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Quarterly POLICY REVIEW

PEOPLE AND NATURE RECONCILIATION
NO.2 QUARTER II/2011

Natural Resources • Environment • Sustainable Development

FOREWORD

During the second quarter of 2011, 51 legal documents related to natural resources and environment sector were either promulgated or put into effect. Most of these documents focus on environmental management and pollution control. Noticeably, the Decree No.29/2011/ND-CP was promulgated on the 18th of April, 2011 providing strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment and commitment to environmental protection. The Decree came into effect on June 5th 2011, and replaces various articles related to strategic environment assessment (SEA), environmental impact assessment (EIA) and commitment to environment protection in Decree No.80/2006/ND-CP and Decree No.21/2008/ND-CP.

Overall, the Decree No.29/2011/ND-CP is one of the efforts made by the government to tighten regulations on environmental impact assessment for development projects. The new decree has changed the minimum scale and size of various projects on the list subject to the implementation of EIA. Some typical examples include hydropower projects with a reservoir capacity over 100,000 m³ (while the old regulation required a minimum capacity of over 300,000 m³), solid mineral mining projects with a capacity over 50,000 m³ per year (while the old regulation was over 100,000 m³ per year), and all cement product projects (the previous regulation required a minimum of 300,000 tons per year).



Photo: PanNature

In addition, there are changes in the appraisal and approval process of EIA reports. According to the old regulations, the responsibilities of appraisal and approval of EIA reports were only given to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) or the Provincial People's Committees. However, in the new legislation, depending on each specific project, these responsibilities will be delegated to other ministries. For examples, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Public Security will appraise all projects related to security and defense while MONRE has the authority to appraise 11 other types of projects, including oil refining, land reclamation, hazardous waste and nuclear electricity projects.

While the Decree No.29/2011/ND-CP has provided strict adjustments made in the implementation of environmental impact assessment, corporate responsibilities and community consultation in the project development process, it still remains flawed. In particular, the entrustment of other ministries, ministerial and governmental agencies with the authority to appraise EIA reports of their own projects will make it difficult to ensure the objectiveness of the appraisal process. (For more details, please see page 6 of this Policy Review).



Photo: PanNature

F OREST GOVERNANCE

Exploitation and Salvage of Forest Products

Circular No.35/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated May 20th, 2011 of the Ministry and Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on guiding the exploitation and salvage of timber and non-timber forest products.

This circular replaces the Decision No.40/2005/QD-BNN with more detailed procedures for the exploitation and salvage of timber and non-timber forest products to ensure sustainable forest exploitation and development.

According to the new circular, if forest owners are organizations and they want to exploit and salvage forest products in natural forests or production forests that have been planted with funding from the state budget or aid funds, they must submit a dossier of their exploitation design to the Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARDs). After receiving the appropriate licenses, the owners are allowed to carry out the exploitation.

If the forests owners are households and they would like to exploit forest products in natural forest or production forest that have been planted with funding from the state budget or aid funds, they must submit request for exploitation license to the People's Committee at the district level before starting. In the case of exploiting products in forests planted with investment of owners or bamboo exploitation in natural forests, the owners only have to submit the request for license to the People's Committee at commune level.

After exploitation, forest products must be gathered and stored for inventory purposes. The real exploited volume must not exceed 15% of the licensing volume. Owners must submit their justification to DARD should there be an excess of inventory. DARD will investigate, clarify the cause, confirm, confiscate and check over the excess volume of products.

▶ The circular takes effect on July 4th 2011.

Amenendment of Administrative Procedures Related to Forest Governance

On April 6th 2011, MARD promulgated Circular No.25/2011/TT-BNNPTNT on amending, supplementing and removing a number of regulations in accordance with the Resolution No.57/NQ-CP on simplification of administrative procedures of the ministry.

The circular intended to amend regulations related to the forest ranger's timber seal, forest production control as well as allocation, lease and recovery of forest areas.

To ensure the legality of forest products, timber owners must register for certification with the forest ranger's seal. The new circular has specific requirements for the registration process, submission procedures and the time limit for appraisal. The registration dossier must include a profile of timber, legal papers to demonstrate the legality of the timber and various other requirements. Forest rangers must verify the origin of the timber within 10 days, and then decide to seal the timber thereby guaranteeing its legality.

