



Socio-economic profile

Viet Nam is the easternmost country on the Indochina peninsula in South-East Asia, bordering the Gulf of Thailand, Gulf of Tonkin, and South China Sea, as well as China, Lao PDR, and Cambodia.

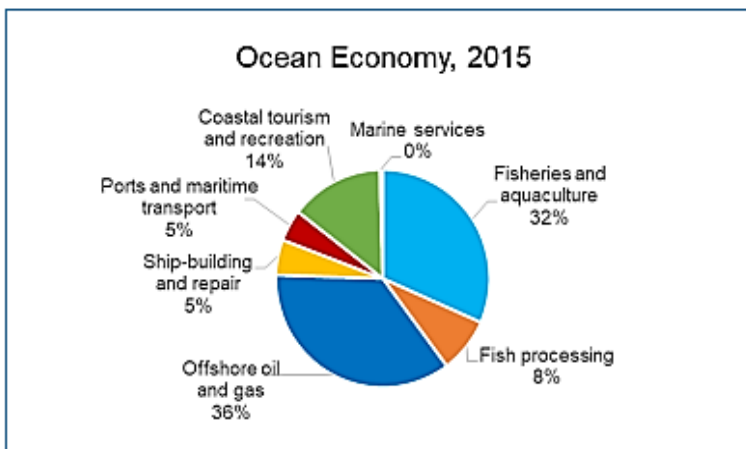
The country has a surface area of 331,210 sq. km. The 2018 population reached 94.7 million, which was an increase of 1.06% from 2017. Thirty-five point seven percent of the population of Viet Nam lived in urban areas in 2018.ⁱ

Viet Nam has transformed its economy from one of the poorest in the world, with per capita income around US\$100, to lower middle income status with per capita income of around US\$2,170 by the end of 2017. The economic growth rate in Viet Nam in 2018 reached 7.08% compared to that in 2017. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices reached 5,542.3 trillion VND in 2018. GDP per capita was estimated at 58.5 million VND in 2018, equivalent to US\$2,590. In 2018, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector accounted for 14.68% of GDP; the industry and construction sector made up 34.23%; the service sector comprised 41.12%; and the taxes less subsidies on production represented 9.97%.ⁱⁱ

Coastal and marine ecosystem and economy

Viet Nam has more than 3,000 islands. Excluding these islands, the country has a coastline of 3,444 km, extending through the territories of 24 provinces and cities, which include 127 urban and rural districts, 21 towns and six cities (Ha Long, Vinh, Hue, Quy Nhon, Nha Trang, Vung Tau). Ha Long Bay is the world natural heritage site and Cat Ba is a world biosphere reserve. Approximately 21% of the total population lives in the North and Central coastal areas. The coastal population of Viet Nam has increased by over 25% in the last 25 years due to internal migration and population growth. In addition, people are increasingly using coastal areas for leisure and recreation, with a significant growth of the coastal tourism industry. More than 70% of leisure and tourist destinations in Viet Nam are located in coastal areas, attracting annually 80% of total tourist numbers.ⁱⁱⁱ

Viet Nam owns plentiful and diverse marine resources providing the development of sea-based economy in multiple sectors, such as the oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, and sea transport. All contribute significantly towards the livelihoods for the coastal population, but also contribute 30.19% to the national GDP in 2017. The 17 coastal economic zones generated US\$14.3 billion in revenue in 2017.^{iv}



Fisheries and aquaculture^v

Contributed 32% of the ocean economy in 2015

Coastal and marine tourism

Contributed 14% of the ocean economy

Oil and gas

Contributed 16.4% of state budget in 2007-2014

Viet Nam's coastal zone and unique marine ecosystem is vulnerable to flooding and erosion, and impacted by pollution – including the discharge of sewage, solid waste, and oil spills. Approximately 70–80% of marine waste originates from inland when factories, factories, industrial zones and residential areas discharge wastewater and solid waste without treating the rivers in coastal plains – or discharge directly to the sea.

