

DECISION

Approval of National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, vision to 2030

PRIME MINISTER

Pursuant to the Law on Governmental Organization dated 25 December 2001;

Pursuant to the Law on Biodiversity dated 13 November 2008;

Pursuant to Decree 65/2010/ND-CP dated 11 June 2010 of the Government detailing and guiding implementation of some provisions in the Law on Biodiversity;

On the proposal of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment,

DECISIONS:

Article 1. Approval of the National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, vision to 2030 with the following main contents:

I. VIEWPOINTS AND TARGETS

1. Guiding viewpoints:

a) Biodiversity is a fundamental element of the green economy; biodiversity conservation is one of the key measures to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change;

b) Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity contributes to poverty reduction and improved living conditions of the citizenry;

c) Biodiversity conservation shall be the responsibility of the whole society, of State authorities, agencies, and every organization and individual;

d) Socialization and international cooperation is enhanced to promote conservation and sustainable development of biodiversity;

e) Biodiversity conservation must be integrated into national, sectoral and provincial development strategies, plans and policies.

2. Targets for 2020

a) Overall target:

That naturally important ecosystems, endangered, rare, and precious species, and genetic resources are preserved and used sustainably, contribute to the development of the green economy, and actively respond to climate change.

b) Specific targets:

- To improve the quality and increase the area of protected ecosystems, ensuring that the area of terrestrial protected areas accounts for 9% of the total territorial area; marine protected areas account for 0.24% of the sea area, forest coverage reaches 45%, primary forest remains at 0.57 million hectares coupled with effective protection plans; mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and coral reefs are maintained at the current levels; 15% of degraded critical ecosystems are restored; the number of internationally recognized protected areas are increased to 10 Ramsar wetlands, 10 biosphere reserves, and 10 ASEAN heritage parks.

- To improve the quality and populations of endangered, rare and precious species, ensuring that no new case of species extinction is reported, and significantly improve the status of endangered, rare and threatened species.

- To compile an inventory, store and conserve native, endangered, rare and precious genetic resources (including animals, plants and microorganisms) to ensure that they are not impaired or eroded.

3. Vision to 2030

By 2030, 25% of degraded ecosystems of national and international significance will be restored; biodiversity shall be conserved and used sustainably, bringing major benefits to the citizenry and contributing significantly to the country's socio-economic development.

II. MAJOR TASKS

A. TASK CONTENT

1. Conservation of natural ecosystems

a) Consolidate and complete the system of natural protected areas:

- Identify critical ecosystems and prepare plans for expanding the system of protected areas; Continue to implement the plan to establish marine and wetland protected areas; Establish biodiversity corridors connecting natural habitats of endangered, rare, and precious species prioritized for protection;

- Conduct a comprehensive review of biodiversity-related provisions in the current legal documents, and make proposals for amendments, revision, and adjustments to ensure consistency; Conduct research on institutional structures to propose a model for one single management authority for protected areas, highlighting the involvement of and benefits to the communities living in the buffer zones;

- Improve the management system for protected areas, ensuring they are all established with a Management Board; Review and improve the functions, tasks, and organizational activities and take measures to enhance capacity of the Management Boards; Implement policies creating incentives for staffs working at protected areas; Upgrade necessary infrastructure to support managerial activities; Provide field equipment for all protected areas, including biodiversity monitoring and reporting systems;

- Develop and improve regulations on the decentralization, ranking and classification of protected areas, and the procedure for establishing new protected

areas; Prepare and implement management and financial plans, monitoring and regulations for the management of natural protected areas, with the target to have these in place for all protected areas by 2015;

- Conduct investigations and assess the values and ecosystem services of natural protected areas;

- Develop long-term plans for investment in the buffer zones of protected areas and implement a sustainable economic development model for households in these zones.

b) Conservation of ecosystems of national and international significance:

- Investigate, review and map ecological regions, identifying areas of high biodiversity value, degraded areas, and sensitive areas;

- Conduct research, collect statistical data to assess the situation, and develop a data bank and maps of natural wetlands, seagrass beds, coral reefs and other typical natural ecosystems;

- Strengthen protection activities in primary forests, and take measures to prevent deforestation and illegal logging in natural forests, special-use forests, and protection forests;

- Continue to implement forest regeneration and afforestation programs, take measures to enrich forests with native plants, and promote the active prevention of forest fires and increase fire response capacity for all forest levels;

- Continue to implement the targets and tasks in the mangrove forest restoration program under Decision 405/TTg-KTN dated 16 March 2009;

- Prepare and implement the national plan for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands with priority given to critical river basins;

- Implement measures to protect and restore coral reefs and sea grass ecosystems of appropriate scale and scope;

- Prepare and implement a plan to nominate protected areas for international awards, including wetlands of international importance, biosphere reserves, and ASEAN heritage parks. Develop and issue guidelines for the management of internationally recognized protected areas; and implement policies to support capacity building for effective management of these areas.

