

Introductory Statement - Vietnam



Pham Khoi Nguyen

Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam

Our country has a long and beautiful coast, rich in coastal and marine resources. We exploit these resources at an increasing pace, contributing to our growing national income. The coastal zone of Vietnam is, however, not only an economically important zone but also vulnerable to the environmental consequences of rapid exploitation and impacts of global change.

Vietnam has taken important steps in the last few decades towards managing and developing the use of these resources in a sustainable way. Legal frameworks for balancing coastal economic development with environmental protection are provided. These include the enacted national Strategy for Environmental Protection 2001 – 2010, and the Regulation on the Survey and Management of Marine Resources and Environment 2010, both accompanied by a long-term vision.

As well as providing the legislative base, we have taken important steps in the process of managing our coast in an integrated manner. We realise that the present and the future coastal challenges are complex and need to be addressed in a holistic way. The knowledge of coastal processes is being improved through increased efforts in monitoring and dissemination.

ICZM programs take place at the national level and in pilot provinces, through international and bilateral cooperation. These ICZM programmes delivered a wealth of products and experiences, which have been extended to other coastal provinces in Vietnam.

We also strengthened the institutional ICZM arrangements through creating a dedicated coastal management centre within the newly established Vietnam Administration of Sea and Islands of my Ministry. This focuses on the application of ICZM, on integrated coastal zone planning including sea use and coastal fisheries.

Much effort is needed to keep pace with the rapid modernisation of our country, balancing the economy and environment, and at the same time preparing adaptive, resilient coastal measures to combat the impacts of climate change.

We are looking forward to continuing the important cooperation with the Netherlands in order to identify, plan and implement adaptive responses for our valuable and vulnerable coastal areas.

We welcome this “Climate of Coastal Cooperation” publication reflecting a number of important results obtained in the last two decades of international coastal cooperation.