

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

**VIETNAM NATIONAL REPORT
ON THE UNCCD IMPLEMENTATION**

Hanoi, May 2006

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
1. Summary.....	4
2. Strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies.....	11
3. Institutional measures taken to implement the Convention.....	13
4. Participatory process in support of preparation and implementation of action programmes.....	18
5. Consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of NAP and partnership agreements	21
6. Measures taken or planned within the framework of NAP	23
7. Financial allocation from national budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation	24
8. Review of benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure process and an assessment thereof	27
9. UNCCD Country profile.....	29

Annexes

ABBREVIATION

5MHRP	5 Million Hectare Reforestation Programme
ADB	Asian Development Bank
CBD	Convention on Biological Biodiversity
CCC	Convention Framework on Climate Change
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	Conference of the Parties
DOF	Department of Forestry
DOSTE	Department of Science and Technology
DWMIS	Department of Water Management and Irrigation Systems
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FPD	Forest Protection Department
FSSP&P	Forest Sector Support Programme and Partnership
GIS	Geographical Information System
GOV	The Government of Vietnam
HEPREP	Hunger Eradication and poverty Reduction Programme
ICD	International Cooperation Department
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JBIC	Japanese Bank for International Cooperation
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MEB	Monitoring and Evaluation Board
MET	Ministry of Education and Training
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoFi	Ministry of Finance
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOST	Ministry of Sciences and Technologies
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
NAP	National Action Programme to Combat Desertification
NCB	National Coordination Body
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-government organization
ODA	Overseas development assistance
PSC	Partnership Steering Committee
RAMSAR	Convention on Wetland of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat
RAP	Regional Action Programme
SEA-SRAP	South-east Asia Sub-Regional Action Programme
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SFE	State Forest Enterprise
SRAP	Sub-regional Action Programme
TPN	Thematic Programme Network
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economics and Social Committee of Asia and the Pacific
WB	The World Bank

1. SUMMARY

In Vietnam, according to the latest inventory, there is still 9.3 million ha of desertified land (28% of the total land territory of the country), among which 7.3 million ha of unused land (National Statistics General Department, 2004) and 2.0 million ha of seriously degraded land. The land has completely lost its biological productivity due to erosion, land slide, laterization, acidulation. The forest resources have also been significantly depleted. In 1943, there was 43% of forest cover. However, due to many reasons, the forest cover had been decreased down to 28% in 1990, and after almost 60 years with a number of efforts, it has been reached back to 36.7 % by 31 December 2004 (MARD, 2004). Forests had been seriously destroyed in two periods: 1960-1970 and 1976-1990. Forest loss made more serious land degradation, significant deterioration of ecosystems and watershed areas. Beside that, the water pollution had also become more and more serious problem due to overuse of chemicals in agriculture, uncontrolled management of industrial wastage. The underground water has been deteriorated in quantity as well as in quality. It is estimated that the lack of water will be a serious problem in the next decade. During the last 10 years, the drought have happened more seriously in the whole country, but especially in Central Region. The most serious and longest drought over the last 65 years happened and lasted 9 months during the dry season of 2004-2005 due to the climate change, which tremendous loss for agriculture and forestry activities in many regions, especially in Central Highland and in Central Region. Land cracking and soil erosion have also become more and more serious in Cuu Long river delta. A survey has 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 reach to 10,000 ha. The sea resource exploitation has also been another reason of water and land pollution.

Realizing the importance of international cooperation in combating desertification, Vietnam ratified several conventions on environment and in 1998, Vietnam became 134th member country party of the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Vietnam has long and narrow deserts. The yellow and white sand areas are located along the central coastal areas with 419,000 ha and in Mekong River Delta with 43,000 ha. According to a map drawn by FAO and UNESCO, there are about 462,000 ha of coastal sand area (1.4% of the total geographical area of the country) and 87,800 ha out of this are the yellow sand dunes. The sand areas are concentrated in 10 central coastal provinces from Quang Binh to Binh Thuan with the total area of 400,000 ha. During the last thirty-two years (1967-1999) there has been a serious desertification process. Every year, there is a loss of 10-20 ha of agriculture land due to the sand dune moving. In the above mentioned provinces there is a very arid hot climate with annual rain fall only 500-700 mm (the arid hottest is Binh Thuan province). Some international environmental experts when visited those sites had seen the similar landscape as in Africa because the climate and natural conditions of the areas were similar to the ones in some areas of Africa. Besides sand areas, there are 2 million hectares of seriously degraded land scattered all over the country, but particularly in Northern mountainous areas and Central Coastal Region.

The desertification process is summarized and characterized by the following factors:

- It is the process of land degradation, unfertilized for flora growing;
- It is the result of deforestation by inappropriate agricultural practices, extensive logging and chemical using during the wars;
- It is the cause of soil erosion;
- It is caused by unsustainable land use;
- It is the cause of extensive water use;

- It is caused by sand dune moving;
- It is a result of water and soil pollution;
- And it is the impact of extensive silvopastoral practices.

Since 1989, the economic system has changed from the concentrated planned mechanism to market oriented mechanism. And since then several programmes and projects not only in socio-economic development but also on environment protection have been intensively implemented. Vietnam, since that time benchmark, has not only presented its great progress in hunger eradication. Vietnam continuously holds the second position in rice export (The rice export of Vietnam in 2005 with 5.2 million tons) but also committed its responsibilities in global environment protection propagation. Year 1990 has been the milestone marking a significant achievement of Vietnam in environment protection. A number of laws relating to desertification combating process had been formulated during the period 1990-1998 and revised or developed as new laws during the recent years, such as Law on Water Resources 1999, Land Law 2003, Law on Forest Protection and Development 2004, Law on Environment Protection 2005. Vietnam has stressed its responsibilities/commitments in joining the world in global environmental issues by signing agreements to become a member of several international conventions on environment. A number of programmes and projects have also been intensively implemented since 1990. Vietnam also has developed Vietnam Agenda 21, National strategy on environment protection, National Strategy on Forestry Development, national Strategy on Science and Technology Development, National Strategy on Irrigation Development, National Strategy on Growth and Poverty Reduction, National Action Programme to Combat Desertification, etc. All the strategies had been developed for the period 2006-2010 and the Vision to 2020.

The national report has followed exactly the Guidelines of UNCCD, the Decision 11 of the COP1. It has drawn briefly the main information on environment protection as well as in soil conservation, forest protection and development, water conservation and sand dune fixation activities of Vietnam. It highlighted the strategies and policy framework. This report is the result of the collaboration/cooperation among the representatives of the related partners, such as Government Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the localities and the executing agencies of international programmes and projects ongoing in Vietnam. The report is also the result of a National workshop with the participation of many other social, economical, environmental sectors and institutions relating to the environment protection and sustainable development in Vietnam.

Beside the great achievement, there are still, however, many problems and constraints caused by the economic changes. There is still lack of adequate knowledge of people on environment protection. The environment protection is still not mentioned as the major issue to be taken in many provincial plans on socio-economic development. A more appropriate policy system for environment protection is still to be adjusted and adopted to meet the new requirement of the new development period.

In this situation, being a member of several international conventions on environment issues as well as of UNCCD is an essential further step of Vietnam in joining to the global environment propagation and in setting up long-term strategies of the country on environment protection and sustainable development not only for the development of international and regional community but also for the long future of the country.

The national report has followed exactly the Guidelines of UNCCD, the Decision 11 of the COP1. It has drawn briefly the main information on environment protection as well as in land conservation, forest protection and development, water conservation and sand dune fixation

activities of Vietnam. This report is the working result of National Coordinating Body for UNCCD, that consist of reliable information sources of Government agencies, the national and international organizations and the collaboration/cooperation among the representatives of the Government Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Vietnam Forestry Science Association, UNDP, IUCN, SIDA, etc. and the executing agencies of international programmes and projects ongoing in Vietnam. The report is also the result of a National Workshop with the participation of many other social, economical, environmental sectors and institutions relating to the environment protection and sustainable development in Vietnam, which was held in Hanoi on 4 May 2006.

The report also draws up some achievements and lessons learnt from the past experience in the process of combating desertification, results of forest development, natural forest rehabilitation, plantations for sand dune fixation, agro-forestry development, drip irrigation system, etc. It also stresses the important role of local people and community, including women, in activities related to desertification control.

The report has also mentioned the organization structure of National Coordination Body (NCB), the key information on National Focal Agency and the participatory approach for NAP development process.

The important role of international cooperation and the necessity of integrated programmes/projects to mobilize all available resources as well as technical assistance in the process of combating desertification are also emphasized. The great contribution in term of financial support and technical assistance of international organizations, of government and non-government organizations in activities on desertification combating in Vietnam has also been highly appreciated.