Marine plastic pollution is apparent in coastal areas and seas. Viet Nam is the fourth-largest contributor to marine plastic pollution globally. One typical example of marine plastic pollution is from a famous coastal tourism area – Ha Long Bay. Ha Long Bay is located 165 km. from Vietnam's capital city, Hanoi. The bay encompasses three coastal wards and is a focal point for marine tourism, including transportation through waterways. Significant amounts of marine debris comes from industry, tourism, and fishing. At high tide, coastal garbage of Ha Long Bay beach is swept away and drifts to small islands. The main types of waste along the Ha Long coast and bay include polystyrene foam. and plastic from tourism and fishing boats.

Marine debris survey and clean-up events in Ha Long Bay were co-organized in June 2016 and January 2017, with 220 volunteers and stakeholders participating, including local governments, distinguished guests (US Embassy in Vietnam, USAID), Ha Long Bay Management Board, the Youth Union, and the mass media.

The clean-up generated 1,570 kg of marine debris from 2.2 km coastline. The most common marine litter items collected during coastal clean-up events were: Polystyrene (45.30%), plastic grocery bags (17.78%), plastic beverage bottles (9.40%), rubber sandals and shoes (2.96%), plastic bottle caps (2.03%), and others (22.53%).^{vi}

Plastics and plastic packaging

Production and usage

According to the Viet Nam Plastics Association (VPA), the plastics industry produced 8.89 million tonnes of products in 2019 (which is 7.2% increase from 2018) and earned US\$17.58 billion in total revenue. Viet Nam's plastics industry has around 2,000 businesses, and 83% are located in the Ho Chi Minh City.

The industry also recorded a 12.2% increase in export value to more than US\$3.4 billion in 2019. Japan and the European Union are the two biggest export market of Viet Nam's plastic products.^{vii}

'Vietnam Plastics Market – Growth, Trends And Forecast (2019 – 2023)'^{viii} estimates that Viet Nam plastics market is expected to register a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.63% during the forecast period, 2018 to 2023. Another market research report on the recycled plastic industry in Viet Nam reported that the Vietnam recycled plastics market reached a volume of 182,600 tonnes in 2018. The recycled plastic market is expected to reach a volume of 305,600 Tons by 2024, exhibiting a CAGR of 8.7% during 2019–2024.^{ix}

According to the VPA, the plastic industry is divided into four segments; packaging, consumer, construction and technical segment. In 2019, packaging accounted for the largest share in the industry's value structure with 35%, followed by construction plastics 24%, household products 22% and technical products 19%.^x

The Stoxplus Industry Review of the Viet Nam Plastics Packaging Market 2018^{xi} revealed the plastic packaging constituted the largest segment with total size of over US\$5 billion in 2017, registering 2012–2017 CAGR of 10.9%.

In particular:

- **Flexible packaging:** Flexible packaging includes mono-layered (dominated by medium and small family businesses, mostly used for low value products) and multi-layered segments (used in food & beverage packaging). Food sector and non-food sectors registered 2012–2017 CAGR of 13.4% in average, boosting the high demand for flexible packaging. Highlighted sectors include Instant coffee (2012–2017 CAGR of 16.5%), Skincare (15.1%) and Laundry care (13.0%).
- **Rigid packaging:** Rigid packaging includes PET/ non PET (HDPE, LDPE) bottles, preforms, trays and tubes used for packaging. PET sector outperformed the market with registered CAGR of 15.9% driven by beverage sector. Notably, ready-to-drink tea is the largest PET packaging end-user segment, accounting for around 30% domestic demand.

There are 14 key players dominating the multi-layered flexible packaging market in Viet Nam, accounting for approximately 42% of the market share. There are approximately over 80 PET independent manufacturers in Vietnam, of which top 10 companies occupied approximately 60% of total market share.

In terms of plastic consumption, each Vietnamese consumes approximately 45 kilograms of plastic per year. Plastic bags are one of the most common forms of plastic disposed. Approximately 25,000 metric tons of plastic bags are consumed in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on a monthly basis. Similarly, Viet Nam's dairy industry uses up to eight billion plastic straws annually.^{xii} Viet Nam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) has estimated the number of plastic bags used in the country total over 30 billion bags per year, and only roughly 17% of the bags are regularly reused, with rest disposed after single-use.^{xiii}

Solid waste management

In 2015, Viet Nam generated 19 million tonnes of domestic waste, amounting to per capita waste generation of 1.20 kg/person/day. On an average 55% of the MSW in the country is organic waste, followed by plastic (10%), metal (6%), paper (5%), rubber (4%) and glass (3%), others 17%. Viet Nam has diverse MSW collection rates of around 85–90% in urban areas and 40–55% in rural areas.

