

SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

VIETNAM

28th July 2020



Vietnam Water Partnership

Prepared by:

SDG 6.5.1 focal point: **Nguyen Thi Nguyet**, Institute for Water and Environment (IWE)

Consultation Facilitator: **Pham Thi Dung**

Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1

Executive Summary

The SDG indicator 6.5.1 survey on degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Vietnam was conducted as requested by UN Environment Program. This is the second survey implemented in Vietnam which provide the basis for several on the ground activities aimed at advancing IWRM implementation. The survey process has conducted in Vietnam following steps below:

1. A task force group was established with the participation of senior experts on IWRM from different sectors and stakeholders.
2. The survey questionnaire was discussed and filled out by a number of stakeholders via email, phone calls, social media such as zalo, Facebook, viber.
3. The survey results were incorporated and analysed by the task force group.
4. A final workshop was organized with the participation of relevant stakeholders to discuss and finalize the survey results.

The final workshop was held on 28th July 2020 in Hanoi with the participation of 30 representatives from water resources management agencies, research institutes, universities, professional associations, NGOs and experts.

The workshop was conducted in three sessions including: (1) Opening: participant introduction, Brief global and regional context and IWRM implementation, SDG 6.5.1 - Background and overview; (2) Discussion: This is facilitated by a facilitator with 4 discussion sections following by every individual question: Section 1: Enabling environment; Section 2: Institutions and participation; Section 3: Management Instrument; and Section 4: Financing; (3) Wrap up and closing.

The workshop lasted one day and all questions were discussed and answered consistently. However, some questions have strong agued from participants such as:

- Transboundary cooperation: Only Mekong river establish RBO and its effective performance. Other international rivers have not yet established RBO. And there are different opinions between stakeholders due to lack of information on transboundary cooperation.
- Pollution control: It's improved significantly in some opinions and It's not much improved in some others.

There is big difference in scoring of some questions between baseline survey and this survey. The reasons are missed information at the baseline survey stage.

1. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'

Policies on water resources management have been issued relatively completed. IWRM's term sometime has not been used in the Law but the principles of IWRM have been reflected in almost relevant Laws and legal documents. However, the effective implementation of these policies in reality is needed to be considered and promoted.

For transboundary cooperation: Mekong River Commission has been established for 25 years. Vietnam is an active member. Recently, the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Framework was established. Water is one of the priorities of this cooperation. For other international rivers, the transboundary cooperation is still limited.

2. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation'

Capacity of relevant ministries on water resources management have been improved significantly since the baseline survey. However, there still limited in improvement at provincial. Therefore, monitoring of policy implementation in reality has not as expected.

Private sector participation in water resources development and management has been improved. Mechanisms attracting private participation has been issued. However, it's not reached as its potential due to unclear mechanisms, low awareness and social responsibilities and financial constrained.

Vulnerable group participation is better in natural disaster management and limited in water resources management and watershed management.

3. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'

There is significant improvement in developing policy instruments for water resources monitoring, pollution control and wastewater discharge, etc. However, it's still limited in practice.

4. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'

Low cost revenues in water sector and the revenues is harmonized in the state budget. It has not yet had budget flow separately for water resources management.

In the process of national decentralization, finance sources for water resources development have been mainly decentralized to provincial level. It's difficult to have a comprehensive picture of budget allocation and revenues for water resources management. The score given in this section is consistent based on the understanding of participants.

5. Next steps

The main challenges/barriers to progress of IWRM implementation in Vietnam.

- Most of Vietnam's rivers originate from other countries, water supply remains vulnerable to what happens upstream. Vietnam depends on international rivers, with more than 60 percent of the total average yearly surface water discharge generated outside the country. It's still lack of effective mechanisms for transboundary cooperation among upstream and downstream countries.
- Economic growth is constantly leading to increased water demand for socio-economic sectors while wasteful and inefficient use of water is still common, and groundwater sources are degraded currently and be worsen in the future.
- The rapid urbanization and overload of urban infrastructure as well as the pressure on population growth and the need to improve the quality of life of people requiring more water.
- Pollution is emerging as the greatest water-related threat to the economy.
- The impacts of climate change on water resources is becoming more and more pronounced. Natural disasters such as storms, floods, droughts, saline intrusion, inundation, sea level rise are increasing in both severity and scope of influence.
- Conflicts and disputes in water use may continue to increase; Investment for management and protection of water resources do not meet the requirements; The legal system of water resources management is still inconsistent. The feasibility as well as the implementation have not been highly effective.

