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Policy Responses to a Changing Climate and Uncertain World



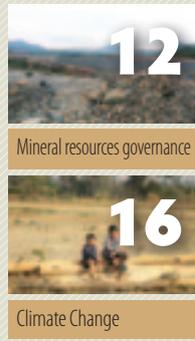
3

Forest Governance



10

Environmental Management and Pollution Control



12

Mineral resources governance



16

Climate Change



17

Other Development Policies



20

List of Legal Documents in Quarter IV/2011

POLICY REVIEW

PEOPLE AND NATURE RECONCILIATION
No. 4 - QUARTER IV/2011

Natural Resources • Environment • Sustainable Development



Policy Responses to a Changing Climate and Uncertain World

Photo: PanNature

During the last quarter of 2011, many important events and policies related to environmental protection, climate change, and efficient use of natural resources were discussed and decided. At the global level, one of the most significant events is the 17th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-17), which was taking place from November 28th to December 11th, 2011 in Durban, South Africa. Meanwhile, in Vietnam, the Government has promulgated important strategies for combating climate change and governing mineral resources. In December 2011, the Mekong River Commission Council Members, comprising Natural Resources and Environment ministers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam,

held a meeting in Siem Riep (Cambodia). Regional leaders shared concerns about the Xayaburi hydropower project in Lao PDR and stressed the need for further study on impacts of hydropower development in the mainstream, looking towards the sustainable development and management of the Mekong River as expected by the people living in the basin.



Acronyms Inside

MARD: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MONRE: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NA: National Assembly
PM: Prime Minister

▶▶ The COP-17 meeting was extended for two more days, but the results reflected in the summary document The Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, are very limited. According to the document, COP-17 states that all nations must follow the legal agreement on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which is going to be made in 2015 and is coming into effect in 2020. The document pleases many large GHG emitting countries. The United States - the only developed country that has not signed in the Kyoto Protocol, explains its absence by stating that all efforts to reduce GHG emissions will not be successful without the participation of two big countries, China and India. However, these two countries affirm that they will not sacrifice their economic development goals for cutting GHG emissions until at least 2020. In addition, Russia, Canada, and Japan claim that they will not participate in the Kyoto Protocol Phase 2 due to financial difficulties and strict requirements of GHG emission reduction in the context of slow recovery after the economic recession. Thus, only European Union (EU) continues to fight for cutting GHG emissions. As a result, COP-17 had to choose a flexible solution, which

is spending four more years (2012-2015) for discussing the new commitment framework and the next five years (2016-2020) to promulgate this legal framework before it officially comes into effect in 2020.

To the contrary of the international context, Vietnam continues to affirm its determination in combating climate change. On December 15th, 2011, the Prime Minister promulgated Decision No. 2139/QD-TTg to approve the Climate Change National Action Plan, including perspectives, objectives, strategic tasks, and the operation timeline in the 2011-2050 period, with prioritized programs and plans for the 2011-2015 period. Ten strategic tasks have been identified, such as actively responding to natural disasters and monitoring the climate, ensuring water and food security, positively responding to sea level rise in vulnerable areas, protecting and sustainably developing forest, mitigating GHG emissions, and enhancing the leading role of the state in response to climate change...

In regard to mineral resources management, the Government continues to make new policies to enhance the efficiency of managing mining activities. The Prime Minister promulgated Decision No. 2427/QD-TT dated on December 12th, 2011 to approve the Mineral Resources Strategy to 2020, with a vision to 2030; and Resolution No. 103/NQ-CP on the Government's Action Plan to implement the Politburo's Resolution No. 2/NQ-TW dated April 25th, 2011 on strategic orientation for mineral resources and minerals exploitation to 2020, with a vision to 2030. In addition, the National Assembly Standing Committee (NASC) enacted a resolution on setting up a group to monitor the implementation of laws and policies related to managing and exploiting mineral resources yet protecting the environment. The main purpose of the Monitoring Group is (i) to evaluate the achievements, shortcomings, and limitations of mineral resources exploitation and management, and environmental protection in mining activities; as well as (ii) to propose recommendations for better practices of related laws and policies. The Monitoring Group is responsible for organizing all monitoring activities and reporting the results to NASC in a meeting in August, 2012. Details of important policies mentioned above can be found later in this Policy Review. ■



Photo: PanNature

F OREST AND BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE



Photo: PanNature

National Assembly to Conclude the 5 Million Hectare Reforestation Program

RESOLUTION NO. 18/2011/QH13 DATED NOVEMBER 25th, 2011 OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON CLOSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08/1997/QH10 AND RESOLUTION NO. 73/2006 ON THE 5 MILLION HECTARE REFORESTATION PROGRAM.

After 12 years of implementing the 5 million hectare reforestation program with the total cost of nearly 32,000 billion VND, nearly 10 million hectares out of the total 16.2 million hectares of forest land have been allocated. The forest coverage increased from 32% to 39.5%. New jobs were created for nearly 485,000 poor households out of 1.25 million households who joined in this program, most of whom are indigenous people in mountainous and highland areas. However, the project still has some limitations, such as: the forest coverage did not reach the objective (over 40%); approximately 2.8 million hectares of bare hills still remain; deforestation continues to occur at many places with increasing seriousness.

The effectiveness of the program implementation is considered lower than expected, although the initial target was adjusted from 5 million to 3 million hectares forest land. There are also many difficulties

The 5 Million Hectare Reforestation Program

The 5 million hectare reforestation program (Program 661) was approved by the National Assembly under Resolution No. 08/1997/QH10 and directed by the Prime Minister under Decision 661/1998/QĐ-TT dated July 29th, 1998. The program has gone through three periods: 1998-2000, 2001-2005, and 2006-2010 with two main components: (i) Efficiently protecting the existing forests and afforesting 2 million hectares of protection and special-use forests; (ii) Efficiently utilizing the existing forests and afforesting 3 million hectares of production forests. The Government Office approved Notification No. 111/TB-VPC on the conclusion of the Deputy Prime Minister to terminate the 5 million hectare reforestation program. More details can be found in the Policy Review Quarter II/2011: <http://bit.ly/tufnJc>

and conflicts in land/forest allocation as well as in issuing forest land titles at local level.

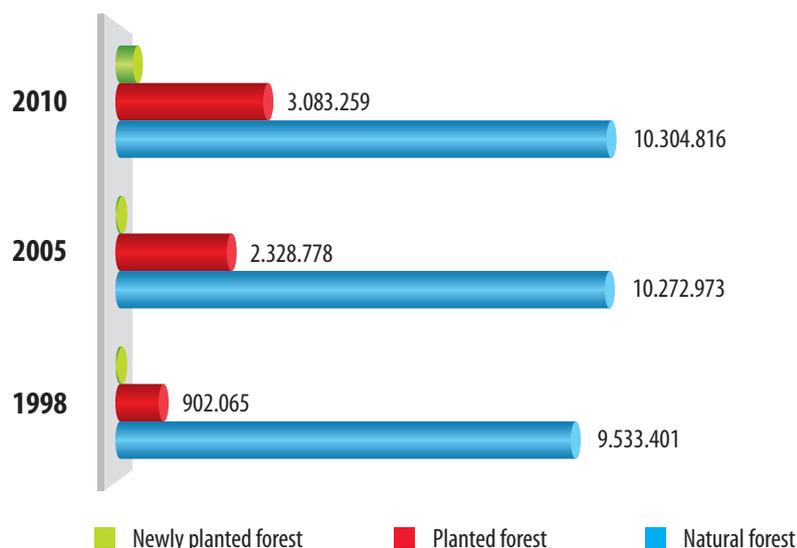
In addition, there are some critical issues related to the forest management and development that need to be addressed, such as:

