PROPOSED NATIONAL GEF PORTFOLIO OF VIET NAM

2010-2014

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	The Asian Development Bank
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
COP	Conference of Parties
CPB	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
EA	Enabling Activities
FAO	The UN Food and Agriculture Organization
GBI	GEF Benefits Index
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	Green House Gas
GMO	Genetically modified organism
GPI	GEF Performance Index
IDB	The Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	The International Fund for Agricultural Development
IW	International Water
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MOC	Ministry of Construction
MOI	Ministry of Industry
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NAP	National Action Programme
NFDS	National Forest Development Strategy
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NIP	National Implementation Plan
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OP	Operational Program
PA	Protected Area
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
SGP	Small Grant Program

SLM	Sustainable Land Management
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	The UN Industrial Development Organization
WB	World Bank

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1. Importance of Viet Nam to the Global Environment

1.1 Biodiversity and its conservation

Viet Nam stretches over 1,650 km from North to South. 75% of the country's 331,688 km^2 of land are mountainous. There are two large deltas formed by two major rivers - the Red River in the North and Mekong River in the South. Viet Nam's marine territory is more than three times larger than its land area. Due to its geographical position, its climate and the variety of its terrain, Viet Nam has high levels of biodiversity, with many ecosystems, species and genetic sources. The following paragraphs provide an illustration of Viet Nam's biodiversity wealth.

Ecosystem diversity. There are many different kinds of ecosystem in Viet Nam including inland ecosystems, wetland ecosystems and marine ecosystems. The diverse types of inland ecosystems include forest, mountain, limestone, and hill ecosystems. There are many wetland ecosystems - based on the Ramsar classification system, there are 30 types of natural wetlands in Viet Nam of which 11 are coastal and 19 are inland. Coastal tidal wetlands, wetland forest (mangrove), salty or brackish water lagoons, and peatlands are considered to have the highest diversity as well as being of international importance. With over 3,300 km of coastline and a marine economic zone of over 1 million km^2, including over 3,000 large and small islands, Viet Nam's marine ecosystems are particularly rich.

Species Diversity. Viet Nam has a recorded 11,458 species of fauna, 21,017 species of flora, and about 3,000 species of micro-organisms. Viet Nam is ranked fourth globally in terms of number of primate species and hosts four of the 25 most endangered primate species in the world. In recent years, many new species of fauna and flora have been scientifically observed for the first time in Viet Nam. This includes: five new species of mammal, and, for flora: two new families, 19 branches, and over 70 new species.

Genetic diversity. Viet Nam is one of 12 global centres of domesticated plant diversity and is also a well-known centre of animal domestication. The main crop plants include 802 species from 81 families that are being cultivated throughout the country, of which 41 species provide starch and 95 species are used for food. There are 20 swine varieties, of which 14 are domesticated. There are 27 varieties of fowl, of which 16 are domesticated. There are 14 main species of cattle among the many domesticated animals.

Table 1 illustrates Viet Nam's biodiversity wealth relative to other countries in the region.

	Plants	Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Amphibians	Fish
Cambodia	X	127	521	116	11	128
Laos PDR	8,286	215	704	147	59	49
Thailand	11,625	300	971	341	103	308
Viet Nam	10,500	279	837	286	132	257

Table 1: Species Richness in Lower Mekong Countries[1]

[1] Source: World Resources Institute's 'Earthtrends' web-site http://earthtrends.wri.org

1.2 Land degradation

There are more than two million hectares of degraded land scattered all over Viet Nam - mainly in the northern mountainous areas. In addition, there may be as many as seven million hectares of barren land – that is cleared former forest land[2]. Soil fertility has declined seriously over large areas, and natural forests have been seriously depleted. The main periods of deforestation were during 1960-1970 and 1976-1990. In recent years, forest coverage has been increasing.

The first national report of Viet Nam to the UNCCD reported that Viet Nam has several long and narrow deserts. These yellow and white sand areas are located along the central coastal areas (400,000 ha) and in the Cuu Long River Delta (43,000 ha). Since the 1960's, there has been a significant desertification in Viet Nam. Every year, 10-20 ha of agriculture land is lost due to encroachment by sand dunes. Likewise, land cracking and soil erosion have become more and more serious in the Cuu Long river delta - a survey recorded 51 cracking points, with 350 ha of land lost every year. It is estimated that the total land lost by cracking and erosion will soon reach 10,000 ha.

Finally, ground water has deteriorated in quantity as well as in quality, for example due to water exploitation for coffee production in the Central Highlands and pollution by the chemical industry. It is estimated that lack of water will become a serious problem in the next decade. During recent years, droughts have been more frequent and intense throughout the whole country, especially in the central region.

1.3 Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change

Global warming, caused by emissions of GHG, is likely to lead to global climate change and sea level rise, seriously affecting life, production and the environment worldwide, including Viet Nam. Viet Nam is considered one of the countries the most vulnerable to climate change, in particular in its coastal and mountainous regions. This is in part due to the predicted increases in natural disasters. Notably, if the sea level were to rise one metre (which it is forecasted to do by 2100), 37.8% of the land in the Mekong River Delta would be under sea water, and around 20 million people will be affected.

Viet Nam also emits GHG and therefore contributes to the global warming. However, as a developing country, Viet Nam's total GHG emissions remain rather low. The total GHG emissions in 2000 are estimated at 150,899.7 thousand tons of CO_2eq[3]. For comparison, Thailand, with a much smaller population, emitted almost double this amount as early as 1994[4]. In Viet Nam, in 2000, the agricultural sector was the largest emission source, followed by energy (see Table 2).

[2] Source: *National GEF Action Plan Support Project: Background Studies Report*
[3] One ton CO_{2eq} is the amount of the concerned GHG with the equivalent global warming potential as one ton of CO_2
[4] Thailand emitted an estimated 286,373 thousand tons of CO_2eq in 1994

Unit: thousand tonnes

Sector	CO_2	CH_4	N_20	CO_2eq	% age
Energy	45,900.00	308	1.27	52,773.46	35.0
Industrial processes	10,005.72	0	0	10,005.72	6.6
Agriculture	0	2,383	48.49	65,090.65	43.1
LULUCF[5]	11.860.19	140.33	0.96	15,104.72	10.0
Waste	0	331.48	3.11	7,925.18	5.3
Total	**67,765.01**	**3,164.12**	**53.83**	**150,889.73**	**100**

Table 2: Viet Nam GHG inventory by sector, 2000[6]

However, Viet Nam's economic growth and industrialization suggest GHG emissions could grow rapidly in the near future. Emissions are forecasted to rise to 169.2 million CO_2eq in 2010 (by when the energy sector will be the largest source), and to 300.4 million CO_2eq in 2020 and on to 515.8 million CO_2eq in 2030.

