

THE PRIME MINISTER

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence - Freedom - Happiness

No. 218/2014/QĐ-TTg

Hanoi, February 7, 2014

DECISION

**Approving the Strategy for management of systems of special-use forests,
marine reserves and internal water reserves of Vietnam through 2020,
with a vision toward 2030 ^(*)**

THE PRIME MINISTER

Pursuant to the December 25, 2001 Law on Organization of the Government;

Pursuant to the November 26, 2003 Fisheries Law;

Pursuant to the December 3, 2004 Law on Forest Protection and Development;

At the proposal of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development,

DECIDES

Article 1. To approve the Strategy for management of systems of special-use forests, marine reserves and internal water reserves of Vietnam through 2020, with a vision toward 2030, with the following major contents:

1. Viewpoints

a/ The systems of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves are national assets, where special values of nature conservation, standard specimens of the eco-system and genetic resources of organisms are stored and preserved, historical and cultural relics and scenic places are protected and scientific research is conducted to serve national interests. The Strategy for management of systems of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves through 2020 shall take over and further develop the achievements of the Strategy for management of the system of nature reserves of Vietnam during 2003-2010;

b/ The Strategy for management of systems of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves through 2020 must conform with the national strategies for socio-economic development and forest protection and development through 2020 and be incorporated in sectoral and local strategies and the national target strategy for response to climate change;

c/ The State encourages various forms of investment to attract organizations,

^(*) *Công Báo Nos 209-210 (18/02/2014)*

individuals, scientists and international organizations and concurrently encourages the participation by communities in the buffer zones of special-use forest zones and protection belts of marine reserves and internal water reserves for sustainable management in accordance with law;

d/ Management of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves must be studied and gradually approach new management methods conformable with international standards and suitable to the actual conditions of Vietnam and each locality. To increase international integration and cooperation regarding special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

2. Targets for 2020

a/ By 2020, the area of the systems of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves will reach 9% of the land area and 0.24% of the sea area of Vietnam;

b/ By 2020, special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves will access new management methods such as co-management and benefit sharing;

c/ Species of wild, endangered, precious and rare animals and plants in special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves will be controlled; precious and rare species in decline and at risk of extinction will be conserved and developed;

d/ International commitments on nature and biodiversity conservation will be effectively implemented through programs and projects on building the capacity of management of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

3. Vision toward 2030

By 2030, the systems of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves will be consolidated and developed for effective management and conservation of important natural eco-systems, species of organisms and genetic resources; and conservation and promotion of values of natural landscapes, historical and cultural relics and scenic places; and become an important factor in the adaptation to climate change and extreme disaster events; promotion of sustainable national socio-economic development; and increase of international integration and cooperation.

4. Tasks

a/ Planning of the systems of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves

- Special-use forest system: In 2014, to complete the master plan on the system of special-use forests nationwide for submission to the Prime Minister for consideration and approval under the Government's Decree No. 117/2010/ND-CP of December 24, 2010, on organization and management of the system of special-use forests.

- Marine reserve system: To continue implementing the master plan on the system

of marine reserves of Vietnam to 2020 under the Prime Minister's Decision No. 742/QĐ-TTg of May 26, 2010.

- Internal water reserve system: To continue implementing the master plan on the system of internal water reserves to 2020 under the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1479/QĐ-TTg of October 13, 2008.

- To adjust the master plan on the systems of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves to ensure uniformity and classification criteria, and to plan the establishment, removal and change of names of, special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves according to the objectives and forms of conservation.

- To complete the determination and placing of boundary markers for zones, functional sub-zones and buffer zones on maps; to place markers/float buoys in the field; to provide public information on boundaries of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves and functional sub-zones and buffer zones.

b/ Creation of mechanisms and policies

- To review and define functions, tasks and powers of management units of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves in accordance with current law.

- To further implement the Prime Minister's policy on pilot benefit sharing in the management, protection and sustainable development of special-use forests under Decision No. 126/2012/QĐ-TTg.

- To elaborate and propose competent authorities to promulgate regulations on scientific research and eco-tourism in special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To promulgate regulations on working positions in public non-business units and elaborate incentive policies for persons working in special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves, covering review and assessment of current working positions and incentive policies for management unit members.

- To promulgate regulations on information management of the database on special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves; to develop a software system for management of the database on special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To supplement, complete and promulgate a system of criteria for classification and establishment of functional sub-zones of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

c/ Protection of wild animals and plants

- To effectively implement the targets and tasks of the overall plan on elephant conservation during 2013-2020 approved by the Prime Minister under Decision No. 763/QĐ-TTg of May 21, 2013.

- To elaborate an action plan on conservation of species of wild, endangered, precious and rare animals and plants, giving special priority to species of precious and rare large mammals living on land and in the sea and inland water areas.