In urban districts, citizens place their waste out on the open gutters of the street in front of their dwelling for pick up by handcarts by the Urban Environment Company (URENCO) collectors. It is then transferred to the nearest designated transfer station where a waste truck will take the waste to the nearest dumpsite or landfill. In places where there are no transfer points, residents are provided with a communal container and are responsible for disposing their waste into the containers, which are then transported by trucks to the dumpsite. Almost all municipal waste is taken to dumpsites / landfills. About 56% of the MSW is disposed of while 44% is diverted for treatment.

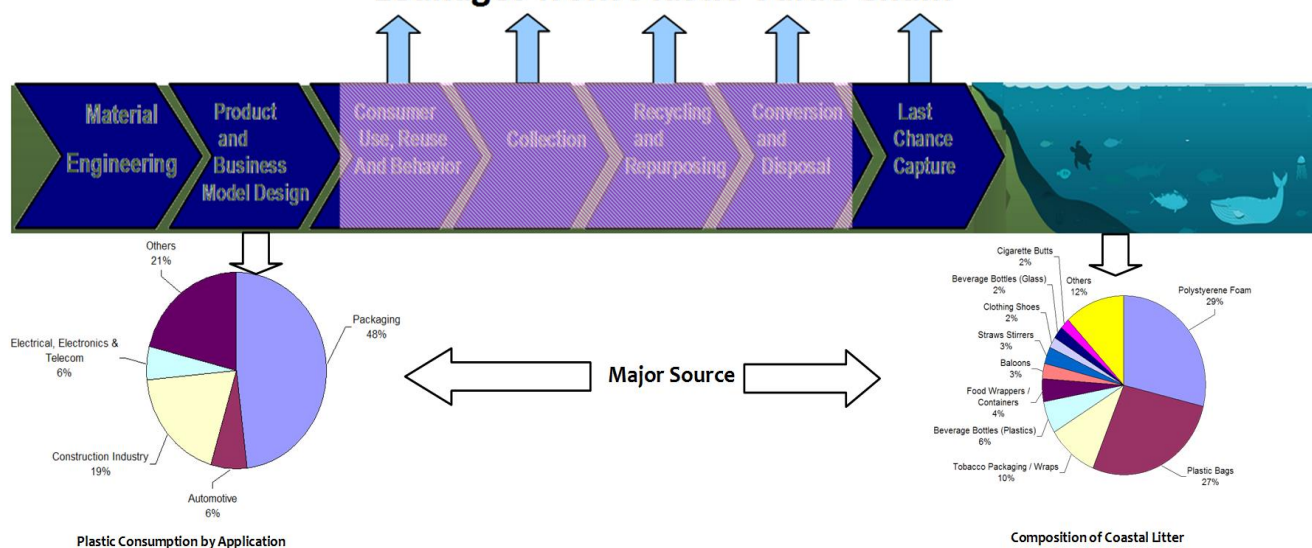
In 2019, Viet Nam discarded some 25 million tonnes of domestic solid waste, of which 70% was buried at landfills and 30% was incinerated or made into compost.

According to MONRE, Vietnamese households discharge 80,000 metric tonnes of waste into the environment each day. Of that amount, plastic waste makes up 3–5%, equivalent to 2,400–4,000 metric tonnes/day, and only 20% of the plastic waste is recycled. There are over 660 operating landfills (203 sanitary landfills) at various scales in Viet Nam. Many landfills are located right next to dykes, near surface water. Waste is often thrown into rivers and canals directly. Mismanaged municipal plastic waste is the major land-based source of marine plastic litter.