Additionally, the regulations regarding the transportation of forest products have also been tightened. For the transportation of endangered, precious or rare forest products outside of the province, owners must obtain special transportation permits. The district forest projection department is the agency responsible for receiving requests and granting the special transportation permits.

Circular No.25/2011/TT-BNNPTNT also outlines in detail the responsibilities of stakeholders, process, implementing period and the requirements of the dossier and forms used in the process of allocation, lease and recovery of forests.

▶ The circular takes effect on May 21st 2011.



Photo: PanNature



Photo: PanNature



Photo: Panhure

Conversion of Special-use Forests and Protection Forests for Development Projects

Correspondent Letter No.1741/BNN-TCLN dated June 20th 2011 on approval for adjustment in the planning of Cat Tien National Park to implement the construction of Dong Nai 6 and 6A hydropower projects.

According to the letter, the two projects will affect 372.23 hectares of forest land (of which, Dong Nai 6 accounted for 197.63 hectares and Dong Nai 6A accounted for 174.60 hectares). In particular, 136.98 hectares of forest in Cat Tien National Park, 143.76 hectares of Nam Cat Tien protection forest, 91.40 hectares of Phu Rieng rubber limited company and 0.99 hectares of Loc Bac forestry limited company will be taken by the two hydropower projects.

According to the initial assessment, MARD believes that the construction of these two hydropower projects is in compliance with the National Power Development Plan. It is said that both projects will use run-off river dams with small reservoirs that will have insignificant impacts on downstream flows. MARD also said that although the construction of Dong Nai 6 and 6A may affect forest resources and the biodiversity in Cat Tien National Park and Nam Cat Tien Protection Forest, there will be little direct impacts on the Rhino conservation area (about seven km from the construction site) and Bau Sau Habitat Conservation Area (about 25 km from the construction site).

The correspondent letter also points out that until now, the investor has not submitted the EIA report nor have they indentified any solutions to minimize the impacts of construction on the natural landscape and biodiversity. Furthermore, they have not addressed the issue of reforestation planning.

The Dong Nai 6 (135 MW) and Dong Nai 6A (106MW) were separated from Dong Nai 6 Hydropower Project, which was planned for hydropower development in the Dong Nai Basin. The Duc Long Gia Lai Group (DLG) is the investor of these two projects.

ON THE NEWS

According to Dan Viet online newspaper (June 30th 2011), Mr. Tran Van Thanh, Director of Cat Tien National Park said that the construction of these two hydropower projects will cause four adverse effects in Cat Tien National Park. Firstly, these hydropower plants are located upstream of the Bau Sau Habitat Conservation Area and the Rhino Conservation Area, therefore negative impacts on this area are unavoidable. Secondly, construction work inside the special-use forest will certainly create negative impacts on ecosystems and wildlife. Thirdly, when water in reservoirs is raising, local people will not be able to use existing roads. It's even more challenging if waterway becomes new transportation route as forest destroyers will find it easier to encroach and bring timber out of the forest. Fourthly, use of explosives during construction will affect wildlife species living in the national park. In addition, the settlement of construction workers in these areas can create easier ways for more people to infiltrate the forest which may increase environmental degradation.



Photo: PanNature

On June 3rd 2011, MARD issued Correspondent Letter No.1545/BNN-TCLN on converting 12.63 hectares of protection forest for non-forestry purpose.

On May 20th 2011, the Government Office sent a request for comments from MARD concerning the conversion of 12.63 hectares of protection forest for non-forestry purpose for building the luxury resort Petroleum Cua Lo in Nghe An province.

According to the responding Correspondent Letter No.1545/BNN-TCLN of MARD, the decision to convert 12.63 hectares of protection forests is under the jurisdiction of Nghe An Provincial People's Committee. It also abides by clause 2, articles 28 of the Law on Forest Protection and Development.

This forest conversion must meet the required regulations such as environmental impact assessment as well as investment plan for reforestation.

