

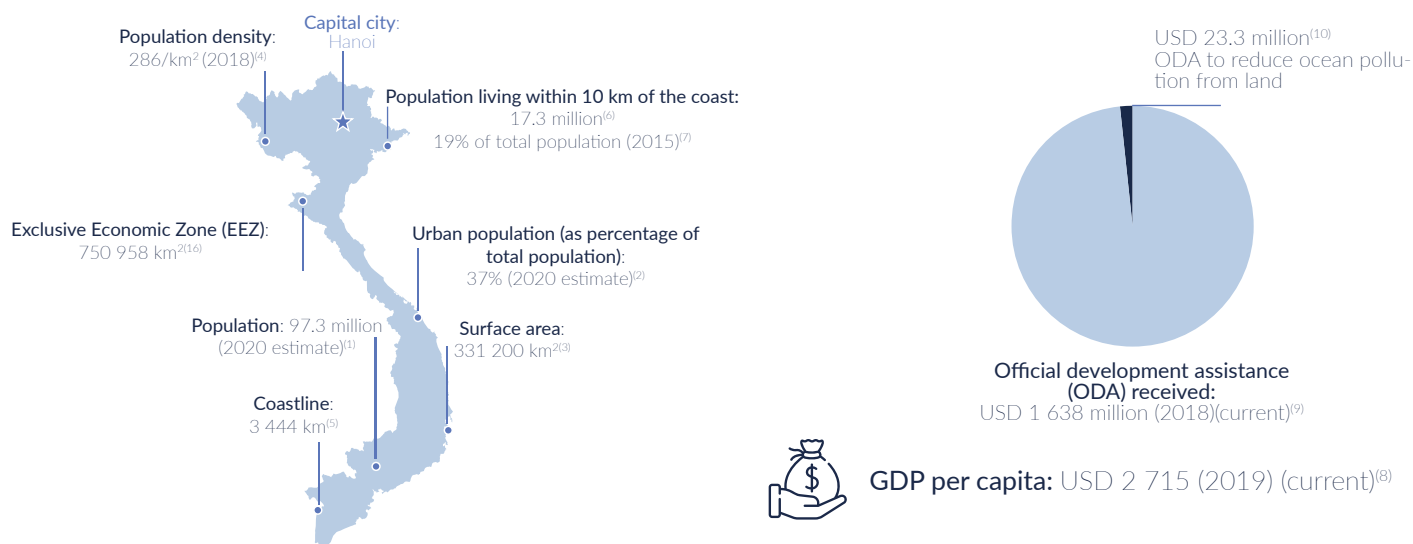
VIET NAM

Viet Nam aims for a 50% reduction in marine plastic litter by 2025, increasing to 75% by 2030.

Millions of tonnes of plastics enter the ocean every year, with tremendous environmental, economic and social costs that are difficult to quantify. However, the marine plastics pollution problem cannot be solved just by cleaning up the ocean. Most marine plastics are not discarded directly into the sea but derive from land-based sources. They end up in the sea for a multitude of reasons, such as the inadequate filtering of wastewater, improper or illegal disposal, or unexpected natural disasters. Land-based initiatives are therefore essential to addressing marine plastics pollution.

The OECD stands ready to help develop policy advice and financing strategies to address marine plastics pollution in Southeast Asia, a region where this problem is particularly acute.

Figure 1. Viet Nam: Key demographic, geographic, and economic indicators



In Viet Nam, several government ministries and agencies are involved in addressing marine plastics pollution :

- **At the national level**, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MoNRE) is responsible for Environmental management and integrated management of solid waste treatment.⁽¹¹⁾ Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI),⁽¹²⁾ under MoNRE, is responsible for the management of marine resources, protection of the marine environment,

marine spatial planning and sustainable use of marine resources. The Ministry of Construction (MoC) invests in solid waste management (SWM), interprovincial SWM and SWM facilities,⁽¹³⁾ whereas the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is responsible for rural SWM, waste from agriculture and aquaculture.⁽¹⁴⁾ The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) regulates the plastics industry, trade development and the production of green products.⁽¹⁵⁾

