



History of Viet Nam's Engagement in the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia

1993 Viet Nam participated in the implementation of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme for Marine Pollution Prevention and Management in the East Asian Seas (MPP-EAS), focusing on capacity-building on water quality monitoring and project development and management; and review of national legislations and regulations to facilitate the ratification and implementation of international conventions related to the environment and marine pollution, including the publication of the Vietnamese version of the report, "[Enhancing the Success of Integrated Coastal Management](#)."

1999 Participated in the implementation of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) with the objective of protecting the life support systems and enabling the sustainable use and management of coastal and marine resources through intergovernmental, intersectoral, and inter-agency partnerships for improved quality of life in the East Asian Seas (EAS) region.

The Da Nang National Demonstration Project on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) was established in addition to Sihanoukville (Cambodia), Nampho (DPR Korea), Bali (Indonesia), Port Klang (Malaysia), and Chonburi (Thailand), building on the experiences of Xiamen (China) and Batangas Province (Philippines) in ICM implementation in the previous phase of the GEF initiative.

Key outputs were generated, including the [Da Nang Initial Risk Assessment](#), [Da Nang Coastal Strategy](#), and Da Nang Coastal Use Zoning Plan, among others.

2003 Participated in the inaugural EAS Congress hosted by the Government of Malaysia and signed, alongside 11 countries in the East Asian Seas region, the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia adopting the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), a common framework for regional cooperation for sustainable development of shared seas and resources in East Asia.

2006 Participated in the 2006 East Asian Seas Congress hosted by the Government of China and signed the Haikou Partnership Agreement, which formally established PEMSEA as the regional coordinating mechanism for implementing the SDS-SEA, including the Partnership Operating Arrangements that specify the roles and responsibilities of PEMSEA country and non-country partners in implementing the SDS-SEA. As part of the operating arrangements, the project steering committee of PEMSEA was transformed into the EAS Partnership Council.

Da Nang City, Quang Nam Province, and Thua Thien Hue Province joined the Inaugural Meeting and Launching of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG) with the signing of the PNLG Charter as founding members.

Alongside Cambodia and Thailand, Viet Nam signed the Joint Statement on Partnership in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Cooperation in the Gulf of Thailand. The Joint Statement contains a tripartite intergovernmental agreement, which commits participating countries to mutual support and assistance in combating oil spills in the Gulf of Thailand region. The overall goal of the Gulf of Thailand Cooperation is to build the capacity of the three littoral states and enhance their capability in planning and responding to oil spill incidents as part of global efforts to protect the marine environment.

2007	Da Nang City hosted the 2007 PNLG Forum with the theme, “Addressing Coastal Security by Investing in Natural and Man-made Hazards Prevention and Management”.
2008	The Government of Viet Nam established the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) to perform advisory and technical support for the integrated and unified state management of the country’s seas and islands.
2009	Viet Nam participated in the 2009 EAS Congress hosted by the Government of the Philippines and signed the Manila Declaration committing to strengthen the implementation of ICM and climate change adaptation in the Seas of East Asia.
2010	Viet Nam participated in the implementation of the GEF/UNDP/UNOPS Project on the Implementation of the SDS-SEA through mobilization of the necessary partnership arrangements, operating mechanisms, intellectual capital, and support services and resources for the achievement of the shared vision of sustainable use of coastal and marine resources of the EAS region and the development targets of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Plan of Implementation. The project supported the development of a National ICM Program and the efforts to scale up ICM at the national and local levels. This includes the implementation of the Gulf of Thailand Framework Programme on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response.
2011	Da Nang City, Quang Nam Province and Thua Thien Hue Province signed the Dongying Declaration on Building a Blue Economy through ICM during the 2011 PNLG Forum.
2012	Participated in the 2012 EAS Congress hosted by the Government of RO Korea and signed the “Changwon Declaration Toward an Ocean-based Blue Economy: Moving Ahead with the SDS-SEA,” which adopted the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2012-2016 and the definition of blue economy.
2014	The National ICM Strategy up to 2020 with Vision to 2030 (Decision No. 2295/QD-TTg) was approved by the Prime Minister of Viet Nam. Alongside Cambodia and Thailand, the country also adopted the Environmental Sensitivity Index Atlas for Gulf of Thailand, which was developed to guide effective planning and oil spill response in the region. Viet Nam participated in the implementation of the GEF/UNDP Project on Scaling up the Implementation of the SDS-SEA, which aimed to reduce pollution and rebuild degraded marine resources through scaling up the implementation of the SDS-SEA in eight countries by catalyzing actions and investments at the regional, national, and local levels to rehabilitate and sustain coastal and marine ecosystem services and build a sustainable coastal- and ocean-based economy in the East Asian region.
2015	The Governments of Viet Nam and Da Nang City hosted the 2015 EAS Congress and the Fifth EAS Ministerial Forum where the Da Nang Compact was signed, adopting the 2015 SDS-SEA, which lays down the post-2015 strategic targets of PEMSEA in line with the 2020 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was the first EAS Congress held at a National ICM Demonstration Site. Since Da Nang City’s designation as an ICM site in 1999, Da Nang has become a showcase for ICM replication across the country and the EAS region. Da Nang City also hosted the PNLG Forum where the preparation of the PNLG Strategic Action Plan 2016-2021 was approved in support of the ICM scaling up target of the Da Nang Compact. The three PNLG members in Viet Nam (i.e., Da Nang City, Quang Nam Province, and Thua Thien Hue Province) received ICM System Certification Level 1. The certification system follows the ICM Code of PEMSEA and the ISO standards on quality management and environmental management systems. Level 1 indicates development and implementation of an ICM project that complies with entry-level requirements.
2016	The Viet Nam National Assembly passed the Law on Marine and Island Resources and Environment. Decree No. 40/2016/ND-CP was also promulgated by the Government of Viet Nam in this year. The decree provided details for the implementation of certain articles of the foregoing law, including the development and implementation of ICM programs at the local level. The National ICM Action Plan 2016-2020 (Decision No. 914/QD-TTg) was approved by the Prime Minister. Da Nang City, Quang Nam Province, and Thua Thien Hue Province signed the Ansan Declaration on PNLG Leadership in Sustainable Development of Coastal and Marine Areas through ICM.
2017	Decision No. 01/QD-BDP issued was issued, establishing the National ICM Coordination Office that would assist the National ICM Coordinating Committee in overseeing the implementation of the National ICM Strategy and National ICM Action Plan. Decision No. 2363/QD-BDP was also issued, detailing the operational mechanisms for the Coordinating Committee.

