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Federal Ministry  
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## CONCEPT NOTE FOR NATIONAL TRIALOGUE AND CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON DRAFT NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT REPORT

### Support to Developing Capacities to Address Science-Policy-Practice Interface Project

*Crowne Plaza West Hanoi Residences, 36 Le Duc Tho Street, My Dinh 2 Ward, Nam Tu Liem  
District, Hanoi*

*6-7 November 2019*

#### 1. Background:

With financial support from the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU), efforts are currently ongoing to undertake the national ecosystem assessments (NEAs) in eight countries (i.e. Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Grenada and Vietnam) to attain the goal of the International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) at the national levels.<sup>1</sup> All NEA works are coordinated globally by the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The project in Vietnam, titled “Support to developing capacities to address Science-Policy-Practice interface” is led by the Center for Biodiversity Conservation (CBC) under the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA).

Ecosystem assessment is a tool to support decision-making on ecosystem management planning, investments in ecosystem protection and development and even ecosystem service prioritization (in case there need to be a trade-off among ecosystem services). Healthy ecosystems provide a wide range of valuable goods and services to people. Therefore, sustainable management of ecosystems must take their values into account and examine the effects of changing ecosystems on human well-being. NEA analyses ecosystems and their provision of services currently and under future scenarios of change, such as climate change. Thereby, it gives decision makers the information they need to improve the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and to minimize negative impacts of development activities and other policy initiatives.

A major challenge within national policy settings and decision-making processes on biodiversity and ecosystem services is a lack of real understanding of their value in many sectors of society, and a lack of tools to be able to integrate knowledge on ecosystem services into policy settings and into day-to-day decision-making, based on scientific knowledge. Ecosystem assessment can provide a mechanism to develop an evidence base that meets the needs of different sectors and encourages the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services within their actions.

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<sup>1</sup> National ecosystem assessments in Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Vietnam have been implemented since 2016 under the framework of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) Project, which is hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The assessments in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia and Grenada have been supported by the Supporting Decision Making and Building Capacity to Support IPBES through National Ecosystem Initiative managed by UNEP-WCMC since 2018.

Vietnam became a member of the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD) in 1994 and IPBES in 2015 and has a range of other biodiversity related international commitments.

IPBES has highlighted that developing countries face issues in addressing pressing sustainable development questions due to: (i) A weak interface between science/traditional knowledge, policy and practice; (ii) Lack of trained national-level experts and stakeholders to conduct national level biodiversity and ecosystem services assessment; (iii) Low capacity to integrate findings into policy development; and (iv) limited window of opportunities to integrate of findings into national policy, programmes and decision-making processes.

Although Vietnam has hundreds of policies and regulations related to biodiversity conservation, it still lacks methodologies and capacity on ecosystem assessment, and has weaknesses in the interrelation between science and policies. The project “Support to developing capacities to address Science-Policy-Practice interface” is helping to deliver Vietnam’s first NEA. This project provides a good opportunity for Vietnam to establish a partnership of different stakeholders for improving the science-policy-practice interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services through the national assessment, and for addressing the above-mentioned challenges. Addressing this key concern constitutes a national priority for Vietnam and is aligned to the strategic approach defined by the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and its 2020 Aichi Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant processes. In addition, this project also creates an opportunity for Vietnam to work in collaboration with colleagues currently undertaking NEAs around the world for sharing information and experiences.

CBC works in collaboration with the Institute of Strategy and Policy for Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE)/Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and relevant agencies to carry out activities for Vietnam’s NEA. The Vietnam NEA team, including representatives from relevant government and non-government organisations, is currently developing the draft NEA Report and draft Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) and for peer-review<sup>2</sup>.

In order to make the NEA Report and SPM fully responsive to key policy windows and inclusive of different knowledge types, it is of critical importance to create space where science, policy and practice communities can interact and exchange their views, perspectives and insights concerning the ecosystems’ related issues of common interest.

An initial scoping meeting concerning how to ensure greater uptake of the key findings of the national ecosystem assessments was held UNDP BES-Net and UNEP-WCMC from 7th to 8th June 2018 in Hanoi. This helped to identify a list of key local stakeholders including local and indigenous communities, farmers, businesses, civil society NGOs, etc. for participation in the national ecosystem assessment.

The National Dialogue on the NEA Report and SPM due to the same objectives and time plan. A short event of MoU signing ceremony on cooperation between MONRE and WWF will be inserted on 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the workshop. CBC, ISPONRE and WWF will co-ordinate with UNDP BES-Net and UNEP-WCMC to organize this event at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Hanoi with more details as below.