Correspondent Letter No. 2801/VPCP-KTN of the Government Office dated May 4th, 2011 on conversion of protection forest and special-use forest areas for development projects in Nghe An and Quang Nam provinces

There are three projects mentioned in this correspondent letter. Firstly, the conversion of protection forest areas in Ky Son district (Nghe An Province) for the border patrol road construction in Mark L8 –L10 in Muong Tip and Mark L10-L10 (M1) in Na Ngoi. Secondly, the protection forest area in Tri Le commune (Que Phong District, Nghe An Province) has been converted to make room for mineral mining projects. The last one is the conversion of a part of Song Thanh Natural Reserve for construction of the Song Bung 4 hydropower plant.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung asks the Ministry of Defense as well as the Provincial People's Committees of Nghe An and Quang Nam provinces to report fully about major existing projects and plans having issues related to criteria of national importance. The report must be submitted to the National Assembly in May 2011.

NOTE

Please visit <http://www.thienhien.net/2011/07/02/khi-rung-bi-hi-sinh-cho-du-an/> (Vietnamese only) for more information related to the situation of forest conversion to non-forestry use land in Nghe An province.

Reviewing the 5-million Hectare Reforestation Project

Notification No.111/TB-VPC of the Government Office reviews the project to plant 5 million hectares of forest nationwide.

According to the State Steering Committee in charge of the project, more than 3.73 million hectares of forest were planted during the 1998-2010 period. This figure includes 2.45 million hectares of newly planted forests and 1.28 million hectares of recovered forests. The nation's forest coverage rose from 32 percent in 1998 to 39.5 percent by the end of 2010.

However, at the end of the project, there are some objectives that could not be achieved. For instance, the na-



Photo: PanNature

tion's forest coverage has not reached its initial target and approximately 2.7 million hectares of bare hills still remain.

Vietnam will continue to carry out the forest protection and development plan for the phase 2011- 2015 with its main target is to increase the nation's forest coverage to 42-43 percent in 2015 and reach 45 percent in 2020.

E XTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES



Photo: PanNature

MONRE to Re-evaluate the Current Provisions Regarding the Deposit to Environmental Rehabilitation and Restoration

Correspondent Letter No.2929/VPCP-KTTH of the Government Office on May 10th 2011 on re-evaluating the current provisions regarding the deposit to environmental rehabilitation and restoration.

The deposit for environmental rehabilitation and restoration from those responsible for mineral exploitation is regulated by Decision No.71/2008/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister. All organizations and individuals who are allowed to exploit mineral resources must make a deposit for environmental rehabilitation and restoration in the Vietnamese Environmental Protection Fund (VEPF) before implementing exploitation activities. Nevertheless, at present, this initiative has not achieved the desired results in all provinces.

The Prime Minister has ordered MONRE to evaluate the three-year implementation of Decision No.71/2008/QĐ-TTg. Results of this evaluation will provide the foundation required to conduct an amendment to the provisions of the deposit to environmental rehabilitation and restoration.



Photo: PanNature

Mineral Exploration Activities in Tuyen Quang Province

On June 8th, 2011, the Government Office approved the Correspondent Letter No.3738/VPCP – KTN concerning zinc and lead exploration activities in Khau Tinh, Na Hang district, Tuyen Quang province.

Mineral Exploitation Permits Granted in Ha Giang Province

Correspondent Letter No.2363/VPCP-KTN dated April 18th 2011 by the Government Office on providing permits for mineral exploitation in Ha Giang province.

The Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai has approved for Ha Giang Provincial People's Committee to manage mineral exploitation licenses of four lead and zinc mining sites in their province. These include Na son (Tung Ba commune, Vi Xuyen District) with 20 hectares, Lung Om (Du Gia commune, Yen Minh District) with 98 hectares, Ban Kep A and Ban Kep B (Minh Son commune, Bac Me District) with 87 hectares and 42.2 hectares respectively.

The Deputy Prime Minister has also ordered Ha Giang Provincial People's Committee not to provide extension or permit to the zinc mines in Sang Than (Minh Son commune, Bac Me district) and Ban Ly (Du Tien commune, Yen Minh district).

MONRE was assigned to coordinate with Ha Giang province to inspect three lead and zinc mines, including Ao Xanh (Yen Binh commune, Quang Binh district), Ta Pan (Minh Son commune, Bac Me district), and Sua Nhe Lu (Xin Cai commune, Meo Vac district). The results of the inspections will be submitted to the Prime Minister.