- Allowing foreign investors to rent forest land is not yet suitable when local people still want to receive land;
- Permissions for forest investment are being given in the places that are important to national security or military activities or those that were already allocated to some households;
- Data on forest coverage in some places need to be reviewed, such as the decrease rates of forest coverage in Dak Lak (-6.6%), Binh Phuoc (-10.6%), or those lower than 2%. ▶▶

- ▶▶ After reviewing all the achievements as well as limitations of the 5 million hectare reforestation program, the XIII National Assembly promulgated Resolution No. 18/2011/QH13 to terminate the program and require the Government to start the Forest Protection and Development Plan of the 2011-2020 period, which should follow the mechanism of national target programs. The Government must report to the National Assembly about the progression of the plan implementation. ■

CHANGES OF FOREST LAND THROUGH THE PERIODS OF THE 5 MILLION HECTARE REFORESTATION PROGRAM

(Unit: ha)



FOREST AREA BASED OF USING PURPOSE

(Unit: ha)

Year	1998	2005	2010
Special-use forest	1,524,868	1,958,321	2,002,276
Protection forest	4,870,452	6,157,112	5,012,308
Production forest	4,040,146	4,486,318	6,373,491
Forest coverage	32%	37.1%	39.5%

Source: The Final Report on the Implementation of the "5 Million Hectare Reforestation" Project and the Forest Protection and Development Plan of the 2011-2020 period, Report No. 243/BC-CP dated October 26th, 2011. More details can be found at: <http://bit.ly/tmZsdV>

Reference

Draft Decision by the Prime Minister on the policy of managing and using forest land in the 5 million hectare reforestation project under Decision No. 661/QĐ-TTg dated July 29th, 1998 can be found at: <http://bit.ly/ruOH8L>



Photo: PanNature

Guidelines for Calculating Payment for Forest-based Environmental Services

CIRCULAR NO.80/TT-BNNPTNT DATED NOVEMBER 23rd, 2011 BY THE MARD ON GUIDELINES FOR CALCULATING PAYMENT FOR FOREST-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.

This Circular guides the application of K factor; how to calculate payment for forest-based environmental services (PFES), applicable to forest owners, allocated households; and PFES waiver and exemption as stipulated under Decree No. 99/2010/ND-CP dated September 24th, 2010 of the Government on paying PFES for the following services: soil protection, control of soil erosion and sedimentation of reservoir and riverbed, water regulation and conservation for production and domestic consumption. The Circular comes into effect on January 7th, 2012.

payment for forest environmental services (PFES), applicable to forest owners. Forest plots of similar status features share the same K factor. K factor of each individual plot is the aggregation of 04 different K sub-factors as regulated under section a, provision 1, article 16 of Decree No. 99/2010/ND-CP. More specifically, K1 factor adjusts the payment level for FES based on forest status and stock; K2 factor based on forest use, including special-use, protection and production forests; K3 factor based on forest provenance, including natural and plantation forests; and K4 factors based on both social and geographic difficulties in forest protection. Local authorities and departments of agriculture and rural development will be the agencies to determine the K sub-factors of each forest plot as the basis for PFES applied at local level. ■

K factor, which is identified for individual forest status plot, is the basis for calculating

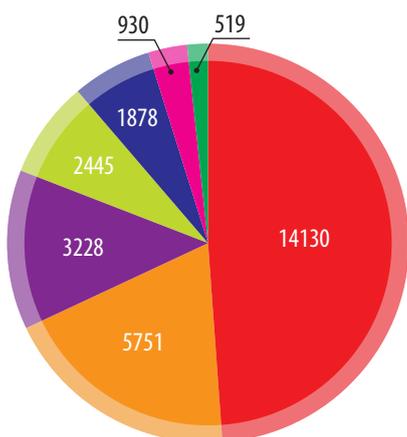


Photo: PanNature

Forest Protection Forces Watched

On December 15th, 2011, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development promulgated Directive No. 3714/BNN-TCLN on reorganizing and strengthening and the forest rangers' activities. The Directive aims at preventing deforestation, illegal forest product trading, lack of monitoring legal compliance in the forest, as well as at forest product processing sites, all of which are seriously occurring in some places.

NUMBERS OF VIOLATIONS IN FOREST PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT LAWS FROM JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 2011 (Unit: Number of Cases)



Source: The Vietnam Forest Protection Department, www.kiemlam.org.vn, 12/2011

- Violations related to trading, transporting, and processing forest products
- Violations related to forest land use
- Other violations
- Violations related to deforestation
- Violations related to wildlife management and protection
- Violations related to harvesting forest products
- Violations related to forest fire

MARD requests the People's Committees in centrally-controlled provinces and cities to strengthen the forest ranger force; overcome the weakness in which some staffs do not fulfill their tasks, violate work procedures, corrupt, or take advantage of their positions to allow illegal forest products exploitation and trading, which has resulted in public dissatisfaction.

MARD has recommended several solutions, including correcting the working style; inspecting and evaluating forest ranger groups more often; firing staff that violate the law; disciplining the managers whose staffs have negative conducts and behaviors; setting up a hotline for the public to monitor and feedback about the forest ranger's activities;... After the Directive mentioned above, on November 25th, 2011, MARD sent Circular No. 3484/BNN-TCLN to centrally-controlled provinces and cities, requesting them to implement the recommendations under this Directive.

Regarding hotspots of deforestation such as the Central Highlands, on December 30th, 2011, the Administration of Forestry approved the 2012 Plan for Strengthening Forest Protection in the Central Highlands, following Directive No. 1685/CT-TTg on strengthening forest protection and stopping deforestation and attacks against responsible staff. The Plan requests the Forest Protection Department to collaborate with related stakeholders to address deforestation in hotspots in Dak Lak (including the national parks Yok Don and Chu Yang Sin), Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Nong, protected areas, protection forests, and along the borders of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The Plan's objectives include (i) seriously applying forest protection tools, disciplining the activities and stopping deforestation and illegal forest products exploitation and trading in the Central Highlands; and (ii) increasing the role and responsibility of local authorities at different levels, the forest ranger force, and related agencies in forest management and protection. ■

Reference

- Directive No. 3714/CT-BNN-TCN on December 15th, 2011 by MARD on strengthening and reorganizing the forest ranger force.
- Circular No. 3484/BNN-TCLN on November 25th, 2011 by MARD to centrally-controlled provinces and cities on strengthening and reorganizing the forest ranger force.
- Document No. 1817/PA-TCLN-KL on December 30th, 2011 by the Administration of Forestry on the 2012 Plan for Strengthening Forest Protection in the Central Highlands.