Circular No. 49 (No. 49/2017/TT-BTNMT) was approved by MONRE. It aims to support the implementation of the Law on Marine and Island Resources and Environment on ICM by specifying the technical regulations for ICM and is anticipated to cover 28 coastal provinces.

The year 2017 is also the starting year of the implementation of the project entitled “Addressing Challenges of Coastal Communities through Ocean Research for Developing Economies (ACCORD).” With an end date of 2021, this project was funded by UK Research and Innovation as part of the Natural Environment Research Council’s Official Development Assistance and implemented in Da Nang City by Plymouth Marine Laboratory in coordination with the Da Nang Department of Natural Resources and Environment and University of Da Nang.

2018 Viet Nam participated in the 2018 EAS Congress hosted by the Government of the Philippines and signed the Iloilo Ministerial Declaration, which commits to pursue PEMSEA’s sustainability post-2019 and adopted the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022.

2019 Viet Nam appointed a national coordinator to manage the Viet Nam component of the SDS-SEA Scaling up Project, particularly the implementation of the remaining (2019-2020) deliverables and delivery of the committed targets for Viet Nam under the project.

The country finalized its National State of the Ocean and Coasts Report, which highlights the contribution of the ocean economy to Viet Nam. The report is a mechanism to monitor ocean health, investments, and net returns from ocean economic activities and the outcomes of policies and governance espousing the blue economy approach.

2020 PEMSEA completed the SDS-SEA Scaling up Project with the publication of the [Viet Nam State of Ocean and Coasts Report](#) featuring the state of blue economy in Viet Nam. The report comprises three parts: (1) state of the ocean economy and ocean health; (2) transformation of the traditional ocean economy to blue economy; and (3) innovations in ocean stewardship and governance and their supporting mechanisms.

The province of Thua Thien Hue received their Level 1 ICM Certification from PEMSEA during the 2020 PNLG Forum hosted by Xiamen, China.

2021 Viet Nam participated in the 2021 EAS Congress hosted by the Government of Cambodia and signed the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration, which endorsed the development of the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 as the region’s decadal strategic guide, anchored on the SDS-SEA vision and commitment to blue economy and aligned with the countries’ green recovery plans and programs as well as key international environmental commitments.

The 2021 PNLG Forum witnessed the election of Dr. Le Quang Nam, Vice Chairman of the People’s Committee in Da Nang, as President of the PNLG for a three-year term covering the period 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2024.

2022 Mr. Le Dai Thang, the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Marine Resources Control and Marine, Island Environment Protection of VASI was elected as the Intergovernmental Session Co-Chair of the EAS Partnership Council for a three-year term covering the period 31 July 2022 to 30 July 2025. By virtue of PEMSEA’s Rules of Governance, he will automatically assume the post of Intergovernmental Session Chair from 31 July 2025 to 30 July 2028.

The city of Da Nang received their Level 2 ICM Certification from PEMSEA during the 2022 PNLG Forum hosted by the Regency of Tangerang, Indonesia. Level 2 indicates success in creating efficient processes resulting in environmental benefits in key areas.

2023 15th East Asian Seas Partnership Council meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. Partners of the East Asian Seas Initiative for Clean Oceans (EASICO) convened for a workshop on “Enhancing Scientific Capacity for Accelerating Actions Toward Plastic Reduction,” hosted by GreenHub in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in May 2023.

2024 Vietnam signs the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration during the EAS Congress 2024

2025 Mr. Le Dai Thang, Deputy Director of the Department of Marine Resources Control and Marine, Island Environment Protection, Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI), Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE), was elected as the Intergovernmental Session Chair of the EAS Partnership Council for a three-year term from 31 July 2025 to 30 July 2028. In accordance with PEMSEA’s Rules of Governance, he automatically assumes the post of Intergovernmental Session Chair.

In addition, the Memorandum of Agreement for IRBM was signed in February 2025, followed by the project launch in April 2025.
