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**Global
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CROSS-CUTTING REPORT ON CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS, NEEDS AND PRIORITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RIO CONVENTIONS



Prepared by: Vietnam NCSA Team
Department of Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

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**MEMBERS OF STEERING COMMITTEE, NCSA PROJECT
MANAGEMENT UNIT, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANTS AND PROGRAMME OFFICERS OF VIETNAM NCSA**

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IMPLEMENTATION OF RIO CONVENTIONS**

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Dr. Truong Manh Tien, Director General, Department of Environment, MONRE

Dr. Nguyen Van Tai, Deputy Director General, Department of Environment, MONRE

Mr. Luu Quang Khanh, Deputy Director General, Department of Foreign Economics Relation, MPI

Mr. Nguyen Xuan Bao Tam, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Department, MONRE

Mr. Phung Van Vui, Deputy Director General, Vietnam Environment Protection Agency, MONRE

Ms. Pham Minh Thoa, Deputy Head of Planning Department, Forest Development Department, MARD

NCSA PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT:

Dr. Nguyen Van Tai, National Project Director

Huynh Thi Mai, National Project Coordinator

Phan Thi Ha, Project Assistant

EXPERT GROUP:

Prof. Dr. Vo Khanh Vinh, Dr. Vu Thu Hanh, MA. Hoang Viet Cuong, Mr. Nguyen Huy Thang, Ms. Tine Rossing Feldman.

PROGRAMME OFFICERS:

Ms. Huynh Thi Thu Ba, Programme Officer, UNDP Vietnam

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	Green House Gas
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MOFI	Ministry of Fishery
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biodiversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

INTRODUCTION

Vietnam is a member of the three Rio conventions: (i) United Nation's Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD); (ii) United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and (iii) United Nation's Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD). Besides, Vietnam has approved many other international conventions such as: Ramsar Convention, Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), etc.

Besides great efforts in managing the national environment, Vietnam has become more and more active in managing the global environment and achieved positive results. However, capacity constraints at different levels are still the main obstacles to achieve sustainable development as well as more efficient participation in managing the global environment.

NCSA Project is carried out in order to assess Vietnam's capacity through identifying and studying the nature of constraints as well as prioritized needs for managing global environment. To achieve the above objective, the Project concentrates on assessing the national capacity in implementing the three Rio conventions: UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD through brief and thematic reports on each convention.

The cross-cutting report synthesized national constraints, needs and priorities for Vietnam's the implementation of the three Rio conventions in particular and strengthening capacity in and management of the global environment in general was developed basing on the analysis mentioned in the rapid and thematic reports. The objective of the report is to identify capacity constraints in meeting the needs of all the three Rio conventions then find out the needs and opportunities for capacity building brought by the combination of the three conventions.

The cross-cutting report provides information about:

- General capacity issues related to all the three conventions.
- Assessment on the general capacity constraints related to all the three conventions.
- Assessment on the needs for capacity building at the systemic, institutional and individual levels.
- Consideration of the opportunity to strengthen the general capacity to simultaneously implement the three Rio conventions.

The report uses the tools of "problem tree and root causes" to analyze direct and indirect causes of unsatisfactory implementation of the three conventions and then to identify capacity building needs at three levels: system, institution and individual.

Hanoi, February 2006

NCSA MANAGEMENT UNIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

National Capacity Self-Assessment to manage the global environment in Vietnam (Vietnam NCSA) has chosen the international commitment implementation in the three aspects: biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation to identify and study the nature of constraints as well as priorities of national capacity related to global environment facing Vietnam.

The project has made fast and comprehensive assessment of the results, constraints and needs in capacity building to meet the requirement of each Rio convention on biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation.

The cross-cutting report on capacity constraints, national needs and priorities was constructed basing on the analysis mentioned in the brief and thematic reports, choosing the cross-cutting issues in all three conventions and identifying opportunities for strengthening national capacity in global environment management.

Capacity issues include: (i) official and public understanding and awareness, (ii) constructing and implementing specific policies, plans, programmes and measures; (iii) cross-sectoral cooperation between central and local levels; (iv) collecting and managing data and (v) supervising and assessing operation results.

Capacity constraints at the systemic level include: insufficient cooperation between ministries/agencies, limited cooperation mechanism and capacity of regulatory bodies; incomplete management system; overlapping and unclear tasks and obligations; incomplete and asynchronous legislation framework; unstrict implementation of laws; lack of mechanism and policies to ensure community's interests in participating in environment protection activities; inefficient integration of general environment needs, biodiversity, climate change and land degradation into socio-economic development programmes; weak management, sharing and disseminating of information and limited supervision and assessment.

Capacity constraints at the institutional level include: convention offices are still seconded and lack necessary conditions for operation, the environment management capacity at central and local levels is weak; the database system is underdeveloped; the information management mechanism still has shortcomings, the dissemination, publicizing and sharing of information and data are still weak and there is a lack of supporting tools in efficient implementation of policies, plans and programmes.

Capacity constraints at the individual level include: weak skills in assessing, supervising, communication, analyzing and designing policies and strategies; limited professional knowledge on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation; low quality level of accessing and processing information, weak management capacity; low awareness of environment and unstrict implementation of law.

Basing on the analysis of constraints in meeting the requirements of the three Rio conventions, the report has identified the need for capacity building and plan making within the national capacity building framework.

The cross-cutting report is the result of the contribution of national and international experts and Vietnam NCSA team. However, the collection and analysis of information is surely insufficient. We, therefore, hope to receive more comments and contributions to complete this report which helps to strengthen the internal capacity for implementing international conventions in Vietnam.

Part I. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS IN VIETNAM

1. Institutional framework for the implementation of the Rio conventions

1.1. Strategic orientation framework related to the three Rio conventions was formed

(1) National Orientation Strategy for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam Agenda 21) (2004), (issued under the Decision No. 153/2004/QD-TTg dated 17/8/2004 of the Prime Minister).

The objectives of the Strategy is harmonious coordination of economic growth, social progress and equality and environmental protection to satisfy the needs of the current generations without compromising the capacity of future generations. The Strategy is also aimed to fully implement the international conventions and clearly state that it is necessary to promote, educate, disseminate and improve community's awareness for effective and comprehensive implementation of international conventions that Vietnam has acceded.

(2) National Strategy for Environmental Protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 (2004) (issued under Decision 256/2003/QD-TTg dated December 02, 2003 by the Prime Minister).

This Strategy has fundamental tasks on the environmental protection included: (i) Pollution prevention and control; (ii) Remedy seriously environmental pollution and degradation; (iii) Protection and sustainable exploitation of natural resources; (iv) Environmental protection and improvement of focal areas and (v) Nature and biodiversity conservation.

(3) Strategy for Forestry development in 2001-2010 (2002)

This Strategy was approved by MARD under Decision No. 199/QD-BNN-PTLN dated January 22, 2002 with the fundamental contents as follows: (i) Regarding to environment, to increase forest coverage to 43%; (ii) Regarding to economy, to export forest products of 2.5 billion USD (iii) Regarding to society, to involve about 6.0 to 8.0 million labors in forestry production and (iv) Regarding to forest structure to 2010: 6 million hectare protection forests, 2 million hectare special-use forests and 8 million hectare production forests.

(4) GEF Strategy 2001-2010 and GEF programme 2001-2005 (2000)

This Strategy with the comprehensive objective is conservation of the globally valued biodiversity resources in Vietnam, minimization of national impacts to climate changes and enhancement of sustainable use and conservation of the international water resources.

1.2. Legal framework related to the implementation of the three Rio conventions was formed and gradationally finalized

(1) *Law on Environmental Protection* regulates prevention, limitation of negative impacts on environment; waste management; response, remedy of environmental incidents, rehabilitation and improvement of environmental quality; environmental standards, monitoring, assessment of environmental state and information, data management on environment; resources for environmental protection; environmental protection authority and responsibilities; inspection dealing with breaches, settlement of complains, denunciation and disputes, and compensation for environmental damages; international cooperations in environmental protection.

(2) *Law on Forest Development and Protection* regulates protection and management of wild species; categorization of 3 kinds of forests: production, protection and special-use forests; regulates agencies to take responsibility for planning, managing, protecting and monitoring special-use forests.

(3) *Law on Water Resources* regulates on ownership and management of water resources; protection, exploitation and utilization of water resources; preventing, combating and overcoming flood consequences; utilization and protection of irrigation works; international relation on water resources; state management on water resources; sectoral inspection on water resources.

