The awareness educations were not only established 06 marine conservation clubs in schools the clubs were attracted about 250 students participating, but also engaged the local communities in supporting for sustainable fishing and protecting rare animals in and around the MPA, such as Dugong Protection Day 2015 was the event of collaboration between The Wildlife Conservation Society (WAR) and PQMPA to call for protecting Dugong and rare marine species in Phu Quoc Island. Recently, Phu Quoc MPA is as part of the Phu Quoc National Park Furthermore, the environmental awareness program also launched environmental clean-up in residential areas and coastlines. In 2017, the People's Committee of Kien Giang approved a pilot co-management of marine protected areas. The main objectives were to establish co-management boards in Da Chong hamlet, Bai Thom commune and Bai Bon hamlet, Ham Ninh commune, Phu Quoc district to improve marine resource management, share harmoniously benefits among stakeholders and sustainable resource use. The total area of the co-management pilot was 4,308 ha including the restricted protected zone (1,775 ha) and ecological recovery zone (2,533 ha) funded by the central government and stakeholders<sup>2</sup>. The pilot co-management project built steering committees for co-management and consolidated relevant functional organizations. Detail action plans, operational regulations, and financial mechanisms to support community development activities (such as educational communication, ecotourism services and relevant activities) in co-management zones were done.

Con Dao National Park has a total area of 19,990.7 hectares, comprised of 2 functional components as follows: Terrestrial Component: 5,990.7 ha Strictly Protected Zone: 4,215.6 hectares Ecological Rehabilitation Zone: 1,755.1 hectares Administration and Service Zone: 20 hectares and a Marine Component: 14,000 hectares Strictly Protected Zone: 1,735.1 hectares Ecological Rehabilitation Zone: 2,740.2 hectares Development Zone: 9,524.7 hectares<sup>3</sup>. Seagrass beds are well managed under Con Dao National Park which was established in 1993. According to the Con Dao National Park, the total area of seagrass beds is about 200 ha and the seagrass distributes mainly in Con Son gulf, Bai Dat Doc, Hon Bay Canh, Hon Ba and Ben Dam. In 2021, the Con Dao National Park proposed the master plan of sustainable management of marine forest and wetland components for 2025 and the vision for 2030 to Ba Ria Vung Tau People's Committee.

Tam Giang – Cau Hai lagoon: The wetland nature reserve Tam Giang – Cau Hai was established under Decision No.495/QD-UBND on February 20th, 2020 by the Provincial People's Committee of Thua Thien Hue. Accordingly, the total area of Tam Giang - Cau Hai wetland reserve is 2,071.5 ha. The area of seagrass has been recovering significantly from 1,000 hectares in 2009 to 2,037 hectares in 2017 (Cao et al., 2019)<sup>4</sup>. The People's Committee of Thua Thien Hue Province is the highest level in management, use, and protection of the lagoon. The hierarchy management system brought some advantages to controlling and reducing the illegal fishing, water, and land use in the lagoon and its coast. Since 2009, the People's Committee of Thua Thien Hue province has implemented community-based and co-management institutions for sustainable coastal fisheries management in the lagoon. The first pilot site was established in Con Chim and achieved good management as well as evaluation for long-term success. Hence, a total of 23 water protection zones were established, with a total strictly protected area of 614.2 ha<sup>5</sup>. The water protection zones were directly managed by the Fisheries Associations involved of the local fishers and authorities from each commune, the associations played important role in conserving resources for sustainable livelihoods in the Tam Giang - Cau Hai lagoon. However, the program had met existing challenges such as no clear policies or finance supporting for local people participating in protection activities, insufficient funding and materials (e.g., patrol vehicles), poor capacity and management systems as well as law enforcement. Furthermore, conflicts of interest between sectors, such as agriculture,

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kiengiang.gov.vn/Lists/QuanLyVanBan/Attachments/321/1487837058690.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://rsis.ramsar.org/RISapp/files/RISrep/VN2203RIS.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://vjs.ac.vn/index.php/jmst/article/view/12965/383892>

<sup>5</sup> <https://stnmt.thuathienhue.gov.vn/DichVu/ThongTin/CapNhat/prints.aspx?tinid=2483>

irrigation, transportation, and fisheries, or within the fisheries sector have not been well managed or controlled.

1.3.2 Amended management plans for 7 existing MPAs with significant seagrass areas, to include specific seagrass-related management actions and policy, legal and institutional reforms

*[Name, seagrass area (ha) of MPA management plans containing seagrass-related management actions]*

Phu Quoc archipelago: In 2021, the People's Committee of Kien Giang province issued the Regulation on management of Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area according to Decision No. 06/2001/QD-UBND dated 2/7/2021<sup>6</sup>. Accordingly, the marine protected area is divided into 03 functional subdivisions: Strict Protection subdivision, Ecological restoration subdivision, Service - Administration subdivision and Buffer zone; which includes coral reef protection area and seagrass bed protection area. For the Strictly Protection subdivision with an area of 7,087.37 ha, of which the Strictly protecting seagrass subdivision with an area of 6,658.5 ha, is from the south of Da Chong port to Cay Sao cape, far from the shore. 0.5 km to 07 km. Ecological Restoration subdivision with an area of 11,537.51 ha, including an ecological restoration subdivision of seagrass beds with an area of 11,362.83 ha, with 02 main areas located in the Northeast and East-Southeast of the Phu Quoc islands.

According to this regulation, activities are prohibited in the MPA, including: Organization of illegal tourism and service activities; Fishing vessels, seagoing ships and other watercraft operating illegally; Illegal construction of infrastructure works; Destruction of aquatic resources, aquatic ecosystems, breeding areas; encroachment, damage to aquatic resource protection zones.

1.3.3 Designation of 7 new Marine Protected Areas focusing on seagrass areas identified in the prioritized listings of the SCS Project

*[Name, area (ha) of newly established MPAs focused on seagrass management, considering year of establishment, entity of adoption, category ...]*

Tam Giang - Cau Hai wetland reserve: Due to the crucial importance of the seagrass ecosystem and the livelihood of local people relying on the resources, the wetland nature reserve was established under Decision No.495/QD-UBND on February 20th, 2020 by the Provincial People's Committee of Thua Thien Hue. Accordingly, the total area of Tam Giang - Cau Hai wetland reserve is 2,071.5 ha, including the O Lau area (1,270.2 ha), the Con Te - Ru Cha area (187.1 ha) and 23 areas for protecting aquatic resources (614.2 ha). In particular, strictly protected subzone is 799.1 ha; ecological restoration subzone, 1,242.9 ha; and service - administration one, 29,5 ha<sup>7</sup>. With the establishment of Tam Giang - Cau Hai wetland nature reserve, Thua Thien Hue province, will minimize the impacts that reduce habitat quality, affecting the structure of ecosystem, biodiversity and aquatic resource. The establishment of this reserve also contributes to strengthening the resilience of ecosystems in the reserve, adapting to the natural fluctuations of the lagoon and to the climate change.

1.3.4 Established mechanism for monitoring seagrass habitat management

Information on monitoring seagrass habitat at the site level has not available yet.

## **4/ Wetlands**

### **SAP Targets and Summary of Achievements**

The Strategic Action Programme implementation in Vietnam would result in the adoption and implementation of management plans for: 2 coastal lagoons - Tamgiang-Cauhai (21,600 ha) and Thi Nai

<sup>6</sup> [https://kiengiang.gov.vn/Lists/TinTuc/Attachments/27120/06\\_2021\\_QD-UBND.signed.pdf](https://kiengiang.gov.vn/Lists/TinTuc/Attachments/27120/06_2021_QD-UBND.signed.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://news.baothuathienhue.vn/tam-giang-cau-hai-wetland-nature-reserve-to-be-established-in-thua-thien-hue-province-a83357.html>

(5,000 ha); 3 estuaries – Balat (26,397 ha), Tien River Estuary (100,691) and Dong Nai River Estuary (49,711 ha); and 1 tidal mudflat at Ca Mau Southwest Tidal Flat (60,711 ha). This includes the declaration of wetland areas with protection status and needed management reforms, and adoption of a regional estuary monitoring scheme for national implementation. Table 4 below summarizes

Table 4. Summary of achievements on wetland management (ha) in implementing the SAP target at priority sites during 2008-2021 in Vietnam

Regional outputs	Tam Giang – Cau Hai	Ba Lat Estuary	Dong Nai Estuary	Ca Mau Tidal Flat	Phu My (Kien Giang)
1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 2 lagoons (21,818 ha), 10 estuaries (639,418 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)	<i>TBD</i>		<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	
1.4.2 Declaration of wetland areas with protection status (i.e. non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites)		<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBB</i>	<i>TBD</i>
1.4.3 Adoption of a regional monitoring scheme and its national implementation					

## Descriptions

1.4.1 Integrated management plans developed and under implementation for at least 2 lagoons (21,818 ha), 10 estuaries (639,418 ha), 5 tidal flats (96,903 ha), 1 peat swamp (45,700 ha) and 1 non-peat swamp (9,808 ha)

[Name and area (ha) of each wetland site under management plan for sustainable use with integrated management plans adopted]

1.4.2 Declaration of wetland areas with protection status (i.e., non-hunting area, nature reserves, protected areas, Ramsar Sites)

[Name and area (ha) of wetlands sites assigned protection status; year of declaration, adoption entity]

In May 2009, Mui Ca Mau has been officially included in the list of World Biosphere Reserve (**area in ha?**) by UNESCO. The People's Committees of the districts of U Minh, Tran Van Thoi, Phu Tan, Nam Can and Ngoc Hien have coordinated to well perform the task of managing and conserving natural resources and sustainably developing the Biosphere Reserve within the administrative boundaries of the locality according to the provisions of Vietnamese law.

Up to now, only 03 coastal wetland conservation areas have been established according to the provisions of Decree No. 66/2019/ND-CP dated July 29, 2019 of the Vietnam Government on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and the Law on Biodiversity: Phu My Habitat Conservation Area, Kien Giang Province, established in 2016. ; Thai Thuy Wetland Reserve (Ba Lat Estuary) was established in 2019 and Tam Giang Cau Hai (Thua Thien-Hue) Wetland Reserve, newly established on February 20, 2020.

In Ba Lat estuary, Thai Thuy Wetland Protected Area is newly established under Decision No. 2514/QĐ-UBND dated September 6, 2019 of Thai Binh Provincial People's Committee. The Thai Thuy Wetland Protected Area (WPA) is under the management of the Thai Binh Wetland Protected Area (TB WPA)

Management Board. The TB WPA Management Board currently manages both Tien Hai and Thai Thuy WPAs, applying the management mechanism and staff of the Tien Hai WPA Management Board. Therefore, the staff capacity is still limited and the management scheme for Thai Thuy WPA is ineffective.

#### 1.4.3 Monitoring scheme for wetland management

[Name and area (ha) of wetland sites where mechanism established for monitoring wetland management effectiveness and stress reduction: indicators, frequency, number of stations, period]

### **REFERENCE**

[Please list documents from which the information and data were used for this evaluation]