Photo: PanNature



Photo: PanNature

In this letter, the Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai has agreed in principles to the exploration of lead-zinc ore in Khau Tinh with 80.907 hectares in Con Lon commune, Na Hang district, Tuyen Quang province.

MONRE must coordinate with Tuyen Quang Provincial People's Committee to review issues related to the plan for zinc-lead ore exploration in the area mentioned above, under current regulations. Specifically, the exploration license will only be considered and granted after an EIA report is approved, including an assessment of potential impacts on Tat Ke – Ban Bung Nature Reserve.

E

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL



Photo: PanNature

New Regulation on Environmental Impact Assessment

Decree No.29/2011/ND-CP dated April 18th, 2011 of the Prime Minister on strategic environment assessment, environmental impact assessment, and environment protection commitment.

The decree will replace articles related to strategic environment assessment, environmental impact assessment and commitment to environmental protection regulated in Decree No.80/2006/ND-CP and Decree No.21/2008/ND-CP.

The regulation engages with the following topics: Strategic environment assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and commitment to environmental protection. Its content pertains particularly to responsibilities of project owners, the requirements for the content of reports, the appraisal and approval process as well as the financial regime for these activities.

The section on SEA emphasizes the requirement to implement SEA reports for all strategic projects,

planning, and 5-year plans or longer plans. With these objectives, project owners have to conduct full and shortened forms of the SEA report separately or incorporate them into overall strategy, planning or the finalized plan. For 5-year plans that have been developed in accordance with each sector planning and have implemented SEA reports, it is not mandatory to conduct other SEA reports.

EIA reports will be required for 146 project types under 19 fields, such as construction, material production, energy, radiation, irrigation, forest and agricultural land-use, mining and mineral processing, petroleum, and waste treatment.

Projects which are of nature, scale, and capacity neither under that list nor under the regulated level will need to endorse the environmental protection commitment. Activities in production, business, and services which are not subject to making investment project proposals but engage production waste are also required to make and register environmental protection commitment.

Regulation on Hazardous Waste Management Now in Effect

Circular No.12/2011/TT-BTNMT dated April 4th 2011 by MONRE on hazardous waste management.

This circular will replace Circular No.12/2006/TT-BTNMT and Decision No. 23/2006/QD-BTNMT of MONRE.

The circular, which includes 6 chapters and 34 articles, emphasizes specifically the licensing conditions in practice, and the collection, management, treatment, recycling and transportation of hazardous waste. The facilities engaged in manufacturing, trading, and services related to hazardous waste must obtain permits from the licensing authority before official operation. To be granted a permit, these facilities must meet minimum human resource, warehouse, infrastructure and environmental treatment equipment requirements. In addition, facilities that generate hazardous waste must register with authority agencies by reporting the code, type and volume of their hazardous waste.

The significant difference between this circular and the Circular No.12/2006/TT-BTNMT is that an inspection of compliance of the contents of EIA is integrated into the permit grating process. Hazardous waste facilities must abide by the mitigated solutions suggested in the EIA reports and approved by regulatory agencies. The integration is required in order to surmount weaknesses in the critical approval and implementation of EIA's regulations.

Furthermore, Circular No.12/2011/TT-BTNMT also calls for more severe requirements for hazardous waste transportation activities outside provincial boundaries.

The circular is put into effect on June 1st, 2011.

Stricter Regulations for the Temporary Import for Re-export Frozen Food

On May 20th 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Circular No.21/2011/TT-BCT regulating the management operations of temporary import for re-export of frozen food.

Business operations of the temporary import for re-export of frozen food will be more highly regulated as a result of the new circular. Notably, the circular prescribes a warehouse for the temporary import for re-export trade of frozen food, as well as a reserve fund to ensure hygienic practice and a backlog of expired products.

Specific regulations regarding the conditions for storing temporarily imported frozen food for export

are as follows: storing areas must have a minimum containing capacity of 100 containers (40-foot type) with a minimum area of 1,500 square meters and they must be surrounded by a solid fence. A stable source of electricity must be ensured to these areas (standby generators included) and specialized equipment for operating cold containers are required.

In the case of expired frozen food that cannot be re-exported, the businesses are responsible for covering the entire cost required to ensure the destruction of their inventory in an ecological and hygienic way. To guarantee feasibility of this requirement, all businesses must maintain a deposit of 2 billion VND in the provincial State Treasury. This deposit will be used in the event that a business cannot handle their payments for the proper disposal of their inventory in an environmentally friendly and sanitary manner.