Table 1: Focal Point Institution for UNCCD

Name of National Focal Agency	Department of Forestry
Name of the head of National Focal Agency	Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Binh – Director General
Name of National Focal Point	Ms. Pham Minh Thoa Senior Officer Deputy Chief of Planning Division Department of Forestry Director of UNCCD National Office
Address including e-mail address	B9, 2 Ngoc Ha, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam Tel: (84 4) 7332263; Fax: (84 4) 7223842 /8438793 email: mthoa-dfd@netnam.vn or unccd-office@netnam.vn
Country-specific websites relating to desertification	www.vietnamforestry.org.vn ; www.monre.org.vn www.mard.org.vn

Table 2. Status of NAP

Date of validation: July 2002	Body/institution/Government level which validated the NAP: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
NAP review(s): already submitted for approval	Date(s) : 29 August 2005
NAP has been integrated into	NAP has been integrated in PRSP, particularly in Part II (Item

the poverty reduction strategy (PRSP)	2) and Part V (Item 7) on the link between poverty reduction with the environmental protection and sustainable natural resource management, approved in May 2002
NAP has been integrated into the national development strategy	NAP had been integrated in Vietnam Agenda 21 on Sustainable Development, especially in Part IV, Item I (Combating land degradation, promoting effective and sustainable use of land), Item II (Prevention of water pollution and promoting sustainable use of water resources) and Item V (Forest Protection and development), approved in November 2003
NAP implementation has started with or without the conclusions of partnership agreements	NAP has been implemented with the Forest Sector Support Programme and Partnership (FSSP&P). NAP will be implemented with specific partnership for UNCCD implementation supported by GEF-WB and the Forest Sector Trust Fund (TFF under the FSSP&P framework)
Expected NAP validation for the period 2006-2010 and the Vision to 2020	Month/Year: June 2006
Final draft of a NAP exists	Yes
Basic guidelines for a NAP have been established	Yes

Table 3. Member of SRAP/RAP

Name of subregional and/or regional cooperation framework		Involvement specifically in topics such as water harvesting techniques, soil erosion etc.
1	SEA-SRAP	That had been developed by the nine country parties of UNCCD in the South-East Asia Sub-Region, and approved in SEA-SRAP Launching Workshop held in Phan Thiet, Binh Thuan of Vietnam. In the workshop, Vietnam was nominated as the manager/coordinator of the Programme on Resource Mobilization and Partnership Development together with Indonesia under the framework of SEA-SRAP.
2	RAP	Vietnam is the member of TPN1, TPN2, TPN3, TPN5, and TPN6.

Table 4. Composition of the NCB

No.	Name or Position	Responsibility
1	Vice-Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)	Chairman
2	Department of Forestry (DOF), MARD	Executive Vice-Chairman
3	National Environment Agency (NEA), MONRE	Vice-Chairman
4	Department of Water Resources and Irrigation Systems (DWRIS), MARD	Vice-Chairman
5	International Organization Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)	member
6	Agriculture Science and Technology Department, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)	member
7	Legal Department, Government Office (GO)	member
8	Agricultural Economics Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)	member
9	Department of Foreign Financial Affairs, Ministry of Finance (MoFi)	member
10	Science and Technology Department, MONRE	member
11	Water Resource Management Department, MONRE	member

12	GEF Focal Point, GEF Vietnam, MONRE	member
13	International Cooperation Department, MARD	member-female
14	Planning Department, MARD	member
15	Science-Technology and Product Quality Control Department (STPQCD), MARD	member
16	UNCCD National Focal Point	member & secretary-female

Figure 1: Organization chart of NCB

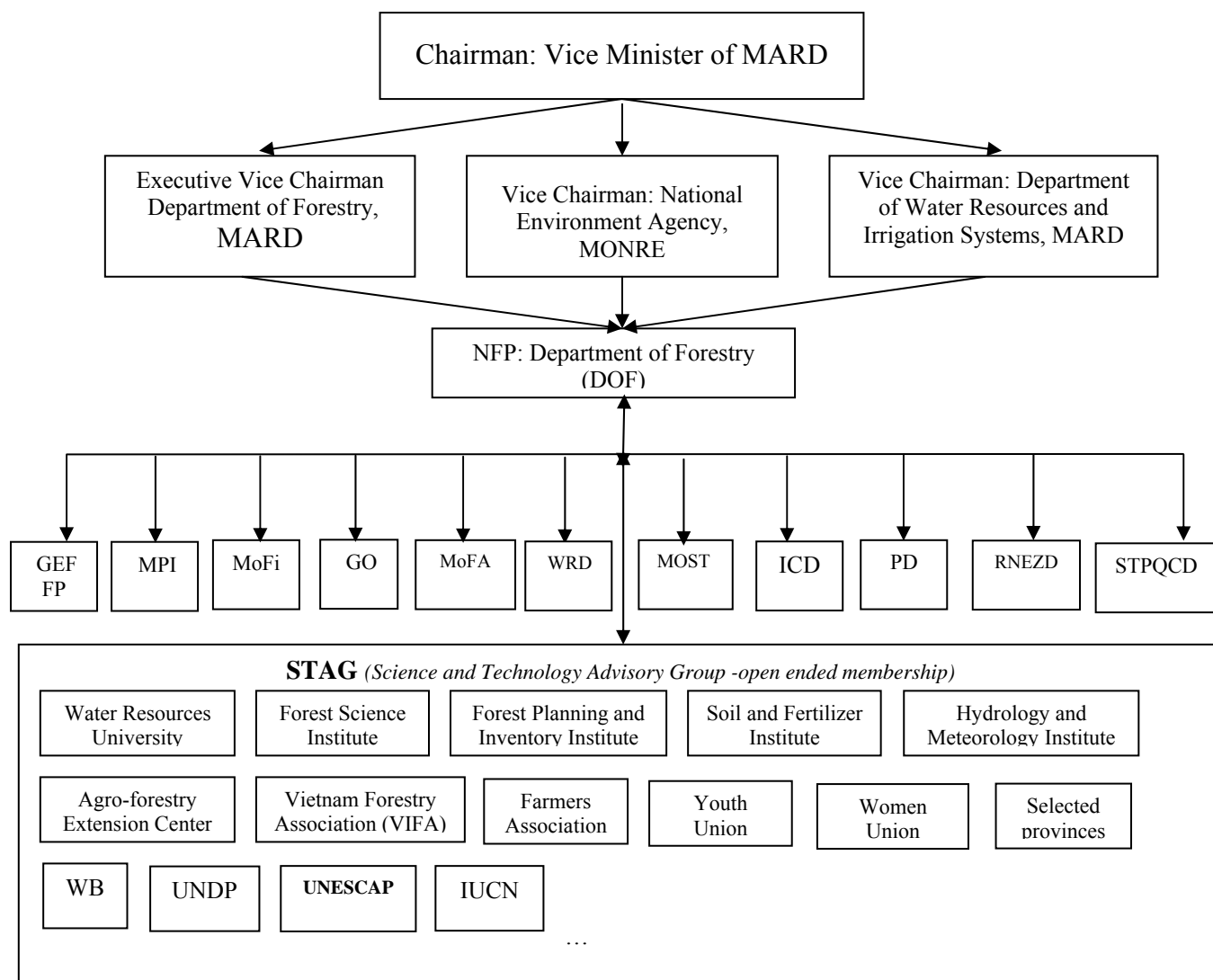


Table 5: List of NGOs participating in NAP development and implementation process

No.	List of organizations
1	Vietnam Forestry Association (VIFA)
2	Vietnam Science and Technology Association – VIFOTEC Fund
3	Soil Association
4	Vietnam Women Union
5	Vietnam Farmers Association
6	Youth Union
7	IUCN

Table 6: List of the new laws/acts related to UNCCD

	Name of the law or acts	Date of approval
1.	Law on Water Resources 1999	1/1/1999
2.	Land Law 2003	26/11/2003
3.	Law on Forest Protection and Development 2004	10/11/2004
4.	Law on Environment Protection 2005	29/11/2005
5.	National Strategy on Growth and Poverty Reduction 2002	20/9/2002

Table 7: Number of partnership agreements initiated within the framework of the UNCCD

	Official title of partnership	Donor(s), international organization(s), and/or agencies of the UN system involved	Date of (expected) conclusion
1.	Forest Sector Support Programme and Partnership	23 international partners: WB, ADB, UNDP, FAO, JBIC, Denmark, EU, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, BirdLife, Care International, Fauna & Flora International Indochina Programme, Oxfam Great Britain, SNV – Netherlands Development Organization, IUCN, WWF, Tropenbos International Vietnam Program, Helvetas Vietnam, CIFOR	12 November 2001
2.	Country Partnership on Sustainable Forest Land Management	WB, GEF, Trust Fund for Forests (TFF), UNDP, IUCN...	December 2007

Table 8: List of consultative meetings on UNCCD implementation

	Name of consultative meeting	Date/year	Donor countries involved	International organizations or agencies of the UN system involved
1	National conference on the first national report development	October 1999	-	-
2	National Conference on NAP development	November 2001	Netherlands, Japan, Finland	UNDP, FAO, UNCCD, UNESCAP
3	National conference on the second national report development	March 2002	-	-
4	National Conference on UNCCD implementation, period 2005-2010	September 2004	Netherlands	UNDP, UNCCD, ESCAP, FAO, JBIC, WB
5	Science and Technology Advisory Group Meeting	June 2005	-	UNDP, IUCN, WB, UNESCAP
6	Consultative Workshop of potential donors	June 2005	-	UNDP, IUCN, WB