Table 1: International Coastal Cleanup efforts and marine litter items (Number) found in Viet Nam^{xv}

Country / location						People	KG	KM of coast	Total items collected
Viet Nam						859	2,398	10.3	17,002
Cigarette butts	Food wrappers (candy etc.)	Straws stirrers	Plastic forks Knives spoons	Plastic beverage bottles	Plastic bottle caps	Plastic grocery bags	Other plastic bags	Plastic lids	Plastic cups plates
567	1,342	1,829	258	1,129	846	1,339	620	280	624

Leakages from Plastic Value Chain



Marine litter status

Viet Nam is the fourth largest contributor to marine plastic pollution globally, accounting for 0.28 – 0.73 million tonnes per year of marine plastic leakage:^{xiv} Increased domestic consumption coupled with higher growth of manufacturing and service sector has led to higher waste generation in Viet Nam. Due to uncollected waste and the current waste collection, transportation and disposal practices, there is extensive leakage of plastic waste in water and waste water ultimately leading to marine litter and plastic pollution. An evidence of this pollution is given in beach clean-up efforts described in Table 1.

In February–December 2019, IUCN in partnership with GreenHub conducted beach monitoring activities in 132 transects (11 locations) including Bai Tu Long, Cat Ba, Bach Long Vi, Con Co, Cu Lao Cham, Ly Son, Hon Cau, Nui Chua, Nha Trang, Phu Quoc and Con Dao. Forty-four debris categories were collected from beaches. Plastic items were the most numerous debris item (92% of the total number – 61% in weight): Styrofoam (31.37%), fishing net – rope (15.49%), container/foam (8.28%), plastic bags (6.93%) and beverage bottle (3.51%).^{xvi}

Action on marine litter: Key stakeholders Government

Viet Nam Environment Administration (VEA) under Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) (Department of Environment) is responsible for planning, formulating strategies, legislation and policy nationally and provincially. It covers guidelines and environmental standards for MSW, industrial, hazardous waste and emerging waste stream including plastic. Other line ministries responsible for waste management activities are: The Ministry of Construction (MOC); development of master plans, standards for waste treatment facilities and management of construction and demolition waste: The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD; agricultural and rural waste: The Ministry of Health (MOH); waste from hospitals and medical establishments and Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT): industrial waste. Ministry of Construction is responsible for formulating policy and legislation, planning and construction of solid waste facilities and developing and managing plans for the construction of waste related infrastructure including plastic waste both nationally and provincially. Provincial / Municipal People Committees (PPC) are responsible for overseeing environmental management within its jurisdiction and planning, urban governance and fee collection.

The Department of International Cooperation is responsible for collaboration on international programs on science and technology. URENCO or CITENCO is the main state-owned company in charge of waste collection, maintaining hygiene in public places, public lighting, planting and maintenance of roadside trees, and transport, and treatment in the province or city.

Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI) under Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) is the government-appointed institution to conduct the function of integrated and unified state management for coasts, seas and islands in Viet Nam. The Deputy Director General of VASI serves focal point for the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA). VASI was established under the Government's Decree No. 25/2008 / ND-CP of March 4, 2008. VASI performs the function of advising and assisting the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment in integrated management of natural resources and protection of the marine environment.

Private sector

Viet Nam encourages private sector and foreign investments based on amended Constitution in 1992. Viet Nam largely supports private investment in the sector: Decree No. 59/2007/NĐ-CP issued by the Government in 2007 related to solid waste management enables private companies to enter this sector. In Ho Chi Minh City, 50% of MSW is collected by private companies, while in Hanoi the proportion is 20% (17 private companies and 7 public entities).

Viet Nam also commenced cooperation between State agencies and enterprises to tackle plastic pollution problems. The MONRE has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with three enterprises on building public-private collaboration towards the circular economy in plastic waste management in Ha Noi on 19 February 2020. Dow Chemical Vietnam LLC, SCG Group and Unilever Vietnam International Co. Ltd signed the MoU. The MoU states shared goals, vision and responsibilities for promoting the circular economy in Viet Nam between MONRE and businesses to build a public-private partnership (PPP) model to promote efficient sorting and recycling of waste. MONRE and the businesses will set up a joint working group to implement specific plans on four components: raising public awareness about minimizing plastic waste and sorting waste at the source; supporting sorting waste at source and recycling plastic waste; enhancing technology innovation and solutions for plastic waste recycling; and developing dialogue and policies to support the circular economy in plastic waste management in Viet Nam.^{xvii}

Besides formal private sector, an informal sector is also very dominant in waste management (collection, transportation and recycling) including plastic waste management in the country. In urban areas, collection and transportation of domestic waste is mainly run by private companies and cooperatives (formed by the informal waste picker community).