1.4 Persistent Organic Pollutants

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemical substances that have high resistance to degradation, high bioaccumulation through the food chain, and the potential for long range transport and adverse effects to human, wildlife and the environment. As a result of releases to the environment over the past several decades due especially to human activities, POPs are now widely distributed over large regions (including regions where POPs have never been used) and, in some cases, they are found around the globe. This extensive contamination of environmental media and living organisms includes many foodstuffs and has resulted in the sustained exposure of many species, including humans, for periods of time that span generations, resulting in both acute and chronic toxic effects. Of particular concern is the fact that POPs that can accumulate in human tissues and have been found in breast milk. This poses a high risk to young children.

In response to this global problem, in 2001 the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* was adopted. It entered into force in 2004. The overall objective of this Convention is to protect the environment and human health from the threats caused by POPs. It requires all parties to take measures to reduce and finally eliminate the release of POPs into the environment. The Convention divides POPs into 3 categories: chemicals that must be eliminated, comprising 8 pesticides and PCBs; chemicals whose use and production need to be reduced – such as DDT; and unintentionally produced chemicals - dioxin, furans, HCB, and PCBs. In addition, on 26 August 2010, an Amendment to the Convention listing 9 new POPs entered into force. POPs pollution and their toxic effects thus have been considered as one of the important environmental issues and have received considerable attention during the past four decades.

[5] Land use, land use change and forestry
[6] Source: Second Communication Report to UNFCCC

Results from global monitoring surveys of POPs in sea, water and air from various seas and oceans around the globe demonstrate that the Arctic region serves as the final sink for different POPs, such as HCHs and PCBs. The results also suggest that emissions from tropical and industrialized regions located at lower latitudes are the major sources for these pollutants. Long range atmospheric transport results in their transport and accumulation in the Polar Regions. Recent surveys have further highlighted the role of the tropical belt in the East Asian region as a potential source of POPs in higher latitude areas.

In this context, Viet Nam can become a significant emission source of DDT and other POPs. Indeed, recent studies on the status of POPs pollution in different environmental media (air, water, sediments, soils, fish, mussels and foodstuffs) from various countries in the Asia-Pacific region pointed to Viet Nam as a potential source of DDTs due to their presence at elevated levels in the environmental media and humans.

However, Viet Nam also suffers the impacts of POPs, although the data and understanding is very incomplete. Releases/leakages from stockpiles and possible illegal use and/or import are potential sources. For example, certain industrial chemicals, such as PCBs, have never been produced in Viet Nam. Yet, elevated levels have been observed around some industrialized metropolitan areas since the early 1990s. It is known that oils containing PCB were imported from various sources including the former Soviet Union, Romania and Australia. As a result, PCBs contamination status in Viet Nam ranks among the higher levels in South East Asian countries.

Southern Viet Nam has a long been well-known as region where Agent Orange was extensively stored and sprayed during American War, resulting in severe dioxin contamination in various environmental media and in the food chain. More recently, municipal waste sites are a growing potential source of hazardous contaminants including dioxins. Measurements show that soils from landfill sites in Viet Nam contain elevated levels of dioxins and furans. The accumulation pattern suggests that these toxic contaminants were formed recently as a result of low temperature combustion and burning by waste scavengers. Finally, various industrial sectors constitute another significant source of unintentionally produced POPs (UP-POPs).

The diagram in Figure 1 illustrates the levels of POPs in Viet Nam in comparison to its

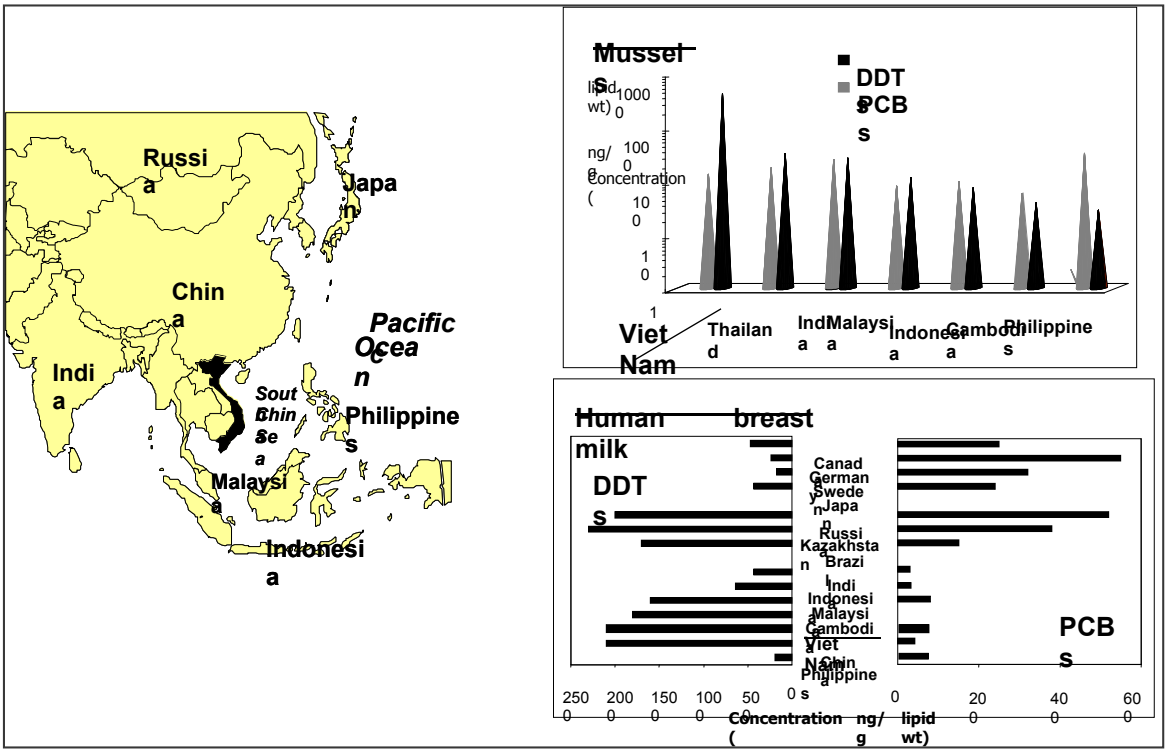

Figure 1: Key POPS Values in the Region

neighbours and to comparable countries[7].