Table 9: List of 12 projects under implementation directly or indirectly related to the UNCCD

	Name of project	Project implemented within the framework of ...	Time frame	Partners involved	Overall budget
1	Five Million ha Reforestation Programme (5MHRP)	NAP and FSSP&P	1998 - 2010	SFEs, Households	33,000 billion VND
2	Conducting survey on current use of coastal area in Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue	Environment Programme of MONRE	2004 - 2006		9,781 million VND
3	Survey of underground water Northern Mountainous Region (Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Lao Cai, Ha Giang, Bac Can)	Environment Programme of MONRE	2005 - 2006		23,551 million VND
4	Survey of underground water of 7 provinces of 5 provinces of Central Highland	Environment Programme of MONRE	2005 - 2006		23,181 million VND
5	Forestry Development to improve livelihood in Central Highland	FSSP&P	2006 - 2012	ADB, Finland, Netherlands, SIDA	79 million USD
6	Rehabilitation of degraded watershed areas of Northern Mountainous Region	Vietnam-Japan Bilateral agreement	2003 - 2008	JICA	4,350,000 USD
7	Forest planting in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen	FSSP&P	2005 - 2010	KfW	9,714,546 EUR
8	Plantation development to fix sand dune movement in Central Coastal Region	NAP	2002 - 2007	Japan, JBIC	15 million USD
9	Forest Sector Development Project	FSSP&P and NAP	2004 - 2010	WB, GEF, Finland, EU, Netherlands	74,5 million USD
10	SGP-GEF UNDP projects on combating desertification	NAP	2003-2010	SGP-GEF UNDP	
11	Irrigation development programme in 4 priority areas	Irrigation programme, MARD	2000-2010	GOV	35,000 billion VND
12	Science and Technology Programmes on combating desertification	MARD, MONRE	2000-2010	GOV	

Table 10: List of 3 new projects submitted to donors and/or approved by donors under NAP

	Name of Project	Under framework of ...	Time period	Participating partners	Total budget
1	Development Country Partnership Programme on Sustainable Forest Land Management: Phase 1	NAP and FSSP&P	2006 - 2007	GOV, GEF-WB, Trust Fund for Forests (TFF), local communities, households and other potential partners	800,000 USD
2	Landscape based sustainable management of desertification vulnerable forest land, for economic improvement and natural disaster prevention.	NAP	2006 - 2015	GOV, GTZ, local communities, households and other potential partners	4,950,000 USD
3	Addressing land degradation in the South Central Coastal Region, Vietnam	NAP	2006-2007	GOV, GEF-UNDP, local communities, households and other potential partners	800,000 USD

2. STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND/OR POLICIES

Box 1: Strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies

Questions/Answers

- ***To what extent have the strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development taken into consideration the efforts to formulate a NAP or aspects of already completed NAPs?***
 - i) *National Development Plans*: NAP focus on priority areas addressed in the development plans of the country, which are the poorest, less developed though having potentials for development. NAP applies multi-sector approach to ensure the economic, social and environmental benefit balance, giving priority to the poor people, vulnerable groups.
 - ii) *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper* : The desertification affected areas are located in the poorest regions of the country therefore NAP addresses the principle: all activities related to combating desertification should be linked with development of agriculture, forestry production, livelihood improvement of local desertification and drought affected people.
 - iii) *National Strategy for Sustainable Development* : NAP addresses the priorities on sustainable natural resources management, livelihood improvement linked with environment protection, encourages application of advanced integrated and environment-friendly solutions, focuses on priority areas of national development plans for sustainable development, livelihood improvement linked with ecosystem rehabilitation.
 - iv) *National Environmental Action Plans*: NAP has been developed based on the national strategies on sustainable management of three main natural resources related to UNCCD, that is water, forest and land, that contributes to environment protection and links closely with National Strategy on Environment Protection.

v) *National Agenda 21*: NAP also has been developed to meet the objectives of the National Agenda 21 of Vietnam, especially its Part 4, in which the issues of natural resource use, environment protection and pollution control need to be prioritized for sustainable development (e.g. combating land degradation, water protection and sustainable use, protection of sea coast conditions, forest protection and development, wastage management, biodiversity conservation, implementing measures to limit climate change effects, disaster prevention and protection. Beside that, NAP also has objectives related to sustainable agriculture development and rural development linked with poverty reduction, change of traditional production and consumption tradition to environment friendly one and protection of vulnerable groups.

vi) *National Conservation Strategy*: NAP gives high priority to biodiversity conservation and assumes that implementing NAP also contributes to the National Conservation Strategy, especially for Vietnam the conservation of forests biodiversity.

vii) *Country Assistance Strategies* : NAP meets the country support priorities, particularly for environment protection, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

viii) *Country Strategy Paper*: NAP is totally appropriate with the key policies, measures to promote sustainable growth and poverty reduction in term of giving priorities to agriculture and rural economy development in 4 priority areas of NAP, to environment protection and maintain clean living styles for the poor, ensures continuous improvement of living conditions for vulnerable groups of people.

ix) *Common Country Framework*: NAP promotes the maximum use of existing resources under the current capacity. NAP has multi-disciplinary character, therefore needs to mobilize all human and material resources of all relevant institutions, localities for combating desertification, land-forest-water management. This is consistent with the GOV policies to avoid huge organization structure, to promote strong decentralization for local level and strengthen coordination roles for activities integration at central and field level.

x) *Other relevant plan or strategy* (agriculture, energy, education, trade, health, poverty eradication,

migration, forests, climate change, biodiversity, coastal and marine resources, etc.): NAP has multi-disciplinary character, therefore the objectives and phases of NAP are similar to all development strategies of relevant sectors, such as forestry, irrigation, biodiversity conservation, climate change, poverty reduction, agriculture and rural development, etc.

- ***In what ways are the UNCCD principles accommodated in other environmental frameworks (i.e. in terms of the participatory process, the consultative mechanism, programme approach, etc.)?***

Principles of UNCCD have been widely distributed on Websites, translated into Vietnamese, The Department of Forestry- National focal Agency for UNCCD is active in development processes of other environment programmes through participating in compilation teams, providing written comments, attending consultation workshops.

- ***What working relationships have been established between the NFP and/or NCB and those Ministries dealing with the implementation of such strategies?*** Members of NCB are representatives of relevant ministries, who take the lead roles in compilation of such strategies. For example: MPI is in charge of *National Agenda 21* of Vietnam, MONRE is responsible for *National Conservation Strategy*, *National strategy on Climate Change*. *MARD is in charge of preparation of National Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development*, *National Strategy on Forestry Development*, *Strategy on Irrigation Development*, MOSTE is in charge of development of *Strategy on Science and Technology*, etc.

3. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

Box 2: Institutional measures taken to implement the Convention, including legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements, linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies

Questions/Answers

NAPs as part of the National Economic and Social Development and Environment Protection Plans

- ***How coherent is the NAP with other national and social development and environmental protection plans?*** The objectives of NAP are parts of National Environmental Action Plans, National Agenda 21 of Vietnam, which are always linked with poverty reduction, livelihood improvement in the poor rural areas that's are also the priority areas of NAP.
- ***To what degree is the NAP considered a strategic framework for action with regard to the policy objectives specified in those plans?*** The main targets and policies of those plans are the basis for revising NAP for 2006-2010 and the Vision to 2020.
- ***What are the major institutional and/or programmatic obstacles in integrating the objectives of the NAP into such strategies?*** There are many focal points and sometimes there is a lack of integration, cooperation and in-time information sharing.
- ***Have policy measures and incentive schemes been adopted or initiated aiming at encouraging private sector support, notably with regard to technological and scientific cooperation, and how are these efforts reflected in the NAP?*** NAP addresses important role of private sector in combating desertification through addressing the key role of local people in direct and active participation in NAP implementation at field level . The Land Law and the benefit sharing mechanisms have been adopted which ensure the long-term land allocation to farmers, stakeholders, especially forest land. GOV adopted also other incentive policies on providing technical support, technology transfer, training, extension, credit for local people to be more active in combating land degradation and mitigating effects of drought. GOV also encourages and provides fund for developing success stories, sharing lesson learnt to promote sustainable management of forests, land and water resources linked with poverty alleviation.
- ***Are there any specific attempts in the NAP process aiming at closing the gaps between existing national sustainable policies and those that are currently drafted, i.e. through legislative adjustments or awareness-raising measures?*** NAP already addressed the implementation mechanism through NCB, clearly identified roles/functions of each NCB member as well as the roles of relevant GOV agencies, localities, NGOs and local people. This is the key measure for ensuring NAP would be closely linked with other national strategies on sustainable development.
- ***What new initiatives have been undertaken since the last report on integrating the NAP into the national economic and social development and environment protection planning systems, including at the local and national levels?*** Strengthening information sharing via Websites, regular updating information, NCB regular meetings, STAG activities, organizing International day to combat desertification, awareness raising campaign, introduction of success stories, setting environmental MEAs' national focal point network.
- ***How successful is such a process?*** Getting initial contact and starting more active information sharing and collaboration in reporting initiatives.