2. Programmes, projects and activities related to the Rio conventions

(1) *National Barren Land Re-greening Programme 1993-1998* (Programme 327): The programme was designed and implemented to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and to reclaim degraded land for agriculture and forestry production. The overall objectives of the programme were: (i) To make an economically better use of the unused barren land; (ii) To increase the watershed capacity of the country by planting protection forests; and (iii) To improve the protection of national parks and other nature reserves (so-called special-use forests).

(2) *The five million hectares of afforestation*: The project has 3 objectives: To speed up reforestation, re-green bare land and ball hills, increase forest coverage to 40% of the total areas nationwide by the year 2010; To create a material region closely linked with the development of wood processing industry, and a provision of fire woods and other forestry products to meet domestic demand with the aim to export high value products from these reforested forestry products; To create job opportunities, increase people's income, make people who used to burn and destroy forest plant and protect forest and contribute to production and living stabilization and ensuring national defense. According to the initial plan, during the period of 1998-2000, afforestation of 795,000 ha; the period of 2001-2005, afforestation of 1,840,000 ha and the period of 2006-2010 will be 2,365,000 ha.

(3) *Up land agriculture and forestry extension programme*: The programme focused on establishing demonstration models and an extension worker system from commune to provincial level. There were 8 such programmes being performed with agro-forestry activities, sustainable cultivation on slopping lands and degraded lands, increase of forest

quality by using technical advantages, selection and transformation of seed production forests, indigenous plant species, scattered tree planting, preventing diseases and forest fires, increasing plant quality, wood processing, non-timber forest products, training, technical transfer and extension. About 10 projects were granted with some VND 3 billions budget. In such a way, about 300 staffs was trained annually, 30 demonstration models were established, and 24,000 leaflets for introducing planting trees and 5,700 handbooks for farmers.

3. Agencies, organizations involved in two or three conventions

- (1) **Ministry of Foreign affairs:** Being in charge of foreign affairs at national level which are related to international conventions.
- (2) **Ministry of Planning and Investment:** Appraising and submitting to the Government for approval and managing projects relating to international conventions.
- (3) **Ministry of Finance:** Providing guidance's, assisting convention executing agency to receive and manage finance from domestic and foreign finance sources through projects.
- (4) **The State Bank:** Providing guidance's on receiving finance from international Banks to the Convention Executing agencies.
- (5) **Ministry of Natural resources and Environment**
Being responsible to the Government for implementation synergy of UNCBD and UNFCCC.
- (6) **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)**
Being assigned as focal agency for the implementation of UNCCD.
- (7) **GEF Vietnam**
Development of short-term and long-term strategic programmes for GEF Vietnam, definition of priority areas and consideration of consensus on projects related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation funded by GEF.
- (8) **Ministries, sectors and localities**
To coordinate with convention focal agency to implement detail tasks; implementation of technical assistance and investment projects related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.
Beside the Government organizations, lots of international and national non-government organizations with activities related to the implementation of 2 or 3 conventions in Vietnam.

Part II. CURRENT CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS AND NEEDS RELATED TO THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS

1. Overview on the main capacity issues to meet requirements of the three Rio conventions

The analysis of the capacity constraints related to meet requirements of the three Rio conventions from thematic assessment reports developed within Vietnam NCSA framework show that the common capacity issues are as following:

(1) Low knowledge and awareness on the three conventions

The important of promotion and enhancement of environmental awareness are mentioned in all three conventions as a priority obligation to convention joined members. In Vietnam, these activities have been conducted in many years with the purpose of increasing the knowledge and awareness of people on their role and responsibility on environmental protection in general and the implementation of the three conventions were also obtained some results. National orientation strategy for sustainable development in Vietnam, National strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 consider promotion, enhancement of environmental knowledge and awareness is highest priority solution. Vietnam also has an awareness enhancement programme on biodiversity in the period of 2001-2010, so a network of universities and research institutes on biology and natural resources, energy, forest development and protection, etc. have been invested and developed. Education and training have also carried out through training courses, workshops, information exchange, etc. However, environmental knowledge and awareness of officials and communities are still low. Environmental protection issues in general and that relevant to the three conventions in particular aren't considered as important issues, even is disregarded in comparison with socio-economic development activities.

(2) Development and implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects related to the three conventions aren't good so effectiveness and validity aren't high

The development and implementation of national policies, plans, programmes related to the three conventions mentioned in all the three conventions are essential requirement and obligation of each country. So far, in Vietnam, the development of national strategies, plans and programmes and legal framework (policies and laws) for implementation of the above three conventions has initial achievements. However, capacity related issue cross-cutting these conventions is that quality, validity and effectiveness of the implementation of the provided national plans, programmes, legal framework have remained low.

(3) Coordination between the related ministries, sectors, between central and local agencies is still ineffective

At the moment the coordination between the ministries, agencies and sectors at the central level, between the departments, agencies and sectors at the provincial/city levels, as well as between central and local levels and between localities is still ineffective. Meanwhile environmental problems are complicated with great impacts; therefore there should be an efficient cross-sectoral coordination mechanism if these problems are to be solved. This is

also a challenge for the environmental management in general and the implementation of the Rio conventions in particular in Vietnam in the years to come.

(4) Information, data collection and management are still weak

This is cross issues which is not only relates to the three conventions but also the common problem in other field in Vietnam. Currently, some information in the form of thematic reports, research works, scientific research themes, investigation projects, etc. were conducted by individuals and organizations funded by the Government, international organizations is scatteredly located in different offices without full statistics and effective use. The environmental monitoring stations are insufficient in number. The equipments currently are still not meeting a requirement of data survey and environmental monitoring. The hydrometeorological stations for climate change monitoring are relatively sufficient. However, the equipment of some stations isn't modernly improved. Beside, the information sharing mechanism between relevant ministries/sectors, agencies is still constrained. The information technology infrastructure for data collection and management is still not synchronous between the three conventions (UNFCCC has a modern relative information infrastructure system, meanwhile UNCBD and UNCCD are mainly collected data from the national environmental monitoring stations).

(5) The monitoring and assessment of the activity results are still formal

Up to now, the monitoring and assessment of the activity results of the three conventions in Vietnam have not been put into full play. For example, for UNCBD, there has not been any comprehensive observation and assessment programme on biodiversity and biosafety. The only programme of this kind is for assessing the changes of forest resources in which only forest and forest resources (including terrestrial invertebrate and forest plants) and but the other biological resources are assessed. The assessment of this thematic area is insufficient and not update. Similar to this, for UNCCD, the monitoring and assessment are still spare, irregular and ineffective so that there has not been information, data system for monitoring and assessment.

2. Cross-cutting capacity issues in the implementation of the three Rio conventions

2.1. Knowledge and awareness on the three conventions

2.1.1. Convention requirements

UNFCCC

Article 4.1.i.

Promotion and cooperation in education, training and public awareness related to climate change and encouragement of the widest participation in this process, including that of the Government organizations.

Article 6.1.a.

Development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects.

UNCCD

Article 19.3.

The Parties shall cooperate to implement public awareness and educational programmes on the desertification's cause and consequences.

UNCBD

Article 13.

Promotion and enhancement of understanding on the importance of biodiversity conservation as well as promotion and biodiversity conservation through mass media and introduction of these topics into educational programmes.

2.1.2. National priorities

The Government and Party had approved many policies to strengthen environmental protection activities, inside to stress necessary for enhancement the environmental protection awareness of people. The national strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 has identified that promotion, education and public awareness of environmental protection responsibility is a solution to the implementation of the strategy.

The Agenda 21 of Vietnam also identifies the public education and awareness raising on environmental protection in general and on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation in particular are priority areas.

In the Law on Environmental Protection of Vietnam (1993), Article 37, provision 8 regulated that one of contents of the state management on environment protection is “educating scientific and managerial staff on environment; educating, promoting, disseminating knowledge and laws on environmental protection”.

The Resolution No.41-NQ/TW on strengthening environmental protection in the period of industrialisation and modernisation of country, stating that “Environmental protection is the common task of the whole party and people and army” and asked the Government to “facilitate and promote people to regularly update environmental information as a fundamental method to protect an environment”.