The deposit will earn interest by current regulations. This deposit will be reimbursed in cases where temporary import for re-export permit is not granted, or revoked, or if the temporary for re-export operation of frozen food is closed.

The circular takes effect on July 3rd, 2011.



Photo: PanNature



Photo: PanNature

Maritime Resources under further Regulations to Ensure Good Governance and Environmental Protection

Circular No.19/2011/TT-BTNMT dated June 10th 2011 by MONRE providing regulations on formulating and amending plans for the utilization of marine resources and environmental protection.

The main purpose of the planning mentioned above is to establish a number of scenarios of reasonable use of marine resources; tackling the interactions among the utilization methods as well as conflicts among sectoral planning in order to balance between socio-economic development demands and environmental protection.

According to the circular, there are a number of steps required to formulate and amend plans for utilization of marine resources and environmental protection. These include collection of information, field surveys for additional information, synthesis of demand for exploitation, analysis of relevant policies, identification of specific targets, detailed planning as well as implementing methods, consultation and approval.

The Vietnam Sea and Islands General Department is primarily responsible for developing plan for marine resources utilization and environmental protection. After gaining approval, the plan will only be adjusted if there are changes in the overall planning of the economic-social development nationwide, or if there are environmental changes due to natural disasters or climate change.

▶ The circular takes effect on August 1st, 2011.

National Technical Standard on Safety in Mining Mills to Improve

On June 16th 2011, Circular No.23/2011/TT-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade provides guidelines for the national technical standards on safety in mining mills.

To minimize accident risks and the impact of mineral processing operations on the environment, the Ministry of Industry and Trade promulgated the Circular No.23/2011/TT-BCT enclosed with Technical Standard QCVN 02:2011/BCT.

The circular includes regulations on occupational safety, environmental management, the requirements for equipment and machinery, and the operating processes in mining mills.

▶ The circular is put into effect on July 30th 2011.



Photo: PanNature

P OVERTY REDUCTION

Resolution to Sustainably Reduce Poverty from 2011-2020

On 19th May, 2011, the Government issued Resolution No.80/NQ-CP on sustainable poverty reduction orientation for 2011-2020.

The resolution's specific objectives during this period are to increase the poor households' per capita income by 3.5 times and to decrease the national poverty rate by 2 percent per year, of which, poor districts and communes have their poverty rates decrease by 4 percent per year. In addition, this resolution aims to improve living conditions of the poor, especially in regards to health, education, fresh water access, and housing.

Six specific policies to support poverty reduction will be implemented as part of this resolution, covering different areas including production support, vocational training, education and training, health and nutrition, housing, and access to legal, cultural, and information services.

In addition, the Government will apply special poverty reduction policies for households living in villages along the borderlines that are not part of the list of poor districts. In these areas, poor households will be provided with 15kg of rice/person/month during the time food production is not ready.

The National Target Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction for 2011 – 2020 will be developed and

implemented, which includes poverty reduction projects, national evaluation criteria of poverty reduction, as well as provision of resources for poor districts and communes.



Photo: PanNature



Photo: PanNature

Findings in the General Census of Poor Households Released

Decision No.640/QĐ-LĐTBXH dated May 30th, 2011 by the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs releasing results of the general census of poor and marginally poor households in accordance with the Directive 1752/CT-TTg dated September 21st, 2010 of the Prime Minister.

At present, there are over 3 million poor households in Vietnam, accounting for 14.2 percent of the total population. The total number of marginally poor households is 1.6 million, or 7.49 percent of the total population. The data shows poverty rate in specifically regions as follows: 19.03 percent in the Eastern North, 7.74 percent in the Western North, 13.41 percent in the Red River Delta, 18.92 percent in the former Region IV (Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, and Ha Tinh provinces), 10.91 percent in the Central Coast, 8.6 percent in the Central Highland, 2.55 percent in the Eastern South, and 18.85 percent in the Mekong Delta.

There are 81 districts in 25 provinces having over 50 percent of poor households, including 54 poor districts listed in the Resolution 30a/2008/NQ-CP by the Government. Provinces with highest poverty rate are those in the northern mountainous areas or regions with high population of ethnic communities, such as: Dien Bien (50.01 percent), Lai Chau (46.78 percent), Lao Cai (43 percent), Ha Giang (41.8 percent), and Son La (38.13 percent).