Photo: PanNature

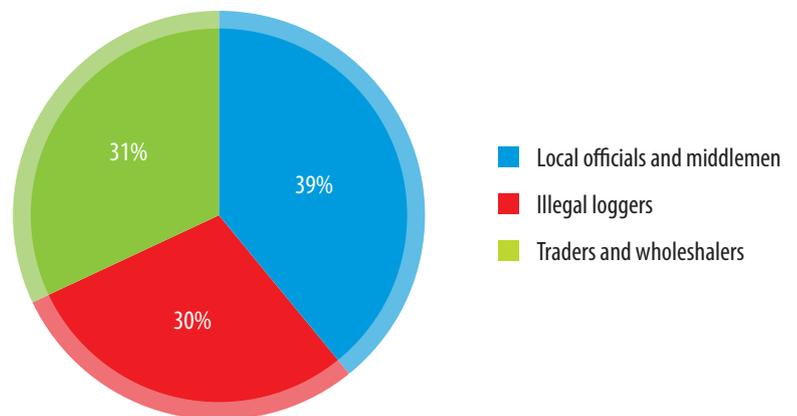
Empowering Local Communities Will Better Protect the Forest

Recently, cases of illegal logging have been spotted and well featured in mass media. Often time, illegal loggings, such as that in Pu Huong and Huong Son, are explained by the collusion between local officials guarding the forest and illegal traders and loggers. Many people also believe that illegal logging takes place because of the lack of local officials particularly forest guard on the ground. Through a lens of a small-scaled illegal logging published by Society and National Resources Journal in 2011¹ Dr. To Xuan Phuc (Forest Trends) and Dr. Thomas Sikor (University of East Anglia) argue that lacking the forest guard is not the primary reason causing illegal logging, but the existing forest management structure – with local officials including forest guards are given a lot of power to control the forest; and this power provides them good opportunities to collude with illegal traders and loggers to

log the trees for personal gain. By contrast, local people living in the forest edge do not have any right to forest. As a result, they have no incentive to protect the trees. The authors commented “We should look at this fact with a holistic view instead of simply explaining illegal logging by individual moral decay of local officials”² ▶▶

BENEFIT SHARING FROM ILLEGAL LOGGING

Case-study in a Dao Village (Hoa Binh)



^{1&2} Illegal Logging in Vietnam: Lam tac (Forest Hijackers) in Practice and Talk; Thomas Sikor (University of East Anglia, School of International Development, Norwich, United Kingdom) and Phuc Xuan To (Finance and Trade Program, Forest Trends, Washington D.C., USA), 2011.

▶▶ FINDINGS FROM COMMODITY CHAIN ANALYSIS OF TIMBER

Applying a commodity chain approach, the authors looked into a small-scaled timber logging in 2005. The chain starts in a small village in Hoa Binh where local villagers cut down trees in protection forest and sold to traders. The chain ends in a small wood village in former Ha Tay province. The authors analyzed benefits associated with this commodity chain, and how these benefits were distributed among the actors involved in the chain, factors shaping the benefit distributions and risks.

There were a large number of actors involved in the chain. Villagers logged the trees in the forest and sold to traders. Some villagers even hired labourers in neighboring villages to work for them. Traders collected timber from villagers and used his trucks to carry wood to a wood village in former Ha Tay province. By law, logs harvested in protection forest are illegal. To be able to carry this log to the wood village in the lowland to sell to wholesalers, traders had to collaborate with middlemen (so-called law makers) who colluded with local officials from various organizations including forest protection section in order to guarantee that the truck loaded with illegal timber was not checked.

The study shows that benefits associated with this chain seem to be shared equally for the three groups: (i) local officials and

middlemen, (ii) villagers/loggers, and (iii) traders and wholesalers. However, as the number of villagers/loggers involved in the chain was much larger than that of the other groups, thus benefit accrued to each villager was very small. However, villagers were the ones who bear the risk.

PERCEPTION ON FOREST PROTECTION NEEDS TO BE CHANGED

Many people believe that increasing number of local officials particularly forest guards and giving these officials more power is an effective mechanism for cracking down illegal logging thus protection of the forest. However, Drs. To Xuan Phuc and Thomas Sikor suggest the opposite viewpoint, arguing that increasing number of forest guards on the ground and giving them more power is not a good solution for addressing illegal logging. Following the authors, giving more power over the forest to local officials can create adverse effects as these officials may want to abuse their power, colluding with timber traders and middlemen for personal gains. The authors believe that granting villagers with more rights to forest, and importantly benefits associated with rights, strengthening law enforcement, and creating more space for civil society organizations are some key solutions those can effectively help address illegal logging in Vietnam.

More details can be found at: <http://bit.ly/wORGBT> ■



Photo: PanNature



Photo: PanNature

Vietnam and EU Continued the 2nd Round of VPA Negotiation

The European Union (EU) and Vietnam announced to launch the negotiation of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan from August 2010. The Agreement aims at ensuring the legality of timber and timber products entering the EU market, as well as helping Vietnamese enterprises maintain and expand the exportation of these products by facilitating the adaptation to changing requirements in the EU market from March 2013.

Following the 1st around negotiation of VPA on November 29th-30th, 2010, the 2nd round took place in Hanoi on November 24th-25th, 2011. During the negotiation, the two parties discussed (i) the structure, main contents, and details of the legal timber definition; (ii) the viewpoints and principles regarding the product list to be included in the Agreement; and (iii) a framework for tracking and monitoring legal timber and timber products. EU expects that Vietnamese NGOs/CSOs will actively engage in and contribute to the negotiation process.

In the VPA negotiation process, MARD in collaboration with related ministries, agencies, organizations, and the Vietnam

Timber and Forest Product Association (VIFORES), coordinated the 4th drafting of legal timber definition in Vietnam and a product list to be included in the VPA. According to Circular No. 1613/TCLN-KH&HTQT dated November 18th, 2011, the Vietnam Administration of Forestry has made this draft open for comments. More details of the draft can be found at: <http://bit.ly/uDt1fQ>

The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan

FLEGT is an EU's program to cope with illegal logging focusing on 7 big sectors: 1 – Assisting timber production; 2 – Encouraging legal timber trade; 3 – Encouraging policies that support buying legal timber and timber products; 4 – Supporting initiatives from the private sector; 5 – Ensuring safety for financial activities and investments; 6 – Using existing legal tools or issuing new ones to support the action plan; 7 – Handling controversial timber-related issues.

The Action Plan acknowledges the important role of timber product consumers, therefore EU wants to share the responsibility in fighting with illegal logging with timber producing countries. Since there are not any mechanisms to identify and reject illegal timber from the EU market, the FLEGT Action Plan suggests building Voluntary Partnership Agreement with each timber-producing country (FLEGT partner state), through which both parties would follow FLEGT's objectives and run timber certifying systems.

E NVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL

Photo: PanNature

NA Released New Environmental Review of Economic Zones and Craft Villages

At the 8th meeting in November 2010, the National Assembly XII pronounced the monitoring theme "Implementation of environmental policy and law in economic zones and craft villages" under Resolution No. 54/2010/QH12 on the National Assembly's Monitoring Program 2011. The National Assembly Standing Committee (NASC) has sent monitoring groups to 19 provinces and cities, 15 coastal economic zones (EZ) and 54 craft villages. Based on the Monitoring Report No. 39/BC-UBTVQH13 dated October 20th, 2011 by NASC on implementing environmental policy and law in EZs and craft villages, the National Assembly

members passed Resolution No. 19/2011/QH13 approving the results of monitoring and strengthening the implementation of environmental policy and law in EZs and craft villages.

planning or construction. When all EZs are completed, environmental protection should be taken into account, otherwise there would be high risk of pollution and coping with pollution then would be very difficult and costly. Regarding craft villages, the National Assembly views most of them as not well-planned, small-scaled, fragmented, close to living spaces, using old technology, and unstable; thus pollution here is difficult to control and remedied. In many villages, environmental problems are serious, which creates adverse impacts on local people's health, especially that of local workers.