1. United Nations Population Division (2019), *World Population Prospects 2019*.

2. United Nations Population Division (2018), *World Urbanization Prospects: 2018 Revision*.

3. United Nations Statistics Division (2019), *Demographic Yearbook 2018*.

4. Ibid.

5. CIA (2020), *The World Factbook*.

6. OECD (2020), OECD Statistics (OECD calculations based on Florczyk et al, 2019), <http://dx.doi.org/10.2760/062975>

7. Ibid.

8. World Bank (2020), *World Development Indicators Database*.

9. OECD (2020), "Detailed aid statistics: Official and private flows", *OECD International Development Statistics (database)*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00072-en>.

10. Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative based on OECD/DAC Creditor Reporting System database.

11. MoNRE Viet Nam (2021), <http://www9.monre.gov.vn/wps/portal/english>

12. Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI) (2021), <http://vasi.gov.vn>

13. Ministry of Construction (MoC) Viet Nam (2021), <http://www.moc.gov.vn/en/>

14. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Viet Nam (2021), <https://www.mard.gov.vn/en/>

15. Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) Viet Nam (2021), <https://www.moit.gov.vn/web/web-portal-ministry-of-industry-and-trade>

16. Marineregions.org (2019), World Exclusive Economic Zones, version 11, <https://www.marineregions.org/eezdetails.php?mrgid=8484>.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) allocates funds to ministries, agencies and municipalities for SWM and co-ordinates financial incentives to mitigate waste.⁽¹⁷⁾

- Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) and its affiliates,⁽¹⁸⁾ the Voice of Viet Nam and Viet Nam Television develop programmes and education materials about plastic waste and its impacts on marine ecosystems.^{(19);(20)} The Ministry of National Defence (MOD) and its affiliates, the Naval Force, the Maritime Police and the Border Guard handles violations of laws on marine plastics debris.⁽²¹⁾

- At the subnational level,** Provincial Departments of Construction and Departments of Natural Resources and Environment ensure local implementation of national policies. Provincial/city Urban Environment Companies (URENCOs) ensure waste collection, transportation, treatment and disposal at a local level.⁽²²⁾

Government policies

Viet Nam's National Strategy for Integrated Solid Waste Management up to 2025, Vision to 2050 sets forth the country's national vision to address SWM. Viet Nam also has a National Action Plan for Management of Marine

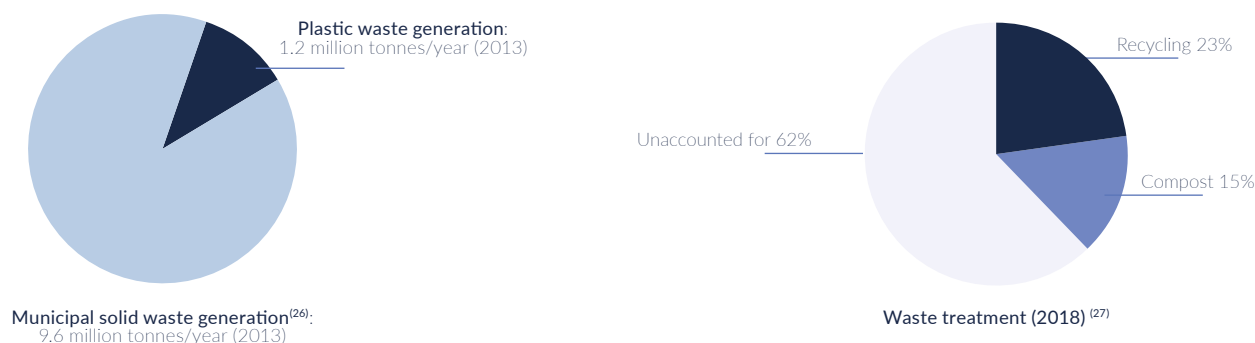
Litter by 2030.⁽²³⁾ Viet Nam aims for a 50% reduction in marine plastic litter by 2025, increasing to 75% by 2030.