1.5 International Waters

The key international water bodies shared by Viet Nam are the Mekong River and the Red River, and the Eastern Sea. These are essential resources. In addition to providing much of the countries fresh water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use, the two above-mentioned rivers are also major potential natural resources for flood control, transport, energy, tourism and fisheries. Likewise, the Eastern Sea is a major potential natural resource for transport, energy, tourism and fisheries. In return, Viet Nam's management and utilisation of these international water bodies may have impacts on the resources in neighbouring countries. Accordingly, the Government of Viet Nam has an objective of increasing effective cooperation and harmonization of interests with countries with which it shares trans-boundary water systems.

2. Overview of Vietnamese Policy Related to the Global Environment

2.1 General sustainable development and environmental policy

Viet Nam has issued a comprehensive set of policies, programmes, laws and decisions in recent years related to sustainable development and environmental protection. Some of the more important components include:

[7] Source: Minh et al., 2008. Rev. Environ. Contam. Toxicol. 193, 213-285

- The strategic orientation for Sustainable Development in Viet Nam (Viet Nam Agenda 21) (2004);
- The Environmental Protection Law (2005); and
- National Strategy on Environmental Protection until 2010 and Vision to 2020 (2003).

These instruments establish the overall aims and approaches to environmental protection. They provide a guidance framework for sectoral instruments and for actions in all sectors and sub-sectors.

2.2 Biodiversity

Viet Nam ratified the CBD in 1993 and the CPB in 2004. Biodiversity protection is one of the top priorities of Vietnamese Government and the Government's policies on biodiversity are quite comprehensive. Some of the main legislative and administrative steps taken are:

- The Biodiversity Law (2008);
- Guidance Decree on implementation of Biodiversity Law (2010);
- Viet Nam marine protected area planning to 2020 (2010);
- Decree on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Wetlands (2003);
- Forest Protection and Development Law (2004);
- The Land Law (2003) with modification of Article 126 on Residential land in (2009).

The 2008 Biodiversity Law now constitutes the legal framework to guide the implementation of all biodiversity conservation and related programmes in Viet Nam. The Law gives provisions on: the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems; protection of wildlife; conservation of genetic resources in the nature; sharing benefits from genetic resources; and bio-safety. Moreover, protection of domestic animals and crops, and preservation of crop varieties and animal breeds shall be implemented in accordance with the Law's provisions on crop varieties and animal breeds. This Law gives the first legal guidance on the requirements, principles and policies of biodiversity conservation in Viet Nam. It establishes:

- Biodiversity conservation means protection and restoration of the life on earth;
- Important and typical or representative natural ecosystems, permanent or seasonal habitats of wild species under the State's priority list of protected species, and places for in-situ conservation of genetic resources under the State's priority list of conserved genes, shall be zoned and protected in the form of protected areas;
- Wild species that are important in terms of science, ecology, landscape or environment, and endangered species, shall be considered and put into the State's priority list of protected species. Rare and precious genetic resources with valuable genetic characteristics shall be considered and put into the State's priority list of conserved genes;
- Protection, restoration and development of natural ecosystems, protection of wild species, and conservation of genetic resources in nature shall be combined with bio-safety assurance, along with the prevention and mitigation of negative impact sources in order to ensure the ecological balance;

- All the benefits gained from genetic resources must be equally and reasonably shared among the beneficiaries, the State, the person who is appointed to manage those genetic resources and the community that has those genetic resources;
- Biodiversity conservation is the responsibility of the entire society and the obligation of every individual and organization; and the national responsibilities and benefits must be linked to those at the regional and global levels; and,
- The State strongly encourages respectful cultural behaviour to living things; it invests and encourages organizations and individuals to invest in biodiversity conservation.

2.3 Land Degradation

Viet Nam ratified the UNCCD in 1998. The Viet Nam's NAP to combat desertification was approved in 2006. It identified a number of short, medium and longer-term actions for addressing land degradation. The NAP also identified four priority geographical areas, and three priority programs.

Sustainable land use, in terms of increasing productivity whilst maintaining protection, is a key component of Viet Nam's overall development aims. Accordingly, Viet Nam has developed a broad array of legal and administrative measures to oversee land-use and land-management, many of which are related to agriculture or forestry. Two of the key legal implementation instruments are:

- The Land Law (2003) - providing for greater land tenure security, recognizing customary land-use and practices and providing access to land for all sectors. It also lays down the legal framework for a more effective and flexible land management and administrative system in support of a rapidly growing market economy;
- The Forest Protection and Development Law (2004) with overall aims to stabilize forest, complete forest land allocation towards forest socialization, and provide policies that ensure stable livelihood for forest engaged people. It combines forestry and agriculture in parallel with policies supporting sedentarization[8], resettlement, and stabilizing and improving living conditions of people living in mountainous area. It also aims to prevent forest fire and destruction, to strengthen production forest plantation, to create pit props, to provide inputs to the pulp industry, timber processing industry and handicraft for export; and to increase the forest product value.

2.4 Climate Change

Viet Nam ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994. Since, a large range of legislative and administrative measures that are relevant to climate change have been issued - mostly relevant to reducing the emissions of GHGs. The *National Strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020* (issued in 2003) emphasizes the use of clean energy as one of the measures to reduce emissions and pollution. The Objectives of this Strategy include increasing the rate of clean energy use to 5% of the total energy consumption by 2010. Furthermore, the *Environmental Protection Law* (2005) promotes the development of clean energy, renewable energy and

[8] This is defined as the transition from nomadic lifestyles to permanent settlements

environment-friendly products. According to this Law, clean energy and renewable energy are to be exploited from wind, solar, geothermal sources, water, biomass and other renewable sources.