2.1.3. Importance of the issue

Enhancement of environmental awareness of people is considered as a priority because it has a significant impact on the obligation fulfillment of Vietnam with international conventions. In addition, environmental awareness enhancement will also lead to effective implementation of solutions to limit the impacts on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

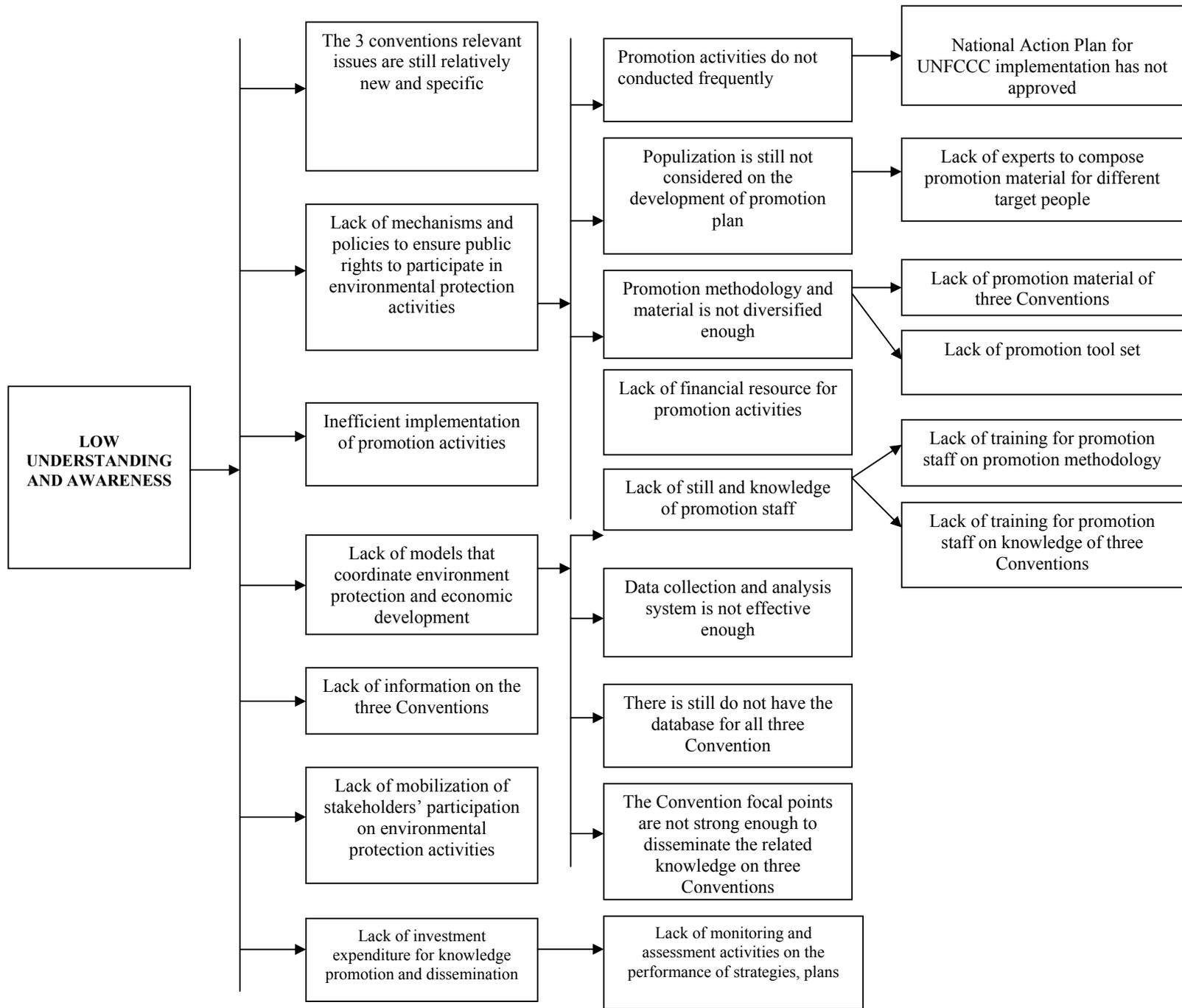
2.1.4. Analysis of the causes of failure to meet the requirement

Awareness of people on environmental protection in general and on the three conventions in particular is still low. Biodiversity, climate change and land degradation issues are not considered as important ones compared with economic development activities.

Low environmental understanding and awareness of people on the three conventions caused by following reasons:

- The three conventions relevant issues are still relatively new and specific;
- Lack of mechanisms and policies to ensure public rights to participate in environmental protection activities related to implement the three conventions;
- Inefficient implementation of promotion activities. Promotion activities do not conducted frequently. Popularization is still not considered on the development of promotion plan. Promotion methodology and material is not diversified enough and there is lack of financial resource for promotion activities. Promotion activities still do not focus on targeted people;
- Lack of information on the three conventions. Data collection and analysis system is not effective enough. There have not got the database for all three conventions;
- Lack of models that coordinate environment protection and economic development;
- Lack of mobilization of stakeholders' participation on environmental protection activities;
- Lack of investment expenditure for knowledge promotion and dissemination.

Following figure summarizes the analysis of causes on low understanding and awareness on the three conventions:



2.1.5. Needs for capacity strengthening at three levels (systemic, institutional and individual)

Systemic level

- Development of necessary mechanisms and policies to ensure public rights to participate in environmental protection activities;
- Development of long-term promotion strategies on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation;
- Development and implementation of education programme on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation for different targeted groups;
- Development of monitoring and evaluation plans for promotion activities performance assessment.

Institutional level

- Strengthening of capacity of the convention focal points in promotion and dissemination on the three conventions;
- Development of training plan on promotion method for related staffs;
- Mobilization of financial resource for promotion and education activities;
- Development of promotion tools for different targeted people;
- Development of promotion material on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation for different targeted people;
- Development and implementation of demonstration models that coordinate environment protection and economic development;
- Development of database for all three conventions;
- Integration of environmental protection contents of the three conventions into socio-political organizations activities;
- Mobilization of the participation of related stakeholders in organization of communication and awareness raising activities;
- Integration enhancement of the environmental issues related to the three conventions into school curriculum.

Individual level

- Promotion of communication and public contact skills for related staff;
- Knowledge improvement on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation for related staff.

2.1.6. Opportunities for synergies

The capacity strengthening to meet requirements of the three conventions can be implemented, including developing the communication tool and awareness raising for rich in communication forms; mobilization of the participation of related stakeholders and

public in organization of communication and awareness raising activities; capacity enhancement on knowledge communication and contact skills for related staff.

2.2. Development and implementation of policies plans, programmes and related specific measures

2.2.1. Convention requirements

UNFCCC

Article 4.1.b:

Formulation, implementation, publication and regularly update of national programmes and, where appropriate, regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.

UNCBD

Article 6.a:

Development of national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adaptation for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in this convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned.

UNCCD

Article 5.e:

Establishment of strategies and priorities, within the framework of sustainable development to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought to socio-economic activities.

Development of an appropriate supporting mechanism by strengthening of existing legislative system and enacting new laws and establishing long-term policies and action programmes.

2.2.2. National priorities

Development and implementation of strategies, policies and action plans have always been one of the highest priority-given aims to protect the environment of the Party and of the Government.

Vietnam Agenda 21 - the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam has clearly identified the “responsibility for organizing and guiding the implementation of the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development” which mainly mentions the leading role of the Government, the participation of communities and the contribution of international cooperation in implementation of sustainable development.

The national strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020 has also clearly identified that strengthening the state management, institution and legislation

of environmental protection is one of the measures to achieve the objectives set out in the strategy.

The Law on Environmental Protection (1993) regulated that one of the state management activities to protect environment is to “issue and arrange the implementation of normative documents of environmental protection...; develop and direct the implementation of strategies and policies on environmental protection...” (Article 37, provisions 1, 2).

The Resolution No.41-NQ/TW on strengthening of environmental protection in the period of industrialisation and modernisation of country, stating that “Improving the legal framework, mechanisms and policies on environmental protection... to further strengthening and enhancing capacities to organize the management system and ensuring the effective state management of environmental protection from the central to grass-root levels”.

Arranging the implementation of strategies, action plans and policies on environmental protection have also been defined as a national priority in implementing international conventions on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation.

2.2.3. Importance of the issue

Development and implementation of strategies, policies, action plans and specific measures have a special importance in the implementation of the three conventions, it creates a foundation to meet requirements of the three conventions.