## **2. Objectives:**

Objectives of the workshop as follows:

- Consulting with different central and local stakeholders on contents of the draft NEA report and SPM, including: any changes/trends emerging in the assessment regarding the original policy questions; review of each chapter as to whether relevant policy questions are being addressed, identification of gaps are and potential improvements; identification of how the report can link to national strategies, Aichi Targets, and Sustainable Development Goals; and understanding the expectations of policymakers regarding the key findings/SPM, and how to better meet the demands of planning and policy development;

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<sup>2</sup> The NEA report has 6 chapters: (i) General information for assessment; (ii) Status and trends of forest, wetland, and marine and coastal ecosystems; (iii) Drivers, pressures driving changes in ecosystem services and its impacts on economy and society; (iv) Contributions of forest, wetland, and marine and coastal ecosystems; (v) Impacts of ecosystem policies and interventions on sustainable development and need for a new or revised policy development; and (vi) Ecosystems and their services change in the future under various plausible scenarios. The Summary for Policy Makers will present key findings of the NEA report.

- Sharing national and regionally-relevant knowledge on the ecosystem assessment (e.g. IPBES framework) with different stakeholders and enhancing their awareness of the envisaged policy impact of the assessment as well as the opportunities for uptake of the assessment recommendations and building capacity;
- Co-creating locally appropriate recommendation and policy options, and building a common agenda for action; and
- Exploring the potential for stronger collaboration between the three communities of Science-Policy-Practice.

**3. Time:** Two days from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**4. Place:** Crowne Plaza West Hanoi Residences, 36 Le Duc Tho Street, My Dinh 2 Ward, Nam Tu Liem District, Hanoi

**5. Participants:** About 80-100 participants will be invited from different ministries, institutes, universities, international and local NGOs, local communities, ethnic groups, farmers, businesses, civil society institutions, private sectors, media, etc. In details as below:

Order	Organization	City/Province	Number
1	NEA Project Advisory Committee	Hanoi	8
2	NEA Technical Working Group		10
3	CBC staff		02
4	ISPONRE staff		04
5	WWF staff		03
6	GIZ staff		03
7	MONRE/VEA/BCA and Line Ministries:MARD, MPI, MOST, M of Industry and Trade, MoH (policymakers)		10
8	Institutes, Universities: VAST, Institutes of Strategy and policy of MPI, MARD, MOST; Nha Trang Marine Research Institute, Institute of Marine and Islands Research, Institute of Tropical Biology; National University of Hanoi, Hue/HCM Agro-Forest Uni, Hanoi Agro and Forest Universities, Hanoi Uni of Natural Resources and Environment, etc. (Scientists, researchers)		08
9	UNDP Vietnam		01
10	International organizations (USAID, CIAT, UN-REDD, IUCN, FAO, Embassies, etc.)		05
11	Local NGOs (such as?): PanNature, MCD (Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development), VACNE (Vietnam Association for Conservation and Nature and Environment), VUSTA, VNU-CRES, etc.		08
12	National parks/PAs Management Boards	Provinces	20
13	Farmer/Fisheries Associations and fishing/indigenous/ethnic/aquaculture farmer communities, etc.		10
14	Tourism/hydropower/water supply companies		05
15	UNDP BES-NET and UNEP-WCMC		03
<b>Total</b>			<b>100</b>

#### 6. Expected outcomes:

- At least, 50 valuable comments for draft NEA report and SPM received;
- Key contents of NEA report and SPM advised and agreed;
- Knowledge on ecosystem assessment process for different stakeholders including local and indigenous communities, ethnic groups, farmers, businesses, civil society NGOs, etc. understood; and
- Locally appropriate policy options recommendations, and a common agenda for action recommended.