2. Conservation of wild and domestic endangered, rare and precious species of plants and animals

a) Prevent the decline of threatened wildlife species, particularly endangered, rare and precious species prioritized for protection:

- Continue to effectively implement the targets and tasks of the program to protect rare and precious aquatic species at risk of extinction until 2015, with a vision to 2020, attached to Decision 485/QD-TTg dated 02 May 2008 of the Prime Minister;

- Investigate, monitor, periodically update and publish the list of endangered, rare and precious species prioritized for protection;

- Implement conservation programs for endangered, rare and precious wild species prioritized for protection, with special priority given to endangered large mammals: elephants, tigers, saola and primates;

- Investigate and assess the status of endangered, rare and precious fauna and flora; periodically update, compile, and publish the Vietnam Red Book.

b) Conservation of rare and precious species of native agricultural crops, livestock, and their wild relatives

- Take measures to conserve agricultural crop varieties, livestock and their wild relatives; increase the number of samples of crop varieties that are stored and preserved in gene banks;

- Review, assess, and improve the effectiveness of the program for on-farm conservation of rare and precious crop varieties and livestock breeds;

- Continue to implement the national ex-situ and in-situ gene bank conservation program, for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of rare and precious plant varieties, livestock and microorganisms.

c) Develop, consolidate and enhance the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation units:

- Assess the current status of ex-situ conservation facilities (zoos, botanic gardens, wildlife captive breeding centers, medicinal plant gardens, gene banks, animal rescue centers); take measures to improve the effectiveness of ex-situ conservation;

- Accelerate the construction of the Vietnam Natural Museum in accordance with the Decision 86/QĐ-TTg dated 20 April 2006 of the Prime Minister;

- Establish a network of rescue centers across the country to ensure the needs of rescued wildlife species by region and category; prioritize investment in upgrading established rescue centers;

- Upgrade the Center of Plant Genetic Resources to become a National Plant Gene Bank that meets international standards.

3. Sustainable use, fair and equitable access, and sharing of benefits derived from ecosystems and biodiversity

a) Sustainable use of ecosystems:

- Conduct research, develop guidelines and pilot the economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

- Improve the policies and institutions to implement payments for the environmental services of forests at a national scale; Pilot a policy for payment for environmental services applicable to marine ecosystems and wetlands;

- Replicate a model for the management of protected areas involving community participation, and implement mechanisms to share benefits in an equitable way amongst involved parties;

- Develop and enforce the regulations on ecological tourism in Vietnam;

- Develop and implement policies to support production of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products that meet international standards for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

b) Sustainable use of species and genetic resources:

- Investigate, record and take measures to protect and develop valuable non-timber forest products (NTFP), especially medicinal and ornamental plants; Effectively control the unconstrained exploitation and cross-border trafficking of wild species;

- Promulgate policies and guidelines on breeding, farming and trading of common wild species;

c) Establish a mechanism for conservation, access and benefit sharing of genetic resources:

- Conduct research and develop regulations guiding a mechanism for access to and benefit sharing of genetic resources; pilot models for access and benefit sharing focusing on the interests of communities;

- Collect, document, and develop a geographical directory and take measures to conserve traditional knowledge of genetic resources;

- Develop and implement the action plan for capacity building to implement the Nagoya Protocol project.