Linkage achieved with subregional and regional action programmes (SRAPs and RAPs)

- ***What kind of activities are being pursued which have a subregional or regional dimension and/or are directly linked with activities pursued under a SRAP or RAP and its thematic programme networks (TPNs)?*** SEA-SRAP has been set up with the close collaboration

among 9 ASEAN countries (Cambodia, East Timor, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam). Vietnam takes part in Main Land Component and is the co-chair with Indonesia of the Programme “Resource Mobilization and Partnership Development” under framework of SEA-SRAP. Up to date, Vietnam has already nominated scientific and research institutions as focal points for TPN1, TPN2, TPN3, TPN5 and TPN6.

- ***In what way do they conform to the objectives of the NAP?*** SEA-SRAP is closely linked with NAP. SEA-SRAP addresses similar objectives as NAP of Vietnam, which refer to promotion of sustainable use of land, sustainable forest management, strengthening water management, mitigating effects of drought linked with poverty reduction. At the Launching Workshop of SEA-SRAP held in Binh Thuan, Vietnam in December 2005, there was a decision to take one priority area of Vietnam NAP for setting pilot sites for integrated ecosystem management for training and extension. In other way, NAP has also been developed based on the international and regional cooperation in environment protection. At the moment, Vietnam takes part in implementing a multi-regional cooperation project on combating land degradation funded by UNEP-GEF in 6 countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia.
- ***Has the GOV officially adopted the NAP?*** Yes.
- ***Has a budget been officially approved to finance the implementation of NAP?*** Not for the whole NAP as a package, but for individual programmes/projects, such as 5MHRP, TA for preparation of Country Partnership Programme on Sustainable Forest Land Management (GEF-WB, TFF,GOV), etc.
- ***Brief information on the status of NAP implementation:***
 - Legal status: Developed new laws on water, forests and land. Developed several strategies: Agenda 21 of Vietnam, Strategy on Growth and Poverty Reduction, strategies on forestry, irrigation, conservation, environment protection, science and technology, etc.
 - Institutional: as mentioned above.
 - Programmes/projects: 2 country priority programmes (5MHRP, Programme on poverty reduction), more than 50 field projects on forestry, irrigation, water management, mitigation of drought effects, sustainable land use promotion, livelihood improvement of affected communities, etc with GOV budget and support of some international governmental and non-government organizations (UNEP, WB, ADB, JBIC, JICA, GTZ, KfW, SNV, etc.). There will be set up a Country Partnership Programme on Sustainable Forest Land Management (GEF-WB, TFF,GOV) for NAP, which focuses on survey of current status of desertification in 4 priority areas of NAP, promotion forest land allocation and identifying appropriate methods, approaches for participatory process on sustainable forest land management linked with poverty reduction. There also will be GEF-UNDP project on addressing land degradation in Central Coastal Region – the first hot spot of desertification in the country. Some organizations, governments also addressed their willing to support Vietnam in NAP implementation such as GTZ, KOICA, INBAR, IUCN, etc.

Established and functional national coordination body (NCB)

- ***How influential is the NCB on matters of policy and legislation, and how well is it linked to the Government department responsible for development partners?*** Members of NCB are policy makers of relevant ministries, who take the lead roles in compilation of laws and legal framework (e.g. MONRE on Land Law, Law on Environment protection, MARD on Law on Forest Protection and Development, Law on Water resources, MOST on Strategy for Science and Technology, etc.). NCB has the support from STAG at field level, who regular update the information, provide feedback from field people.
- ***To what extent is the NCB decentralized in terms of financial, human and material resources?*** NCB still consists only GOV officers. But NCB at the moment has its STAG, which consists of local representatives, NGOs, research and training centres, that can somehow promote decentralization in the future. In the future, NCB will have more local representatives.
- ***Has a full-time secretariat for the NCB been established since the last report?*** Yes, it is UNCCD Office.
- ***How autonomous is the NFP in terms of resources and decision making?*** NFP is the senior officer of MARD, member and secretary of NCB, director of UNCCD Office.
- ***To what extent can the NCB promote synergistic developments for sustainable land management with related programme frameworks?*** NCB has multi-sector character and consists of high decision makers of relevant ministries who deal with the development of related programme frameworks.

Resources (human, financial, material) as indicators of the NCBs capacity to act.

- ***Does the NCB have the capacity to catalyze preparation, implementation and evaluation of the NAP?*** Yes, NCB has annual GOV budget for the works. NCB received annually 10-15, 000 USD for its coordinating work.
- ***What are the specific capacity needs of the NCB and the NFP, taking into consideration the cross-sector nature of the Convention?*** Strengthen human resources and working facilities for NFP agency (UNCCD National Office); Build up skill of UNCCD Office staff on information analysis and exchange, data base development and management; Build up skill on reporting, M&E of NCB and NFP, including English writing and presentation skill.

Cross-cutting and multi-disciplinary characters

- ***Has any review been done (in terms of representation) to ensure participation from other stakeholders?*** Yes, there is a recommendation to add more NGOs and local representatives in NCB and STAG.
- ***Are there any changes to report with regard to how the NCB is linked to bodies of other United Nations conventions?*** Yes, NFPs of CBD, CCC, Ramsar and GEF Vietnam NFP are the new members of NCB, that ensures better collaboration and linkage with the conventions.
- ***How does the composition of the NCB enhance the (synergistic) programming and implementation of UNCCD projects?*** Well, but needs to be further decentralization by getting more members from local level.
- ***How does the NCB/NFP address the need to involve in the NAP private sector initiatives and marketing strategies for drylands products?*** This had been mentioned in NAP and its programmes/projects, and keeping repeated every time at NCB meetings.

Composition and mode of operation

- ***Has the level of stakeholder participation increased since the last reporting and what are the mechanisms to ensure active participation?*** Yes, mostly the scientific community. In order to support NCB in different scientific initiatives, there is a Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG), which had been set up by MARD leaders and consisted of 16

members. The members of STAG are national and international experts, NGOs in forestry, water resource management, soil conservation, irrigation, agro-forestry extension, livelihood improvement, climate change and drought effects mitigation, etc. Among the international experts, there are up to date the representatives of WB, UNDP, UNESCAP and IUCN.

- ***How effective and efficient are the ways and means of communication or networking among members of the NCB and the groups they represent, especially with regard to civil society organizations?*** The activities on desertification control have to continue being implemented by a close cooperation between ministries, organizations and institutions. There will be annually organized workshops, conferences at national or provincial level to assess the implementation of plans on land degradation combating and drought effects mitigating. Through these meetings land degradation process is to be carefully analyzed, assessed and recommended.

In the above mentioned meetings, leaders of ministries/sectors and local authorities have to be invited to actively participate and give comments. The decisions of the meetings have to be distributed to all participants and reported to the related ministries, sectors and provinces. This will ensure the follow-up activities be closely cooperative and efficient.

- ***Is the modality for nominating members to the NCB transparent?*** Yes, some specific requirement on the qualification, background, even on certain decision making level are addressed in the letter to request the nomination, that was also said in the decision of Prime Minister for NCB establishment.

Status of information data

- ***What is the status of the databases being maintained by the NCB?*** The information data are now available at National UNCCD Office as well as at Forest Sector Support Programme Coordinating Office (FSSP CO). The main specific documents related to combating desertification are:
 - National report on combating desertification, April 2000
 - National report on combating desertification, April 2002
 - National Action Programme To Combat Desertification 2002-2010 (NAP2002)
 - Some proceedings of National workshops/conferences on NAP implementation.
 - National action plan on biodiversity
 - Final draft of National Action Programme on Combating Desertification submitted to the government for approval, August 2005
 - National Forestry Development Strategy 2001
 - Memorandum of agreement (MoA) of Vietnam Forest Sector Support Programme and Partnership
 - Agriculture and Rural Development Strategies
 - Land Law 2003
 - Forest Protection and Development Law 2004.
 - Relevant national strategies, such as Vietnam Agenda 21, National Strategy on Growth and Poverty Reduction, etc.
 - Investment and development legal framework.
 - Compendium of rural development projects/programme, etc.
- ***Evaluate the means of internal and external communication between the NFP and the NCB?***

There is a close contact between National Focal Point and the Regional Coordinating Unit in Bangkok and the UNCCD Secretariat. All information are available by two-way (international-national) communication. There is also another information channel between

TPN1,2,3,5 host countries and NFP and TPNs' national focal institutes through transferring information by email, internet and workshops/meetings. But the information provided through the TPNs channel is still very limited. Inside the country, there is also close collaboration and communication between NFP and other related ministries through NCB members. The main communication means are email, fax, website, workshops, conferences (external), email and post, newsletter, workshops, meetings (internal).