The five cities/provinces having poverty rates below 5 percent are Ho Chi Minh City (0.01 percent), Binh Duong (0.05 percent), Dong Nai (1.45 percent), Ba Ria Vung Tau (4.35 percent), and Ha Noi (4.97 percent).

These findings will provide the baseline information for the implementation of the poverty reduction and social security policies, as well as socio-economic policies from 2011 – 2015.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



Photo: PanNature

Maritime Administrative Sanctions Will be Further Regulated

Decree No.48/2011/ND-CP, dated June 21st, 2011 on administrative penalties in the maritime sector.

According to this decree, there will be a fine of between 5 million VND and 10 million VND for acts compromising environmental protection, such as: discharging waste into wharfs or water areas around ports; failing to organize a rescue plan for oil spills under the provision set for petroleum ports. The fines will be higher for more serious violations. For example: a fine of between 30 million VND and 50 million VND will be charged to those caught releasing oil waste water into wharfs or water areas around ports; the fine level will increase to between 50 million VND to 100 million VND for violations by organizations or individuals found discharging hazardous waste water or solid waste into wharfs or water areas around ports.

The decree prescribed a fine of between 30 million VND and 60 million VND to those caught committing one of the following violations in marine construction: operating without a permit and causing an occupational accident; undertaking construction in a misplaced location and having an occupational accident occurred; or construction causing environmental pollution.

The prescribed time limit for sanctions against administrative violations in the maritime domain will be one year; beginning from the date such administrative violation was committed. For violations for sea port constructions or maritime projects, environment, ship materials import – export, crews and passengers, the statute of limitations will be two years. If the above-mentioned statute of limitations has passed, the sanctions will not be imposed, but the remedial measures will still be applied.

The decree takes effect on September 1st, 2011 and replaces the Decree No.62/2006/ND-CP dated June 21st, 2006.

Changes in Time Limitations for the Confirmation and Approval of Clean Development Mechanism Projects

The Circular No.15/2011/TT-BTNMT dated April 28th 2011 of MONRE to amend and supplement a number of articles in the Circular No.12/2010/TT-BTNMT.

This new circular amends and supplements a number of articles in the Circular No.12/2010/TT-BTNMT on project development, granting of letters of endorsement, and approval for projects under the CDM within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol.

A distinctive feature of the new circular is the time limit now imposed to the granting process of letters of endorsement and project approval. There is also a stricter time frame in which the letter will have to be considered valid. According to the new circular, the statute of limitation to grant and legitimate a PIN letter of endorsement for CDM projects is 14 working days. Total time limit for the consideration, granting, and validation of PDD (Project Design Document under CDM) or PoA-DD (Program of Activities Design Document under CDM) is 41 working days. These time frames are shorter than those previously described in the Circular No.12/2010/TT-BTNMT.

The circular is put into effect on June 27th, 2011.



Photo: PanNature

L

IST OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS – QUARTER II/2011

Official Number	Description
I. Institution – Finance	
48/2011/ND-CP	Decree No.48/2011/ND-CP on administrative penalties in the maritime sector. <i>Date issued: 21 June 2011</i> <i>Effective: 01 September 2011</i>
1305/QD-BNN-TC	Decision No.1305/QD-BNN-TC of MARD approving the detailed budget for the national target program on rural clean water and environmental sanitation. <i>Date issued and Effective: 16 June 2011</i>
1253/QD-BNN-TCCB	Decision No.1253/QD-BNN-TCCB of MARD on amending and supplementing the regulation on management and organization of the Forestry Sector Development Project. <i>Date issued and effective: 13 June 2011</i>
33/2011/QD-TTg	Decision No.33/2011/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister on exempting from land-use taxes for households that were living on the rivers and lagoons moving to resettlement areas. <i>Date issued: 10 June 2011</i> <i>Effective: 5 August 2011</i>
3441/VPCP-KTTH	Correspondent Letter No. 3441/VPCP-KTTH of the Government Office to the National Assembly's Standing Committee on issuing a resolution on environmental protection tariff. <i>Date issued: 27 May 2011</i>
67/2011/TT-BTC	Circular No.67/2011/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance on amending the export tax rates on iron ore commodities under Group 26.01 regulated in the export rate tariff. <i>Date issued: 18 May 2011</i> <i>Effective: 2 July 2011</i>
2929/VPCP-KTTH	Correspondent Letter No.2929/VPCP-KTTH of the Government Office on May 10 th 2011 on re-evaluating Decision No.71/2008/QD-TTg regarding the deposit to environmental rehabilitation and restoration funds from mining projects. <i>Date issued: 10 May 2011</i>
15/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No.15/2011/TT-BTNMT on amending and supplementing a number of articles in the Circular No.12/2010/TT-BTNMT on formulating and granting letters of endorsement and approval for CDM projects within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol. <i>Date issued: 28 April 2011</i> <i>Effective: 27 June 2011</i>

