

ISSUE BRIEF

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN VIET NAM CONTRIBUTION TO THE REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE NDC1

OVERVIEW

Viet Nam was ranked among the top ten countries most affected by extreme weather events in terms of direct losses and fatalities between 1996 and 2015. The Vietnamese Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC1) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015 highlighted that 'Pro-active climate change adaptation is a contribution of Viet Nam to the global efforts to address climate change.'

The Government of Viet Nam is currently reviewing and updating the NDC1 which will inform the future development of the NDC2. The review aims to provide information on the country's efforts to date and to highlight the contributions to climate change adaptation and mitigation for the period 2021 – 2030.

Adaptation action is a cornerstone of the updated NDC as well as the formulation of Viet Nam's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Viet Nam, the cost of adaptation to climate change is increasing and is estimated to reach 3-5% of the GDP per year by 2030.
- National resources are not sufficient to bear the cost of adaptation and can cover only 30%.
- Current government priorities include: (i) designing socio-economic development plans that consider climate change scenarios and adaptation needs; (ii) mobilising funds and developing policies that encourage adaptation activities; and (iii) promoting policies/programmes that deliver social, economic, and environmental co-benefits.

KEY STATISTICS¹

- Average temperatures in Viet Nam will increase by 1.8-2.3° C by 2050.
- Projected changes in mean annual rainfall by 2050 range from + 5-20%.
- The number of hot days (more than 35 ° C) is projected to increase from 35-45 per year by 2050.
- Average sea levels are expected to rise by about 18-38 cm above present levels by 2050.

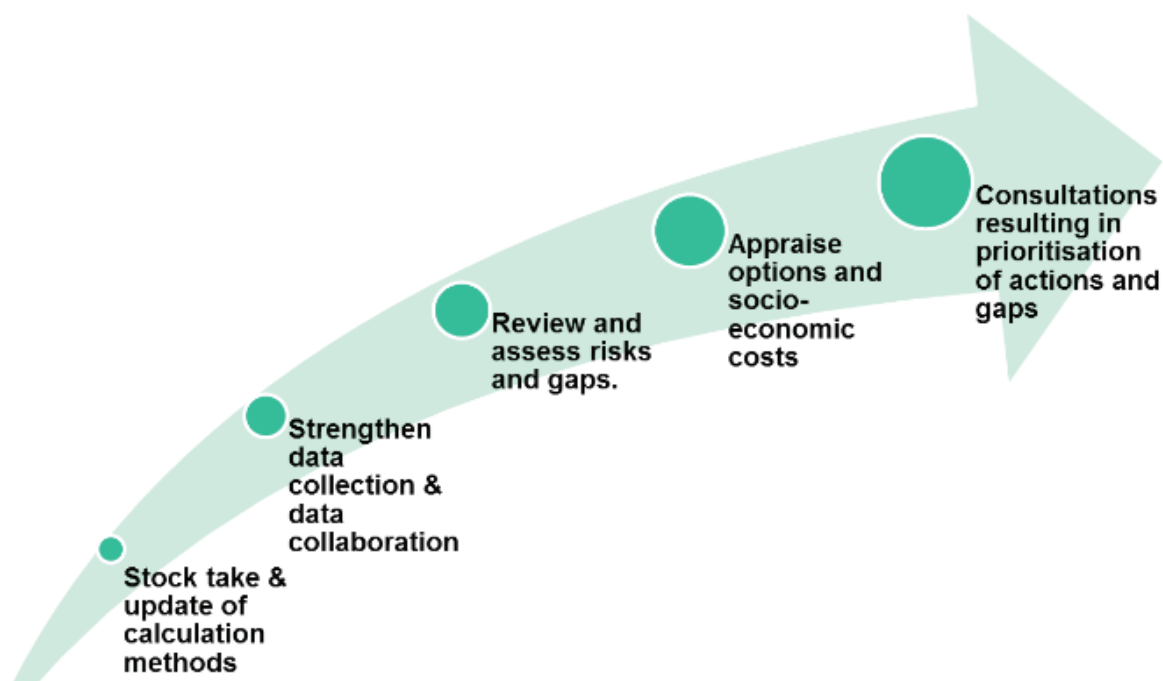
¹ MONRE, 2016: *Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Scenarios for Viet Nam. Modelled using RCP 8.5 with the baseline being the mean value of the (1986-2005) period.*

Definition of Adaptation

The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects (IPCC, 2001A).

METHODOLOGY

The NDC1 review and update follows a 5-step methodology as outlined below:



In updating the NDC, new components have been added. In addition to the existing sectors (Agriculture and Rural Development, Natural Resources), the draft NDC2 now considers the following sectors: Public Health, Urbanisation, Transport, Tourism, and Industry. Mainstreaming adaptation in all sectors of the economy is vital to ensure an integrated response to climate change. The analysis focuses on three regions: the Mekong Delta, the coastal areas, and the mountainous areas.

In agriculture, the extensive stocktaking exercise mapped climate-smart agriculture practices and good practices from provinces and NGOs. Maps of climate change scenarios have also been combined with a vulnerability and exposure index, which is helping to inform the prioritisation of key investments in irrigation infrastructures. Finally, Viet Nam considers stepping up efforts to measure the impacts of extreme climate events and to account and monitor for climate change loss and damage, particularly in agriculture.

INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Agriculture and Rural Development: Draft priorities currently include: (i) ensuring food security and generating livelihoods opportunities; (ii) streamlining and duplicating models of integrated farming, climate smart agriculture, and agroforestry; (iii) restoring and increasing forest and mangrove covers; (iv) transforming the economic models of the Northern delta and the Mekong River delta in response to climate change; and (v) creating flood risk maps and improving early warning systems. As women account for 63% of the agricultural labour force, their role in informing and leading action plan implementation will be key.

Natural Resources: Initial priorities currently include: (i) modernising the meteorological, forecasting, and monitoring systems for weather and extreme events; (ii) developing a system for assessing and monitoring climate change and sea level rise; (iii) protecting water resources and ensuring water security; and (iv) promoting community-based adaptation.

Public Health: The primary draft objective is to build capacity and to strengthen the infrastructure network to respond to climate change-related health risks.

Urbanisation and Transport: The current aims include: (i) designing technical standards and regulations for climate-proof infrastructures; (ii) improving urban planning based on climate change, notably considering sea level rise scenarios; and (iii) promoting the use of low-carbon technologies. The plan also suggests developing eco-tourism and renovating the energy facilities located in the coastal areas.

Synergies and Co-benefits: The aim is to identify climate change actions that can have multiple positive benefits. Initial findings acknowledge that both mitigation and adaptation actions can bring important economic as well as institutional benefits, in the form of promoting technology transfer, skills development, and creating an enabling policy environment for investment.

These recommendations will be used for consultation purposes in the upcoming months through the NDC review and update process.

REFERENCES

Technical report on Climate Change Adaptation, 2018. Dang Quang Thinh and Nguyen Tung Lam.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), 2016. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Scenarios for Viet Nam.



This note is part of a series highlighting the on-going process of the NDC review and update in Viet Nam. It is supported by the UNDP-MONRE Project on Capacity Building for Implementation of National Climate Change Strategy 2014-2018 (CBICS). This initiative received financial support from BMUB through the NDC Support Programme, under the overall framework of the NDC-Partnership.



Currently, the UNDP is working closely with GIZ and other development partners to support Viet Nam in reviewing and updating its NDC. The CBICS Project focuses on five building blocks: Mitigation, Adaptation, Co-benefits, Governance, and Finance and Monitoring Reporting and Verification.