Policy frameworks on MSW and marine litter

Global frameworks on marine litter

Viet Nam is party to a number of conventions, treaties and regulations related to coastal and marine environment protection.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Viet Nam has been the State Party of UNCLOS since the Resolution of the ratification of the National Assembly on 23 June 1994. Part XII of UNCLOS deals with 'Protection and preservation of the marine environment' and requires states

to take all measures necessary to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from any source. These measures aim to minimize to the fullest possible extent the release of toxic, harmful or noxious substances.

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

Viet Nam has ratified the Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) in 1997 (date of entry into force or succession from 19 March 2015). MARPOL is the key international agreement to prevent marine environment pollution caused by ships' operational and unintended activities. Annex V, enforced since 31 December 1988, specifically addresses the issue of plastic dumping from ships: 'The disposal into the sea of all plastics, including but not limited to synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, plastic garbage bags and incinerator ashes from plastic products which may contain toxic or heavy metal residues, is prohibited'. Besides prohibition of plastic waste disposal, Regulation 3 number 2 of the Convention also calls for stricter regulations on mixed garbage discharge.

Basel Convention on the Control of transboundary Movements of hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

In 1995, Viet Nam acceded to the Basel Convention. The Basel Convention was designed to eliminate the risks from transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes. Article 6 Number 1 of the Convention states: 'The State of export shall not allow the generator or exporter to commence the transboundary movement until it has received written confirmation that: (a) the notifier has received the written consent of the State of import; and (b) the notifier has received from the State of import confirmation of the existence of a contract between the exporter and the disposer specifying environmentally sound management of the wastes in question'. In its initial version, the Convention covered several categories of waste, including wastes collected from households, but did not include the movement of solid plastic waste (including scrap plastic of non-halogenated polymers and co-polymers, cured waste resins or condensation products, and fluorinated polymer wastes) as listed in B3010 of Annex IX. Viet Nam has not adopted the Basel Convention Ban Amendment yet.

Regional frameworks on marine litter

Viet Nam as the ASEAN member State has adopted "the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region" and "the Framework of Action on Marine Debris" in 2019.

The ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris

The Framework of Action on Marine Debris The Framework was developed to act on the recommendations from the ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN Region in Phuket in November 2017, taking into account the East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Combating Marine Plastic Debris in Bali in September 2017. The Framework comprises four (4) priority areas namely: (i) Policy Support and Planning; (ii) Research, Innovation, and Capacity Building; (iii) Public Awareness, Education, and Outreach; and (iv) Private Sector Engagement. Each priority area consists of actions and suggested activities for further collaboration in ASEAN region and among ASEAN and its partners in combating marine debris.

Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region

ASEAN ratified the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris at the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, Thailand on 22 June 2019.

The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

COBSEA brings together nine countries – Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Viet Nam in development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of the region, for the health and wellbeing of present and future generations. At the 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of the COBSEA in June 2019, participating countries adopted the revised Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter to guide action on marine litter in the East Asian Seas region. The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter will thereby directly support COBSEA participating countries to deliver target 14.1 of Sustainable Development Goal 14, to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution, and also contribute to the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets.