The National Assembly recommends completing the law system regarding environmental protection in EZs and craft villages, ensuring compatibility and feasibility; enhancing the collaboration between governmental management agencies; strengthening the inspection and disciplines for violations of environmental protection; as well as remedying environmental damage in polluting EZs and craft villages.

Details of the Monitoring Report No. 39/BC-UBTVQH13 dated October 20th, 2011 by NASC can be found at: <http://bit.ly/tA3ft> ■



Photo: PanNature

According to Resolution No. 19/2011/QH13, the environmental quality is still fine because most of the EZs have just started working, many others are still under

Economization Plan for Natural Resources and Environment Sector has been temporarily suspended

The Government requested MONRE to develop an economization plan for natural resources and environment sector to 2020, with a vision to 2030, under Resolution No. 03/NQ-CP dated January 15th, 2010, in order to increase this sector's contribution to national budget and GDP, to promote environmental markets, and to effectively use and protect the environment and natural resources. In less than one year, MONRE submitted a proposal for this plan. However, on November 7th, 2011, the Prime Minister responded in a circular asking MONRE to review more theoretical and practical foundations, then suggest a holistic policy frame and an operation timeline to economize the sector. ■

Reference

Circular No. 7854/VPCP-KTN dated November 7th, 2011 by the Government Office requesting MONRE to stop building the Economizing the Environmental and Natural Resources Sector Plan to 2020, with a vision to 2030.



Photo: PanNature

Guidelines for Implementing the Environmental Protection Tax Law

CIRCULAR NO. 152/2011/TT-BTC DATED NOVEMBER 11th, 2011 BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MOF) ON GUIDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 67/2011/ND-CP DATED AUGUST 8th, 2011 BY THE GOVERNMENT, PROVIDING DETAILS TO ELABORATE SOME ARTICLES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TAX LAW.

Effective from January 1st, 2012, this Circular replaces Circular No. 06/2001/TT-BTC dated January 17th, 2001; Circular No. 63/2001/TT-BTC dated August 9th, 2011; Circular No. 70/2002/TT-BTC dated August 19th, 2002; and the regulations on petrol and oil fee under Circular No. 28/2011/TT-BTC dated February 28th, 2011. According to this new Circular, from January 1st, 2012, some products beside petrol and oil will bear environmental protection tax, such as coal, HCFC solution, some types of plastic bag, weedicide, termiticide, short-listed protection chemicals for forest products. Environmental protection tax is applicable only to domestic-use products, not to exports or temporary imports for re-export. Taxed objects include all organizations, households, and individuals who import and/or produce the products mentioned above. Tax rates are determined under Resolution No. 1269/2011/UBTVQH12 by the National Assembly Standing Committee dated July 14th, 2011. In more details, the rate for petrol and oil is 300-1,000 VND/liter, for coal is 10,000-20,000 VND/ton, for HCFC solution is 4,000 VND/kg, for taxable nylon bag is 40.000 VND/kg, etc. ■

Economic-Technical Regulatory Requirements for Making Thematic Maps

CIRCULAR NO. 37/2011/TT-BTNMT DATED OCTOBER 14th, 2011 BY MONRE ON DETERMINING THE ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR MAKING THEMATIC MAPS FROM SATELLITE IMAGES AT 1:25,000; 1:50,000; 1:100,000; 1:250,000.

Thematic maps made from satellite images include: (i) Status map: e.g., land use status, forest land status, forest status, condition of vegetable matter, condition of hydrological system and coastline, wetland status, mangrove forest status, fishery land status, industrialized status, urban status; and (ii) integrated map, map of changes and evaluation: e.g., integrated coastal zone map, map of changes in land use, map of changes in forest status, map of changes in coastline and coastal accretion area, erosion and landslide map, environmental sensitivity map, environmental impact assessment map, map of pollution progression, map of monitoring desertification. All these maps are affected by this Circular from November 30th, 2011. ■



M INERAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE

Photo: PanNature

Strategy for Mining Sector to 2020 with vision to 2030

On December 22nd, 2011, the Prime Minister signed Decision No.247/QĐ-TTg to approve the Strategy for minerals use and mining industries to 2020, with a vision to 2030. This Decision was issued at the same time with Resolution No.103/NQ-CP on releasing the Government's Action Plan to implement Resolution No.02/NQ-TW dated April 25th, 2011 by the Politburo on orientation for mineral use and mining industries to 2020, with a vision to 2030. The Strategy affirms that minerals are non-renewable resources, which need to be managed, protected, and used economically and efficiently; therefore minerals exploitation plans need to go hand in hand with preservation for the sustainable development of mining industries, in accordance with protection of the environment and national security. The Strategy's 2020 objectives include:

- (i) Completing geological mapping and investigating on mineral resources potential for exploitation and national preservation;
- (ii) Investigating on the demands for exploitation and processing until 2050 of: coal, uranium, Titan-zircon, rare earth, apatite, iron, lead-zinc, copper, steel, manganese, chromite, bauxite, and white sand;
- (iii) Mining exploitation must be going hand in hand with processing to make high

economic value products; and by 2020 erasing small-scale processing plants that use old technology, bring in low economic benefit, and cause pollution;

- (iv) Exporting only high-value processed products at large scale and encouraging collaboration in investigating, exploiting, and processing one types of minerals in other countries.

The Strategy provides developmental orientation for some specific types of minerals, such as: promoting the investigation of the depth of the Red River Delta's coal basin and doing pilot exploitation; completing the investigation of the bauxite basin in the Central Highlands, Binh Phuoc province; all projects exploiting and producing aluminum in Lam Dong, Dak Nong, and Binh Phuoc can be only started after the two aluminum-producing projects – Tan Rai and Nhan Co – are started and their economic benefits are assessed; etc.

Resolution No.103/NQ-CP by the Government determines main tasks of governmental agencies from central to local level in implementing the strategic orientation for mining sector. Four general main tasks include: (i) Educating and raising awareness in mining law; (ii) Strengthening governmental work related to minerals management; (iii) Renewing policies and working mechanisms in the mining management; (iv) Developing mining industries. The Action Plan also indentifies 18 more specific tasks to be completed in 2012, such as completing the legal document system, adjusting the requirements for importing and exporting minerals, planning for minerals exploration, indentifying areas that need to be temporarily or permanently banned from exploiting mineral, etc.

Details of the above documents can be found at: <http://bit.ly/uigvB7> and <http://bit.ly/tD8ttN> ■



Photo: PanNature

NA's Standing Committee to Monitor Mining Activities and Environmental Protection

On December 23rd, 2011, the National Assembly Standing Committee (NASC) issued Resolution No. 426/NQ-UBTVQH13 on setting up a Monitoring Group to monitor "the implementation of the policies and laws related to mineral exploitation and management, as well as environmental protection." According to this, the Monitoring Group will be in charge of organizing and implementing monitoring activities and report to NASC in a meeting in August 2012. The objectives of the Monitoring Group is "to evaluate the achievements, shortcomings and reasons for these shortcomings in terms of implementing policies and laws related to mineral exploitation and management, and to environmental protection in these activities" as well as "to suggest solutions for reinforcing the implementation of these policies and laws."