Official Number	Description
II. Environmental Management – Pollution Control	
23/2011/TT-BCT	Circular No.23/2011/TT-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade providing guidelines for the national technical standards on safety in mineral processing plants. <i>Date issued: 15 June 2011</i> <i>Effective: 30 July 2011</i>
899/QD-TTg	Decision No.899/QD-TTg by the Prime Minister approving the detailed planning on development and application of radiation in meteorology, hydrology, geology, mining and environmental protection to 2020. <i>Date issued and effective: 10 June 2011</i>
19/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No.19/2011/TT-BTNMT by MONRE on formulating and amending the plans for the utilization of marine resources and environmental protection. <i>Date issued: 10 June 2011</i> <i>Effective: 01 August 2011</i>
18/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No.18/2011/TT-BTNMT by MONRE on the economic and technical norms for environmental mappings (air, continental surface water and sea) implemented by the method combining geographical base maps, measurement, and field data monitoring. <i>Date issued: 08 June 2011</i> <i>Effective: 01 August 2011</i>
17/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No.17/2011/TT-BTNMT of MONRE on technical process for environmental mapping (air, surface continental water and seawater). <i>Date issued: 08 June 2011</i> <i>Effective: 01 August 2011</i>
855/QD-TTg	Decision 855/2011/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister approving the project on environmental pollution control in transportation activities. <i>Date issued and effective: 06/06/2011</i>
1905/BTNMT-KH	Correspondent Letter No.1905/BTNMT-KH of MONRE on guiding for establishing environmental protection plans in 2012 for ministries and agencies. <i>Date issued: 31 May 2011</i>
798/QD-TTg	Decision No.789/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister on approving the investment program on solid waste treatment in period 2011- 2020. <i>Date issued and effective: 25 May 2011</i>
21/2011/TT-BCT	Circular No.21/2011/TT-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade on regulating the management operations of the temporary import for re-export of frozen food industry. <i>Date issued: 20 May 2011</i> <i>Effective: 03 July 2011</i>
3115/VPCP-KGVX	Correspondent Letter 3115/VPCP-KGVX of the Government Office on environmental protection plans in the three key economic regions. <i>Date issued: 17 May 2011</i>
90/TB-VPCP	Notification No.90/TB-VPCP of the Government Office on conclusion of the Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai at the National Online Conference on reviewing and evaluating the implementation of Decision No.64/2003/QD-TTg on handling facilities causing serious environmental pollution. <i>Date issued: 19 April 2011</i>