The main next steps to overcome challenges and further IWRM implementation.

- Promote transboundary cooperation and develop effective mechanisms among upstream and downstream countries.
- Develop encourage policies and mechanisms for saving water use. Increase the value produced by water in agriculture.
- Give the highest policy priority to reducing the devastating levels of pollution.
- Improve risk management and disaster response and strengthen resilience.
- Review water resources policies and revise properly. Develop mechanisms for effective implementation.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

Annex 4: Photos

Annex 1: List of participants

Workshop participants

No.	Name	Organization	Position	Email address
1	Le Van Minh	Vietnam Water Partnership (VNWP)	Chairman	leminhvnwp@gmail.com
2	Nguyen Thi Phuong Lam	Vietnam Water Partnership (VNWP)	Vice Chairwoman	ntplam@gmail.com
3	Hoang Thai Dai	Institute for Water Development and Partnership (IWDP)	Director	Thaidai2007@gmail.com
4	Do Hong Phan	Senior expert on IWRM		Dohongphan13@gmail.com
5	Do Thi Ngoc Bich	Water Resources Institute	Officer	Bichdam555@gmail.com
6	Dao TrongTu	Center for Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptation (CEWAREC)	Director	Tudaotrong49@yahoo.com.vn
7	Nguyen Thi Yen	Care International in Vietnam	Climate Change adviser	NguyenThi.Yen@care.org.vn
8	Chu Phuong Chi	Water Resources Association		
9	Nguyen TrongQuan	Mekong River Committee	Officer	
10	Hoang Xuan Hong	Large Dam and Water Resources Development Association		hongxhv@yahoo.com.vn
11	Pham Thi Dung	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Officer	Dungpt.khcn@mard.gov.vn
12	Pham Thi Hong Van	National Center for Water Resources Planning and Investigation	Officer	
13	Le Duc Nam	Irrigation and Drainage Association	General Secretariat	naml@gmail.com
14	Nguyen Nguyet Minh	Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE)		Nguahong2002@gmail.com
15	Phan Mai Linh	Department of Water Resources Management, MONRE	Officer	
16	Le Quang Tuan	Vietnam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA)	Deputy Director of Science Technology and International Cooperation Department	Anh Tuan.ihe@gmail.com
17	Nguyen Tuan Anh	Thuyloi University	Chief of Department	Tuananh_ctn@wru.edu.vn
18	Ha Hai Duong	Institute for Water and Environment (IWE)	Chief of Department	hahaiduongcwe@yahoo.com
19	Dao Ngoc Tuan	Institute for Water Resources Planning	Vice Director	Daongoctuan_vqh@yahoo.com
20	Nguyen Thuy Hang	Institute for Water Resources Planning	Officer	lunevn@gmail.com

No.	Name	Organization	Position	Email address
21	Nguyen Thuy Dung	Water Resources Directorate	Officer	
22	Do Manh Hung	Institute for Water Development and Partnership (IWDP)	Science Council	domanhhungpmgcf@gmail.com
23	Hoang Thi Na	Vietnam Academy for Water Resources	Officer	nabakan@gmail.com
24	Ngo Thi Phuong Nhung	Vietnam Academy for Water Resources	Officer	Ngophuongnhung2008@gmail.com
25	Le Bac Huynh	Nature Protection Association	Secretariat	lebachuynh@yahoo.com.vn
26	Nguyen Phuong Lan	Water Resources University	Lecture	
27	Tran Hung	Institute for Water and Environment (IWE)	Vice Chief of Environment Department	Hungtran25282@gmail.com
28	Nguyen Thi Nguyet	Institute for Water and Environment (IWE)	Chief of International Cooperation and Training Department. Country focal point on SDG 6.5.1	nguyetcwe@gmail.com
29	Le Minh Hanh	VNWP Secretariat	Officer	lemhanhvnp@gmail.com
30	Dang Thi Khanh	Institute for Water Development and Partnership (IWDP)	Support staff	Khanh2014ht@gmail.com

Other stakeholders engaged (not in workshop)

