



Relevant ministries and branches need to allocate enough resources to carry out assigned tasks; Responsible for negotiation contents in areas under management authority; Directly participate in negotiation sessions and technical meetings within the framework of the Agreement negotiations.

Send experts and members of the negotiating team to attend the meeting of 02 groups of technical experts to discuss, monitor and even participate in informal negotiations at this meeting.

Regarding procedures for concluding negotiations, the INC-5 Conference is the final negotiation conference for member countries to negotiate and develop the Agreement, therefore, the procedures are according to the provisions of the 2016 Law on International Treaties, the lead agency, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, needs to coordinate with ministries and branches to develop a plan to end the negotiations and submit it to the Prime Minister according to regulations before the INC-5 Conference and the member ministries of the Negotiation Working Group need to provide relevant content to prepare for the conclusion of the negotiations.

Regarding issues of concern, it is necessary to take policy impact assessments as soon as possible based on trend forecasts, especially for new contents such as: 40x40 target, plastic pollution fee.

Mobilizing the participation of relevant parties, at the INC-4 Conference, a number of negotiating delegations, in addition to the participation of Government agencies, also had the participation of experts and consultants representing Relevant associations in the plastic industry, research institutes, independent legal consultants for the negotiating team (such as Malaysia, Chile, China, Philippines...). Vietnam can also consider adding representatives from these aforementioned institutes/organisations to advise on related contents for the negotiating team.

Continue to organize consultations with relevant parties through technical workshops on the contents to be discussed at expert group meetings in Bangkok, Thailand, from August 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024; It is necessary to propose the main contents of the Agreement on the basis of the draft Comprehensive Agreement announced by the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee in July 2024.

Step by step communicate the negotiation process and the content of the draft Global Agreement to people and businesses to gradually raise awareness of the serious impact caused by plastic pollution and change behavior from production to consumption and responsible disposal of plastic products, avoiding environmental pollution.

Strengthen international cooperation to assess the current situation of plastic pollution, promote plastic circulation models, and manage and treat plastic waste ■

**D**ong Nai river basin is the third largest river basin in the country, after the Mekong and Red - Thai Binh river systems, with water resources accounting for about 5.5% of the country's total water resources. Dong Nai river basin has a natural area of 36,530 km<sup>2</sup>, within the administrative boundaries of 10 provinces and cities: Dong Nai, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Ba Ria - Vung Tau, Dak Nong, Lam Dong, Long An, Binh Thuan provinces and Ho Chi Minh City. Dong Nai river basin is considered having great values, the most prominent of which is the value of water resources, the main source of supply for economic development activities, people's livelihood and regulating the climate of the whole region. This is one of 13 river basins in Viet Nam that must develop a general master plan for the river basin.

### 1. CHALLENGES FOR WATER RESOURCES IN THE DONG NAI RIVER BASIN

Water resources in the Dong Nai river basin are exploited and used to meet the purposes of domestic water use, agricultural and industrial production, electricity generation, thereby annually contributing about 35.2% of the country's GDP. Thanks to the abundant water resources, the river basin has additional values such as: forest resources, mineral resources, fisheries, hydroelectricity, eco-tourism... There are currently values that have been and are being exploited effectively, contributing to local socio-economic development. However, in recent years, water resources in the Dong Nai river basin are facing many challenges due to pressure on water exploitation and use, sharp decline in water amount in the dry season, water pollution, salinity intrusion and impacts of climate change, specifically:

(i) Water resources in the planned area are unevenly distributed in space and time. The total amount of water in the planned area is about 56.73 billion m<sup>3</sup> (including surface water about 46.13 billion m<sup>3</sup>, underground water about 10.6 billion m<sup>3</sup>). Of which, the total amount of surface water in the flood season accounts for about 78% and in the dry season accounts for about 22% of the total annual flow. The average amount of water per capita in the dry season is about 797 m<sup>3</sup>/person, but access to water sources in many areas is still difficult, especially in high mountainous areas, remote areas and areas affected by saltwater intrusion, leading to local water shortages in some areas during the dry season.

(ii) There is no general master plan for the Dong Nai river basin, while the general master plan for river basins is one of the foundations for formulating and implementing sectoral master plans for exploiting and using water resources. On the other hand, a number of sectoral and local master plans for exploiting and using water resources have been and are being



# Master plan for the Dong Nai river basin in the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050

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implemented such as: irrigation master plan, rural water supply master plan, urban water supply master plan... However, these master plans are still single-sectoral, mainly focusing on the goal of exploiting and using water resources without considering the overall allocation of water resources among sectors in different conditions of water sources, without mentioning the issue of integrated management of water resources on the basis of protecting water resources, protecting the ecological environment, preventing and controlling harmful effects caused by water.