The scope of the monitoring is limited in the 2000-2011 period, applicable for all ministries, governmental agencies at both central and local level, and companies/corporations that are related to mining activities. The monitoring activities will be conducted as followed:

- From January to March 2012: listening to preliminary reports from related ministries and agencies, collecting, studying, and providing documents for members of the Monitoring Group, organizing workshops discussing issues relevant to the monitoring activities;
- From March to June 2012: receiving reports from the Government, ministries,

- People's Committees, local National Assembly delegates; organizing fieldtrips, especially to where coal, iron, bauxite, titan, and gold mining are taking place. There plans to be five fieldtrips to the South Central region, North Central region, Central Highlands, the Northwest, and the Northeast;
- From May to July 2012: studying and synthesizing documents, reports, and analyzing data; organizing workshops and conferences to collect consultations for the Final Monitor Report;
- August 2012: reporting to NASC about the results of the monitoring activities and preparing a draft Resolution (if needed)

Consultancy on Development Institute (CODE) and People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature) have sent the National Assembly's Science, Technology, and Environment Committee a proposal for their engagement in and support for the above monitoring plan, including providing documents and information, recommending experts for the Monitoring Group, organizing thematic workshops related to monitoring activities, etc. ■

Reference

- Resolution No. 02-NQ/TW dated April 25th, 2011 by the Politburo on the strategic orientation for minerals use and mining industries to 2020, with a vision to 2030.
- 2nd Draft Decree on guiding in details the implementation of the Mineral Law: <http://bit.ly/uaWCn7>
- 2nd Draft Decree on auction for right to exploit minerals: <http://bit.ly/w0tcZP>
- 2nd Draft Decree on disciplining violations related to the mining sector: <http://bit.ly/sU4b5p>

Guidelines for Charging Environmental Protection Fee in Mining Activities

CIRCULAR NO. 158/2011/TT-BTC DATED NOVEMBER 16th, 2011 BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE GUIDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECREE NO. 74/2011/ND-CP DATED AUGUST 25th, 2011 BY THE GOVERNMENT ON CHARGING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FEE IN MINING ACTIVITIES.

Circular No. 158/2011/TT-BTC was issued in order to replace the previous regulations under Circular No. 67/2008/TT-BTC dated July 21st, 2008 and Circular No. 238/2009/TT-BTC dated December 21st, 2009. According to the new regulations, the formula to calculate environmental protection fee in mining activities must be based on the amount of exploited minerals in each period. Specific fees for each type of mineral are given under Decree No. 74/2011/ND-CP.

The Circular comes into effect from January 1st, 2012.

The new Circular stipulates into more specific fees for metal, non-metal, and special minerals, e.g., granite, art stone and building materials. Fees will be applied for exploited minerals or mineral ores in each period regardless of the purpose, technology, location, and condition of the exploitation. Additional minerals that are found in the exploitation process will also be charged.

Environmental protection fees will not be applied for the organizations and individuals exploiting minerals to produce common building materials in household's or individual allocated lands, or in lands serving security or military purposes. All organizations and individuals who want to mine must submit a profile declaring potential environmental protection fees to the direct tax management office as well as to natural resource tax management agency. ■



Photo: PanNature

Investigating the Potential of Bauxite and Laterite Iron Ore in the South of Vietnam

DECISION NO. 2034/QĐ-TTĐ DATED NOVEMBER 15th, 2011 BY THE PRIME MINISTER APPROVING THE MASTER PLAN OF "OVERALL INVESTIGATION ON AND ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL OF BAUXITE AND LATERITE IRON ORE IN THE SOUTH OF VIETNAM".

The plan aims at overall investigating and assessing the potential of bauxite, iron ore in the tropical laterite weathering basalts of Neogene, Pleistocene, to set the basis for planning the exploration, exploitation, processing, and use of bauxite and iron ore for socio-economic development in the Central Highlands, as well as in the whole country. The plan will be implemented in three years, from 2011 to 2014, in 07 regions, with a total area of 11,884.5 km² in: Kon Tum, Binh Dinh, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Lam Dong, and Binh Phuoc provinces. ■



Photo: PanNature

Strengthening Transparency and Accountability: An Urgent Need for the Extractive Industries

THE ANTI-CORRUPTION DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL DONORS PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SHARING EXPERIENCE, CONCERNS, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM. THE OUTCOMES OF THE DIALOGUE HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY REGULATIONS FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTIVITIES.

Vietnam is considered a country rich in minerals, including metal minerals, building materials, germs, coal, oil, and gas. However, the extractive industries have only been developed at small scale with the orientation for crude export. Extractive activities have created negative environmental and social impacts, and have not ensured efficiency and fairness.

The Vietnamese Government Inspectorate in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden held the 9th Anti-Corruption Dialogue Meeting in May, 2011, in which the participants focused on discussing corruption risks in extractive industries in Vietnam. At the meeting, one given solution is to reinforce supervision and inspection, increase transparency and accountability; renew protective mechanisms; building mechanisms for information sharing; and strengthen the monitoring role of civil society organizations. One of the recommendations to the Vietnamese Government is to participate in the Extractive Industries Transparent Initiative (EITI), a well-developed model, which helps delete corruption risks in the sector. ■

More Information

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a voluntary alliance initiative between governments, companies, civil society organizations, and international organizations, which aims at improving transparency and accountability in extractive industries. This initiative was proposed by Mr. Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister, at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002.

See more details at: www.eiti.org

At the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals in Hanoi on December 9th, 2011, the ASEAN Action Plan period 2011-2015 was adopted. Through facilitating trade and investment, promoting cooperation, and improving capacity in the geological and mineral sector, the plan will facilitate favorable conditions and promote investments in mineral resources, enhance environmentally and socially sustainable mineral development, and strengthen institutional and human capacities in ASEAN's mineral sector. With the proposal of Indonesia, joining EITI is one of the objectives of the 2011-2015 period.

See more details at: <http://bit.ly/tPKTRI>

C CLIMATE CHANGE



Photo: PanNature

National Strategy on Climate Change

DECISION NO. 2139/QĐ/TTG DATED DECEMBER 5th, 2011 BY THE PRIME MINISTER APPROVING THE “NATIONAL STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE.”

The Vietnam’s National Strategy on Climate Change was released 04 years after the implementation of the “National Target Programs in Response to Climate Change” by the Government under Resolution No.60/2007/NQ-CP dated December 3rd, 2007. Considered the basis for other strategies, the National Strategy on Climate Change addresses that “adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions must go hand in hand with socio-economic development”. The strategy stresses on economic restructuring towards encouraging low or clean energy-use industries in an economy with low-carbon and green growth.

The Strategy establishes four specific objectives: (i) Ensuring food, energy, and water security; eradicating poverty; ensuring gender equality, social welfare, and public health; improving life quality and protecting natural resources in the context of climate change; (ii) Developing a low-carbon economy with green growth; (iii) Raising awareness and responsibility and enhancing the capacity to respond to climate change for stakeholders; increasing scientific and technological capability and developing human resources; enhancing relevant institutions and policy; effectively using opportunities for combating climate change and socio-economic development; (iv) Collaborating with the international community to response to climate change.

The Strategy emphasizes on early warning and disaster risks reduction. By 2020, Vietnam will develop a modern observation network with a density equivalent to those in developed countries and an automation level of more than 90% to monitor, forecast, and provide warnings early and accurately about negative weather and climate conditions. The Strategy also focuses on forest protection and sustainable development, the increase of greenhouse gases absorption, and biodiversity conservation. At the same time, Vietnam will develop and protect sustainably 16.24 million hectares of land reserved for the forest industry and will increase forest coverage to 45%. Increased forest coverage will increase the efficiency of carbon sinks, which help mitigate disasters, especially floods and flash floods in critical areas. ■

More Information

Vietnam participated in a pilot program on institutionalizing the implementation of Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries under the United Nations’ REDD Program (UN-REDD) and has moved towards the extended REDD program (REDD+), which aims at connecting climate change adaptation and mitigation to sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, and forest carbon stock enhancement. The Steering Committee for the implementation of REDD+ was established on January 7th, 2011, chaired by MARD. MARD has also established a national REDD+ network and different working groups for: REDD+ Administration, Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), REDD+ Finance and Benefit Distribution; local REDD+ Implementation, and Connecting the private sector to REDD+.

See more details at: <http://vietnam-redd.org>



OTHER DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Photo: PanNature

National Target Programs in the 2012 - 2015 Period Identified

DECISION NO. 2406/QĐ-TTĐ DATED DECEMBER 18th, 2011 BY THE PRIME MINISTER LISTING NATIONAL TARGET PROGRAMS IN THE 2012-2015 PERIOD.

In the 2012-2015 period, the Government has identified 16 National Target Programs (NTPs), including: 1 - Employment and Job Training, 2 - Sustainable Poverty Reduction, 3-Water Supply and Rural Environmental Sanitation, 4 - Health, 5 - Population and Family Planning, 6 - Food Safety, 7 - Culture; 8 - Education and Training, 9 - Anti-Drug, 10 - Crime Prevention, 11 - Energy Saving and Efficiency, 12 - Response to Climate Change, 13- Building New Rural Areas, 14 HIV/AIDS prevention, 15- Information to Mountainous, Remote, Border Areas, and Marine Islands, 16 - Pollution Improvement.

The NTP on Climate Change consists of three plans: 1 - Assessment of climate change

impacts and sea level rise; 2 - Development and implementation of responding activities to climate change; 3 - Capacity enhancement for raising public awareness and monitoring and evaluating program. The Government designates MONRE as the coordinating agency to implement this program, in collaboration with relevant ministries, sectors, and local agencies.

The NTP on Pollution Improvement also includes three projects: 1 - Pollution control and environmental improvement in seriously polluted craft villages; 2 - Environmental remediation in some seriously polluted areas caused by accumulated plant protection chemicals; 3 - Collection and treatment of wastewater in second-class cities in the watersheds of Nhue-Day Rivers, Cau River, and Dong Nai river system. ■

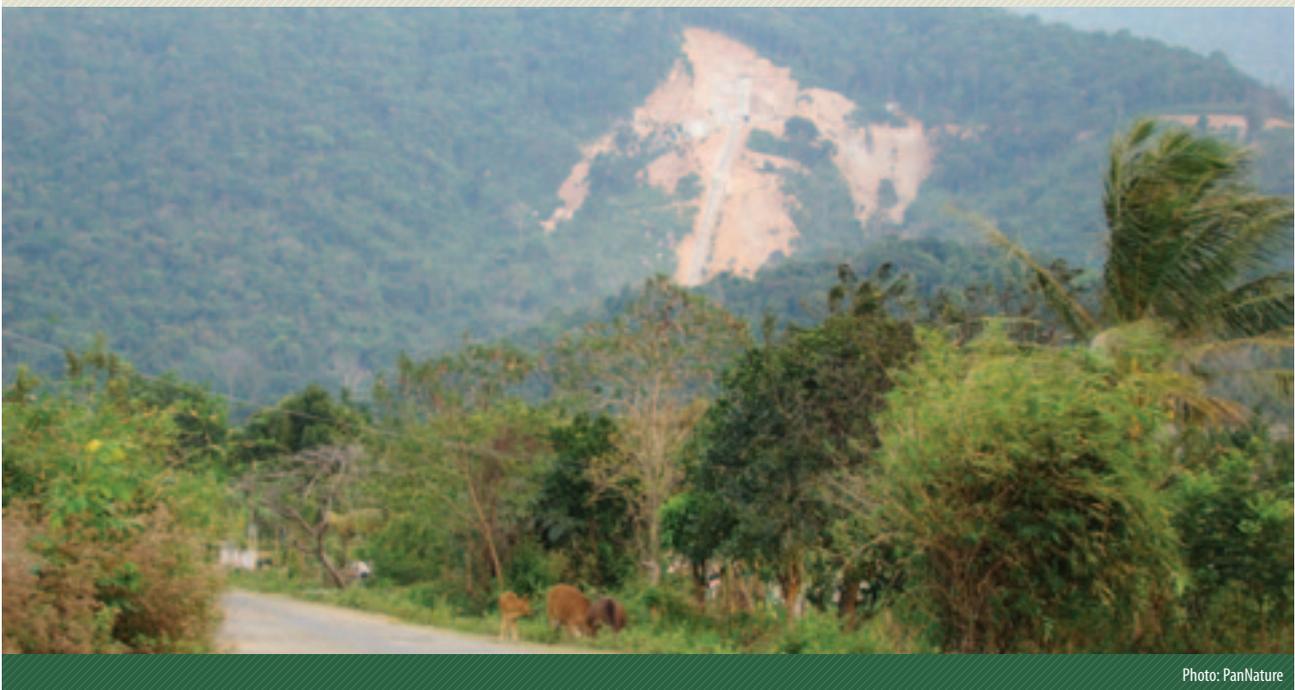


Photo: PanNature

Migration and Resettlement in Son La and Tuyen Quang Hydropower Projects

According to Correspondence Letter No. 2059/TTg-KTN dated November 8th, 2011, the Government ordered Dien Bien People's Committee to solve difficulties in the relocation in Son La Hydropower Project. Solutions include assessment of the scale and investment efficiency of project construction; identification

of receivers of financial support; approval and implementation of the plan following existing regulations on migration and resettlement for Son La Hydropower Project.

On October 10th, 2011, the Prime Minister promulgated Decision No. 1766/QD-TTg to amend and supplement the Comprehensive Plan on migration and resettlement for Tuyen Quang Hydropower Project in Tuyen Quang province. In the 2011-2016 period, the plan focuses on ensuring living condition for 12,828 households with 58,354 people, including supporting enough lands for both living and production by increasing land fund where possible for relocated people, with 400m² for each agricultural household and 200m² for each non-agricultural household.

Each agricultural household is also given 500m² agricultural land based on two crops and at least 0.5 hectares of production forest. The plan also aims at ensuring living condition, facilitating production, training and creating employment, increasing income, sustainably reducing poverty for relocated people, investing in infrastructure which meets the national standards for building New Rural Areas. New places for relocated people are communes in the five districts of Na Hang, Lam Binh, Chiem Hoa, Ham Yen, Yen Son, Tuyen Quang city, and some relocated communes in Tuyen Quang province. ■

More information

The construction of hydropower often causes significant impacts on three particular objects of national prioritized programs: ethnic minorities, agriculture - rural areas, and forested mountainous areas. Therefore, land reclamation and relocation by hydropower projects are usually sensitive and complicated, which impacts all aspects of socio-economic life and the ecology.

Hydropower development has made important achievements. Resettlement activities have contributed to ensuring social stability and political security. In relocation areas, there are more spacious houses and adequate infrastructure, and other opportunities for the communities to access to markets, services, and economic development. However, there remain some issues related to land reclamation and resettlement in almost all hydropower projects, including:

(i) Compensation for land reclamation (e.g., unfair and incomplete compensation for affected people, uncertainty in rehabilitation); (ii) Unsuitable resettlement areas (e.g., basic livelihoods for mountainous ethnic minorities are not reached, or not in accordance with traditional practices); (iii) Planning and construction in resettlement areas (e.g., slow and of bad quality, not suitable for community traditional life); (iv) Migration supporting activities (e.g., migrating when the resettlement areas are not ready); (v) Support for production and living condition, etc.