Due to the three conventions have a closed relations with each others and have common protection subject are environment and life quality of people, so development and implementation of strategies, policies, action plans and specific measures have not only active impacts on the implementation results of each convention but also on common results of the three conventions. For instance, the regulations of the Law on forest protection and development or National Barren Land Re-greening Programme 1993-1998 (Programme 327) have actively impacted on the implementation results of the three conventions as follows:

- Protection of the forest fauna and flora to increase biodiversity (objective of UNCBD);
- Increase in GHG absorption ability and limitation of natural calamities such as drought, flood (objective of UNFCCC);
- Prevention of landslide, soil erosion, unregenerate artesian waters and the washing of nutritional substances in land (objective of UNCCD).

In addition, in social perspective, the ineffective enforcement of policies, action plans and programmes will make the legal framework ineffective and gradually result in the habits to defy the laws of people.

The effective institutional framework establishment and the capacity strengthening for the environmental protection of a river basin have also essential importance to solve issues related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, contributing to better implement the common requirements of the three conventions.

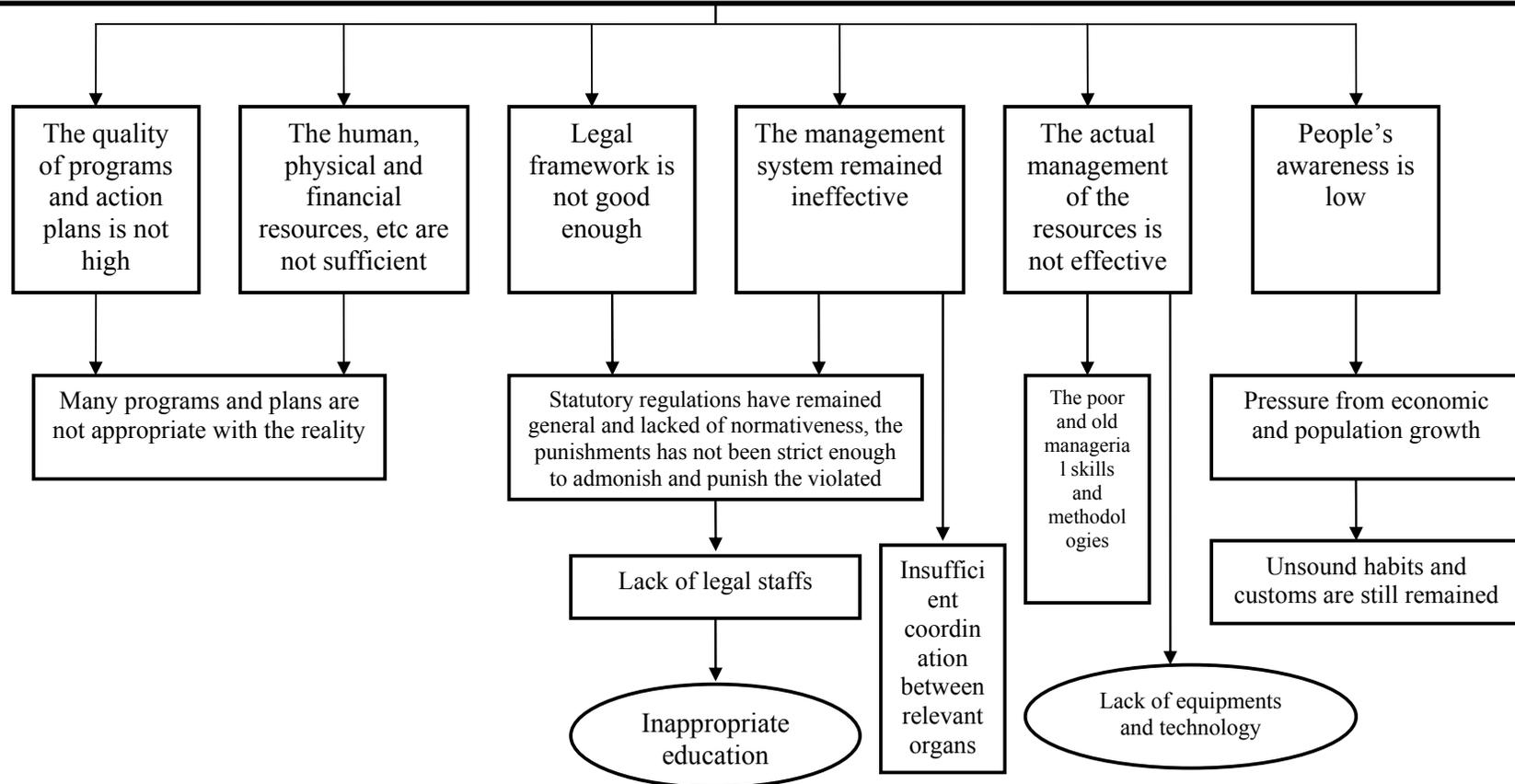
2.2.4. Analysis of the causes of failure to meet the requirement

Some of reasons of the inefficient implementation of strategies, action plans and relevant specific measures are as follows:

- Coordination between ministries, sectors in the development of laws and policies hasn't been good so there are still overlapping and identical in the documents;
- Lack of regulations, synergy mechanisms between the relevant ministries, sectors in the ecosystems management, especially in the wetlands and river basin management. Currently, lack of effective institution and appropriate models for the river basin environmental protection, meanwhile some rivers have been seriously polluting and degrading;
- Management and conservation organization of natural resources has been improper arranged, it is still many focal points. Currently, MARD is assigned by the Government to be responsible for the protection and management of forests; MOFI is responsible for the protection and management of marine resources; MONRE is responsible for the protection and management of wetlands and other natural resources;
- Implementation arrangement of strategies, action plans and relevant specific measures is still formal in nature. There has not been any mechanism for ensuring the rights in implementation of specific measures related to the three conventions. For instance, lack of benefit sharing mechanism in the river basin management that has led to conflicts in the water resources exploitation and utilization;
- Lack of database system and the coordination mechanism and information, data sharing related to the three conventions;
- Awareness of the state managerial staffs at any levels and sectors on the implementation of programmes, action plans, policies and legal framework is still limited, especially at grassroots levels;
- The staffs capacity for enforcement of the laws, deployment of policies, plans on the environment isn't fulfilled. Lack of staffs who have legal knowledge in environmental management to fight against violations on the environmental policies and laws;
- The intellectual standards of the people are inequable; respectful awareness of the public's part on policies and laws is low; many unsound habits and customs that negatively impact the environment have not been faded away, especially the shifting cultivation of wandering hill tribes, burning forest for cultivation land of the ethnic people;
- Organizational system and environmental managerial staffs from central to local agencies are insufficient. Lack of environmental managerial staffs at the local level. At the provincial level, the average is only 5-6 environmental managerial staffs;
- Lack of necessary resources for implementation arrangement of the approved programmes and plans.

The reasons causing limitations in implementing strategies, plans and programmes provided in the three conventions are illustrated in the following diagram:

The reasons causing limitations in implementing strategies, programs, plans and specific measures



2.2.5. Needs for capacity strengthening at three levels (systemic, institutional and individual)

Systemic level

- Mobilization of social resources for implementation of the programmes and action plans;
- Approach to sustainable development by integrating environmental issues and requirements (such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and prevention of land degradation) into the master plans and programmes to develop the socio-economy;
- Formulation of skills and methodologies to assess the actual efficiency of the programmes and plans in a systemic manner.
- Development of regulations, mechanism to coordinate line ministries, localities and relevant organs in the natural resources management such as the forest management, the river basin environmental protection, etc.;
- Development of new laws (such as Biodiversity Law, Law on energy security, etc.) and amend the existing ones with regulations on delegation and decentralization of responsibilities among relevant entities; pay greater attention to the coordination mechanism and stipulate the punishment in stricter manner;
- Development of the database system and the information sharing mechanism related to the three conventions;
- Development of programmes to raise awareness of communities and mechanisms to involve people in the legal implementation process.

Institutional system

- Further strengthen the management system and capacity for the legal executive institutions by making clear the functions and responsibilities of these institutions (including the forest guards, inspectors for special purposes in environmental management, professional agencies in the environmental protection, etc.), provide these institutions with necessary equipments and grant them with satisfactory treatment.;
- Strengthening and improvement of tasks and responsibilities of the institutions that are responsible for climate change, biodiversity and land degradation;
- Strengthening of the human, physical and financial resources for the management in practice;
- Development of programmes to raise awareness of communities and a benefit-sharing mechanism among communities in an implementation process.