National policy frameworks on municipal (plastic) waste management

Viet Nam has a basic Act on Environment “Law on Environmental Protection 2014” as well as regulations on MSW, water and hazardous waste management. Viet Nam has the following national solid waste management strategies in place to manage municipal solid waste:

- Decision 2149/2009/QĐ-TTg dated 17th December 2009 of the Prime Minister on ratifying the National Strategy for integrated management of solid waste to 2015, with a vision to 2050
- Decision 1216/2012/QĐ-TTg dated 05/9/2012 of the Prime Minister on ratifying the National Strategy on Environmental Protection to 2020, with a vision to 2030
- Decision No. 166/QĐ-TTg dated 21/01/2014 of the Prime Minister on issuing the Plan for implementation of the National Strategy on Environmental Protection up to 2020 with a vision to 2030
- Decision No. 491/QĐ-TTg dated 07/5/2018 of the Prime Minister approving the adjustment of the national strategy on integrated solid waste management to 2025, vision to 2050: 85% of MSW will be recycled, reused, recovered for use as an energy source or to produce organic fertilizer (by 2020), and 90% of MSW will be recycled, reused, recovered for use as an energy source or to produce organic fertilizer (by 2025).

The Adjustment of the “National Strategy on Integrated Solid Waste Management to 2025, vision to 2050 with specific objectives aims at:

- Minimizing the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags, including the target of using 100% environmentally-friendly plastic bags at trade centres, supermarkets, markets, retail stores, and grocery stores by 2025.
- Mandated “Restricting and moving towards ending the import, production and supply of non-environmentally friendly plastic bags from 2026 at the trade centres, supermarkets, markets, retail stores, grocery stores, and consumer goods for domestic use

The Governmental Decree No. 25/2009/ND-CP on Integrated Marine Resources Management and Environmental Protection dated 6 March 2009 (in force in May 2009) is first integrated governance policy in the field of coast, sea and island management in Viet Nam. Viet Nam has also drafted the strategy for integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) up to 2020 and vision toward 2030 (Decision No. 2295/QĐ-TTg dated December 17th, 2014 of the Prime Minister). The strategy will expand this management method from 14 coastal provinces in 158 Programs (Integrated Coastal Management Program up to 2010 with vision to 2020 for North Central and Coastal Central regions) to 28 coastal

provinces and cities. The contents of strategy include: the build-up and promulgation of policies and laws on ICZM; sustainable exploitation and utilization of natural resources; preservation of the nature and ecological diversification; preservation and control against pollution, damage minimization due to natural calamities, and confrontation with climate changes and sea level rise; and training for ICZM management capacity at the national and provincial levels.

Viet Nam has made strong political commitments and has carried out practical activities to manage and reduce plastic waste, including ocean plastic waste. Resolution No. 36-NQ /TW of October 22, 2018 of the Eighth Conference of the Party Central Committee XII on the strategy for sustainable development of Viet Nam's marine economy to 2030, with a vision to 2045, set the goal of “Preventing, controlling, and significantly reducing pollution of the marine environment; becoming a regional leader in minimizing ocean plastic waste.”

National policy frameworks on marine litter

Viet Nam recently drafted the National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030. The Action Plan aims to:

- By 2025, reduce marine plastic litter by 50%; collect 50% of abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear; prevent the use of single-use plastics and non-biodegradable plastic bags in 80% of coastal tourism areas, tourist attractions, tourist accommodations, and other coastal tourism services; ensure nationwide beach cleanup campaigns are launched at least twice a year; and strive for 80% of marine protected areas to be free of plastic litter, and
- By 2030, reduce marine plastic litter by 75%; collect 100% of abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear, and put an end to disposal of fishing gear in the sea; prevent the use of single-use plastics and non-biodegradable plastic bags in 100% of coastal tourism areas, tourist attractions, tourist accommodations, and other seaside tourism services; and strive for 100% of marine protected areas to be free of plastic litter.

Tasks and solutions identified in the Action Plan include:

1. Education and change to behavior pertaining to plastics and marine plastic litter
2. Collection, classification, storage, transfer and processing of plastic waste from coastal and ocean-based activities
3. Control of plastic litter at source
4. International cooperation, scientific research, application, development and transfer of marine plastic litter processing technologies
5. Consistent and effective investigation, survey, review, research and formulation of mechanisms for marine plastic litter management

Provincial waste management spending in Viet Nam is often met by the Central and local State budget. Almost 90% of the budget is spent for waste collection and transportation, very little is left for waste treatment and disposal.