NOTE:

Details can be found in the Report on Migration, Resettlement, Living Stability and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in Hydropower Projects in Vietnam, The Consultancy on Development Institute (CODE), December 2010.



Photo: PanNature

Mekong Dams: Impacts Need Further Study

At the 3rd Mekong - Japan Summit held on the sideline of the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali (Indonesia) in November 2011, the Heads of the Governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam concluded that there is a need for further study for the sustainable management and development of the Mekong River and its related resources. The agreement set the basis for the conclusion by the Mekong River Commission Council (MRCC) on December 8th, 2011 in Siem Reap (Cambodia). The Council Members agreed that there is a need for further study on the sustainable development and management of the Mekong River, including impacts of mainstream hydropower development projects. The conclusion was reaffirmed in the discussion on the consultation process for the Xayaburi hydropower project and on other administrative and management issues.

The MRCC meeting made a progress since the Special Joint Committee Meeting on April 19th, 2011 in Vientiane (Lao PDR). At the meeting of the Joint Committee, the

members could not reach a consensus on whether the Xayaburi hydropower project should proceed and agreed that the issue would be tabled for consideration at the ministerial or council level.

The MRC's Press Release about the ministerial meeting of the Sub-Mekong River countries in Siem Reap (Cambodia) on December 8th, 2011 can be found here: <http://bit.ly/rJklyS> ■

More Information

In late 2011, PanNature started a new initiative, the Mekong Resources Forum that aims at facilitating meaningful dialogues among regional organizations in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. This non-state platform plans to include a wide variety of dialogues, exchanges, and cooperation activities built upon mutual interests and power of knowledge for bettering natural resource governance in the region. The first event of this initiative the workshop "Water Resources and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from Laos and Vietnam" organized in Hanoi in December 1-2, 2011 with participation of 70 representatives from Laos and Vietnam.

More information and related documents can be found at: www.nature.org.vn/en

LIST OF LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS IN 4th QUARTER OF 2011

Ref. Number	Description
I. Forest Governance	
7121/VPCP-KTN	Correspondence Letter No. 7121/VPCP-KTN dated January 1 st , 2011 by the Government Office on the suspension of using protection forests for mineral exploration and exploitation.
69/2011/TT-BNNPTNT	Circular No. 69/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated October 21 st , 2011 by MARD guiding the implementation of Decision No. 73/2010/QD-TTg dated November 16 th , 2010 by the Prime Minister on managing investments in forest-related construction. <i>Effective from December 5th, 2011</i>
70/2011/TT-BNNPTNT	Circular No. 70/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated October 24 th , 2011 by MARD amending and supplementing Circular No. 35/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated May 20 th , 2011, which guides the exploitation of timber and non-timber forest products; and Circular No. 87/2009/TT-BNNPTNT dated December 31 st , 2009 by MARD, which guides planning for harvesting in natural forests. <i>Effective from December 5th, 2011</i>
74/2011/TT-BNNPTNT	Circular No. 74/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated October 31 st , 2011 by MARD on tracing, recalling, and handling unsafe agricultural and forest products. <i>Effective from December 14th, 2011</i>
2705/QD-BNN-TCLN	Decision No. 2705/QD-BNN-TCLN dated November 3 rd , 2011 by MARD on equipping military weapons and supporting tools for forest ranger force.
1530/TCLN-PTR	Correspondence Letter No. 1530/TCLN-PTR dated November 2 nd , 2011 by the Administration of Forestry making comments to the Draft by the Prime Minister on forest use and management in the 5 million hectare reforestation program.
5644/BNN-TC	Correspondence Letter No. 5644/BNN-TC dated November 11 th , 2011 by MARD issuing a Circular on entrance fee to National Parks.
78/2011/TT-BNNPTNT	Circular No. 78/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 11 th , 2011 by MARD guiding the implementation of Decree No. 117/2010/ND-CP dated December 24 th , 2010 by the Government on organizing and managing of the special-use forest system. <i>Effective from December 26th, 2011</i>
3315/BNN-TCLN	Correspondence Letter No. 3315/BNN-TCLN dated November 14 th , 2011 by MARD on supplementing finance for forest protection and development in 2011 to pay costs in 2012.
277/TB-VPCP	Notification No. 277/TB-VPCP dated November 16 th , 2011 on the conclusion of the Deputy Prime Minister Vu Van Ninh in the meeting with MARD about reorganizing and renovating state-owned agricultural and forestry farms.
80/2011/TT-BNNPTNT	Circular No. 80/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 23 rd , 2011 by MARD on guiding the calculation of payment for forest-based environmental services. <i>Effective from January 1st, 2012</i>
18/2011/QH13	Resolution No. 18/2011/QH13 dated November 25 th , 2011 by the National Assembly on ending the implementation of Resolution No. 08/1997/QH10 and Resolution No. 73/2006. QH11 on the 5 million hectare reforestation program.
3484/BNN-TCLN	Correspondence Letter No. 3484/BNN-TCLN dated November 25 th , 2011 from MARD to centrally-controlled municipalities about reorganizing and strengthening the forest ranger force.

Ref. Number	Description
2890/QD-BNN-TCCB	Decision No. 2890/QD-BNN-TCCB dated November 28 th , 2011 by MARD on issuing temporary regulations of labor norms for supplemental work in forest investigation and inventory.
172/2011/TT-BTC	Circular No. 172/2011/TT-BTC dated December 1 st , 2011 by MOF on regulations in management of investment capital for forest-related construction from State budget. <i>Effective from January 16th, 2011</i>
3714/CT-BNN-TCLN	Directive No. 3714/CT-BNN-TCLN dated December 15 th , 2011 by MARD on reorganizing and strengthening the forest ranger force.
66/2011/QD-TTg	Decision No. 66/2011/QD-TTg dated December 9 th , 2011 by the Prime Minister amending Decision No. 147/2007/QD-TTg on forest development policy in the 2007-2015 period.
3686/BNN-TCLN	Correspondence Letter No. 3686/BNN-TCLN dated December 14 th , 2011 by MARD on implementing forest protection and development policy in 2012.
6592/TB-BNN-VP	Notification No. 6592/TB-BNN-VP dated December 26 th , 2011 by MARD on the conclusion by the Minister of MARD at the conference on forest protection and fire detection activities in 2011.
II. Natural Conservation and Biodiversity Management	
108/2011/ND-CP	Decree No. 108/2011/ND-CP dated November 30 th , 2011 by the Government amending Decree No. 69/2010/ND-CP dated June 21 st , 2010 by the Government on biosafety for genetically modified organisms, genetic specimens, and products of genetically modified organisms. <i>Effective from January 15th, 2012</i>
6616/BNN-TCLN	Correspondence Letter No. 6616/BNN-TCLN dated December 27 th , 2011 by MARD on the reclamation of 163 hectares of special-use forest for Dak Lak Elephant Conservation Center.
III. Environmental Management and Pollution Control	
4814/TCHQ-GSQL	Correspondence Letter No. 4814/TCHQ-GSQL dated October 3 rd , 2011 by the General Department of Customs on handmade waste disposal.
65/2011/TT-BNNPTNT	Circular No. 65/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated October 5 th , 2011 by MARD on issuing an additional list of products for aquaculture environment treatment and renovation that are permitted to be sold in Vietnam. <i>Effective from November 21st 2011</i>
37/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No. 37/2011/TT-BTNMT dated October 14 th , 2011 by MONRE providing economic-technical regulatory requirements for making thematic maps from satellite images at 1:25,000; 1:50,000; 1:100,000; and 1:250,000. <i>Effective from November 30th, 2011</i>
7854/VPCP-KTN	Correspondence Letter No. 7854/VPCP-KTN dated November 7 th , 2011 by the Government Office asking MONRE to suspend the strategic plan for the environmental and natural resource sector until 2020, with a vision to 2030.
152/2011/TT-BTC	Circular No. 7854/VPCP-KTN dated November 11 th , 2011 by MOF guiding the implementation of Decree No. 67/2011/ND-CP dated August 8 th , 2011 by the Government, which stipulates in details and guides the implementation of some regulations of the Environmental Protection Tax Law.
42/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No. 42/2011/TT-BTNMT dated December 12 th , 2011 by MONRE on the regulations on technological process and economic-technical regulatory requirements for environmental documents. <i>Effective from January 25th, 2012</i>
43/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No. 43/2011/TT-BTNMT dated December 12 th , 2012 by MONRE on the National Standards for the Environment. <i>Effective from February 15th, 2012</i>