(iii) Strong socio-economic development, rapid urbanization and expanded industrial production activities of localities in the planned area have increased the demand for water use. In addition, activities of discharging wastewater into water sources, especially types of wastewater that are not treated in accordance with technical regulations have been impacting and putting increasing pressure on the quantity and quality of water sources of rivers, streams, canals, as well as aquifers in the planned area, especially in Dong Nai, Binh Duong, Ba Ria - Vung Tau provinces and Ho Chi Minh City. On the other hand, the exploitation and use of water without general master plan for water resources, without regulation on functions of water sources, without regulation on minimum flow... have caused water resources to become increasingly seriously degraded, causing risk of insecurity for water sources in such areas.

(iv) Dong Nai river basin is one of river basins strongly affected by climate change, in which water resources will be affected the most and soonest due to unusual developments in rainfall and sea level rise. This fluctuation causes extreme hydrological phenomena such as saltwater intrusion, floods, and droughts that change flow regimes in both the rainy season and dry season. Climate change also affects the balance of water resources, making the uneven distribution of water resources between the dry season and rainy season increasingly serious. As a result, saltwater intrusion, floods and droughts appear with increasing frequency and severity, and this phenomenon has appeared more clearly in recent years, seriously affecting water resources, typical example is the historic drought phenomenon in the dry season of 2016, its consequence is that the flow of most rivers and streams in the planned area has seriously decreased, many places have reached record low levels, leading to drought, saltwater intrusion, water shortage, including domestic water in many areas.

(v) Wasteful and ineffective exploitation and use of water resources is still happening. The rate of water loss in urban and rural water supply is still high (about over 20%), the actual water exploitation capacity is much lower than the designed capacity, especially water exploitation capacity in

agriculture is only at 70 to 80% of the designed construction capacity...

From above challenges, in order to manage, improve efficiency in using, restoring, minimizing degradation, pollution and depletion of water sources and adapt to climate change for national water resources in general, Dong Nai river basin in particular, on 8 January 2024, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 22/QĐ-TTg approving the General master plan for the Dong Nai river basin in the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050. The master plan specifically stipulates goals, solutions, functions of water sources and management, regulation and distribution of water sources, contributing to ensuring security for water sources for the exploitation, use purposes and socio-economic development goals in planned area; develops solutions and stipulates specific responsibilities for each relevant Ministry and local authority to organize the implementation of the master plan to ensure effectiveness.

## 2. ENSURE SECURITY FOR WATER SOURCES ON THE RIVER BASIN AND THE ENTIRE PLANNED AREA

The integrated master plan for the Dong Nai river basin in the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050 has a planning scope including the area of Dong Nai river basin within the administrative boundaries of Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Nai, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Ba Ria - Vung Tau, Dak Nong, Lam Dong provinces (excluding a part of the area of Long An province belonging to the General master plan for the Mekong river basin) and a part of the area of Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan provinces which is the area receiving water from Dong Nai river basin, divided into 6 planned sub-areas including: Dong Nai river upstream; Dong Nai river downstream; Sai Gon river - Vam Co river upstream; Be river; La Nga river and coastal surroundings.

The Master plan was issued based on the viewpoints that water resources are managed in an integrated manner according to river basins, consistent in quantity and quality, between surface water and underground water, between upstream and downstream, inter-



regions and between localities in the same basin, ensuring compliance with master plans of the provinces and provisions of international treaties and bilateral cooperation in which Viet Nam participates. At the same time, the Master plan for the river basin is developed on the basis of taking water resources as the core factor, identifying climate change and sea level rise as inevitable trends that must be lived with and proactively adapted to...; storing, regulating, and distributing water sources flexibly, respecting natural laws and in accordance with the capacity of water sources. Use water economically, effectively for multiple purposes, improve water use values, ensure security for water sources and adapt to climate change; ensure reasonable exploitation and use, and harmonious sharing of water sources among sectors and localities in the basin and some localities with difficulties in water sources in the South-Central coastal region (Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan). Protect water resources on the basis of protecting functions of water sources to meet water quality requirements for purposes of use, protect aquatic resources and prevent, control and remedy consequences and harmful effects caused by water with the motto “Proactive prevention is key to minimizing losses, stabilizing social security, and maintaining national defence and security”.

The overall goal of the Master plan is to ensure security for water sources on the river basin and the entire planned area; store, regulate and distribute water resources in a fair and reasonable manner; exploit and use water sources economically and effectively in association with the protection and sustainable development of water resources to meet water needs for people’s livelihood, socio-economic development; ensure national defence and security, environmental protection, conservation of ecosystem, vegetation cover and biodiversity; protect water resources, prevent degradation, depletion, pollution of water sources and harmful effects caused by water; have a roadmap to restore degraded, depleted, and polluted water sources, meeting the requirements of integrated management of water resources according to river basins and adapting to climate change; gradually implement the national digital transformation goal on the basis of building and operating a water resources information and data system, ensuring connection with the natural resources and environment information system, sectors that exploit and use water.