The country also aims for no more single-use plastics or disposable plastic bags in 80% of coastal tourism amenities by 2025, increasing to 100% by 2030. Viet Nam aims to collect 50% of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear by 2025, increasing to 100% by 2030.

Viet Nam has also introduced bans or levies on single-use plastics, including no sale of disposable plastics by 2021 and a full ban by 2025. Bans on importing plastics are also in place, with major ports banning imports in 2018 and no new licenses for imports beginning in 2018. A full ban on plastic imports is expected by 2025. Stronger regulation of plastics waste imports has resulted in a decrease in these volumes, despite increasing pressure and supply after the plastics import ban in China.⁽²⁴⁾

Wastewater treatment is another important piece of the puzzle, with Viet Nam aiming for all urban cities to have centralised municipal wastewater treatment and collection systems by 2025, and 70-80% of municipal wastewater collected and treated properly by 2025.⁽²⁵⁾

Figure 2. Viet Nam: Waste and plastics waste statistics at the national level



Waste collection and disposal

In Viet Nam, 72% of the population having waste collection coverage in 2013, the majority (84%) in urban areas and 42% in rural areas.⁽²⁸⁾ The number

of waste pickers averages about 700 per city.⁽²⁹⁾ While separation at source is mandatory in Viet Nam, it is still not a common practice.⁽³⁰⁾

17. Ministry of Finance (MoF) Viet Nam (2021), https://www.mof.gov.vn/webcenter/portal/mof?_afLoop=977430742507487

18. Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) Viet Nam (2021), <https://english.mic.gov.vn/Pages/home.aspx>

19. Voice of Viet Nam (2021), <https://english.mic.gov.vn/Pages/home.aspx>

20. Viet Nam Television (2021), <https://vtv.vn/>

21. Ministry of National Defense (MOD) Viet Nam (2021), https://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/environment_climate/national-action-plan-for-management-of-marine-plastic-litter-by-.html

22. IUCN (2020), *IUCN Policy Recommendations: Solid waste governance in Vu Gia - Thu Bon river basin and Da Nang - Quang Nam coastal area: from source-to-sea approach*, https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/2020/solid_waste_governance_in_vg-tb_vietnam_7july2020-final2.pdf.

23. UNDP Vietnam (2020), *National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030*, https://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/environment_climate/national-action-plan-for-management-of-marine-plastic-litter-by-.html

24. cyclos (2019), *Legal Framework Study of Extended Producer Responsibility*, https://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/framework_study_epr_cyclos___final.pdf.

25. FIA (N/A), *Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management*, <http://fia.mpi.gov.vn/news/92/Water-Supply-Sewerage-Waste-Management/en>.

26. World Bank (2018), *What a Waste Global Database*.

27. World Bank (2018).

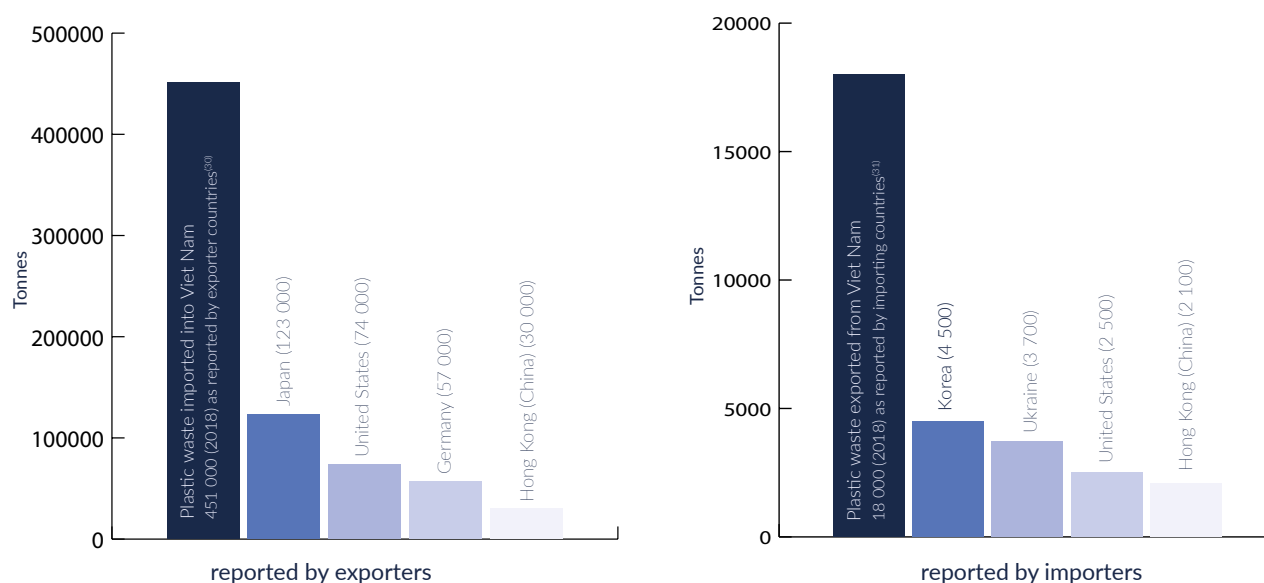
28. Ibid.