Cities also collect a ‘sanitary’ fee for waste management service delivery from waste generators. The fee ranges around 21,000 VND (US\$0.9) per household per month in urban areas and US\$ #0.7 in rural areas. The waste fee is equivalent to 0.5% of the average household expenditure. The waste fee covers less than 60% of the total waste management costs (in some municipalities it is enough to cover only 20–30% of the total operation cost).

Established in 2002, the Viet Nam Environment Protection Fund (VEPF) is one of the important investment sources that provides soft loans, interest rate support, funding and co-funding, price subsidies for environment protection products, entrusted loans for waste treatment, wastewater treatment facilities. The Law on Environmental Protection 2005 outlines the incentives for environmental projects but there is no specific guidance on how to do this. Prime Minister's Decision No. 71/2010/QĐ-TTg dated 9 November 2010 on promulgating the Regulation on pilot investment in the public private partnership form, waste treatment plants are one of nine sectors prioritized for PPP. Circular No 32/2015/TT-BCT on project development and Standardized Power Purchase Agreement for power generation projects using solid wastes.

Economic instruments related to municipal waste include incentives such as subsidies, low-interest finance, tax exemption, and disincentives like fees, charges/fines. Some relevant decrees include: Decree No. 174/2007/ND-CP dated 29 November 2007 on Environmental Protection Fee for Solid Waste and Circular No. 39/2008/TT-BTC dated 19 May 2008 of the Ministry of Finance on implementing Decree No. 174/2007/ND-CP.

Viet Nam has formulated an innovative policy including economic and regulatory measures, which directly and/or indirectly help fighting plastic pollution and marine debris: Par. 4, Art. 3 of the Environmental Protection Tax Law (Decree No. 67/2011/ND-CP) imposes tax on nylon bags (plastic bags) (30,000-50,000 VND/kg; 1.3-2.1 US\$/kg). The Decree is currently under review and revision, with the Ministry of Finance proposing to increase the tax on plastic bags from 40,000 to 200,000 VND/kg (US\$8.5 /kg); Circular No. 07/2012/BNMT details the regulation on eco-friendly plastic bags. Up to March 2017, 34 different kinds of plastic bags from 30 companies were approved as eco-friendly bags; Decision No. 582/QĐ-TTg was notified in 2013 to approve the project on enhancing the control of environmental pollution due to the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags by 2020. The Law on Marine Resources and Environment and Islands, which was adopted in 2015, will provide a legal framework for the overall management of marine resources and environment.

The Prime Minister's Decision No. 06/2018/QĐTTg of 2018 is the latest measure to reduce marine pollution. With China putting a restriction on the import of scrap plastics, waste import in Viet Nam has increased significantly (0.25 million tonnes of plastic was imported in 2016 and 0.27 million tonnes in just the first half of 2018). Viet Nam has imposed temporary restrictions on the import of plastic scraps and stopped issuing new licenses for scrap imports.

The Law on Environmental Protection Tax in 2010 stipulates that non-biodegradable plastic bags are one of the product categories subjected to tax. From 1/1/2019, the applicable tax rate is 50,000 VND/kg raised from the previous tax rate of VND 40,000/kg, but plastic bags meeting environmentally friendly packaging criteria do not have to pay this environmental protection tax.

Conclusions

Plastic packaging items are the most commonly sighted garbage items in Viet Nam's waterways and beaches.

Managing and controlling marine plastic debris pollution is a challenge for Viet Nam, but there are also opportunities. The country is working to enhance financial resources and technical capacities for sustainable solid waste management.

Modalities include increasing source segregation of waste, ensuring more adequate waste collection, establishing recycling infrastructure and market for recycled plastics, inviting private sector participation, and applying Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging waste management etc.

To prevent, control and reduce marine environmental pollution significantly, the government of Viet Nam is developing strategies and action plans.

The Government of Viet Nam has joined global efforts to take concrete action to manage and reduce plastic waste. This includes reducing single use plastic, reusing and recycling products, encouraging a circular economy and green growth.

Viet Nam recently drafted the National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030, which aims to reduce marine plastic litter by 50% by 2025 and 75% by 2030, and strive for 100% of marine protected areas to be free of plastic litter.

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