Individual level

- Formulation and development of skills of the analysts and policy makers to build an institutional structure;
- Formulation and development of skills of the managers of the public institutions and NGOs relating to the use of resources;
- Improvement of skills of people who directly arrange the implementation of programmes and plans; development of skills to assess the effectiveness and risks in implementing programmes and plans by adopting the modern and progressive methodologies (step by step approaching environmental audit);
- Improvement of propaganda, dissemination of legal framework; disclosure of the environmental information; the environmental protection socialization to raise public environmental and legal awarenesses so that they seriously implement policies and legislations.

2.2.6. Opportunities for synergies

The integration of activities to implement the action plans by three thematic areas may be successful through adopting multi-area-cross-cutting measures in a well integrated manner. For instance, paying attention to coordinating the water environmental protection with the integrated management of the river basin; combating land degradation in sub-regions of the protected areas to achieve two purposes comprising of: biodiversity conservation and land protection; giving focus on formulating biodiversity corridors to contribute to land protection and prevent soil erosion; further maintaining and developing projects to green bare land and ball hills, contributing to decrease the vague changes of the climate and to increase biodiversity, etc.

2.3. Cross-sectoral coordination

2.3.1. Convention requirements

UNFCCC

Article 4 (e):

Cooperation in preparing for the adjustment to climate changes; development and completion of synthesized plans for coastal areas, water resources and agriculture management; protect and restore areas affected by droughts, desertification and floods.

UNCBD

Article 6 (b):

Depending on the capacity and suitability, integrate the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the sector's or cross-sectoral related plans, programmes and policies.

Article 10 (e):

Encouragement of the coordination between the public and private organizations in developing the methods of using organism resources sustainability.

UNCCD

Article 4 (1):

Stakeholders will carry out their tasks in accordance with the convention. Both private and public organizations should make either bilateral or multilateral cooperation efforts to develop a long-term strategy at all levels.

Article 4 (2.d):

Enhancement of the cooperation between the decertified and drought-stricken countries to protect the environment, land and water resources.

Besides, each convention proposes a coordination mechanism, carried out by the key institution in order to collaborate with ministries and sectors in making and implementing the three convention national action plan. With the above-mentioned responsibilities, the Rio conventions require stakeholders to actively cooperate across sectors, areas and governments to efficiently carry out their obligations.

2.3.2. National priorities

Environmental protection is the responsibility of all the society's levels and sectors. To implement this task efficiently, it is necessary for ministries and agencies closely coordinate, especially in carrying out the Rio conventions and three thematic areas related to all ministries and agencies. Therefore cross-sectoral coordination is considered a national priority, reflected in some basic strategies as follows:

- *"Politburo Decision No.41/NQ-TW dated 15th November, 2004 on environmental protection in the country's period of industrialization and modernization"* also mentions the development of a mechanism to deal with cross-sectoral and cross-area environmental problems, the reasonable assignment of environmental protection responsibilities among different levels and sectors so that they coordinate with one another in the implementation process;
- *"National strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020"* (2004) includes 8 measures to implement the Strategy. The fourth measure is "Harmonize links between economic development, social equality and advancement and environmental protection". This measure harmoniously integrates environmental protection into socio-economic development strategies at all levels.

In the 36 prioritized programmes of the strategy, there is the MT.GP1 Programme "Enhancing the state management capacity in environmental protection from the central to local levels". Accordingly the Programme will strengthen the coordination capacity between ministries, sectors and agencies from the central to local levels;

- *The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam Agenda 21)* proposes 3 problems to be addressed in order to successfully implement this orientation.(i) Pay attention to regulations on integrating the environmental problem into the Socio-Economic Development Strategy,

encourage the combination between building and implementing sustainable development plans all over the countries and areas; (ii) The purpose of sustainable development mechanism is to act as a bridge between ministries, sectors and localities, combine the environmental problem with socio-economic development when development decisions are made; and (iii) Set up the Cross-sectoral Council to monitor sustainable development. It is necessary to strengthen the cross-sectoral or cross-area activities in planning and making plans for development, etc.;

- *The Management Strategy for a Protected Area System in Vietnam to 2010 (2003)* also pays attention to cross-sectoral coordination in implementing this Strategy.

2.3.3. Importance of the issue

The cross-sectoral coordination in protecting environment in general and in implementing the 3 Rio Conventions in particular aims at creating cooperation opportunities and mobilizing all resources for efficient use, and at the same time at developing reasonable coordination programmes. Following are the activities which need cross-sectoral coordination:

- Exchanging information, experience, knowledge and skills;
- Coordinating programmes at the national, regional and sub-regional levels;
- Coordinating in the fields of finance, science and technology;
- Better implementation arrangement of international support resources;
- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national action plans.

Besides, cross-sectoral coordination also aims at collecting precise information and avoiding overlapping activities in the implementation of conventions.

2.3.4. Analysis of the causes of failure to meet the requirement

The cross-sectoral coordination in implementing 3 Rio conventions is inefficient for many reasons. Following are some main reasons:

- *Lack of a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism:* The organizational system in environment management has not been completed either vertically or horizontally; the environment management capacity still shows shortcomings in terms of human resources, physical resources, technical equipment as well as management mechanism; there isn't a separate office for the cooperation and implementation of each convention, therefore a mechanism for cross-sectoral coordination or for coordination among the 3 conventions hasn't been established.
- *The administration assignment and decentralization are not clear and appropriate:* The assignment and decentralization in environment and natural resources management at the central and local levels are still unreasonable: there are overlaps while some work is still left undone.
- For instance, the assignment and decentralization in the river basin management of line ministries, sectors at the central and local levels aren't clear, there are

overlaps while the river basin environments with a cross-sectoral and cross-regional problems, that arise a complicated issues, decrease the effect of policies and programmes, projects for this area.

- *Improper awareness of related partners:* The improper awareness of partners has prevented the coordination and support in related activities. For example, the “Forest-related National Focal Point Network to international and regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs Network)” has been established. However, the coordination between members in making plans for activities is still difficult. In other words, members haven’t been properly aware of the Network’s objectives and therefore they are not ready to cooperate in the implementation.
- *There hasn’t been an orientation framework and national action plan* to orient responsibility and the cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination mechanism and between central and local levels.
- *There hasn’t been a mechanism for exchanging information and sharing experience.* At the moment among the ministries, sectors and key institutions for the 3 Rio conventions. NCSA Project is an initial opportunity for the each convention focal point for exchanging information and experience in convention-implementing activities, the coordination in finding supporting resources is therefore limited and inefficient.

2.3.5. Needs for capacity strengthening at three levels (systemic, institutional and individual)

Systemic level

- Development of a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism, delegate responsibilities among related ministries and sectors;
- Development of a mechanism to exchange information and share experience;
- Improvement of an orientation framework and a national action plan;
- Promotion of decentralization and supporting for localities;
- Promotion of inter-governmental, cross-sectoral and sub-regional coordination.

Institutional level

- Enhancement of the environment management capacity at the central and local levels;
- Establishment of a Focal Point Office for each convention;
- Enhancement of financial resources;
- Raise of the partners’ awareness.

Individual level

- Enhancement of the management capacity;
- Training in negotiation and coordination skills.

2.3.6. Opportunities for synergies

There are a lot of opportunities for coordination in implementing the 3 Rio conventions. The national and international programmes and projects related to the areas such as forest management, basin management, etc. as the Five million hectares Reforestation Programme, VAC Programmes, etc. can be impacted on the three conventions.

Of the 36 prioritized programmes under "National strategy for environmental protection until 2010 and vision toward 2020"(2004), many programmes provide opportunities for 2 conventions to coordinate. Some programmes even provide opportunities for 3 conventions to coordinate.

- The programme for enhancement of mass-media's role in the public environmental protection awareness raising;
- The programme to carry out the plan "Integration of environmental protection contents into the national education system".

2.4. Data, information collection and management

2.4.1. Convention requirements

UNFCCC

Article 5 (a):

Support and further develop, as appropriate, international and intergovernmental programmes and networks or organizations aimed at defining, conducting, assessing and financing research, data collection and systematic observation, taking into account the need to minimize duplication of effort.