4. Control activities that have a negative impact on biodiversity

a) Control activities considered unsustainable or causing environmental pollution such as conversion of land and water surface area use and agricultural practices:

- Control the conversion of natural forest land use and water surface area of conservation value, to minimize negative impacts on biodiversity;

- Limit overexploitation and changes to fishing, harvesting, and breeding practices of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products;

- Take measures to control environmental pollution with adverse impacts on biodiversity.

b) Control illegal hunting, trade and consumption of wild fauna and flora:

- Encourage the broad participation of communities and mass media in the detection and prevention of illegal acts of exploitation, trafficking and consumption of wildlife;

- Improve and implement inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms between the environmental police, market management, customs, rangers, and fisheries authorities in the detection and enforcement of illegal exploitation, trafficking, and consumption of wildlife;

- Advocate and conduct awareness program to prevent the use and consumption of wildlife products nationwide;

- Strengthen cooperation with regional and international law enforcement networks (ASEAN WEN, Interpol) in trafficking and illegal transportation of wild plants and animals.

c) Control, halt and prevent damage of invasive alien species; enhance biosafety management of genetically modified organisms:

- Investigate the status of invasive and potentially invasive alien species on a national scale, with particular emphasis on protected areas, agricultural areas, and forest ecosystems;

- Implementation of the project to prevent and control invasive alien species to 2020, under Decision 1896/QĐ-TTg dated 17 December 2012 of the Prime Minister;

- Enhance cooperation, exchange, and learning from experience on the biosafety management of genetically modified organisms, to improve technical and professional expertise of biosafety management agencies and units at all levels;

- Increase investment in infrastructure and resources for implementation of measures to monitor and control the risks of genetically modified organisms to the environment and biodiversity; Develop and promulgate legal documents on redress and liability in biosafety management activities of GMOs.

5. Biodiversity conservation in the context of climate change

a) Identify climate change impacts on biodiversity and promote biodiversity conservation as a means to actively respond to climate change:

- Conduct research to assess and predict impacts of climate change on biodiversity of Vietnam;

- Conduct research on the role of biodiversity in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in vulnerable areas such as river basins, coastal areas of Red River Delta and Mekong River Delta; take measures to increase resilience ability of biodiversity in these regions.

b) Develop biodiversity corridors to increase connectivity between forest ecosystems and critical biodiversity areas to adapt to climate change:

- Develop policies for the management of biodiversity corridors, defining management objectives, the use of land in biodiversity corridors, and their connection to the development of land use planning at the local level;

- Establish biodiversity corridors connecting protected areas, and prioritize implementation of pilot projects in the northern mountainous areas, central and western highland regions;

c) Implement forest regeneration programs using methods and approaches such as biodiversity conservation, carbon storage, and climate change adaptation and mitigation:

- Integrate biodiversity conservation targets into the implementation of the national action program on "Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through efforts to limit deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable management of forest resources, and conserving and enhancing forest carbon stocks" period 2011-2020 (REDD +) approved by the Prime Minister under Decision 799/QĐ-TTg, dated 27 June 2012;

- Map areas of high biodiversity value in the REDD + program; promote the use of native species for forest enrichment and restoration in the framework of REDD+;
- Reduce risks to biodiversity from implementation of the REDD+ program through the application of stringent social and environmental security mechanisms.

B. NATIONAL PRIORITY PROGRAMS

Approval in principle of 7 national priority programs and projects to implement the National Strategy on Biodiversity (Annex 1 attached)

III. SOLUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. Change in behavior and awareness of state management organizations and communities towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable use:

a) Increase awareness of the agency responsible for biodiversity management; diversification of resources and mechanisms to share information with appropriate authorities at all levels;

b) Promote information, education, and communication regularly and extensively to all organizations, individuals and communities about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; enhance the social responsibility of the business sector in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

c) Integrate biodiversity conservation content into teaching programs, and especially extracurricular programs, for appropriate education grades;

d) Promote and honor organizations and individuals that are outstanding roles, models for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

e) Develop and implement a forum on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the mass media.

2. Improve the legislative and institutional system and strengthen the capacity of law enforcement for the implementation of legal acts on biodiversity:

a) Amend, supplement and timely promulgate legal documents on biodiversity to ensure consistency and efficiency;

b) Strengthen the biodiversity management system; Develop and implement coordinating mechanisms between biodiversity management authorities;

c) Improve the capacity for law enforcement services of biodiversity conservation staff from the central to local levels; Diversify resources and training methods for staff in biodiversity conservation at all levels;

d) Conduct research to establish a biodiversity monitoring network; Implement biodiversity monitoring at protected areas; Set up databases and establish a mechanism for reporting and information sharing between central authorities and protected areas;

3. Strengthen integration of biodiversity conservation in policy development:

a) Develop criteria and guidelines for integrating biodiversity conservation into the strategies, master plans and planning at national, sectoral and local levels;

b) Improve the quality of assessment of biodiversity-related requirements during environmental impact assessments for the strategic planning and development of projects.

4. Promote scientific research, development and the application of modern technology in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

a) Promote scientific research on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; Focus research and development on the application of models for breeding and reintroduction of wild species into nature, the sustainable use of species and genetic resources, and efficient eco-tourism activities;

b) Develop, acquire and transfer new technology that uses sustainable exploitation measures for natural resources and biodiversity;

c) Participate in the World Bank's program to develop an inventory and pricing system for ecosystem services, and promote the accounting of national natural resources;

d) Enhance bioprospecting studies to detect genetic material and derivatives that have valuable applications for economic and social development.

5. Increase of financial resources for biodiversity conservation:

a) The State shall ensure resources and budgets in accordance with the delegated level to implement activities of the Strategy;

b) Encourage and mobilize community participation and business-sector investment in biodiversity conservation; Conduct research on the establishment of a biodiversity conservation fund; Develop mechanisms to diversify investment sources for biodiversity conservation, particularly payments for environmental services, biodiversity offsets, and other financial mechanisms through carbon markets and private sector investment.

c) Strengthen the support of foreign organizations and individuals in biodiversity conservation activities.

6. Promote integration and international cooperation in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

a) Actively participate in and effectively implement international treaties related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

b) Promote and attract foreign resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

c) Strengthen learning and exchange of resources and experiences with other countries and international organizations.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment shall be responsible for:

a) Assisting the Prime Minister to chair, coordinate and implement the NBSAP;

b) Implementing tasks, programs, schemes and projects assigned priority;

c) Developing criteria for evaluating the effective management of biodiversity conservation; Guide and monitor the implementation of the strategy on a national scale; Preliminary review of the Strategy by the end of 2015, and comprehensive review of the Strategy implementation by the end of 2020.

d) Minister of Natural Resources and Environment shall establish the interdisciplinary Steering Committee headed by the Minister of MONRE to implement this strategy.

2. Ministry of Planning and Investment shall be responsible for:

a) Allocating funds for central ministries and agencies to implement the Strategy;

b) Raising funds from international donors for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

3. Ministry of Finance is responsible for allocating the state budget and providing guidance for its use in the implementation of programs, projects and tasks as outlined in the Strategy.

4. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development shall preside over and perform the duties of programs, schemes and priority projects with respect to the functions and mandates of the Ministry; integrate biodiversity conservation activities into fisheries, forestry and agriculture plans, programs and projects.

5. Other ministries and central agencies within the scope of their responsibilities and powers, shall coordinate with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and other ministries concerned, to develop and implement programs, schemes, projects and tasks in accordance with the objectives, content, methods, measures and solutions in the strategy.

6. Provincial People's Committees and centrally-managed cities shall be responsible for:

a) Implementing the Strategy in accordance with the guidance of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;

b) Developing and implementing the Provincial Biodiversity Action Plan to detail the tasks set out under the National Strategy;

c) Allocating and efficiently using appropriate local resources, sourced by the central government, to implement the strategy;

7. According to their own functions, socio-political organizations, social organizations, and social vocational services will be actively involved in monitoring conservation activities and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Article 2. The Decision is in full effect from the date of signing.

Article 3. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministers, Heads of Ministerial-level agencies, Heads of Government Departments, Chairmen of Provincial People's Committees and centrally-run cities, and Heads of other relevant agencies shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decision.

(Signed and sealed on 31st July 2013 by Vice Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai)

Annex

LIST OF PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PLANS

(Attached to Decision 1250/QĐ-TTg dated 31 July 2013 of the Prime Minister)

No.	Name of priority project	Focal agencies for preparation and submission	In cooperation with	Submission time
1.	Plan on strengthening the institutional systems for biodiversity management	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Provincial People's Committees	2015
2.	Plan on investigation, inventory and development of national biodiversity database	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Provincial People's Committees, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology	2016
3.	Program on control of illegal exploitation, trade and consumption of endangered wildlife	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Industry and Trade	2014
4.	Plan on strengthening management capacity for system of natural protected areas	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Provincial People's Committees, Management Board of Natural Reserves	2014
5.	Program on the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources	Ministry of Science and Technology	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Health, and other concerned ministries, ministerial-level agencies, and government agencies	2015
6.	Plan to strengthen biodiversity crime prevention	Ministry of Public Security	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	2014

No.	Name of priority project	Focal agencies for preparation and submission	In cooperation with	Submission time
7.	Plan on restoration of degraded critical ecosystems	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Provincial People's Committees	2014