## 7. The workshop tentative agenda:

Time	Contents	Responsibility
<b>Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b>		
08.00-08.30	Registration	CBC/ISPONRE
08.30-08.40	Introduction on workshop background, objectives and workshop agenda	Ms. Huynh Thi Mai - NEA Project Coordinator
08.40-09.30	Welcome/ Opening speeches	- Dr. Lai Minh Hien, Director, CBC - Ass.Prof.Dr. Nguyen The Chinh, Director General, ISPONRE/MONRE - Dr. Van Ngoc Thinh, Country Director, WWF - Ms. Yuko Kurauchi, UNDP
<b>Session 1: Introduction and consultation on status, trends and contributions of forest, wetland, and marine and coastal ecosystems</b> <i>Chaired by</i> <i>Ass.Prof.Dr. Nguyen The Chinh, Director General, ISPONRE/MONRE and Dr. Van Ngoc Thinh, Country Director, WWF</i>		
09.30-09.50	General information for assessment report	Ms. Huynh Thi Mai – NEA Project Coordinator
09.50-10.20	Status and trends of the three key ecosystems	Ms. Than Thi Hien, MCD
10.20-10.30	Q&A	
10.30-11.00	<b>Coffee break and photo group</b>	All participants
11.00-11.30	Contributions of 3 key ecosystems (forest, wetland, and marine and coastal ecosystems) to the national economy and human well-being	Dr. Tran Thi Thu Ha, National expert
11.30-12.00	- Q&A - Discussion on 6 original policy questions (any changes/trends) and any gaps on information in the report	
12.00-13.30	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Session 2: Introduction and consultation on drivers, pressures driving changes in ES; policy framework; the future under various plausible scenarios of three key ecosystems</b> <i>Chaired by</i> <i>Dr. Lai Minh Hien, Director, CBC and Ms. Yuko Kurauchi, UNDP</i>		
13.30-14.00	Drivers, pressures driving changes in ecosystem services and its impacts on economy and society	AssProf. Dr. Ho Thanh Hai National expert
14.00-14.30	Policy framework and interventions of ecosystems on socio-economic development	Dr. Nguyen Sy Linh, ISPONRE Dr. Bach Tan Sinh, MOST
14.30-14.40	Q&A	

14.40-15.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.00-15.30	Various plausible scenarios on ecosystem and its services	Hoang Viet, WWF
15.30-16.00	Plenary discussion: Q&A; Any gaps in report; Meet the demand of National and international goals, etc.	
16.00-17.00	<p>Group Discussion: divided into 3 groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need a new or revised policy development; Expectations of policymakers regarding the usefulness of the report and SPM for planning and policy development, etc. (Policymakers)</li> <li>- Recommendations to strengthening collaboration between the three communities of Science-Policy-Practice</li> <li>- Recommendations to strengthening meaningful engagement between different stakeholders to increase policy impact and uptake of the assessment report recommendations and building capacity</li> <li>- Co-creating locally appropriate recommendation and policy options, and building a common agenda for action</li> </ul>	
17.00-17.20	Feedback from three groups	
17.20-17.30	Closing the 1 <sup>st</sup> day of the workshop	Ms. Huynh Thi Mai, NEA Project Coordinator
<b>Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b>		
08.00-08.30	Registration	CBC/ISPONRE
<p><b>Session 3: Introduction and consultation on Summary for policy makers on ecosystems and its services; and management and maintaining measures for ecosystems</b></p> <p><i>Chaired by</i></p> <p><i>Ass.Prof.Dr. Nguyen The Chinh, Director General, ISPONRE/MONRE</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Charlotte Hicks, UNEP-WCMC</i></p>		
08.30-09.00	Summary for policymakers and policy questions	AssProf. Dr. Ho Thanh Hai National expert
09.00-09.10	Q&A	
09.10-09.40	Biodiversity Conservation and Landscape Approaches in Ecosystem Assessment and Management in Central Annamites	Fanie Bakker, Project Director of Carbi 2, WWF
09.40-09.50	Q&A	
9.50-10.20	Mitigating the impacts of climate change in the Mekong Delta through public and private sector engagement in maintaining ecosystem services	Marc Goichot, WWF
10.20-10.30	Q&A	
10.30-10.50	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10.50.12.00	Group Discussion (3 groups: Scientists, Policy makers and practitioners)	

12.00-13.30	<b>Lunch</b>	
13.30-14.30	Feedback from three groups	
14.30-14.45	Next steps and closing	- Ms. Huynh Thi Mai, NEA Project Coordinator - Ms. Yuko Kurauchi, UNDP - Ms. Charlotte Hicks, UNEP-WCMC
<b>Session 4: MoU Signing Ceremony on cooperation of MONRE and WWF</b> <b>Chaired by</b> <i>MONRE Leader and Dr. Van Ngoc Think, Country Director, WWF</i>		
15.00-17.00	MONRE Office No 10, Ton That Thuyet, Nam Tu Liem, Ha Noi	NEA team; WWF team; Participants UNDP BES-Net, UNEP-WCMC team

#### **8. Cost Estimates**

The budget is available about 25,000 USD for the workshop.