Article 5 (b):

Support international and intergovernmental efforts to strengthen systematic observation and national scientific and technical research capacities and capabilities, particularly in developing countries, and to promote access to, and the exchange of, data and analyses thereof obtained from areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Article 7.a (i):

The development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects.

UNCBD

Article 7:

Monitor, through sampling and other techniques, the components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use paying particular attention to those requiring urgent conservation measures and those which offer the greatest potential for sustainable use. Maintain and organize, by any mechanism data, derived from identification and monitoring activities.

UNCCD

Article 16:

To integrate and coordinate the collection, analysis and exchange of relevant short term and long term data and information to ensure systematic observation of land degradation in affected areas and to understand better and assess the processes and effects of drought and desertification.

2.4.2. National priorities

The data collection, information archives and processing as well as the information sharing mechanism in Vietnam are paid attention and have been improving for last few years. From the professional point of view, the database and information sharing mechanism as a vital important factor and a prerequisite for national planning and implementation of the three Rio conventions. Most of the prioritized programmes of the Government have a component of developing database and improving information share and exchange.

2.4.3. Importance of the issue

In order to fulfill obligations and requirements as stipulated in the three Rio-conventions, the data, information collection and management play an important role. The basic data, relevant database, results of research themes in relevant areas, information on related agencies, institutions and the capacities thereof in each area related to the conventions are vital and necessary informations for exchanging in the implementation of the three Rio conventions. Insufficient data or inaccuracy and not-updated information will lead to incomprehensive and inaccurate assessment that may influence priority setting and action plan development. However, the information exchange mechanism is vital to ensure the efficient use of the data when it is available. Clearly, database and information is cross-issue in management and important for national capacity analysis and assessment. For example, data on quantity, types and quality of transportation means in urban areas plays a key role in urban management and planning. It is, however, changing upon the economic development and quickly from time to time. Thus, if the information is insufficient or inaccurate or there is lack of a system that frequently updates with information of these kinds, it will become very difficult for the Government in urban planning as well as in development of appropriate strategies and action plans for fulfillment of the national obligations under the UNFCCC. A good information monitoring system can also help fulfill such obligations as reporting, tendency analysis and consensus building between Parties to the three Rio conventions.

2.4.4. Analysis of the causes of failure to meet the requirement

The analyses of causes of the inadequate data and information management system are aim at identifying the root-causes thereof. This has been done upon the analyses of the obstacles to the development and operation of a good information management system. To overcome the identified obstacles, the prioritized issues are set and specific strategies and action plans are identified. Analyzing tools in this case is a problem-tree.

Out of the others, two immediate causes that make a data collection and information management system have not sufficiently met the requirements under the Rio-conventions are:

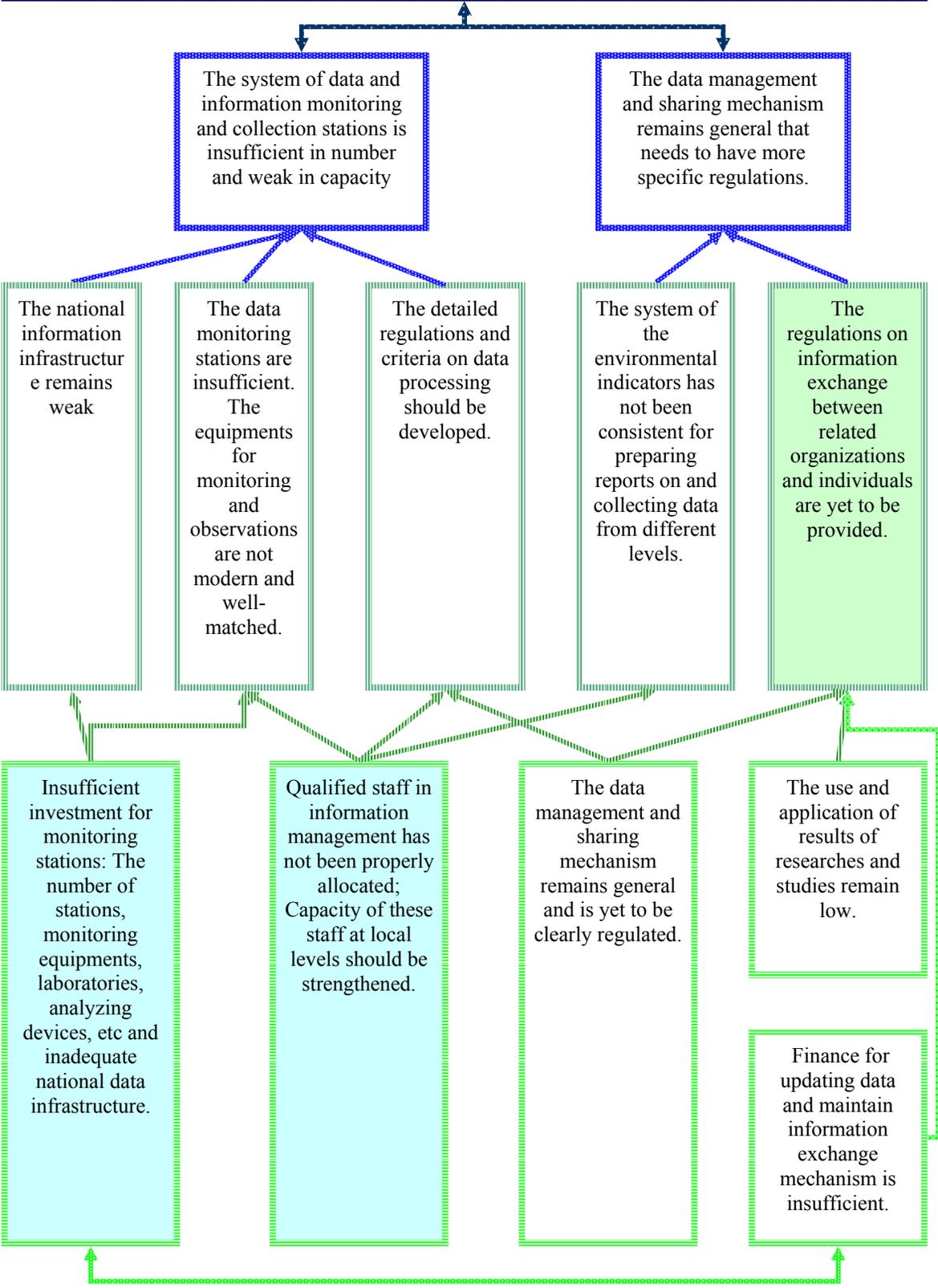
- (1) There remain many difficulties in data and information collection because the system of data and information monitoring and collection stations on environment in general and on the three Rio conventions in particular is insufficient in number and weak in capacity.
- (2) The institutional framework, data and information management and sharing system remains inadequate.

Data in the kinds of thematic reports, scientific researches, surveys, etc. conducted by organizations, individuals and funded by the Government, international organizations now have been stored scatteredly and have not been adequately collected and sufficiently used. This leaves both duplication and gaps in data collection. This is because the fact that some surveyed data has been resurveyed and the same data is reported. Meanwhile, many information and data which are very important in analysis and development of strategy and action plans have not been observed and updated frequently.

Regulations on provision, publication and confidentiality of environmental information and data stipulated in the revised Law on Environmental Protection have paved the way for the establishment of the information management and exchanging mechanism in the future. It is, however, essential to have specific regulations on rights and duties of related individuals and organizations in sharing information.

The following figure provides detailed descriptions of the reasons why the information collection and management has not been done in a well matched manner and the efficiency of the information sharing mechanism hasn't been high.

Insufficient data collection, management and sharing system



Upon the above problem-tree analyses, three root-causes of the inefficiency of the information collection and management system comprise of:

(1) Insufficient investment in infrastructure.

As above mentioned, the system of data and information monitoring and collection stations is insufficient in number. The equipments for monitoring and observations are not modern. Even those of several hydrometeorology stations need to be upgraded and modernized. The finance for this purpose must be large. In addition, for fulfillment of the obligations under the UNCBD, finance for equipments for observing species such as cameras, information receiving devices is vital but greater than the current capacity. The followings are some areas that financial priorities should be given in both technical and physical infrastructure:

- Environmental monitoring network: building new monitoring and observation stations, equipping with modern facilities, increasing a number of monitoring indicators, equipments for sample testing and analyzing. However, priorities should be given to building new biodiversity monitoring and observation stations and upgrading equipments of some hydrometeorology stations.
- Information technology infrastructure: host computers - station computers - transfer lines, equipments for storing and processing informations.
- Finance for data updating and financial supporting mechanism for relevant partners who supply and exchange data.