Most specific legislation relevant to climate change focuses on the sectors that produce GHG emissions, such as energy, agriculture and forestry. In most cases, despite the fact that these laws will have major impact on emissions, there are few references to climate change or to GHG. The focus is on increasing efficiency in the sector, contributing to development of the economy and promoting investments. Indirectly, these instruments have an impact on climate change. Some of the more important include:

- *The National Strategy for Energy Development until 2020 and vision toward 2050* has objectives including quickly and sustainably developing energy in close association with the national socio-economic development strategy; in parallel with diversifying energy sources and applying energy-saving technologies; simultaneously and rationally developing the system of electricity, petroleum, coal, and new and renewable energies, paying attention to the development of clean energies and prioritizing the development of new and renewable energies;
- *The Electricity Law* (2004) encourages electricity saving during its generation, transformation, distribution and use, and it encourages the use of renewable energy sources; and,
- The *Energy Efficiency and Conservation Law* (2010) provides measures to promote energy efficiency and conservation, including incentives measures for energy efficiency and conservation activities.

The above demonstrate how reducing GHG emissions is a secondary aim in Viet Nam after ensuring a reliable and affordable supply of energy for development. Reducing GHG emissions is mostly related to increased energy efficiency or to local environmental protection. Finally, given the great importance of agriculture and forestry to GHG emissions, as of yet there is little policy in these sectors that makes reference to decreasing emissions from these sources.

Viet Nam is also very vulnerable to climate change, and as such it has to adapt to the impacts of climate change. At the policy level, this is mostly addressed through the *National Target Program on Response to Climate Change*. This Programme has assigned ministries, sectors, provinces, cities to develop and implement action plans in response to climate change including: assessing climate change impacts; identifying responding measures; and, integrating climate change concerns into strategies, programs and plans.

2.5 POPs

Viet Nam ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2002, soon after its international adoption. However, Viet Nam's attention to the management of POPs and other toxic chemicals can be traced back to well before the Stockholm Convention and to the early 1990's. Since then, the Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) and

the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) has adopted a series of legal documents related to the prohibition of the production and use of POPs pesticides in Viet Nam.

In 2006 Viet Nam prepared its *National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention*. The NIP sets forth a system of actions dealing with policies, institutions, management, technology, finance, awareness raising and international integration, aiming at fulfilling obligations of the Stockholm Convention step by step. The NIP is to be implemented with the following activities and solutions:

- Development and finalization of policy, and of legislative and institutional frameworks for the management, reduction, treatment and elimination of POPs;
- Strengthening POPs management capacity;
- Promotion of surveys, studies and application of technological solutions for the safe management, reduction, disposal and elimination of POPs;
- Raising awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the government at all levels and the public in safety management of chemicals, reduction and elimination of POPs;
- Diversification of investment sources; and,
- Enhancement of international cooperation for implementing the Stockholm Convention.

2.6 International Waters

The International Waters sector does not relate to any specific global Convention. International agreements tend to be bilateral or regional. The Vietnamese Government has made substantial progress in water sector reforms since 1995. Specific reforms include (i) passage of a Water Law in 1998; (ii) establishment of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in 2002; (iii) establishment of the National Water Resources Council, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, as the water sector apex body; and (iv) adoption in 2008 of the *National Strategy on Water Resources* until 2020. The above all pertain to freshwater supplies, and are related to the management of international freshwater resources such as the Red River and Mekong river basins.

3. National strategic priorities of Viet Nam in GEF 5

Overall, there is a far greater demand for GEF funds than supply. Notably, in Viet Nam, there are many activities that are *eligible* for GEF support, however, GEF is not able to support all these eligible activities due to its limited resources. Hence, it was necessary to identify, prioritize and select the optimal activities for GEF support in Viet Nam. This identification/selection was done through a process that includes the use of criteria. The process and the criteria are described in greater detail below.

3.1 Process

The process to identify future priorities used a mixture of participatory and scientific methodologies, consisting of the following major steps:

- *Assessing environmental issues in Viet Nam, and considering their national and global importance*. Overall it was found that there is a strong correlation between Vietnamese

environmental challenges and the global environment. Hence, many efforts to protect Viet Nam's will have a positive impact on the global environment, and, vice versa.

- *Reviewing Vietnamese policies and programmes and their compatibility with GEF priority focal areas and objectives for GEF 5*. Overall, it can be said that Vietnamese policies related to natural resources and environmental management and sustainable development have developed greatly during the last two decades. In addition, Viet Nam's policy and legislative framework is very supportive of GEF objectives.
- *Reviewing past GEF achievements in Viet Nam*. In summary, since 1993, and in particular since 2005, GEF funds have been used to cover many issues. There have been many achievements. The review provides the input for development of national strategic priorities of Viet Nam in GEF 5.
- *Reviewing GEF priority focal areas and objectives for GEF 5*. The global GEF priorities and focal areas were reviewed to ensure Viet Nam follows the GEF objectives
- *Establishing selection criteria* for identifying GEF 5 priorities. In addition to the above analyses, a complete set of selection criteria was prepared. These criteria were then used to consider options and determine operational priorities for Viet Nam.
- *Consultations*. These were as broad and as thorough as feasible. This included several multi-lateral consultations (workshops), as well as many bilateral consultations with representatives of line Ministries, Conventions.
- *Identifying potential priorities for GEF 5*.

3.2 Selection criteria

As mentioned above, the need for GEF support is greater than GEF funds available. Hence, GEF funds cannot support all needs. In addition, there are many Vietnamese policies and programmes that are directly related to GEF. GEF funds cannot be used to support implementation of all relevant policies. It is necessary to establish priorities for the use of GEF funds. Criteria were used to establish the priorities. Three types of criteria were identified: (i) *necessary criteria* – that all future GEF interventions must satisfy; (ii) *supporting criteria*, that help compare between possible future interventions; (iii) *sector-specific criteria*, applied to either biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change, or POPs.