No.	Name	Organization/Position	Email address	Summary of inputs
1	To QuangToan	Southern Institute for Water Resources Research	toan_siwrr@yahoo.com	Full survey
2	Mrs. Quach Thi Xuan	Danang Social Science Institute	quachthixuan@gmail.com	Full survey
3	Mr. Trinh Le Nguyen	Director, People and Nature Reconciliation (Panature)	nguyen@nature.org.vn	Full survey
4	Ms. Nguyen Thi Hong Van	Governance Program Officer, Justice Initiative Facilitation Fund Project, Oxfam Vietnam	hongvanre@gmail.com	Full survey
5	Nguyen Cao Don	Water Resources Institute; Focal point overall	ncdonwri@gmail.com	
6	Nguyen Van Thanh	Water Resources Directorate; Focal point 6.4.1 and 6.4.2.	thanhnv@wrd.gov.vn	
7	Ha Thanh Hang	Vietnam Water Supply and Sewerage Association	hangnamkl@yahoo.com	Full survey

Annex 2: Agenda

FINAL WORKSHOP ON IWRM SURVEY IN VIETNAM Hanoi, 28th July 2020

Time	Content	Responsibility
07.30-08.00	Arrival and Registration	VNWP Secretariat
Session 1 : Opening		
08.00-08.45	Welcome and Introduction to the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official opening of the meeting • Brief presentation of the participating stakeholders • Brief global and regional context and IWRM implementation. 	Dr. Le Van Minh, Chairman of VNWP
08.45-09.00	SDG 6.5.1 - Background and overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to SDG 6.5.1 and the survey, 2017 baseline and an overview of the survey 	Ms. Nguyen Thi Nguyet, Country focal point on SDG 6.5.1
09.00-09.15	Teabreak	
Session 1 : Discussion		
09.15-12.00	Facilitated discussions Questions under questions 1 and 2: 'Enabling Environment' and 'Institutions and Participation'	Pham Thi Dung, Facilitator
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-16.00	Facilitated discussions (continued) Questions under sections 3 and 4: 'Management Instruments' and 'Financing'	Pham Thi Dung, Facilitator
Session 3 : Wrap-up and closing		
16.00-17.00	Wrap up and closing of the meeting	Dr. Le Van Minh, Chairman of VNWP

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

The workshop took place due as planned schedule with the participation of almost key stakeholder representatives at the central level including government authorities (Water Resources Department under Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - MoNRE, Irrigation and Drainage Department, Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, etc), river basin management authority (Vietnam National Mekong Committees-VNMC), scientific and technological community (Water and Environment Institute, Vietnam Academy for Water Resources, Water Resources University, Hanoi National University of Education, etc), civil society (Water Resources Association, Large Dam and Water Resources Development Association, Irrigation and Drainage Association, etc), national focal point for SDG 6, international and national NGOs, gender advocacy group and young people.

There were no representatives of private sector, vulnerable/indigenous group and local authorities at the workshop due to current Covid 19 outbreak situation. However, their opinions have been already collected prior the workshop via email/internet and then incorporated in workshop materials for plenary discussion.

Most of participants, especially specialists from civil society organizations are very knowledgeable and expertise in IWRM. Some of them (such as Ms. Do Hong Phan, Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Lam, etc) are well-known as the first people who pave the way and promote the integration of IWRM principles in the Law on Water Resources in Vietnam.

Besides, young participants, especially young professionals from MoNRE, VNMC, research institutions and water resources universities were very active in discussion. They expressed their points of view confidently and strongly argued for their points on initiatives/solutions towards better IWRM implementation.

With the good preparation of the task team, the workshop in general went quite smoothly. The discussion occurred in open way. Some questions were strongly argued before reaching consensus on final score with solid justification (e.g. questions on transboundary cooperation and water pollution control as mentioned in the executive summary above).

To get more comprehensive picture of current and future IWRM in Vietnam, the survey should be extended largely to local and community level, especially the vulnerable/indigenous group who directly impacted by changing in natural/water resources management approach.

Besides, the participation of leaders from key water management authorities, both central and local levels, is also fundamental to the success of IWRM.

More time and resources should be allocated for a better comprehensive survey.

The combination of two approaches "series" and "parallel" should be applied to get optimal results with sound and robust justification of status, barrier/challenges and solutions, way forward for better IWRM in future.

Annex 4: Photos