Official Number	Description
29/2011/NĐ-CP	Decision No.29/2011/NĐ-CP on strategic environment assessment, environmental impact assessment and commitment to environment protection. <i>Date issued: 18 April 2011 Effective: 05 June 2011</i>
12/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No.12/2011/TT-BTNMT of MONRE on hazardous waste management. <i>Ban hành: 14/04/2011 Hiệu lực: 01/06/2011</i>
III. Extractive Industries	
3738/VPCP-KTN	Correspondent Letter No.3738/VPCP – KTN on zinc and lead exploration activities in Khu Tinh, Na Hang district, Tuyen Quang province. <i>Date issued: 08 June 2011</i>
3293/VPCP-KTN	Correspondent Letter No.3293/VPCP – KTN on quartz management, exploitation and utilization in Krong Bong District, Dak Lak province. <i>Date issued: 23 May 2011</i>
590/BXD-VLXD	Correspondent Letter 590/BXD-VLXD of the Ministry of Construction on report on investment permits, production, export as well as planning of exploration, exploitation and production of industrial limestone mines. <i>Date issued: 25/04/2011</i>
2363/VPCP-KTN	Correspondent Letter No.2363/VPCP-KTN on managing and licensing lead- zincs exploitation permits in Ha Giang province. <i>Date issued: 18/04/2011</i>
IV. Forest Governance	
34/2011/QĐ-TTg	Decision No.34/2011/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister on amending and supplementing a number of articles in the forest management regulation associated with the Decision 186/2006/QĐ-TTg dated August 14 th 2006. <i>Date issued: 24 June 2011 Effective: 19 August 2011</i>
1741/BNN-TCLN	Correspondent Letter No.1741/BNN-TCLN on the approval for adjustment in the planning of Cat Tien National Park for construction of Dong Nai 6 and 6A hydropower projects. <i>Date issued: 20 June 2011</i>
1545/BNN-TCLN	Correspondent Letter No.1545/BNN-TCLN on converting 12.63 hectares of protection forest to non-forestry land. <i>Date issued: 03 June 2011</i>
35/2011/TT-BNNPTNT	Circular No.35/2011/TT-BNNPTNT of MARD on guiding the exploitation and salvage of timber and non-timber forest products. <i>Date issued: 20 May 2011 Effective: 04 July 2011</i>
111/TB-VPCP	Notification No.111/ TB-VPCP of the Government Office on the conclusion of the Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung at the online conference on The Closing Ceremony of 5 million hectares of forest project. <i>Date issued: 09 May 2011</i>

Official Number	Description
910/QD-BNN-XD	Decision 910/QD-BNN-XD of MARD approving of bidding schedule for the Sustainable Forest Rehabilitation and Management Project in Bac Giang, Quang Ninh and Lang Son provinces (KfW3-Phase III). <i>Date issued and effective: 06 May 2011</i>
2801/VPCP-KTN	Correspondent Letter No. 2801/VPCP-KTN of the Government Office on the conversion of protection forest and special-use forest areas into development projects in Nghe An and Quang Nam Provinces. <i>Date issued: 04 May 2011.</i>
25/2011/TT-BNNPTNT	Circular No.25/2011/TT-BNNPTNT on amending, supplementing and removing a number of regulations in the Resolution No.57/NQ-CP related to administrative procedures in forest protection and development. <i>Date issued: 06 April 2011 Effective: 21 May 2011</i>
V. Land Resource	
38/2011/ND-CP	Decree No.38/2011/ND-CP of the Government on amending and supplementing a number of administrative procedure regulations in the Decree No.181/2004/ND-CP dated October 29 th 2004, No.149/2004/ND-CP dated July 27 th 2004 and No.160/2005/ND-CP dated December 27 th 2005. <i>Date issued: 26 May 2011 Effective: 20 July 2011</i>
16/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No.16/2011/TT-BTNMT of MONRE on amending and supplementing a number of regulations related to administrative procedures in land sector. <i>Date issued: 20 May 2011 Effective: 05 July 2011</i>
2802/VPCP-KTN	Correspondent Letter No.2802/VPCP-KTN of the Government Office on the land inventory reports 2010. <i>Date issued: 04 May 2011</i>
13/2011/TT-BTNMT	Circular No.13/2011/TT-BTNMT of MONRE on the symbol system used in maps of land-use status and land-use planning. <i>Date issued: 15 April 2011 Effective: 30 May 2011</i>
VI. Water Resource	
557/QDD-TTg	Decision 557/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister on establishing the National Program Steering Committee against water loss and loss of clean water revenue. <i>Date issued and effective: 19 April 2011</i>
VII. Climate Change – Natural Disaster	
859/QD-TTg	Decision 859/2011/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister on operation procedures for Son La, Hoa Binh, Tuyen Quang, and Thac Ba hydropower reservoirs during flood season 2011. <i>Date issued: 06 June 2011</i> <i>Effective: from 06 June to 31 December 2011</i>
944/QD-BNN-HTQT	Decision 944/QD-BNN-HTQT of MARD approving the project document “Capacity Building of Disaster Risk Management” funded by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. <i>Date issued and effective: 09 May 2011</i>



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