Ref. Number	Description
47/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No. 47/2011/TT-BTNMT dated December 28 th , 2011 by MONRE on the National Technical Standards for the Environment. <i>Effective from February 15th, 2012</i>
IV. Mineral Resource Governance	
32/2011/QD-UBND	Decision No. 32/2011/QD-UBND dated October 17 th , 2011 by the People's Committee of Quang Nam province amending and supplementing Item 2 and Table of Tax Price Calculation in Quang Nam associated with Decision No. 29/2010/QD-UBND dated December 2 nd , 2010.
7110/VPCP-KTN	Correspondence Letter No. 7110/VPCP-KTN dated October 21 st , 2011 by the Government Office on the leakage of toxic chemicals in Lam Dong Bauxite-Alumina Complex Plant.
7393/VPCP-KTTH	Correspondence Letter No. 7393/VPCP-KTTH dated October 21 st , 2011 by the Government Office on regulating income tax for enterprises in rare resources exploitation.
15/CT-UBND	Directive No. 15/CT-UBND dated October 28 th , 2011 by Hanoi People's Committee on strengthening state management in the mineral sector in Hanoi. <i>Effective from November 7th, 2011</i>
2034/QD-TTg	Decision No. 2034/QD-TTg dated November 15 th , 2011 by the Prime Minister approving the Master Plan of "Overall Investigation on and Assessment of the Potential of Bauxite and Laterite Iron Ore in the South of Vietnam".
158/2011/TT-BTC	Circular No. 158/2011/TT-BTC dated November 16 th , 2011 by MOF guiding the implementation of Decree No. 74/2011/ND-CP dated August 25 th , 2011 by the Government on charging environmental protection fee for mineral exploitation. <i>Effective from January 1st, 2012</i>
103/2011/NQ-CP	Resolution No. 103/NQ-CP dated December 22 nd , 2011 by the Prime Minister on the Government's Action Program to implement Resolution No. 02-NQ/TW dated April 25 th , 2011 by the Politburo on the strategic orientation of mineral use and extractive industries to 2020, with a vision to 2030.
2427/2011/QD-TTg	Decision No. 2427/2011/QD-TTg dated December 22 nd , 2011 by the Prime Minister approving the Mineral Strategy to 2020, with a vision to 2030.
426/NQ-UBTVQH13	Resolution No. 426/NQ-UBTVQH13 dated December 23 rd , 2011 by the National Assembly Standing Committee on establishing a monitoring group to assess the implementation of policy and law on mineral management and exploitation in accordance with environmental protection.
V. Marine Resource Management	
41/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No. 41/2011/TT-BTNMT dated November 30 th , 2011 by MOF on regulations on economic-technological standards in planning for the utilization of marine resource and environmental protection. <i>Effective from January 16th, 2012</i>
VI. Energy, Climate Change, and Risk Management	
2330/QD-BNN-TC	Decision No. 2330/QD-BNN-TC dated October 6 th , 2011 by MARD adjusting the 2011 Bidding Plan of the Program "Reducing Emissions for Deforestation and Degradation in Vietnam."
1719/QD-TTg	Decision No. 1719/QD-TTg dated October 4 th , 2011 by the Prime Minister approving criteria for selecting prioritized projects under the Supporting Program in Response to Climate Change (SP-RCC)

Ref. Number	Description
1766/QD-TTg	Decision No. 1766/QD-TTg dated October 10 th , 2011 by the Prime Minister amending and supplementing the Comprehensive Plan on migration and resettlement for Tuyen Quang Hydropower Project in Tuyen Quang province.
5465/TB-BNN-VP	Notification No. 5465/TB-BNN-VP dated November 1 st , 2011 by MARD on the conclusion by the Deputy Prime Minister Ho Xuan Hung at the conference "Continue to support for comprehensive and sustainable development for communes with resettled households for years after relocation in Son La Hydropower Project".
2059/TTg-KTN	Correspondence Letter No. 2059/TTg-KTN dated November 8 th , 2011 by the Prime Minister on solving difficulties in migration and resettlement for Son La Hydropower Project in Dien Bien province.
2934/QD-BNN-HTQT	Decision No. 2934/QD-BNN-HTQT dated December 1 st , 2011 by MARD approving investment in the project "Technical cooperation program for overall protection of coastal areas and mangrove forests to adapt to climate change in the Mekong River Delta".
2139/QD-TTg	Decision No.2139/QD/TTg dated December 5 th , 2011 by the Prime Minister approving the National Climate Change Strategy.
2184/CV-BXD-DMDN	Correspondence Letter No. 2148/BXD-DMDN dated December 16 th , 2011 by MOC on reporting the investment, production, and operation of hydropower plants.
VII. Other Development Policies	
7604/VPCP-KGVX	Correspondence Letter No. 7604/VPCP-KGVX dated October 28 th , 2011 by the Government Office on implementing the Biotechnology Program in agricultural and fishery sectors in the 2006-2012 period.
13/2011/NQ-QH13	Resolution No. 13/2011/QH13 dated November 9 th , 2011 on National Target Programs in the 2012-2015 period.
407/NQ-UBTVQH13	Resolution No. 407/NQ-UBTVQH13 dated November 22 nd , 2011 by the National Assembly Standing Committee on the Committee's Monitoring Program in 2012.
2406/QD-TTg	Decision 2406/QD-TTg dated December 18 th , 2011 by the Prime Minister listing National Target Programs in the 2012-2015 period.
Drafts in Progress	
Draft of Vietnam's National REDD+ Program	
The 2 nd Draft Decree Stipulating in Details the Implementation of the Mineral Law	
Draft Decree Regulating Auction for Mining Right	
The 2 nd Draft Decree Regulating Sanctions for Administrative Violations in the Mining Sector	
Draft Circular Guiding the Implementation of Some Articles of Decree No. /2011/ND-CP by the Government (being drafted) Stipulating in Details the Implementation of the Mineral Law	
Draft Circular Stipulating in Details the Conditions for Organizations Exploring Minerals	
Draft of Vietnam's Definition of Legal Timber and the List of Timber Products under FLEGT	
Draft Decision by the Prime Minister on Forest Use and Management Policy for Forests in the 5 Million Hectare Reforestation Program	



PanNature is a Vietnamese non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and conserving diversity of life and improving human well-being in Vietnam by seeking, promoting and implementing feasible, nature-friendly solutions to important environmental problems and sustainable development issues.



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