The Master plan sets the goal of striving to 2030 as to achieve a number of basic targets such as: 100% of inter-provincial water sources having their wastewater receiving capacity and load-bearing capacity are announced; 80% of works exploiting and using water are monitored for operation and system connection according to regulations; 70% of lakes, ponds, canals having regulating functions and having high values of biodiversity, history, culture, and beliefs not filled are announced, managed and protected; complete the establishment and announcement of protection corridors for water sources, ensure flow circulation, prevent bank and riverbank erosion, and minimize harmful effects caused by water; 100% of industrial parks and export processing zones have centralized wastewater treatment systems that wastewater is treated to meet technical standards according to regulations before being discharged into water sources; 40% to 45% of wastewater in urban areas of type II and higher and 25% to 30% of wastewater in urban areas of type V and higher are collected and treated to meet technical standards according to regulations before being discharged into water sources.

Vision to 2050, maintain and develop water resources, regulate and distribute water sources to ensure security for water sources, adapt to climate change in accordance with international treaties and bilateral, multilateral cooperation related to water resources that Viet Nam has participated in; restore areas with excessive groundwater level decline, degraded, depleted, and seriously polluted rivers, canals; effectively prevent and control landslides of river banks, canals, and ditches, control river bottom elevation, sand and gravel exploitation on river beds; redeploy riverside residents with other measures to gradually enhance the value of riverside landscape; supplement and improve a number of targets of the Master plan, implement integrated management of water resources in accordance with the country’s development stage, on par with developed countries in the region; ensure security for water sources, improve water use values in accordance with the world’s general development trends.

#### **Main contents of the Master plan**

*Functions of water sources:* Water sources in the planned area have one or more basic functions such as water supply for living, business, and services; water supply for agricultural and aquacultural production; water supply for industrial production; water supply for hydropower and tourism; water transportation; creation of landscape and environment; protection and conservation of aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity; storage, flood drainage and water drainage. Functions of water sources are determined on the basis of distribution characteristics of water sources, current status, goals of water use and socio-economic development master plans and plans. Functions of water sources are determined for each period (to 2030 and vision to 2050); periodically review and adjust functions of water sources to suit the actual situation of each water source and the need to use water sources for socio-economic development.



*Management, regulation and distribution of water sources contribute to ensuring security for water sources for exploitation, use purposes and socio-economic development goals in the planned area:* Distribution of surface and underground water sources that can be exploited and used under normal conditions in the planned area from 36,088 million m<sup>3</sup> (corresponding to frequency of 85%) to about 46,134 million m<sup>3</sup> (corresponding to frequency of 50%) contributes to ensuring security for water sources, meeting the need for water exploitation and use by 2030 of about 12,169 million m<sup>3</sup> within the planned area...

Under normal conditions, People's Committees of provinces and centrally-run cities shall proactively regulate and distribute water resources to ensure compliance with inter-reservoir operating procedures issued by competent authorities, in accordance with the detailed plan for regulating, distributing, exploiting, using water for areas using water with high economic efficiency (for the Dong Nai river downstream sub-region) and coastal sub-region (Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan), detailed plan for regulating, distributing, exploiting, using water and preventing, controlling and remedying harmful effects caused by water (for the Sai Gon river sub-region - Vam Co river upstream), appropriate with legal regulations on water resources.

Every year, the MONRE presides and coordinates with line ministries, ministerial-level agencies and Provincial People's Committees to develop and announce scenarios for water sources (for the whole year and updated at the beginning of the dry season) based on the current status and forecasting trends in rainfall, trends in surface water and underground water sources, and the amount of water stored in reservoirs during different periods of the year. Line ministries, ministerial-level agencies and Provincial People's Committees proactively direct and guide the



▲ *General master plan for the Dong Nai river basin to ensure security for water sources and improve water use values*

organization for implementation of appropriate water exploitation and use, ensuring priority for water for daily life and other activities using water economically, effectively, harmonizing benefits between planned sub-areas...

*Management of exploitation and use of surface water sources to ensure minimum flow on rivers:* The exploitation and use of water sources on rivers, streams and canals must ensure the minimum flow value announced by the MONRE specified in Appendix VI attached to this Decision. In case of implementing socio-economic development activities that require adjusting the minimum flow value, based on actual conditions and characteristics of water sources, the Provincial People's Committee shall submit to the competent authority for consideration and decision in accordance with the provisions of legislations on water resources.