Institutional framework for coherent and functional desertification control

- *How has the review and analysis of existing mechanisms for coordinating and harmonizing actions to combat land degradation at national and local levels contributed to strengthening coordination and implementation of UNCCD programmes?* Review reports had been distributed through UNCCD office to make NCB/STAG and relevant stakeholders at local level aware on the comments/recommendation, which formed the basis for discussion and finding ways for improvement of the coordination and implementation of NAP among the NCB and STAG members.
- *Where is it necessary to build capacity at the local and national level in order to establish a well functioning information exchange between relevant stakeholders?* Local ethnic language skill (for national staff), English skill, communication skill, data analysis skill, data base management skill, internet use skill, etc. (for both level and all stakeholders)

Measures adopted to strengthen existing institutions at the local and national levels since the last report

- *Is capacity and institution building being continuously addressed and promoted at the local and national levels?* Yes.
- *What changes have taken place since the last report?* Strengthening multi-disciplinary character of NCB by creating NCB and STAG, inviting more sectors, representatives of different sectors and local level to take part in NCB and STAG, including scientific community and financing sector (Ministry of Finance, GEF Focal Point, SGP-GEF coordinator of UNDP, Chairman of TFF, etc.)
- *What is the feedback from stakeholders and institutions?* All the stakeholders and institutions provided considerable input for NAP implementation.

Coherent and functional legal and regulatory framework

- *How coherent and functional is the environmental legislation in your country?* The legislation on environment is more specific and clear, easy to understand and to be further specified at field level. This legislation has been circulated widely to all people (via VTV1, VTV 2 and local TV channel, radio, newspapers), re-formatted in simple forms of questions/answers for better understanding, translated into ethnic languages, training on new legal documents, etc.
- *What progress has been achieved in the enforcement of environmental laws relating to desertification?* New laws have just been developed (Table 6).
- *What are the specific institutional and human resources capacity needs in order to improve proper law enforcement?* Strengthen capacity in working with local people, change the mind in order to promote further decentralization, build up further knowledge on participatory process.
- *What progress has been made on land tenure issues since the last report?* A significant number of households had received forest land allocated officially (169,377 households with 3,658,279 ha allocated). According to government statistics in 2000, around 240,000 ha of forest land had been allocated to 50,000 households. (All agricultural land had been allocated to households).

Measures to adapt current legislation or introduce new enactments:

- **Have measures been taken to strengthen the capacity of local populations and local authorities to participate in decision making which is relevant to combating land degradation?** Yes, the local people have been consulted through village meetings, individual interviews. Communication facility of communes has been developed, especially TV, radio, computers, and direct contacts with decision makers, etc.
- **What are the needs for awareness raising among the local population for an improved compliance to new legislation?** Providing more simple leaflets with simple texts, providing more interesting programmes and the attractive ways to introduce new legislation.
- **Does the NAP foresee particular projects that deal with law enforcement relating to the combat against desertification?** Yes, there is a programme of NAP on this issue.
- **What are the procedures for identifying and implementing such measures?** Promotion of direct contact, regular field visits, and consultation, cross-visits, lesson learnt exchange, etc.

4. PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES

Box 3: Participatory process in support of preparation and implementation of action programmes, particularly processes involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations

Questions/Answers

- **How effective are the participatory processes in the formulation and implementation of the NAP and its related activities?** The local authorities is and will be given a greater freedom in combining resources at their disposal for developing and implementing local projects in the framework of NAP in order to be able to make more effective use of natural resources. Further, the district level is seen as the best one for ensuring local cohesiveness between the several components of the NAP. Moreover, in order to ensure and integrate more local involvement there may be a need to consider the nature of resources required facilitating this process of involvement¹.
- **What is the trend now in these processes, notably with respect to areas of the Declaration mentioned under vii below?** GOV promotes more decentralization to provide the opportunity for increased district, commune, village and community level's involvement. This would potentially bring the following advantages. First, there would be a joint authority over the projects of NAP at a more localized level, facilitating easy co-operation between those projects. Second, close interaction would be facilitated between the nationally supported projects and the internationally supported ones working in the same area. Finally, an overall district framework could gradually be developed into which all "projects" within the NAP with district-level activities could be integrated through participatory processes representing local level inputs.
- **Is gender and the private sector dimension a specific element of any programme in the NAP?** The gender issue is concerned in every activity of programmes related to environment. About 76.6% of women participate in agriculture and forestry production, while men form only 75.6%. In the poor country, which has been under feudalism for a long time as Vietnam, gender issue is quite new. However it has already called a great concern of the Government and international organizations in formulating the socio-economic rural development programme at national and local level. One of the 10 objectives of the National

¹ Participatory land allocation, allocation of forest land to communities/household groups, participatory planning mechanisms.

Action Programme for Women's Advance is "To strengthen women capacity in management and in decision making". The women form 27.2% of the 10th National Assembly, 2% more than of the previous one. The number of women is however still very low in local authority leadership. The Government has drawn up the target that 25% of people committee membership will be women in order to strengthen their role in rural development and poverty alleviation activities. The gender issue has been addressed specifically in Chapter "Implementation arrangement" of NAP.

- ***Has progress been made in developing, with the assistance of the private sector, appropriate technologies aiming at promoting sustainable land use practices in areas such as cash crop, livestock production, aquaculture, recreation, ecotourism, adherence to mining/extraction industries?*** GOV has developed a comprehensive policy framework relating to institutional issues, investment, capacity building and research in order to identify appropriate intervention strategies at local level. Furthermore, GOV has also identified and developed markets for agro-forest products based on advanced processing technology, increased product quality, lower production and transportation costs, lower middle-person costs to increase local incomes of communities involved in agriculture and forestry production. Further, GOV has provided options and opportunities for private sector, households to develop ecologically sound agro-forestry models, based on local indigenous knowledge.

Private sector firms have made considerable progress in agro-forest products trading and processing. The role of households in natural resources management has become more important in recent years. However, a careful consideration of development consensus legal framework referring all related issues to promote private sector involvement in natural resources sustainable management practices is very crucial.

- ***What are the capacity needs in order to maintain and/or establish a mechanism for active involvement of national and local stakeholders with regard to the planning and implementation of NAP activities?***
 - Set up communication strategy on desertification
 - Develop training documents for different stakeholders groups
 - Conduct trainings, awareness raising on knowledge on environment, legal framework
 - Conduct trainings on communication capacity for central and local staff
 - Strengthen human resources and working facilities for NFP agency (UNCCD National Office); Build up skill of UNCCD Office staff on information analysis and exchange, data base development and management
 - Build up skill on reporting, M&E of NCB and NFP, including English writing and presentation skill.

- ***Examine the criteria used for selecting various actors in national priority identification processes?***

The criteria for selection are adequate: To ensure all representatives of all economic sectors, including private sector; of all management levels from central to local level; of all relevant sectors such as irrigation, water management, forestry, soil and land management, agriculture, hydrology and meteorology; all relevant local and international organizations, including NGOs; To ensure the gender balance, the participation of Women Union; representatives of affected areas; participation of research institutes, scientists, training and extension centres; To ensure commitment and adequate interests of active participation of all partners, especially the local stakeholders; To ensure adequate financial and technical capacity.

- ***Do the criteria encourage equal representation at all levels? If not, what is being done to ensure equal representation?*** Yes.
- ***How well is the national scientific community represented and what monitoring***

mechanisms have been established with its assistance? STAG multi-disciplinary character is the evidence for the adequate representation. There are some existing systems for climate forecasting, drought predicting and loss assessment by disasters, however they are almost out of date with limited financial and technical capacity. STAG is planning to collaborate with other experts to develop a set of guidelines for M&E from central to local level and set up specific programme for M&E of activities related to combating desertification.

- ***Has a mechanism been put in place to ensure continuous consultations?***

In the NCB working regulations, there is a principle to share immediately information related to UNCCD implementation through email, mails, internet. All draft documents such as NAP, national reports, meeting reports are to be shared to all related stakeholders, including local representatives to have feedback. NCB has regular meetings twice a year or when necessary. STAG has meetings four times a year or when necessary, and could attend NCB meeting when being invited. In these meetings, all relevant information is shared for comments, and any idea, opinion is to be respected and considered. Regular meetings to review, assess the implementation of UNCCD/NAP, setting up strategies and overall plans, updating information from website, field visits are the popular mechanisms of central level. At local level, the key forms to ensure continuous consultation are the on-site workshops, field visits, lessons learnt sharing at field site, compilation of experiences and success stories, and sending feed back to central level.

The selection of representatives of central and local authorities has followed the public balloting principle. It means that every Vietnamese resident can elect his/her representatives. The members of local and central level authorities have consulting cooperation with feed back principle, from the top to the bottom and back. Decisions and strategies are formulated from local level and when being approved the legal documents must be strictly followed by the localities. During the implementation of these decisions, if some problems occur, the localities can raise comments, proposals to the central level for solutions or adjustment.

- ***To what extent has the traditional knowledge system been used in exchange, circulation, transfer and dissemination of information?*** Through VTV channel, especially VTV2. Through lesson learnt and success stories books, however it is still limited.
- ***Does traditional knowledge/technology play a role in the framework of the NAP?*** Yes, it is very important because traditional knowledge and technology often shows effective tool for NAP implementation at field level.
- ***Have linkages with educational centres or governmental institutions responsible for education been established in order to promote environmental education relating to the combat against desertification?*** Yes, via VTV channel, by putting education programmes on education documents at all education levels, by maintaining Spring Tree Planting Celebration in Spring season to mobilize all population to be involved, etc.
- ***What are the mechanisms adopted to ensure that various categories of actors are involved in the process to provide information as well as to benefit from information networks?*** At the moment, a network of NFPs of environment conventions has already been set up and information of the network has been put in the website www.vietnamforestry.org.vn. In addition, all relevant ministries already have their own website, however the participation of local NGOs and private sector in this matter is still limited and there is still no specific mechanism to encourage those stakeholders to be more active.
- ***Have participatory awareness campaigns been conducted dealing with the following themes: (i) growing threat to ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods under a scenario of increasingly extreme climatic events, (ii) advocacy for participatory rural development as a key element in poverty eradication, (iii) recognition of the widespread downstream geopolitical consequences of phenomena such as forced migrations and conflicts, (iv) the***

prevention of land degradation is more cost-effective than suffering the severe consequences of desertification, (v) dissemination of lessons learned and best practices? To some extent, all these activities have already mentioned in a common communication programme on environment protection and sustainable development.

- *How are the concerns and results of the national consultations at the local level incorporated into the NAP?* All concerns and results have already been addressed in NAP. The local representatives have been invited and provided comments in national workshops, conferences to set up NAP and almost comments had been very good for NAP development, particularly in identifying priorities.
- *Have there been any follow-up activities to ensure continuous feedback from stakeholders even after completion of the NAP?* The updating information is still maintained through small workshops on project proposals, field visits of NCB, STAG and the consultation workshops with donor community.
- *What is the modality for designating the representatives of various social and institutional categories, at both national and local levels, (nomination, election etc.)?* Nominating officially by letter according to the criteria for selection set by NCB.

5. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Box 4: Consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of national action programmes and partnership agreements with developed country Parties and other interested entities, particularly mobilization and coordination of both domestic and international resource

Questions/Answers

- *What new measures have been taken by the Government to ensure the involvement of international partners in the process and what is the extent of their involvement?* GOV has set up partnership with international community, strengthened programme approach, sector approach, that has resulted in active participation of partners, the better use of resources and the more effective collaboration mechanism.
- *What kind of support for a national consultative mechanism has come from relevant international organizations?* Technical support, providing volunteer experts to set up NFPs network, to enable a team to work on the mechanism, participating STAG. Providing financial and technical support in development of communication tools (Website, data base, contact list, NAP publications, simple brochure or booklet, Direct contact and participation, Feedback system, cartoons, posters, etc.), publishing relevant information and documents. Participating actively in consultation workshops, conferences, meetings, being facilitators for NAP and national report development and development of M&E system.
- *Has conclusion of a partnership agreement been achieved?* The FSSP&P is being used as the main partnership for NAP up to now, but in the near future, there will be CPP for sustainable forest land management specifically for UNCCD.
- *How many partners are there, and which of them specifically support the NAP process? Explain, as appropriate, the role of Global Environment Facility (GEF), its implementing/executing agencies and of the Global Mechanism (GM).* There are 23 partners in FSSP&P, of which 6 are already actively supporting NAP (WB, UNDP, GTZ, JBIC, IUCN, SNV) and more additional UNCCD, GM, GEF and UNESCAP outside FSSP&P. GM has contributed financial support to organize a consultation workshop in 2002 to formulate NAP 2002.

- ***How well does this match the national need for international support in order to implement the Convention?***

It facilitates the information exchange, awareness raising, assists in developing and implementing projects at field level, assists in M&E of implementing capacity (NCSA), facilitates in consultation process during NAP/projects formulation.

- ***To what extent have traditional and alternative sources of finance been successfully generated for the implementation of the NAP, and what are the main obstacles to this?*** The local generated finance is still limited, the local people contributed mainly by labor force and local material for NAP implementation. The state budget has regenerated by natural resource use tax and still is the main financial resource for natural resource management activities. The main obstacles are that the partners still did not see the big challenges of desertification in Vietnam and the role of Vietnam as well as the role of Asia in UNCCD implementation. Many people think that deserts and desertification are the matters of only Africa.
- ***Have steps been undertaken to move from the conclusion of partnership agreements to actual implementation?*** This year, the CPP for sustainable forest land management specifically for UNCCD would start to be prepared, with the TA grant of GEF-WB (350,000 USD) and TFF (400,000 USD).
- ***Has a country agreed to become chef de file of the consultative process?*** Yes.
- ***Is there a calendar of activities to ensure continuous process monitoring?*** Not yet.

- ***Is there a consultative mechanism established among partners at the national or local levels?*** Yes, through meetings, workshops, field visits, information exchange, etc. as said in NAP.
- ***What are the frequency of meetings, the level of attendance and the degree of participation?*** NCB – twice a year or more. STAG 4 times a year or more. At regional meetings, there are normally all the representatives, including NCB, STAG, representatives of relevant ministries, sectors, research and training institutes, government and non-government organizations, international organizations, affected provinces. Since the last report, annually there are at least one national workshop/conference.
- ***What is the distribution of roles and tasks among the various partners?*** Suitable and clear distribution of the roles have already clearly addressed in NAP and regulatory documents for NCB, STAG.
- ***How do the NFP and NCB participate in the discussions?*** Actively due to its multi-sector and high level of decision making character and consistent follow up activities.
- ***What capacity needs exist in order to maintain the exchange of information with regard to internal consultations?*** There are three staff working in UNCCD Office with three table computers and a laptop that could link with internet, there is a Website of FSSP to support (although still lack of information). There is a need to have a specific data base for UNCCD managed by the UNCCD Office.
- ***In what manner can the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism assist in facilitating the convocation of the consultative processes?*** Finding financial support for consultation meetings, nominating GM representatives to attend, provide comments and facilitate information sharing (together with Asia RCU, UNCCD Secretariat staff).
- ***Has the communication and exchange of information been established between the national GEF focal point, the implementing agencies of the GEF, and the NFP?*** Already started and will be promoted since the GEF focal point of Vietnam is already the member of NCB.
- ***What difficulties have been identified in accessing funds through the GEF?*** Lack of information on budget allocation for CCD and guidelines for project proposal development.

6. MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

Box 5: Measures undertaken under NAP	
Questions/Answers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an exhaustive diagnosis or reevaluation been made of past experience useful to the NAP process? Yes, they had been made of past experience very useful NAP process. • What are the constraints/potential for data collection to establish the relevance of the Country Profiles? To many information sources, inconsistent information and lack of important information. • Has the diagnosis resulted in specific recommendations for NAP formulation? Yes, for example it has resulted in identifying fast the priority areas with specific suitable solutions. • Does the NAP need to be reviewed in the light of the findings and adjusted in the light of the increasing interest received from the international community? No. The findings are seen as very accurate and the international community fully agrees with the priorities of NAP. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What steps are being taken to adapt and integrate ongoing projects into the NAP process? Review and integration of related activities of current projects into NAP framework to promote the better use of available resources for common objectives and regard these also as the contribution for NAP. In four priority areas of NAP, NCB advise localities, project owners to link with NAP objectives, negotiate with project owners to adjust and/or redesign unsuitable activities with the NAP priorities (e.g. in some areas of Mekong River Delta or Central Coastal Region, there are some projects to destroy mangrove forests for shrimp production). • To what an extent have the UNCCD principles been integrated into relevant ongoing projects relating to the areas identified as follows? Otherwise, have concrete projects dealing with these issues been developed and implemented through the NAP? Under NAP, several projects has been set up and implemented on following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable natural resource management, including land, water and forests. - Conservation of mountainous ecosystems - Forest resource assessment - Sustainable management and use of upland areas - Plantation development and rehabilitation of natural forests - Development of early warning systems on drought, forest fire, flood, land slide and food security. • What specific activities have been identified and implemented to improve the economic environment with a view to eradicating poverty? Poverty Reduction Programme (Programme 133), Programme in socio-economic development in the poorest communes (Programme 135). In addition, the other projects also have a component and activities to link environment with livelihood improvement, job opportunities creation for local people in affected areas. • In case activities are implemented in the framework of programmes other than the UNCCD, what management indicators have been put in place to ensure that these activities address the underlying causes of desertification? Proportion of the poor households, average income, area of allocated land, illiteracy level, proportion of children going to schools, population growth rate, information on infrastructure development: electricity, road, school, market. Proportion of ethnic households, main income sources, etc. • Have specific projects been promoted aiming at implementation of the Convention at a local level, addressing local ecological and socio-economic conditions in a more holistic 	

<p><i>manner?</i> Yes, mainly funded by the GOV. The international support comes more often in integrated manner.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Are there any new methods to combat desertification that have been generated recently?</i> Yes • <i>If yes, what are these planned measures?</i> Develop drainage and irrigation canal systems, micro irrigation systems for dry land, planting trees on white sand, agro-forestry development, identify suitable crop species for desertified land, community-based forestry management . • <i>How is technical and scientific capacity being addressed at the local level?</i> There are local extension stations/centers at district level, who deal with technical and scientific matters at field level. In addition, there are scientific and technical institutions at provincial level with some human and equipment capacity to assist local people. • <i>In brief, what are the main features for capacity building at the institutional, participatory and consultative levels within the NAP process?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training on information analysis and data base management for all levels - Strengthening the current MEAs NFPs network - Setting up information sharing mechanism among different levels - Conducting capacity building for UNCCD Office and NFP agency in term of staffing, finance and working facility. • <i>How are capacity-building measures aiming at the NAP process itself integrated into the NAP process?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearly identify roles and functions of all levels - Set up better coordination mechanism between central and local level - Develop multi-sector coordination mechanism - Establish data base and information network - Conduct regular training and education to build capacity of staff at both central and local level - Conduct training for field level - Set up a set of consistent and concrete guidelines for M&E and reporting from central to local level - Develop budget allocation plan of the GOV for NCB and UNCCD Office.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What kinds of capacity-building measures are needed to ensure implementation of the Convention, particularly at the local level?</i> Awareness raising for local communities and people. Enhance communication network and information exchange. Organization of cross-visits to share experience, success stories and lesson learnt. Training at field level, showing by doing, etc. • <i>Does the NAP reflect such capacity needs and does it outline ways of addressing them?</i> Yes, NAP addresses the plans to develop specific activities, that may be in form of specific project or as a component of some projects/programmes.

7. FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGETS IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Government has given specific priorities in financing for land conservation, sand dune fixation, land erosion control and drought/flood prevention. Vietnam has annual financial plan for these objectives and at the same time encourages the international and national organizations to join in the investment process.

The existing financial sources are as follows: The State sources; The ODA sources (including loan and grant); Sources of Government and non-government organizations, foreign companies and joint-ventures; Sources of localities; Sources of domestic enterprises; Sources of local people.

The sources of international organizations with the rate for projects are as below: For natural resource management: 65%; For disaster forecasting and prevention management: 3%; For training and research on environment: 6%; Rural infrastructure and irrigation development and livelihood improvement: 24 %; Other relevant activities such as legal documents development, reform of enterprises: 2%.

The organizations and individuals can participate in investment and implementation process of desertification combating, if they respect the following points:

- Commit their respect to Vietnam laws, do not have bad impacts on Vietnam sovereignty and interests;
- Obey legal documents, regulations on investment, environment protection and natural resource management;
- Have interest with bilateral and multi-lateral benefit;
- Have the permission of the Government for investment and cooperation in environment protection activities.

Box 6: Financial allocations from national budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation including their inflows. Processes to identify their requirements, areas of funding and setting priorities

Questions/Answers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What further measures have been taken to ensure access by local actors to funding sources?</i> GOV issued common procedures on financial management to ensure localities could easily assess to the fund, credit, ODA and state budget. Beside that, each technical assistance or investment project also has specific financial management procedure appropriate for project activities, such as credit book, people credit fund, etc., the only principle is that all those procedures need to be consistent with the GOV procedure. • <i>Are these measures provisional or permanent, and how can they be sustained?</i> Conducted public finance management reform, administration reform and keeping principle “clear and transparent”, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have any other specific mechanisms been determined to ensure financing for the NAP?</i> GOV approved annual state budget for NCB and STAG. FSSP&P and the Partnership on Disaster Control are being used as the mechanisms for mobilizing support fro NAP programmes/projects. There are also some bilateral and multi-lateral agreements (with Japan, Korea, GEF, UNDP, IUCN, Germany, etc.) to implement projects at field level. The localities contribute local resources for field projects and commit to provide local budget as counterpart contribution to cooperation agreements. • <i>What are the modalities of participation of the various relevant actors in the funding and the management of activities to combat desertification?</i> Providing ODA, contributing local materials, human resources through technical assistance, financial support for field activities, developing pilot sites, strengthening M&E capacity, etc. • <i>Are international partners supporting these specific financial mechanisms?</i> They are supporting to reform public finance management.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Has a type of activity that generates sufficient economic return in an environmentally sound way been properly identified and promoted for investment projects?</i> Revising policy framework, investment promotion procedures and strengthening capacity on environment impacts assessment. • <i>Has the return on investment been properly reinvested to ensure financial sustainability?</i> Yes. Enterprises pay taxes to the State for reinvestment. • <i>Has investment in drylands been generating environmental and socio-economic benefits for multiple stakeholders?</i> Yes, has very promising results.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In what way is the national Government allocating money towards effective implementation of the Convention?</i> Providing annual budget to NFP agency for NCB and STAG activities; Providing GOV counterpart contribution for cooperation programmes/projects; Providing state budget for national priority programmes such as 5MHRP, Programme on Disaster Control, etc. • <i>What kind of difficulties exists with regard to increasing the existing level of financing?</i> Limited state budget, the annual budget for desertification combating activities within NAP is still very far from the actual requirements, about 12-15 million USD (10% of the demand). • <i>Has a National Desertification Fund or any other budget line within the Government been established which provides funding exclusively for activities of the NAP?</i> Not yet for NAP. At the moment for NAP there are some funds such as Fund for disasters, fund for environment, Vietnam conservation fund, TFF. However, the fund for NAP has already been addressed in NAP for the GOV and Country Partnership Programme consideration when being prepared.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Has a plan been formulated for requesting technical cooperation, including envisaged multilateral and bilateral cooperation?</i> Being conducted with WB, UNDP, GEF, UNEP, GTZ, etc.. • <i>What technical cooperation support has been received other than financial resources?</i> Providing experts, resource persons to organize meetings, workshops on NAP formulation, revision, development of national reports, newsletters (UNDP, WB, GTZ); Supporting NCSA (GEF); Providing volunteer experts for preparation of projects proposals (Dr. Pak Sum Low of UNESCAP); Supporting SGP-GEF UNDP projects at field level, etc. • <i>What are the needs for capacity building/technical cooperation, notably from the GEF?</i> Set up long-term communication strategy on land degradation and desertification; Develop awareness raising campaign on land degradation and desertification; Compile training material and communication documents for different stakeholder groups; Set up participatory promotion mechanism; Set up and update data base on land, water, forests, socio-economic conditions and environmental records in the four priority areas; Establish information network from central to local level; Promote capacity building for information/data analysis and management for relevant GOV agencies, especially for NFP agency – DOF, UNCCD office; Set up systematic guidelines for M&E and Reporting for all levels; Conduct training to strengthen capacity on M&E and Reporting, information sharing, data base development to facilitate M&E and Reporting, etc. • <i>What is the order of priority of the needs identified?</i> Already mentioned in NAP.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Are the processes and dynamics of land degradation being monitored in your country?</i> Yes, through M&E and recording station systems on environment pollution, laboratory on soil, water, hydrology and meteorology. • <i>What measures do you have on the ground to assess the rate of resource degradation?</i> Local technical staff stay in record stations located in hotspots of the affected areas, conducted regular visits with the support of national experts when needed. • <i>What is the rate of resource degradation that can be attributed to drought or climate</i>

change? It is very difficult question. In general could be assumed as high rate (e.g. 28% of land territory is under desertification challenges, one third of country area seriously affected by drought and climate change).

- **Are there any early warning mechanisms set up in an effort to mitigate the effects of drought and desertification?** Yes, but almost with out of date facility.
- **In your opinion, to what extent have the results from these measures been used to facilitate better policy formulations or responses?** Though there is still a lack of many information, but the current data from existing measures is the basis for analysis, assessment and making orientation for identifying priorities of NAP and relevant policies.
- **What are the measures taken for harmonization of existing mechanisms and systems?** Conducting survey to identify gaps. Strengthening advanced facility with more accurate capacity and increasing number of M&E stations and competent experts for local level.
- **What monitoring system has been formulated to assess and evaluate the impact of the NAP?** Has it been adopted? There is still no specific system, but there are other existing systems on monitoring and assessment of environment pollution, forest fire forecast, disaster and drought prediction systems, etc.

8. REVIEW OF BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS UTILIZED TO MEASURE PROGRESS AND AN ASSESSMENT THEREOF

Box 7: Indicators set up according to Decision 10/COP.5

Questions/Answers

- **Which scientific and technical activities relating to desertification control and drought mitigation have been identified under the NAP?**
 - Construction: Development of surface water reservoirs; Evaluation of water development projects; Surface water development planning; Development, exploitation, protection of groundwater-building of underground dikes; Mobile pumping stations; Improving the effectiveness of the system; Effective watering technology; Recycling water and improving water-keeping systems; Improvement of the capacity of present water reservoirs
 - Non-engineering: Transformation and multiplication plant systems; Saving water; Optimum plant systems; Forest plantation and protection; Drought forecast (Using Sa.I number to evaluate the water shortage or surplus in the study area is effective; Using the link between ENSO and temperature-moisture regime to forecast long-term water shortage or surplus, or drought in the study area; Using the relationship between Sa.I and SST. Meteorology-hydrological stations, meteorology-hydrological forecast centres in different provinces can prepare their own Sa.I number for separate areas. The Sa.I forecast formula will be given to provide relatively reliable data for 5 years as the basis to formulate economic development plans);Formulate drought policies; Water distribution improvement during the drought period (*With first degree of drought (slight drought)*):When the water in the reservoirs reduced by 10% compared to the designed level, the water supply for agriculture will be reduced; *With the second degree of drought (medium drought)*):When the water reservoirs reduced by 10-25%, the water supply will be reduced significantly. Water supply on 3rd and 4th irrigation systems will follow a rotating basis. This will increase the water usage coefficient; *With third degree of drought (serious drought)*: When the water reservoirs reduced beyond 25% of the designed level, the water supply will be on the rotating basis for all major irrigation systems, and the volume of water will be reduced for each irrigation period. Depending on the specific situation, the volume of water for hydropower stations may be reduced in

order to increase water supply for agriculture; *With very serious drought*: Serious drought takes place when the water supplied reduced lower than 40% of designed level. At this stage, water supply for tourism and service need to be stopped. The water supply for agriculture is also needed to be reduced, using above strategies).

