

# *Workshop on Introduction to Biodiversity Inclusive SEA*

## **Biodiversity Policy and SEA**

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*The saola is but one of many animals discovered in Vietnam during the past ten years.*

# Objective

**Provide basic information on biodiversity policy and Impact Assessment, and look at biodiversity conservation integration as an important part of SEA**

# Content

- **Biodiversity Policy**
  - International
  - National (Vietnam)
  - Local
- **SEA and Integration of Biodiversity Conservation**

# Biodiversity and Its Important Role

## What is Biodiversity?

*“Biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems”*

## Three Levels of Biodiversity

- *Ecosystems*
- *Species and communities of species*
- *Genotypes*

## Role of Biodiversity - The Basis of Our Existence

Value of Biodiversity often underestimated

Need to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity

Biodiversity Conservation Policy and Impact Assessment Tool

# Strategic Environmental Assessment

## SEA:

- *support the development of policy and planning practices with a stronger environmental and biodiversity component*
- *perform a fundamental role in promoting sustainable principles and practices and*
- *Help to identify cumulative effects*

**Policy context** (sustainability policy, objectives and strategies) - **Priority needs for good practice SEA**

**SEA as a policy making support tool**

## **As a policy and planning making support tool and mechanism, *SEA can help to:***

- *Build biodiversity objectives into plans*
- *Identify biodiversity-friendly alternatives*
- *Identify and manage cumulative threats*
- *Early warn cumulative effects and large-scale changes*
- *Plan effective mitigation strategies to ensure no net loss of biodiversity*
- *Put in place monitoring programmes to provide necessary biodiversity data*
- *Strengthen biodiversity partnerships and information networks*

**A need for Successful Application  
of Biodiversity-Inclusive SEA**

for

**Sustainable Development**

# Biodiversity-related Policy

## International

1. *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*
2. *Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)*
3. *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR)*
4. *World Heritage Convention (WHC)*
5. *UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC)*

# Biodiversity-related Policy

## National

1. *Environmental Protection Law, 2005 – SEA*
2. *Biodiversity Law (7/2009)*
3. *Forest Protection and Development Law (2004)*

# Biodiversity-related Policy

## **National**

4. *Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Viet Nam (Viet Nam Agenda21 Strategy)*
5. *National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020*
6. *National Biodiversity Action Plan*
7. *National Strategy for Protected Area Management 2003 – 2010 (Draft Decree on Protected Areas)*
8. *Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy 2006-2020*
9. *National Wetland Program - List of proposed wetland sites*
10. *Marine Conservation program*

## **Local**

1. *Provincial Agenda 21*
2. *Provincial Biodiversity Action Plan*

# International conventions

## CBD, RAMSAR and CMS:

- recognize IA (SEA) as an important decision-support tool to help plan and implement development **with biodiversity “in mind”**
- recognise SEA as **an important mechanism for building biodiversity into development planning** to promote its conservation and sustainable use
- require to **apply SEA** to proposals with potential negative impacts on biodiversity to help meet their objectives, so that development proposals respect mechanisms for the **conservation** of biodiversity, result in **sustainable use** of biodiversity resources, and ensure **fair and equitable sharing** of the benefits arising from use of biodiversity.

# CBD

- Establish and conserve national protected area systems (Article 8)
- Integrate biodiversity conservation into development policies, strategies and plans (Article 6)
- Conduct Strategic Environmental Assessment for strategies, plans and programmes
- Advocates an “**ecosystem approach**” because people and biodiversity depend on healthily functioning ecosystems that have to be assessed in an integrated way

**National**

# Law on Environment Protection

**Mandates SEA for national, provincial and inter-provincial strategies, planning and plans including:**

- 1. National socio-economic development strategies, planning and plans.**
- 2. Strategies and plans for development of branches or sectors on a national scale.**
- 3. Socio-economic development strategies, planning and plans of provincial level or regions.**
- 4. Plans for land use, forest protection and development; exploitation and utilization of other natural resources in inter-provincial or inter-regional areas.**
- 5. Plans for development of key economic regions.**
- 6. General planning of inter-provincial river watersheds.**

## **The LEP (2005) is supported by:**

1. *Decree No. 80/2006/ND-CP (August 2006),*
2. *Circular 08/2006/TT-BTNMT (September 2006) – Instructed implementation of SEA with detailed guidance on the required contents on an SEA report.*
3. *General Guidance on Conducting SEA implementation.*
4. *SEA Guidelines for specific sectors*

# Biodiversity Law

- National Protected Area System
- The use and change of land use purposes in conservation areas must comply with BL (Article 25)
- State policies on the biodiversity conservation and sustainable development (Article 5) with the priority places on the conservation of natural ecosystems which are important, specific or representative for an ecological region and the conservation of species on the list of endangered precious and rare species prioritized for protection.
- requires biodiversity planning conducted at provincial and national levels: this is to be integrated into the land use planning
- Integrated and participatory approach in biodiversity conservation and use

## ■ Forest Development Law

Special-use Forest System

Apply participatory approach in conservation, development and use of forests

# Biodiversity Action Plan (2007):

## Specific targets from now to 2010:

- To improve, complete and develop the system of special-use forests (to reach a forest coverage of 42-43%);
  - To restore 50% of the area of degraded watershed forests;
  - To effectively protect precious, rare and endangered animals and plants;
- **Biodiversity conservation and development in wetlands and marine areas:**
  - To increase the total area of wetlands and marine reserves of national and international importance to over 1.2 million hectares.
  - To restore 200,000 hectares of mangrove forests;
  - To designate five (05) wetlands to be in the list of wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites).
- **Agricultural biodiversity conservation and development:**
  - To announce and complete a conservation system to efficiently conserve precious, rare, indigenous livestock breeds, plant varieties and agricultural microorganisms of high socio-economic value.

## Orientation toward 2020:

- To complete the system of (terrestrial, wetlands and marine) protected area; to restore 50% of natural, typical and sensitive ecosystems which have been destroyed

# **Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy 2006-2020**

- **To sustainably establish, manage, protect, develop and use 16.24 million ha of land planned for forestry; to increase the ratio of land with forest up to 42 – 43% by the year 2010 and 47% by 2020;**
- **Develop and consolidate the protection forest system with a total area of about 5.68 million ha and special-use forest system with a total area not exceeding 2.16 million ha.**

# Biodiversity inclusive SEA

## Requires

- enabling biodiversity policy framework
- Principles for inclusion of biodiversity conservation in SEA

# Guiding principles for Biodiversity inclusion into SEA

1. **Aim for Conservation and “No Net Loss” of Biodiversity** (“positive planning for biodiversity.”)
2. **Take an Ecosystem Approach:** is *participatory* and requires a *long-term perspective* based on a *biodiversity-based study area* and *adaptive management* to deal with the dynamic nature of ecosystems, uncertainty and the often unpredictable nature of ecosystem functions, behavior and responses
3. **Seek Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Resources**
4. **Ensure Equitable Sharing.**
5. **Apply the Precautionary Principle.**
6. **Take a Participatory Approach.**

# Conclusions and Recommendations

- Application of biodiversity inclusive SEA is critically important for sustainable development
- Vietnam has a relatively comprehensive biodiversity policy framework for biodiversity inclusive SEA
- The provisions of the LEP and supporting Decree and Circular are generally consistent with current approach to SEA adopted in Europe
- The legal framework prescribes that SEA in Viet Nam should be undertaken as an integral part of strategy and plan development
- Vietnam SEAs should cover environment, social and economic aspects of a strategy or plan – i.e. all three pillars of sustainable development
- *A need to develop guidance on biodiversity inclusive SEA or an adequate part on biodiversity inclusion in the SEA guidance*

# Thank you!