Necessary criteria. All potential GEF interventions must meet the following criteria:

- *Bring significant global environmental benefits*. The potential intervention should clearly lead to global environmental benefits, in one of the GEF Focal Areas;
- *Alignment with GEF 5 strategic objectives and outcomes*;
- *Alignment with national policies and programmes.*

Supporting criteria. In addition, and to the extent possible, potential GEF interventions should meet the following criteria:

- *Multi-focal area impact*. If possible, the intervention should have impacts in more than one GEF Focal Area, thereby having multiple benefits;

- *Potential to impact policy or legislative framework*. The intervention should include components that will have an impact at the policy level or on the legislative framework in Viet Nam;
- *Multi-agency involvement*. In order to strengthen cross-sector cooperation across Vietnamese agencies, the intervention should include roles for several national agencies;
- *Potential to catalyze relations with other initiatives*. The potential intervention should demonstrate an ability to attract support from other initiatives, including from regional/global projects and from GEF projects outside of STAR;
- *Innovative and unique*. Potential GEF interventions should be innovative. Given the limited amount of GEF funds, they should not be used to support standard or ongoing initiatives. They should be used to introduce innovation, new practices, new approaches, new technology, new process, or new management methods. GEF should be used where international support, international expertise, international lessons are most appropriate. i.e., not funding to ongoing programmes. Likewise, the future GEF funds should be used in sectors and areas that have not benefited from GEF support before;
- *Strategic geographical focus and balance*. Care must be given to the geographical focus of GEF projects. On the one hand projects should be distributed and there should not be more than one project at one site. On the other hand, GEF projects have to have a high demonstrative value;
- *Link to climate change and adaptation*. Climate change is a major threat to development in Viet Nam. Climate change is also a threat to biodiversity, to land management, and to waters management. It can even be a factor in POPs management. Hence, all GEF projects, in all focal areas, should consider climate change and promote the necessary steps to adapt to climate change. This is also in line with GEF global guidance;
- *Capacity of project proponents and partners*. All partners involved, in particular the project proponents, should clearly have the capacity to manage a GEF project;

<u>Sector – specific criteria</u>

For biodiversity, land degradation and international waters, the geographical balance criterion means having a good balance across ecosystems. Notably, for biodiversity, this means increased *attention to wetlands and marine ecosystems* – especially the latter as this is a high national priority. Also, the project should links to potential poverty alleviation benefits as it has strong impact on biodiversity conservation.

For climate change, the sectors with high GHG emission should be given more consideration compared with other areas.

In POPs, there are several new chemicals to be addressed under the Stockholm Convention. Also, this GEF Focal Area has been extended to include mercury as a pollutant. These issues may need addressing in Viet Nam under GEF 5.

<u>Other considerations</u>

A range of other issues have been considered in the identification of the portfolio. First, as project proponents must have sufficient management capacity, it is unlikely that one

proponent has enough capacity to implement two projects under one focal area. Second, as seen previously, regional GEF projects can have a major impact, and some issues can only be addressed through regional or global projects. Hence, Viet Nam should continue to participate actively in regional projects. Thirdly, as seen previously, the Viet Nam GEF Small Grant Programme is an effective modality, and some issues are best addressed through this modality, notably community level issues. Hence, Viet Nam should continue to actively support its GEF Small Grant Programme. Finally, across the GEF Portfolio, it is important to have a good balance between capacity building and investment.

Programme approach

The *Review and Update of the Mobilization and Implementation of GEF projects in Viet Nam* emphasized the need for a coherent and systematic approach across GEF interventions, in order to increase efficiency and develop synergies. One way to achieve this coherence is by ensuring that each GEF intervention is embedded into a national programme. It is noted that in such cases there will *not* be a dedicated 'GEF programme'; there will be a series of individual GEF projects, each in support of a national policy or programme. As such the separate GEF initiatives may appear fragmented from certain perspectives, if their relation to the concerned national policies is not made clear in all documentation. It is important that each GEF project fits into a pattern established by the underlying national programme, and that this is clearly explained.

An alternative way to achieve the coherence is to link two or more GEF projects into a 'GEF Programme' – that is, a series of GEF interventions that are linked managerially and that contribute to a single goal or objective. This 'programme approach' is to be explored in Viet Nam in the POPs focal area for GEF 5.

3.3 Proposed Portfolio of Priorities under GEF 5

The use of selection criteria through the above process led to three sectoral documents identifying priorities for, respectively, the biodiversity, climate change, international water, land degradation and POPs sub-sectors. These documents proposed a series of priority GEF interventions for each Focal Area in Viet Nam. The proposals from the three documents are summarized in the following Table.

Table 3. STAR allocation and Priority Projects

GEF-5 Strategic Objectives	Viet Nam Guiding Policy	Viet Nam priority for use of GEF 5 funds
1. Biodiversity focal area		
1. Improve the sustainability of protected area systems	Biodiversity Law (2008) National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2007) Viet Nam marine protected area planning to 2020 (2010)	Develop the policy framework, new tools and management models and establish wetland and marine protected areas
2. Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors	Biodiversity Law (2008) National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2007)	Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in capitalizing landscape values and sector development with taking in consideration of climate change adaptation
3. Build capacity to implement the CPB	Biodiversity Law (2008) National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2007)	

GEF-5 Strategic Objectives	Viet Nam Guiding Policy	Viet Nam priority for use of GEF 5 funds
4. Build capacity on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing	Biodiversity Law (2008) National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2007)	Legal frameworks and mechanisms on generic resources and benefit-sharing (ABS)[9]
5. Integrate CBD obligations into national planning processes through enabling activities	Biodiversity Law (2008) National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2007)	Prepare Biodiversity protection and conservation plan
2. Climate Change focal area		
1. Promote the demonstration, deployment, and transfer of innovative low-carbon technologies	National Strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020	Demonstrate, develop policies and mechanisms for the promotion, application, transfer and market development of innovative low carbon technologies
2. Promote market transformation for energy efficiency in industry and the building sector	National Strategy for Energy Development until 2020 and vision toward 2050 National Target Program on Efficient Use and Saving Energy	Demonstrate, develop legal framework and mechanisms to promote energy efficiency in industry and building sector

[9] Potential interventions include: (i) National legal and mechanism frameworks on generic resources and benefit-sharing adopted and implemented; and (ii) Strengthening capacity to access generic resources and benefit-sharing