(2). Specific regulations on coordination mechanism in collecting and exchanging data remain insufficient. This results in the constraints and limitation in information exchange between line ministries.

(3) Environmental indicator system and capacity of information specialists processing data are yet to be completed.

The systems of environmental indicators and indices for the reporting purposes have been improved and completed. Thus, environmental monitoring and observation data collected now has not yet followed any standard. It is necessary to have regulations on confirming the accuracy and legality of information prior to publication. With the support of ADB and UNEP, Vietnam have been developing the system of environmental indicators for priority environmental issues according to pressure-status-response model that, when finished, will act as a framework or a formal language for reports on environmental state from local to central levels. This equivalently supports information exchange and consensus building among relevant individuals and organizations.

(4) Resources have not been allocated properly. The capacity of information and technology in general and to extract and process data in particular of staff at local levels remain inadequate.

2.4.5. Needs for capacity strengthening at three levels (systemic, institutional and individual)

From the above analyses, the followings are recommendations for strengthening capacities at three levels with the aim to overcome the root-causes as the barriers to the development and implementation of the effective data and information system:

Systemic level

- Development of a legal framework and a feasible and sufficient mechanism for information collection, management and exchange;
- Development of regulations that specify the mechanism for information exchange and sharing between relevant partners;
- Development of a system of environmental indicators and systematization thereof with guidances on the implementation at all levels from local to central;
- Strengthening information technology capacity at national level (infrastructure and capacity of information technology and data processing).

Institutional level

- Increase in the number of environmental information collection stations and centers as well as strengthening capacity of data processing and analyzing;
- Enhancement of an awareness and involvement of organizations in the information management process;
- Strengthening information technology capacity in organizations; ensuring the updated and accurate data;
- Increase in the information technology infrastructure and experts.

Individual level

- Strengthening capacity for individuals in collecting, analyzing and processing information;
- Enhancement of an awareness and involvement of individuals in the information sharing, supporting mechanism.

2.4.6. Opportunities for synergies

It is clear that capacity needs at all three levels as we have mentioned above are varied in scope and levels under each convention. However, some issues related to data collection and information management cut across the three conventions. Addressing these issues helps improve and enhance the efficiency of data collection and management system of the three conventions. Those issues comprise of:

(1) Strengthening a system of environmental information and data monitoring, observation and collection; Upgrading and modernizing a system of hydrometeorology stations; taking advantage of the hydrometeorology station network; Reviewing the possibility to collaborate the environmental observation station network and the hydrometeorology station network (several environmental indicators can be observed

and collected through the hydrometeorology station network); Development and strengthening the database on forest, water resources and the use of energy in Vietnam.

(2) Development of regulations in order to specify the mechanism for information and data exchange and sharing between relevant parties; Development of a consistent environmental indicator system and providing the guidances on the implementation of these indicators at all levels.

2.5. Monitoring, observation and evaluation.

2.5.1. Convention requirements

UNFCCC:

Article 4, provision 1g:

Promote and cooperate in scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research, systematic observation and development of data archives related to the climate system and intended to further the understanding and to reduce or eliminate the remaining uncertainties regarding the causes, effects, magnitude and timing of climate change and the economic and social consequences of various response strategies.

Article 5, provisions (a), (b), (c):

- (a) Support and further develop, as appropriate, international and intergovernmental programmes and networks or organizations aimed at defining, conducting, assessing and financing research, data collection and systematic observation, taking into account the need to minimize duplication of effort.
- (b) Support international and intergovernmental efforts to strengthen systematic observation and national scientific and technical research capacities and capabilities, particularly in developing countries, and to promote access to, and the exchange of, data and analyses thereof obtained from areas beyond national jurisdiction; and
- (c) Take into account the particular concerns and needs of developing countries and cooperate in improving their endogenous capacities and capabilities to participate in the efforts referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.

UNCBD:

Article 7, provision a,b, c, d:

- (a) Identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use;
- (b) Monitor, through sampling and other techniques, the components of biological diversity identified pursuant to subparagraph (a) above, paying particular attention to those requiring urgent conservation measures and those which offer the greatest potential for sustainable use;
- (c) Identify processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and monitor their effects through sampling and other techniques; and

- (d) Maintain and organize, by any data mechanism, derived from identification and monitoring activities pursuant to subparagraphs (a),(b) and (c) above.

UNCCD

Article 14:

- (a) The Parties shall work closely together, directly and through relevant intergovernmental organizations, in the elaboration and implementation of action programmes.
- (b) The Parties shall develop operational mechanisms, particularly at the national and field levels, to ensure the fullest possible coordination among developed country Parties, developing country Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in order to avoid duplication, to maximize the efficient use of resources, and to facilitate the implementation of national action programmes and priorities under this Convention.

Appendix 2 Regional implementation annex for Asia

Article 4, provision d, h:

- (d) Evaluate, with the participation of affected populations, past and current programmes for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, in order to design a strategy and elaborate activities in their action programmes.
- (h) Strengthen and/or establish information, evaluation and follow up and early warning systems in regions prone to desertification and drought, taking account of climatological, meteorological, hydrological, biological and other relevant factors.

Article 4, provision (b):

- b) Evaluate the operational capacities and activities of relevant regional, sub regional and national institutions.

2.5.2. The national priorities

Upon analyses, it has been shown that observation, monitoring and assessment are mentioned in almost of the laws and the by-law statutory documents and the national strategies of Vietnam such as the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on Forest protection and development, Law on Fishery, especially the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam Agenda 21) issued in accordance with the Decision No 153/2004/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister dated 17 August 2004.

In Vietnam Agenda 21, part 1 “Sustainable development, Vietnam's anticipated path”, states that “The managing and monitoring mechanisms about sustainable development have yet been clearly defined and come into effect”.

2.5.3. Importance of the issue

At the international level, the observation, monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the three international environmental conventions is of great

importance for every country when acceding. This is affirmed in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992. For instance, the principle 21 states that "... will define the policies, strategies and programme priorities, the detailed expenditures and provide guidance on accessing and using appropriately financial resources including assessment, regular observation of that usage". The principle 14 also says that "... *Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the biology in order to avoid and minimize these consequences where appropriate and let the public involve in this process*".

In the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, principle 10 says that "*Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided*".

Thus, if the monitoring, observation and assessment are carried out regularly and scientifically in accordance with a close, systematical and objective process, it will show the weakness, strengths, remained issues and challenges. As a result, they are useful for making decisions, developing policies, strategies, planning and education, etc and able to meet the immediate and longterm requirements and tasks.

The monitoring, observation and assessment is very important as to ensure the possibility to meet the requirements of the conventions. It provides specific orientations, promotes the adjustment of, ads or changes particular action plan of each country when acceding the three Rio conventions.

2.5.4. Analysis of the causes of failure to meet the requirements

We can affirm that monitoring, observation and assessment of the achievements in implementing the three Rio-conventions in Vietnam has yet been conducted regularly and efficiently.

The reasons for this problem can be analyzed at 3 levels: Systemic, institutional and individual.

Systemic:

- A comprehensive observation and assessment system at national level has not been established yet or only at sectoral level with low efficiency if any;
- The delay and inconsistency still exist in the process to complete laws, policies and plans;
- Information system is not rich with low efficiency in using, sharing and disseminating information with regard to the infrastructure, institutional framework and policies;

- The concepts of assessment and observation have not been identified clearly enough for putting into practice;
- The implementation of the three conventions depends much on natural conditions so assessment and observation are restricted;
- The performance of the three conventions is inter-sectoral issues and, thus, is difficult to be coordinated.

Institutional:

- The role of observation and assessment has not been clearly recognized and thus, there have not been particular plans for these important activities;
- The tasks and responsibilities of some organizations and institutions have been changed together with the reform in structure recently;
- The division of tasks and responsibilities of some organizations and institutions have left both duplications and overlaps;
- The capacity to establish an information system is insufficient and limited;
- Annual financial resource for providing guidances on as well as putting in practice skills of observation and assessment is insufficient;
- The advanced technology and modern information facilities have not been taken into full play;
- Both finance and human resource are insufficient.