In addition, the Master plan also specifically stipulates contents such as: Backup water sources for domestic use in areas at risk of water pollution; dams, reservoirs, works for water regulation and storage, development of water sources; protection of water resources; prevention and control of landslides in rivers and lakes; prevention and control of floods, land subsidence and saline intrusion of underground water; monitoring of water resources, exploitation and use of water...

### 3. SOLUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MASTER PLAN

*Firstly*, continue to implement legal and policy solutions proposed according to the Master plan for water resources in the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050, research and supplement special policies (if any) for this planned area.

*Secondly*, regulate, distribute, develop and protect water resources, use water economically and effectively, reuse water to contribute to ensuring security for water sources. Accordingly, implement specific con-



tents: Build and operate information systems, digital models, and decision supporting tool systems; develop and announce scenarios for water sources; prioritize detailed planning for regulation, distribution, exploitation, use and protection of water resources in areas where water shortages often occur; complete the meteorological, hydrological and water resources monitoring system on Dong Nai river basin; provide trainings and improve the quality of human resources to ensure synchronous and effective management and operation of the system; control water exploitation and use activities on Dong Nai river basin through connecting and transmitting information and data to the water exploitation and use monitoring system according to regulations...

*Thirdly*, prevent, control and remedy consequences and harmful effects caused by water: Research and implement solutions to handle landslides on the main stream of Dong Nai river in Binh Phuoc, Binh Duong, Lam Dong, Dong Nai, Ba Ria - Vung Tau provinces and Ho Chi Minh City. Research on measures for works to prevent and control landslides in urban areas and concentrated residential areas, including: Dong Xoai City (Binh Phuoc Province); Bac Tan Uyen District and Tan Uyen City (Binh Duong Province); District 12, Binh Thanh District, Can Gio District, Cu Chi District (Ho Chi Minh City)...; develop a map to zone land surface subsidence, build and put into operation a monitoring system to monitor subsidence developments in some areas at risk of land surface subsidence, high levels of subsidence, assess and determine causes of land surface subsidence as a basis for ministries, sectors and local authorities to implement appropriate response solutions as in the area of Ho Chi Minh City; develop a flood map for the entire basin based on the application of modern technology and techniques...

*Fourthly*, strengthen science, technology and international cooperation: Apply advanced, modern, smart science, techniques and technology in monitoring, forecasting, warning, supervising and using circulating water, saving and reusing water, managing and protecting water sources, developing water sources, connecting water sources; strengthen international cooperation in exchanging, providing information, researching and transferring science on water resources, technology for using circulating water, saving and reusing water; apply science and technology, organize the building and operation of specialized hydro-meteorological monitoring networks, synchronously invest in technical infrastructure solutions to ensure meeting inter-reservoir operating requirements to regulate, operate reservoirs in real time, effectively exploit water resources ■

The Land Law officially takes effect on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Its implementation is brought forward by five months compared to the original plan to quickly realize new policies and initiatives, create breakthroughs in land administration. This breakthrough aims to the comprehensive reform of many regulations, from compensation and support to resettlement and land valuation; from maximizing the potential of agricultural land to leveraging the advantages of various types of land use; from streamlining administrative reforms to harmonizing the interests of different land users...

## 1. ENSURING THE RIGHTS OF LAND-EXPROPRIATED INDIVIDUALS

Institutionalizing the Party's policy in Resolution 18, the Land Law 2024 has inherited regulations proven to be appropriate in practice while also amending and supplementing many new provisions to better protect the legitimate rights of people, especially in cases of land acquisition. This contributes to reducing and more effectively addressing land-related complaints, such as diversifying compensation forms and adding various support measures for those affected by land acquisition.

Specifically, the law stipulates the principle of compensation by diversifying forms of land compensation. Households and individuals whose land is acquired can be compensated with land of the same purpose as the acquired land, or with money, other land, or housing, in accordance with the needs of the affected landowners and the land fund of each locality.

In addition, the law specifies the principle of "having housing, ensuring income, and living conditions equal to or better than the previous residence" through regulations on the criteria for resettlement areas regarding technical infrastructure, social infrastructure, and the location of resettlement implementation... The resettlement area can be designated for one or more projects. When the State acquires land and the remaining area of the land parcel after acquisition is smaller than the minimum area, if the land user agrees to the acquisition, the competent People's Committee will decide on the land acquisition and carry out compensation, support, and management of this land area according to legal regulations.

At the same time, the law specifies and expands the composition of the Compensation, Support, and Resettlement Council to include representatives from the People's Council, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the same level, and representatives of land users whose land is being acquired. This aims to ensure objectivity, transparency, and the participation of relevant parties in the compensation, support, and resettlement processes.

Additionally, attention is given to social policy beneficiaries and individuals directly involved in agricultural production. The steps for compensation, support, resettlement, and land acquisition ensure the