- ***Have the scientific and technical desertification control activities been considered with a view to determining their conformity with the principles of the Convention? If so, how and by whom was this done?*** Yes. DOF took careful review of all current measures and made table to compare and found that the country activities were consistent with the principles of UNCCD. In the future STAG will continue to monitor the work.
 - ***What proposals have been made to integrate the scientific and technical community into the NAP process?*** STAG members consisted experts in relevant sectors. The multi-disciplinary character of STAG ensured the scientific and technical community full participation in NAP development, revision and implementation of NAP.
 - ***What arrangements have been made to adapt the scientific and technical activities under way to the NAP process?*** NCB with the support of STAG
 - ***Have the scientific and technical desertification control activities specifically recommended in the NAP been implemented, what progress have they made and what are their results and impact?*** It is assessed as very good results in sand dune fixation, species selection for dry and decertified area re-greening, micro irrigation systems development, agro-forestry models development, etc..
 - ***What consultation procedures have been implemented with the scientific and technical community?*** STAG regular meetings, field visits, review of lessons learnt in priority areas.
 - ***What mechanism has been set in place to facilitate consultation?*** UNCCD Office sent relevant documents to related stakeholders for written comments.
-
- ***What lessons have been drawn from implementing the recommendations of the CST, in particular in respect of the following:***
 - ***Benchmarks and indicators:*** The Benchmarks and Indicators system of the country on socio-economics, population, climate is almost adequate, which is and to be updated in National Statistics annually. However, the indicators related to natural resource management still have not been updated regularly due to the shortage of funding. The indicators related to affected areas, loss by desertification could not be updated fully and annually. The indicators related to the drought are also updated but only seasonally not fully assessed as the whole impacts in systematic way.
 - ***Traditional knowledge:*** There are a number of traditional knowledge. However, the compilation of experiences, the scientific analysis and assessment have not yet been done and there is still no nation-wide plan for sharing and extension of the knowledge.
 - ***Early warning systems:*** There are early warning systems on drought, flood, storms, forest fires. However, due to the lack of advanced facility, the information sometimes is not accurate, in some areas there is even no such system.
 - ***Training and field studies to identify pilot sites?*** The selection of pilot sites only based on current data base and several field surveys. There is still no training on this issue.
 - ***What use has been made of experts from the roster of independent experts drawn up by the secretariat?*** There is still no visit of the experts to Vietnam.

9. UNCCD COUNTRY PROFILE

VIETNAM

This UNCCD country profile has been provided by: Statistics General Department, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MONRE) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)

Name of focal point institution/ministry/office: Department of Forestry, MARD

Date : 20 May 2006

Mailing address: B9, 2 Ngoc Ha, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam

Telephone : 84 4 8438792/ 84 4 7332263 Telefax : 84 4 8438793/ 84 4 7223842

E-mail : unccd-office@netnam.vn

Biophysical indicators relating to desertification and drought

9.1. Climate

9.1.1. Index of aridity: $K = 0.3-1.0$

9.1.2. Normal rainfall: 500-2500 mm/year, unevenly distributed. The lowest rainfall is in South Central Coastal Region.

9.1.3. Rainfall standard deviation: no record

Table 11: Recorded index of aridity in different regions

Region	No. of stations	K<1		K>= 1		K>=2		K>=5	
		No. of months	Rate	No. of months	Rate	No. of months	Rate	No. of months	Rate
1. North-west	17	121	59,3	83	40,7	52	25,5	5	2,5
2. North-East	38	296	64,9	160	35,1	69	15,1	3	0,6
3. Hong river Delta	30	222	61,7	138	38,3	35	23,6	7	1,0
4. North-Central region	28	221	65,8	115	34,3	36	10,7	2	0,9
5. South-Central Region	12	69	47,9	75	52,1	44	30,6	8	5,0
6. Central Highland	12	30	55,6	64	44,4	34	23,6	30	20,8
7. South-east and South-west	25	197	65,7	103	34,3	91	30,3	54	18,9
Total	162	1206	62,0	738	38,0	411	21,1	109	5,6

9.2. Vegetation and land use

9.2.1. NDVI (normalized difference vegetation index): no record

9.2.2. Vegetation cover (% of total land area): 36.7%

9.2.3. Land use (percent of total land): 73%

Table 12: Land use status

Land use	1990 – 1999 (ha)	2000 – 2003 (ha)	2004 (ha)	Change (ha)
Arable crop land	9,307,800	9,367,300	9,531,00	164,500
Pasture	37,00	35,800	42,100	6,300
Forest and woodland	11,575,400	12,051,000	12,402,200	351,200
Other land	1,976,000	2,067,000	2,130,000	63,000
Total	22,896,800	23,521,100	24,106,100	585,000

Land use map²

9.3. Water resources

9.3.1. Fresh water availability (million m³): 843,000

9.3.2. Fresh water resources per capita (m³): 4,700

9.3.3. Agricultural water use (million m³): 66,040 for 1 million ha of vegetables and 7.61 million ha of rice

9.3.4. Industrial water use (million m³): 4,280 , of which 3,070 is for industry

9.4. Energy

Consumption

9.4.1. Energy use per capita (kg oil equivalent): 0.9 tank /person/year, of which oil consumption consists of 44.2%, electricity 24.2 %, coal 22.2 %, biogas 9.5% of the total consumption

9.4.2. Agricultural energy use per hectare (millions of BTU): 0.086

Production

9.4.3. Energy from renewables excluding combustible renewables and waste (% of total supply): 1,565,000 tons, equivalent to 0.02%
Renewables - Consumption by sector: no record

9.4.4. Industry (% of total renewable consumption): no record

9.4.5. Residential (% of total renewable consumption): no record

9.4.6. Agriculture (% of total renewable consumption): no record

9.5. Types of land degradation

Table 13: Land degradation types

Type of degradation	2000 - 2005	
	million ha	% of total area
Unused bare land (unused plain land and upland)	7.40	79.6%
Sand moving coastal areas	0.46	5.0%
Laterized land	0.89	9.6%
Land affected by land slide and erosion	0.18	1.9
Land affected by salination, acidulation	0.07	0.7
Land affected by seasonal drought or permanent drought	0.30	3.2
Total degraded area	9.30	100,00

² Land use map (See Annex)

9.6. Rehabilitation

Table 14: Land rehabilitation

Land under rehabilitation	1990 - 1999	2000 - 2003
Rehabilitation of degraded crop land (km ²)		170,800
- Irrigated	No record	55,800
- With rain		115,000
Rehabilitation of degraded upland (km ²)	52,700	63,000
Rehabilitation of degraded forest (km ²)	No record	351,200
Total area (km²)		585,000

9.7. People and economy

9.7.1. Population (total): 82,032,300 people (end of year 2004)

! Population: urban (percent of total): 26.32%

! Population: rural (percent of total): 73.68 %

9.7.2. Population growth (annual %): 1.7 %

9.7.3. Life expectancy (years): 69

9.7.4. Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births): 30/1000

9.7.5. GDP (current US\$): 21,198 million

9.7.6. GNI per capita (current US\$): 410

9.7.7. National poverty rate (% of population): 30%

9.7.8. Crop production (metric tons): 37,452,300 (corn, rice), 1,592,100 (sweet potato), 5,228,500 (cassava), 17,330,300 (short-term industry tree species – coffee, tea, etc.) and 2,169,700 (long-term industry tree species)

9.7.9. Livestock production (metric tons): 2834900 (buffalos), 4397300 (cows), 24879100 (pigs), 112500 (horses), 780300 (sheep), 254300000 (chicken, ducks, etc.).

9.8. Human development

9.8.1. Primary education completion rate (% age group): 80 %

9.8.2. Number of women in rural development (total number): 31,000,000

9.8.3. Unemployment (% of total): 5.6 %

9.8.4. Youth unemployment rate (age 15-24): 7.0 %

9.8.5. Illiteracy total (% age 15 and above): 684161 people

9.8.6. Illiteracy male (% age 15 and above): 3.0 %

9.8.7. Illiteracy female (% age 15 and above): 5.7 %

9.8.8. HDI: 0.704 , at position 108/177.

9.9. Science and technology

Number of scientific institutions engaged in desertification-related work (total number): 8

9.10. Please specify the data sources: Statistics General Department, MONRE and MARD.

Annex 1: LAND USE MAP OF VIETNAM IN 2004