29. cyclos (2019), *Legal Framework Study of Extended Producer Responsibility*, https://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/framework_study_epr_cyclos___final.pdf.

30. Borongan, G. and S. Huno (2020), *Capacity Mapping for Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Pollution in the Lower Mekong*, <http://www.rrcap.ait.asia/Publications/CapMapPlasticPollution.pdf>.

Figure 3. Viet Nam: Plastic waste trade statistics

Major exporters and importers of plastic waste



Measures to address marine plastic waste

Financial incentives are in place to help discourage the use of plastics. VND 50 000/kg (roughly USD 2/kg) tax on bags or similar packaging made from High (HDPE), Low (LDPE) and Linear Low (LLDPE) Density Polyethylene bags certified as environmentally friendly are exempt and receive state incentives and support. Ho Chi Minh City has introduced fines up to VND 20 million (over USD 850) for households and businesses that fail to sort waste.

Some subnational initiatives have been successful in reducing plastic waste. For example, the replacement of nylon bags in Quang Nam province with ecological bags, plastic baskets, cloth bags, moulds and leaves has reduced plastic bag usage by 85-90%.⁽³³⁾

Education and awareness-raising initiatives are key in Viet Nam, with 50% of households/small businesses lacking knowledge about the impact of discharging plastic waste into the environment and 63% not understanding regulations on SWM and environmental protection. 5-9% of households discharge directly into the environment.⁽³⁴⁾ Some awareness-raising initiatives, however, are underway. Education through GreenHub (Plastic Action Network and GreenBays projects)^{(35);(36)} promotes the “3Rs” (reduce, reuse and recycle). Circular economy initiatives are underway in Ha Long Bay and efforts to raise awareness in the fishing and tourism industries are being carried out in Ha Long Bay and the Cat Ba archipelago. Several local initiatives and recent projects by MONRE raise public awareness, as does *Viet Nam Sea and Island Week* (often held around World Oceans Day).⁽³⁷⁾

31. Ibid.

32. Akenji, L. et al. (2019), *Circular Economy and Plastics: A Gap-Analysis in ASEAN Member States*, https://www.iges.or.jp/en/publication_documents/pub/policyreport/en/10382/FINAL_CE+and+Plastics+-+A+gap+analysis+in+ASEAN+Member+States_1004.pdf.

33. Ibid.

34. Borongan, G. and S. Huno (2020), *Capacity Mapping for Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Pollution in the Lower Mekong*, <http://www.rrcap.ait.asia/Publications/CapMapPlasticPollution.pdf>.

35. Greenhub (2018), *PAN – Coca-Cola Foundation*, <https://www.greenhub.org.vn/pan-coca-cola-foundation/>.

36. Greenhub (2018), *GreenBays – USAID*, <https://www.greenhub.org.vn/pan-coca-cola-foundation/>.

37. VOVWorld (2018), *Vietnam Sea and Islands Week to take place in Quang Ninh*, <https://vovworld.vn/en-US/news/vietnam-sea-and-islands-week-to-take-place-in-quang-ninh-643047.vov>