Individual:

- The working conditions are not good, insufficient professional qualifications and bad health conditions;
- Their vision is restricted because of limited access to updated information;
- Lack of knowledge, study methods and practical skills;
- The ability on analyzing and synthesizing issues is weak;
- Modern information facilities are not utilized.

2.5.5. The needs for capacity strengthening at the three levels (systemic, institutional and individual)

Systemic level

- Priority should be focused on observations, monitoring and evaluation of the development of the strategies, programmes or national action plans for the implementation of the three conventions;
- Building and maintaining a national database on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation for monitoring and observation purpose;
- - Building a system of indicators for observation, monitoring and assessment of the implementation results and systematizing by providing official guidances for

central to local levels.

Institutional level

- Strengthening capacity of the national focal points of the three conventions;
- Strengthening the coordination of National Steering Committee of the three conventions;
- Enhancement of the collaboration between relevant organizations in monitoring, observation and evaluation activities;
- Strengthening information technology capacity in organizations so as to ensure the quick access to updated and accurate information;
- Improving the national information technology infrastructure;
- Strengthening capacity of the information technology specialists;
- Preparing training plan on monitoring, observation and evaluation methods.

Individual level

- Strengthening the capacity for staff in monitoring, observation and evaluation;
- Providing train courses for young staff in areas related to monitoring, observation and evaluation;
- Mobilizing the community participation in activities related to monitoring, observation and evaluation.

2.5.6. Opportunities for synergies

Monitoring and evaluating the implementation results have not been equally referred in all parts but cut across the three conventions. Upon the importance, analyses of the causes of failure to meet the requirements of the Rio conventions and the needs for capacity strengthening at the three levels (systemic, institutional and individual) as mentioned above, the opportunities for synergies between conventions is great.

	UNCBD	UNFCCC	UNCCD	Cutting across conventions
1. Forest protection and development	√	√	√	3
2. Wetland	√	√	√	3
3. Protection of river basin environment	√	√	√	3
4. Awareness and knowledge	√	√	√	3
5. Development and implementation of policies, strategies, action plans and planning	√	√	√	3

6. Inter-sectoral and inter-regional coordination	√	√	√	3
7. Investment and finance	√	√	√	3
8. International and regional cooperation	√	√	√	3

PART III. SUMMARY AND PRIORITY SETTING

1. Summary of capacity constraints

Those capacity constraints related to five issues mentioned above can be summarized as follows:

Systemic level

- The collaboration between relevant ministries/sectors has not been clearly defined; The management system is incomplete; Overlap and duplication in tasks and responsibilities still exist;
- The management system is incomplete, insufficient in number and weak in capacity;
- The legal framework, policies, strategies and action plans are insufficient and inconsistent, the implementation thereof is not good;
- The mechanism and policy for ensuring benefits of community when involving in environmental protection activities has not been provided;
- The efficiency of the integration of environmental requirements in general, biodiversity, and climate change and land degradation in particular in social-economic development programme remain low;
- Regulations on information management, sharing and knowledge dissemination are not clear enough.
- The monitoring and assessment system at national level has not been completed.

Institutional level

- The focal points of the Rio conventions work in part-time manner;
- Limited environmental management capacity at both central and local level;
- The existing database system is incompleted, not updated with low accuracy. The information sharing mechanism between ministries/sectors and localities has not been clearly defined;
- Information technology capacity at organizations is still restricted;
- Supporting tools for effective implementation of programmes/activities are insufficient.

Individual level

- Restricted monitoring and assessment skills;
- Communication skill is not good enough;
- Analysis and planning skills are restricted;
- Limited professional knowledge;
- Restricted skills in accessing to and processing information;
- The management skills remain low;
- Low awareness on environmental protection;
- Legal execution is not high enough.

2. Capacity needs

Prioritization of the capacity development needs was based on the following criteria and weight:

- Severity of capacity gap (30%).
- Relevance to the fulfilment of obligations under the Rio conventions in Vietnam (25%).
- The possibility to implement conventions (30%).
- Linkages between conventions (15%).

The capacity development priorities of Vietnam are described in the following table:

Duties	Capacity Need		
	Systemic level	Institutional Level	Individual Level
Awareness and knowledge on 03 conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Developing necessary mechanisms and policies to ensure benefits of community when participating in the environmental protection activities. - Developing a long-term communication strategy on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing and implementing appropriate training plans on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation for various targeted groups. - Building, developing and duplicating models of economic development taking into account environmental protection activities. -Integrating environment protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing training plan on communication methodologies for related staff. - Development of communication tools for different targeted people. - Development of communication documents on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation for different targeted people.

		activities of three Conventions to activities of socio-political organizations.	
Development and implementation of laws, policies, plans and programmes related to 03 conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating environmental issues and requirements (such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and prevention of land degradation) into the master plans and programmes to develop the national economy, at the same time, improving technology and technical abilities for implementing the programmes - Develop new laws (such as Law on biodiversity, on energy security, etc.). 	Further strengthening the management systems and capacity for the legal executive institutions by making the functions and responsibilities of these institutions clear.	Developing skills for managerial officials of national institutions, NGOs that relate to the use of resources.
The collaboration between relevant ministries and sectors.	Developing a coordination mechanism among relevant ministries, sectors, localities and institutions so as to implement the cross-cutting actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening operation mechanism for 3 national focal points of 03 conventions. - Building decentralization and supporting mechanism for localities. 	
Data collection and management.	Developing regulations on information sharing and exchange between related stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening capacity for monitoring and observation stations in terms of both quality and quantity. - Preparing database system relating to 03 	Strengthening and enhancing capacity for information analyzing and processing for staff of relevant sectors/organizations.

		conventions. - Strengthening capacity on information technology at national level (infrastructure and information technology qualification)	
Monitoring and evaluation.	Developing monitoring, observation and evaluation plans for the performance of three conventions	Developing the system of environmental indicators for reports of environmental state and systematizing them by providing guidances on the implementation thereof from central to local levels.	Develop training plan on methodologies for monitoring, observations and evaluation.

3. Implementation plan

No	Activities	Long term	Medium term	Short term
I	Enhancing knowledge and awareness of community about 03 conventions			
1.1	Developing necessary mechanisms and policies to ensure community benefits when participating in environmental protection activities.		√	
1.2	Developing a long-term communication strategy on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.		√	
1.3	Developing and implementing training plan on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation for different targeted people.	√		
1.4	Developing, preparing and disseminating good models of economic development with regard to environmental protection activities.		√	
1.5	Integrating environmental protection activities specified in the three conventions to activities of socio-political			√

	organizations.			
1.6	Developing training plans on communication methodologies for relevant staff.			√
1.7	Developing tools and documents for communication with different targeted people			√
II	Implementation of relevant programmes and plans and detailed methods			
2.1	Integrating environmental issues and requirements (such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and prevention of land degradation) into the master plans and programmes to develop the national economy, at the same time, improving technology and technical abilities for implementing the programmes		√	
2.2	Building new Laws (such as: Biodiversity Law, Law on Energy Security...)	√		
2.3	Improving management and strengthening capacity for legal execution institutions, such as making their tasks and responsibilities clear.		√	
2.4	Establishing and developing skills of policy makers and analysts for institutional mechanism building.			√
2.5	Establishing and developing skills for managers of national institutions and NGOs relating to the use of resources.			√
III	Cross-sectoral cooperation			
3.1	Building cross-sectoral cooperation mechanism for implementation of 03 conventions.		√	
3.2	Strengthening operation mechanism for 03 national focal points of 03 conventions.			√
3.3	Building decentralization and supporting		√	

	mechanism for localities.			
IV	Data collection and management			
4.1	Strengthening capacity for monitoring and observation stations in terms of both quality and quantity.		Y	
4.2	Developing regulations on information sharing and exchange between related stakeholders		Y	
4.3	Preparing database system relating to 03 conventions		Y	
4.4	Strength capacity on information technology at national level			Y
4.5	Strengthening and enhancing capacity for information analyzing and processing for staff of relevant sectors/organizations.			Y
V	Monitoring and evaluation			
5.1	Developing monitoring, observation and evaluation plans for the performance of the three conventions		Y	
5.2	Develop training plan on methodologies for monitoring, observations and evaluation.			Y
5.3	Developing the system of environmental indicators for reports of environmental state and systematizing them by providing guidances on the implementation thereof from central to local levels.		Y	

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