GEF-5 Strategic Objectives	Viet Nam Guiding Policy	Viet Nam priority for use of GEF 5 funds
	(EUSE)	
3. Promote investment in renewable energy technologies	National Strategy for Energy Development until 2020 and vision toward 2050 National Strategy for development of electricity sector in period 2004-2010 and vision toward to 2020 National Strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020	Develop legislation framework to promote investment in Renewable energy
4. Promote energy efficient, low-carbon transport and urban systems	Law on Energy Efficiency and Conservation	Demonstrate models and develop policies for the promotion of low carbon and energy efficient transportation and urbanisation
5. Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use, land-use change, and forestry	NFDS 2006-2020 Forest Protection and Development Law 2004	
6. Support enabling activities and capacity building	Accession to UNFCCC and all protocols	Preparation of the Third National Communication for UNFCCC

GEF-5 Strategic Objectives	Viet Nam Guiding Policy	Viet Nam priority for use of GEF 5 funds
3. Land Degradation focal area		
1. Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem service to sustaining the livelihoods of local communities	NAP to Combat Desertification period 2006-2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2006)	
2. Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services in dry lands, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependant people	NAP to Combat Desertification period 2006-2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2006) Viet Nam forestry development strategy in the period 2006-2020 (2008):	
3. Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in wider landscape	NAP to Combat Desertification period 2006-2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2006)	Effective collaboration and coordination mechanism among sectors in sustainable land management (SLM)
4. Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM	NAP to Combat Desertification period 2006-2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2006)	

Table 4. Priority Projects in Focal Areas/Themes Outside the STAR

1. International Water focal area		
1. Catalyze multi-state cooperation to balance conflicting water uses in Trans-boundary surface and groundwater basins while considering climatic variability and change	National Strategy on water resources toward the year 2020	National and local policy and legal reforms adopted/implemented IWRM principles
		Types of technologies and measures implemented for reduced pollution, improved water use efficiency, sustainable fisheries with rights-based management, IWRM, water supply protection in Mekong and Red River Deltas through multi-state cooperation
		Enhanced capacity for ground water management and protection in the context of climatic variability and change
2. Catalyze multi-state cooperation to rebuild marine fisheries and reduce pollution of coasts and Large Marine Ecosystems while considering climatic variability and change	National Strategy on water resources toward the year 2020	National and local policy and institutional reforms adopted/implemented for joint ecosystem-based and adaptive management for LMEs[10] and local ICM
3. Support foundational capacity building, portfolio learning, and targeted research needs for ecosystem-based, joint management of transboundary water systems	National Strategy on water resources toward the year 2020	Demo-scale local action implemented, including in basins to restore/protect coastal "mangroves"
		Active experience/sharing/learning practiced in the International Water

[10] Potential interventions include: (i) national and transboundary protection of habitats and sites of critical importance in the life cycle of economic important fish species, including through decentralized community-based approaches; (ii) implementation of marine action plan to against East-sea degradation; and (iv) Islands protection and management

		Portfolio
4. Promote effective management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) directed at preventing fisheries depletion -joint with Biodiversity	Fishery Law National Strategy on water resources toward the year 2020	Participation in effective management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) of Viet Nam directed at preventing fisheries depletion
2. POPs and Chemicals Focal Area		
1. Phase out POPs and reduce POPs release	NIP	Establishment and implementation of the systematic management program to control, phase out and reduce POPs and mercury releases in Vietnam, consisting of 4 main areas: • Development of integrated and effective national policies for POPs and toxic chemical management • National capacity development for POPs management • Phasing out POPs and environmentally sound disposal of POPs stockpiles • Application of ESM and BAT/BEP for reduction of industrial POPs, new POPs and Mercury
1.1. Production and use of controlled POPs chemicals phased out	NIP Priority Program 2, 5, 6	
1.2. Exempted POPs chemicals used in an environmental sound manner		
1.3. POPs releases to the environment reduced	NIP Priority Program 8	
1.4. POPs waste prevented, managed, and disposed of, and POPs contaminated sites managed in an environmental sound manner	NIP Priority Program 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9	

1.5. Country capacity built to effectively phase out and reduce POPs releases	NIP Priority Program 1, 7, 10, 14, 15	
2. Pilot sound chemicals management and mercury reduction		
2.1. Country capacity built to effectively manage mercury in priority sector	NIP Priority Program 4	
2.2. Contribute to overall objectives of the SAICM of achieving sound management of chemical throughout their life-cycle		

ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OF GEF FOCAL AREAS AND PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Focal Area: Biodiversity
Goal: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services.
Indicators: • Intact vegetative cover and degree of fragmentation in national protected area systems measured in hectares as recorded by remote sensing. • Intact vegetative cover and degree of fragmentation in production landscapes measured in hectares as recorded by remote sensing. • Coastal zone habitat (coral reef, mangroves, etc) intact in marine protected areas and productive seascapes measured in hectares as recorded by remote sensing and, where possible, supported by visual or other verification methods.
Objectives: Objective 1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems Objective 2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors Objective 3: Build Capacity for the Implementation of the CPB Objective 4: Build Capacity on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing Objective 5: Integrate CBD Obligations into National Planning Processes through Enabling Activities
Focal Area: Climate Change
Goal: To support developing countries and economies in transition toward a low-carbon development path.
Key Indicator: Tonnes of CO2 equivalent avoided (both direct and indirect) over the investment or impact period of the projects.
Objectives: Objective 1: Promote the demonstration, deployment, and transfer of innovative low-carbon technologies Objective 2: Promote market transformation for energy efficiency in industry and the building sector Objective 3: Promote investment in renewable energy technologies Objective 4: Promote energy efficient, low-carbon transport and urban systems Objective 5: Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable

management of land use, land-use change, and forestry

Objective 6: Support enabling activities and capacity building

Focal Area: Land Degradation

Goal: To contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation.

Indicators:

- Change in land productivity (*greenness measure as proxy - NPP, NDVI – corrected by RUE*)
- Improved livelihoods in rural areas (*Farmer income*)
- Value of investment in SLM (*$ generated from diverse sources, co-financing in projects*)

Objectives:

Objective 1. Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustaining the livelihoods of local communities

Objective 2. Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services in drylands, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependant people

Objective 3. Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape

Objective 4. Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM

Focal Area: International Waters

Goal: Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services.