- To effectively prevent invasive alien species and the extinction of species of national and international importance; to increasingly raise the effectiveness of the conservation of endangered, precious and rare species.

d/ Completion of the organizational system

- To consolidate the apparatus managing special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves in accordance with current law; to review and improve the functions, tasks and operational organization of management units and build their capacity; to upgrade necessary infrastructure facilities in direct support of conservation management work; to ensure management plans for all special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To review, evaluate and sufficiently arrange cadres, civil servants and public employees working at the management units of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

dd/ Increase of human resources and finance

- To elaborate a plan to build reserve management capacity under the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1250/QĐ-TTg of July 31, 2013, and the program on training and capacity building for cadres, civil servants and public employees of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves up to 2020, for submission to competent authorities for approval.

- To review and evaluate activities, programs and documents for training the staff of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves; to compile and issue reference documents and professional handbooks for the staff of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves; to develop and issue programs on training and capacity building for cadres, civil servants and public employees suitable to their professional qualifications and tasks.

- To socialize activities of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves in order to mobilize to the utmost resources from the entire society, particularly local communities.

- To elaborate and promulgate policies to attract investment and mobilize non-state resources for conservation activities in special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

e/ Examination and monitoring

- To study changes in the natural eco-system and species of wild, endangered, precious and rare animals and plants; to supplement and update the situation and changes of the entire system in the online database for the management of special-use forest zones,

marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To develop forms of periodical general reports on evaluation and monitoring of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves for implementation.

g/ Nature conservation cooperation

- To increase international cooperation in transboundary conservation and establish reserve areas bordering on neighboring countries on land and at sea; to increase cooperation in science, survey and supervision of species diversity through research cooperation activities in transboundary areas.

- To support research for developing regulations on valuation of economic values of natural eco-systems, ensuring effective use of natural resources for effective management of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To study, assess and mitigate climate change impacts; to incorporate the adaptation to, and mitigation of impacts of, climate change into management plans of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To study and develop programs and projects on transboundary conservation cooperation, to effectively implement international commitments on management of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

h/ Prioritized programs, projects and plans

To approve in principle 8 prioritized national programs, plans and projects in implementation of the strategy (details in the Appendix to this Decision).

5. Solutions for implementation

a/ To complete detailed plans on newly established zones

- To speed up the detailed planning of marine reserves in order to complete by 2015 the planning and make dossiers for establishment and operation of 11 marine reserves for submission to competent authorities; to review and adjust the detailed plan on 5 existing marine reserves, namely Nha Trang Bay, Cu Lao Cham, Phu Quoc, Con Co and Nui Chua.

- To focus on planning internal water reserves in order to complete by 2015 the detailed planning and make dossiers for establishment of 25 internal water reserves for submission to competent authorities for approval; by 2020, to continue planning in detail remaining aquatic areas and reserves; to complete detailed planning and make a dossier for establishment of 15 internal water reserves for submission to competent authorities for approval.

- By 2020, to complete research and survey work and propose planning for development and expansion of the system of special-use forests, marine reserves and internal water reserves; to plan in detail and make dossiers for establishment and operation of a number of new reserves for submission to competent authorities.

b/ Improvement of mechanisms and policies and enhancement of law implementation

- To study, elaborate, amend, supplement and promptly promulgate legal documents on the system of special-use forests, marine reserves and internal water reserves; to assess and identify identical and overlapping issues and work out a roadmap for revision and propose appropriate revision activities to ensure uniformity and effectiveness.

- To develop and promulgate a uniform system of criteria, classification and establishment of functional sub-zones for each form of forest, marine and internal water conservation.

- To evaluate, improve and promulgate general regulations on sharing of benefits from services in the reserves. To ensure review of pilot models between forest owners and local communities by 2015. By 2020, special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves will access new management methods for review and experience sharing as a basis for developing new policies for submission to competent authorities for approval.

- To promulgate regulations guiding patrol and supervision of the effectiveness of law implementation, to take effective measures to prevent deforestation and unlawful exploitation of aquatic species in order to protect special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

c/ Increase of sustainable financial resources

- The State shall ensure resources and budget according to current decentralization for the performance of the Strategy's tasks.

- To encourage and mobilize communities and enterprises to make financial investment in special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves, scientific research and eco-tourism. To prioritize the making of mechanisms to create stable financial sources, to permit the mobilization of different financial sources, especially from forest environment services in the reserves, and contributions of enterprises and involved parties toward socializing revenue sources to successfully implement the Strategy to 2020.