Objectives:

Objective 1: Catalyze multi-state cooperation to balance conflicting water uses in trans-boundary surface and groundwater basins while considering climatic variability and change

Objective 2: Catalyze multi-state cooperation to rebuild marine fisheries and reduce pollution of coasts and Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) while considering climatic variability and change

Objective 3: Support foundational capacity building, portfolio learning, and targeted research needs for joint, ecosystem-based management of trans-boundary water systems

Objective 4: Promote effective management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) directed at preventing fisheries depletion --joint with GEF Biodiversity Focal Area

Focal Area: Chemicals Strategy

Goal: To promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the global environment.
Indicators: Levels of POPs in the environment as determined by the Global Monitoring Program under the Stockholm Convention.
Objective: Objective 1 Phase out POPs and reduce POPs releases Objective 2 Phase out ODS and reduce ODS releases Objective 3 Pilot sound chemicals management and mercury reduction

ANNEX 2: SUMMARY OF ALIGNMENT OF GEF FOCAL AREAS WITH VIETNAMESE POLICY PRIORITIES

Overall, it can be said that Vietnamese policies related to natural resources and environmental management and sustainable development have developed greatly during the last two decades. In addition, Viet Nam's policy and legislative framework is very supportive of GEF objectives.

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
Biodiversity	
1.Improve the sustainability of protected area systems	Biodiversity Law (2008): • The establishment of protected areas shall be established to meet the main purposes of conservation as follows: (a) Protection, restoration of important, typical or representative natural ecosystems; (b) Protection of permanent or seasonal habitats of wildlife; (c) In-situ conservation of genetic resources; (d) Conservation of natural landscapes and beauties. • Planning of protected areas system is established and approved as a basis for project formulation, appraisal and approval of establishment of national parks, nature reserves, species/habitat reserves and ecological protected areas. • Planning of protected areas system should be regularly adjusted every 10 years, in accordance with socio-economic development objectives and orientations. In the required case, planning of protected areas system is adjusted upon the Prime Minister's decision. National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2007): • Conservation and development of terrestrial biodiversity. • Biodiversity conservation and development in wetlands and coastal areas, including building,

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
	developing and managing the wetlands and marine reserve systems; and rehabilitating and developing wetlands and marine ecosystems. Viet Nam marine protected area planning to 2020 (2010): • Establishment of marine protected areas to protect marine ecosystem, marine economic, scientific value species, contributing marine economic development, livelihood improvement for communities living along costal zones. • To 2015, at least 0.24% marine area of Viet Nam belonging protected areas and approximately 30% of marine protected areas strictly protected.
2. Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors	Biodiversity Law (2008): • Planning of exploitation and sustainable utilization of natural ecosystems outside protected areas is conducted in accordance with regulations of laws on protection and development of forest, fisheries and related laws. • Biodiversity conservation planning has been approved as a basis for assessment of environmentally sustainability of land use planning, transportation, urban and sectoral development planning. • Harmoniously combining conservation with rational exploitation and use of biodiversity; and conservation and rational exploitation and use of biodiversity with hunger eradication and poverty alleviation. National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020: • Conservation, development and sustainable use of the rich and unique biodiversity of generic resources, biological species and ecological

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
	system of Viet Nam.
3. Build capacity to implement the CPB	Biodiversity Law (2008): • Management of information and data on GMOs and products. • Research for GMOs creation. • Surveys, studies, evaluation and making inventory list of invasive alien species. • Information and data management and reporting on invasive alien species. National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020: • To complete the organizational system, mechanisms, policies and legal documents on biodiversity and biosafety management in Viet Nam. • Strengthen state management capacity on biodiversity and biosafety.
4. Build capacity on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing	Biodiversity Law (2008): • Ensuring risks management caused to biodiversity by GMOs and specimens of GMOs. • Encouraging organizations and individuals to investigate, collect, assess and supply information on genetic resources for building databases on genetic resources and ensure the right to access databases on genetic resources. National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020: • Improve of state management capacity for biodiversity and control over genetically organisms, and products and commodities originating from GMO for effective protection of people's health, environment and biodiversity.

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
	• Intensification of publicity, education and public awareness raising to boost information sharing and active participation of people in biodiversity protection and biosafety management.
5. Integrate CBD obligations into national planning processes through enabling activities	Biodiversity Law (2008): • Committing to implement treaties on biodiversity to which it is a contracting party and expand cooperation on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development with other countries, territories and foreign organizations and individuals. • Encouraging and creating conditions for Vietnamese organizations and individuals, overseas Vietnamese and foreign organizations and individuals to implement international cooperation programs and projects on biodiversity. • Exchanging information and forecasts about the biodiversity situation and change. National action plan on Biodiversity up to 2010 and orientations towards 2020: • Prevention, control and strict handling of illegal exploitation, trading and use of biological natural resources, especially wildlife, timber and coral. • Strictly control and management of invasive alien species. • To establish, put into operation and perform the unified management of the database and information system of biodiversity and biosafety. • To raise the efficiency of international cooperation in training, technological transfer and technical consultation on biodiversity and

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
	biosafety.
International Waters	
1. Catalyze multi-state cooperation to balance conflicting water uses in Trans-boundary surface and groundwater basins while considering climatic variability and change	National Strategy on Water resources toward the year 2020: • Strengthening cooperation on water resources with Greater Mekong Sub-region countries. • Taking the initiative in cooperation regarding the Red river basin and other river basins whose sources are shared with neighbour countries aiming at the formation of agreements and conventions for international and cross border river controls and water resources extraction and protection. • Diversifying international cooperation and enhancing regional and international integration on water resources management through multi-lateral and bilateral cooperation programs and projects in compliance with international conventions to which Viet Nam is a party or signatory. • Enhancing international cooperation with the Member countries of the Mekong River Commission in the framework of the Mekong River Cooperation Agreement 1995.
2. Catalyze multi-state cooperation to rebuild marine fisheries and reduce pollution of coasts and Large Marine Ecosystems while considering climatic variability and change	National Strategy on Water resources toward the year 2020: • Placing high priority on improved international cooperation and the harmonious sharing of water resources.
3. Support foundational capacity building, portfolio learning, and targeted research needs for ecosystem-based, joint management of transboundary water systems	National Strategy on Water resources toward the year 2020: • Active participation in the regional and international forums on water resources, including activities such as information

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
	exchange, experience sharing, seminars, conventions and other forms of cooperation in water resources. • Strengthening the cooperation with international organizations such as UNDP, ADB, WB etc., and with governmental and non government organizations to make full use of international support for the water resources sector, with particular attention to cooperation in education, training and studies in water resources.
4. Promote effective management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) directed at preventing fisheries depletion -joint with Biodiversity	Fishery Law: • Encouraging and creating for organizations and individuals participating in international economic cooperation in fishery activities with foreign organizations and individuals according to Law. • Attracting overseas Vietnamese and foreign organizations and individuals investing and participating in fishery activities according to this law and foreign investment law and relevant regulations of other laws. • Vietnamese organizations and individuals conducting fishery activities in international zones must be permitted by relevant authorities, follow international regulations which Viet Nam has signed. National Strategy on Water resources toward the year 2020: • Active participation in the regional and international forums on water resources, including activities such as information exchange, experience sharing, seminars, conventions and other forms of cooperation in water resources.

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
5. Undertake pilot-scale demonstrations of pollution reduction from Persistent Toxic Substances, particularly endocrine disruptors-joint with Chemicals	National Strategy on Water resources toward the year 2020: • Protection, efficient exploitation, and sustainable development of water resources on the basis of integrated and unified water resources management. • Meeting water demands for people's living and socioeconomic development, while ensuring national defense, national security, and environmental protection as the country's industrialisation and modernisation proceed. • Encouraging proactive prevention to control and mitigate the adverse impacts of water-related disasters, while developing multisector industries that utilize water resources.
Land Degradation	
1. Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem service to sustaining the livelihoods of local communities	NAP to Combat Desertification period 2006-2010 and orientations towards 2020 92006): • Diversifying agricultural practices to provide a greater range of options for sustainable land management.
2. Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services in dry lands, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependant people	NAP to Combat Desertification period 2006-2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2006): • Strengthening watershed protection and introducing new approaches to regenerate degraded land. • Management of water resources development and mitigation of drought impacts. Viet Nam forestry development strategy in the period 2006-2020 (2008): • Sustainable forest management is implemented. • Forest owners with business production operations have their forest management plans

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
	developed and implemented, of which at least 30% of production forests are certified.
3. Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in wider landscape	NAP to Combat Desertification period 2006-2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2006): • Adopting a partnership approach between national and international partners to address land degradation issues.
4. Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM	NAP to Combat Desertification period 2006-2010 and orientations towards 2020 (2006): • Land use management through development of advanced science and technology based on promotion of traditional knowledge.
Climate Change	
1. Promote the demonstration, deployment, and transfer of innovative low-carbon technologies	National Strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 : • Promoting the adoption of clean technology and cleaner production lines and the use of environmentally friendly and less pollution raw materials and fuels.
2. Promote market transformation for energy efficiency in industry and the building sector	National Strategy for Energy Development until 2020 and vision toward 2050: • Exploiting and using domestic energy resources in a rational and efficient manner. • Encourage the application of energy-saving equipment and technologies. Electricity Law 2004: • Applying scientific and technological progress in electricity activities and using electricity aiming at saving, improving energy efficiency. Law on Energy Efficiency and Conservation • Energy efficiency and conservation in industrial

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
	enterprises. • Energy efficiency and conservation in buildings. • Energy efficiency and conservation in transportation.
3. Promote investment in renewable energy technologies	National Strategy for Development of electricity sector in period 2004-2010 and vision toward to 2020: • Promoting development research of new and renewable energy to meet demand of electricity use, especially for islands and remote areas. National Strategy for Energy Development until 2020 and vision toward 2050: • Boosting the development of new and renewable energies, bio-energy. Law on Environmental Protection (2005): • Enhances development of clean energy, renewable energy and environment-friendly products.
4. Promote energy efficient, low-carbon transport and urban systems	Law on Energy Efficiency and Conservation: • Identifying energy efficiency and conservation in different sectors: industrial sector, construction and public lighting, transportation, agriculture, households and service activities.
5. Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use, land-use change, and forestry	NFDS 2006-2020: • Implementation of sustainable forest management. Forest Protection and Development Law 2004: • Principles for forest assignment, lease and recovery and change of forest use purposes.

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
6. Support enabling activities and capacity building	Accession to UNFCCC and all protocols.
POPs and Chemicals	
1.1.Production and use of controlled POPs chemicals phased out	NIP Priority Program 2: Sound management, disposal and phase-out of POPs pesticides stockpiles. NIP Priority Program 5: Thorough treatment of PCBs and POPs pesticides contaminated hotspots. NIP Priority Program 6: Sound management disposal & phase-out of PCBs and PCB containing electrical equipment and industrial products.
1.2. Exempted POPs chemicals used in an environmental sound manner	Not applicable in Viet Nam.
1.3. POPs releases to the environment reduced	NIP Priority Program 8: Assessment, study, promotion, assistance and management on application of BAT/BEP to reduce and finally eliminate the UP-POPs from production and living activities.
1.4. POPs waste prevented, managed, and disposed of, and POPs contaminated sites managed in an environmental sound manner	NIP Priority Program 2: Sound management, disposal and phase-out of POPs pesticides stockpiles. NIP Priority Program 3: Thorough isolation and treatment of hotspots contaminated with dioxins and toxic chemicals used by the American army during the war in Viet Nam. NIP Priority Program 4: Management of healthcare wastes to reduce POPs and other toxic releases. NIP Priority Program 5: Thorough treatment of PCBs and POPs pesticides contaminated hotspots. NIP Priority Program 6: Sound management disposal and phase-out of PCBs and PCB containing electrical equipment and industrial products. NIP Priority Program 9: Survey and study the impacts of POPs-contaminated environment on human health in Viet Nam.

GEF Strategic Objective	National Policy
1.5. Country capacity built to effectively phase out and reduce POPs releases	NIP Priority Program 1: Development and finalization of policies, legislation and institutions for POPs management. NIP Priority Program 7: Development of technical capacity for POPs monitoring and analysis; establishment of the network of standardized laboratories for assessing pollution and impacts of POPs on human health and the environment. NIP Priority Program 10: Education, training and awareness raising on POPs issues. NIP Priority Program 14: Development of national information systems, working networks on POPs and promotion of stakeholders and public participation in the sound management of POPs. NIP Priority Program 15: Assessment of POPs management in the whole country.
3.1. Country capacity built to effectively manage mercury in priority sector	NIP Priority Program 4: Management of healthcare wastes to reduce POPs and other toxic releases.
3.2. Contribute to overall objectives of the SAICM of achieving sound management of chemical throughout their life-cycle	