- The State shall invest in infrastructure, train human resources and support international cooperation, survey and scientific research activities. To strive for gradual reduction of dependence on the Government's budget sources and gradual increase of proactiveness in management activities of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

d/ Increase of managerial personnel

- After being established and having their managerial apparatus formed by competent authorities, special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves must be prioritized in receiving sufficient resources, equipment and infrastructure to ensure their effective operation, contributing to successfully implementing the national target strategy

for response to climate change.

- To consolidate and increase professional capacity and law implementation skills of management units of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves; to raise awareness about responsibilities and coordination of local administrations in the management of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

dd/ Promotion of public information work

- To organize the compilation and publication of books on the Strategy and the importance of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves in order to basically change the entire society's awareness about the role of work on special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To develop and widely disseminate a bulletin on special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves of Vietnam to promptly provide and share information on activities of reserves nationwide as well as international lessons on the management of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To increasingly incorporate contents on special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves, eco-tourism and environmental education into curricula, particularly extra-curricular programs, of relevant general education levels.

e/ Promotion of international cooperation

- To promote international cooperation in order to attract funding sources and financial and technical assistance for survey, scientific research and training; to expand scientific exchange and cooperation with other countries, initially neighboring countries to exchange and learn experiences in the management and protection of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To effectively implement international commitments on nature conservation and bio-diversity through activities of cooperation, research and capacity-building training for management units of special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To promote international cooperation in transboundary conservation and establish important transboundary conservation areas; to elaborate a regulation guiding transboundary conservation activities for special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves bordering on other countries on land and at sea; to increase scientific cooperation, survey and supervision of bio-diversity through research cooperation activities in transboundary areas.

- To raise the effectiveness of the implementation of treaties and international commitments by incorporating international contents and regulations into national policies and laws on special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

g/ Increase of examination and monitoring of the strategy implementation

- To develop a set of indicators and regularly implement monitoring activities to properly and promptly evaluate the strategy implementation to 2020 in provinces and centrally run cities and special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To conduct regular and focal examination of the strategy implementation at different degrees. To regularly report examination results to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as a basis for handling and reporting to the Prime Minister on the strategy implementation.

6. Organization of implementation

a/ Ministries and central sectors

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development shall assume the prime responsibility for, and coordinate with related ministries and sectors in, organizing the implementation of the Strategy; perform assigned tasks; supervise the implementation progress, review the strategy implementation in 2020; and regularly report on the situation and results of the strategy implementation to the Prime Minister.

- The Ministry of Planning and Investment shall arrange investment funds for the strategy implementation under annual plans; arrange investment funds for the implementation of prioritized activities of the Strategy; and mobilize international funding sources for the work on special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- The Ministry of Finance shall arrange funds for non-business expenditures for the strategy implementation under annual plans; and guide the allocation, use management and payment and settlement of funds for the implementation of prioritized activities in accordance with the State Budget Law.

- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment shall closely coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and related ministries and sectors in performing the tasks within the scope, responsibilities and powers of the Ministry; and incorporate them in the implementation of the national strategy for bio-diversity to 2020, with a vision toward 2030, without making tasks and activities overlapping.

- Ministries, sectors and central agencies shall, according to their functions and tasks, coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in organizing the effective implementation of this Strategy.

b/ Localities:

- To organize the strategy implementation in their localities under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

- To mobilize and arrange local resources and properly and effectively use centrally allocated resources for the strategy implementation.

- To conduct propaganda and education about special-use forest zones, marine reserves

and internal water reserves; to increase examination and control of the implementation of law on special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves.

- To periodically report on the situation and results of the strategy implementation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for summarization and reporting to the Prime Minister.

Article 2. This Decision takes effect on the date of its signing.

Article 3. Ministers, heads of ministerial-level agencies and government-attached agencies, chairpersons of provincial-level People's Committees and heads of related agencies shall implement this Decision.-

For the Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
 HOANG TRUNG HAI

LIST OF PRIORITIZED PROGRAMS, PLANS AND PROJECTS

(Promulgated together with the Prime Minister's No. 218/QĐ-TTg of February 7, 2014)

No.	Name of prioritized program, plan or project	Time	Agency responsible for elaboration and submission	Coordinating agencies
1	Legal document-making program: Circular on scientific research and investment activities for development of eco-tourism in reserves	2015	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
2	Review and evaluation of the policy on pilot benefit sharing for making new policies for special-use forests, marine reserves and internal water reserves	2015	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

3	Detailed plan on and dossiers for establishment of special-use forest zones, marine reserves or internal water reserves	2016	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
4	Urgent action plan on conservation of endangered, precious and rare species	2017	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
5	Project on increased cooperation in transboundary conservation and establishment of important transboundary reserves	2018	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, provincial-level People's Committees, international organizations
6	Formation of an information management system of the database on special-use forest zones, marine reserves and internal water reserves	2018	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment