

STREAM



Country Strategy Paper



VIETNAM

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PREFACE

What is STREAM?

Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management (STREAM) is a regional communications and learning initiative, which is mandated by 15 Asia-Pacific governments and designed within the five-year work program cycle of the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA). The purpose of STREAM is to *strengthen, or develop, and communicate strategies, processes and practices that enable poor and vulnerable aquatic resources users in the Asia-Pacific region to pursue their livelihoods objectives*. It aims to achieve this by working with partners to ensure that:

1. Service providers better understand the *livelihoods* of poor and vulnerable aquatic resources users
2. *Institutions* better support the livelihoods objectives of poor and vulnerable aquatic resources users
3. *Policy* development processes better reflect the livelihoods objectives of poor and vulnerable aquatic resources users, and
4. *Communications* among poor and vulnerable aquatic resources users, service providers, institutions and policy-makers are improved.

The STREAM Initiative is based around a series of partnerships, involving at the outset a coalition of founding partners (DFID, FAO and VSO) supporting NACA. STREAM is currently also supported by AusAID, APEC and DFID NRSP. It tries to adopt an inclusive approach, reaching out to link stakeholders engaged in aquatic resources management and supporting them to influence the initiative's design, implementation and management.

STREAM's work is coordinated in each country through STREAM Country Offices. These teams comprise a National Coordinator (a senior national colleague agreed with the government) and a Communications Hub Manager (a full-time national colleague supported in the first two years by STREAM), with linkages to a range of national stakeholders. These teams are provided hardware, software, information technology, networking and human resources development support. At the regional level, the teams are linked through an internet-based virtual regional network. The STREAM Regional Office (at the NACA Secretariat in Bangkok) directs the initiative, providing a regional coordination function and supporting interactions, lesson learning and partnership activities. In Vietnam, STREAM signed a Partnership Agreement on 1 November 2001 with its host agency, the Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI) in Hanoi, to support the Sustainable Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) Strategy through the Communications Hub.

What is a Country Strategy Paper?

In each country where STREAM operates, a Country Strategy Paper (CSP) is prepared in consultation with a range of national stakeholders, and with support from the STREAM Regional Office in Bangkok. A CSP identifies relevant national poverty and aquatic resources issues, examines policy and institutional environments, establishes key objectives, proposes implementation approaches, highlights partnerships with national and regional stakeholders, and provides a basis for seeking financial support and resources from STREAM, its partners and other sources.

A CSP should remain valid for three to five years. The CSP, and the process and practice to develop it, will be reviewed and revised as circumstances change and learning takes place¹. The CSP will act as a guiding framework, enabling STREAM Country Offices and the Regional Office to make more detailed action plans so that the STREAM Initiative focuses its efforts to achieve its purpose and outputs around the themes of *livelihoods*, *institutions*, *policy development* and *communications*.

¹ A CSP Planning Kit is available from STREAM offices.

SUMMARY

Vietnam is a coastal country in Southeast Asia with a population of over 80 million. Although Vietnam has long been listed among the poorest countries of the world, it has recently made large strides in reducing poverty and improving food security. However, the dramatic gains in poverty reduction in Vietnam still remain quite fragile. There is growing evidence to indicate that dependence on aquatic resources is correlated to poverty, and that aquatic resources constitute an important component of wider livelihoods strategies (largely from the Mekong Delta, Central Coast and the Northern Mountains).

A major impediment to poor people's entry into the aquaculture sector is in terms of service providers' ability to effectively target support based upon an assessment of poor people's needs, their constraints and potential. Simple aquaculture technologies that are appropriate to poor people are largely in place but require greater effort in terms of extension and the provision of choice. The key objectives of STREAM Vietnam will be to:

- Develop capacity to utilize participatory approaches among service providers and a framework to understand aquatic resources use in poor communities
- Create awareness of aquatic resources management and diversified livelihoods alternatives among poor aquatic resources users
- Highlight the importance of poor people's access to credit
- Mainstream gender issues
- Promote more effective methods in monitoring and evaluation
- Build fisheries and agriculture extension system capacity to improve the livelihoods of poor aquatic resources users
- Policy implementation through support of SAPA
- Facilitate two-way knowledge-sharing across Asia-Pacific and throughout Vietnam, and
- Publicize the new Fisheries Law and Environment Protection Law, and their implications for poor aquatic resources users.

The implementation of this Country Strategy Paper will depend on availability of funds committed by donor parties and projects in collaboration with STREAM. In addition, the initiative will actively explore ways in which it can work with other stakeholders to ensure all available resources are effectively and efficiently used to address the key issues and constraints identified in this document.

1. POVERTY AND AQUATIC RESOURCES IN VIETNAM

Despite a significant decrease in poverty incidence in the last decade, analysis has revealed that recent dramatic gains in poverty reduction in Vietnam still remain fragile and a relatively small deterioration in living standards caused by natural disasters, environmental degradation or external economic factors may push a substantial proportion of rural households below the poverty line again.

There is growing evidence to indicate that dependence on aquatic resources is correlated to poverty, and that aquatic resources constitute an important component of wider livelihoods strategies (largely from the Mekong Delta, Central Coast and the Northern Mountains). In many contexts, wild aquatic resources including non-fish aquatic animals are of particular importance in poor people's livelihoods.

There are many dimensions to poverty. People are poor in different ways, with different characteristics, causes and effects. Full-time fishers are often among the poorest, and fishing is a supplementary or seasonal activity for many poor and vulnerable groups. Aquatic resources, including non-fish resources, often provide poor people with an important source of nutrients which are not easily substituted and aquatic resources represent an important economic activity, even where only seasonally available.

According to unofficial statistics, 80% of households in coastal communities get their income from fishing, while almost all livelihoods rely on fish capture and associated activities, especially coastal communes which commonly have little agricultural land. Poor coastal fishers' livelihoods are vulnerable to seasonal weather, destructive typhoons and migration and there is a declining trend in natural resources due to over-fishing and other destructive fishing practices.

A major impediment to poor people's entry into the aquaculture sector is in terms of service providers' ability to effectively target support based upon an assessment of poor people's needs, their constraints and potential. Simple aquaculture technologies that are appropriate to poor people are largely in place but require greater effort in terms of extension and the provision of choice. Government extension agencies have commonly been dominated by technological concerns and constrained by limited resources, often sharing technical research, rather than in delivering simple, low-cost options to poor people.

2. POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS IN VIETNAM

At the national level, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) began coordinating the Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction (HEPR) Program in 1992 as part of a large focused effort to mobilize available resources by all government sectors and the Vietnamese people through formulating and implementing realistic programs to support poor people. One of the more remarkable interventions under HEPR is targeting communes facing extreme difficulties (CEDs) with the Program for Socioeconomic Development in CEDs and the 1715 Remote and Mountainous Communes Program.

On 23 September 1999, Decision 224/QD-TTg was issued from the Prime Minister's Office, approving the MOFI Aquaculture Development Plan (ADP) for 2000-10. The key objectives were to ensure food security and the production of export commodities. Targets (by 2010) include two million tons of fish production, US\$ 2.5 billion export turnover, and employment for two million people. In pursuance of this Decision, preferential tax, extension service reinforcement, capacity-building, and environmental protection measures are strongly recommended in support of aquaculturists.

Following international meetings, discussions and working groups, widespread consultation and analysis throughout 2000, there was agreement among central and provincial government, researchers and many donors that aquaculture and improved aquatic resources management can have significant and direct impacts on poverty reduction and hunger eradication in Vietnam. An initiative was designed within MOFI to support the livelihoods of fishers and farmers, entitled the Sustainable Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) Strategy. Serving as a component of the national HEPR Program, the purpose of this strategy is to enhance the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people through aquaculture with the following outputs:

- Environmentally friendly, low-risk, low-cost aquaculture, technologies and management practices developed and adopted
- Capacity of institutions strengthened, particularly local institutions and communities, to understand and support livelihoods objectives of poor and vulnerable people who depend on or could benefit from aquaculture
- Access improved for poor people to materials, information, financial and extension services and markets, and
- Communication improved among stakeholders, through awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing, networking, inter-sectoral, sectoral and donor coordination,

introduction of participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation approaches and informing policy development.

These themes are similar to the themes of STREAM, which augers well for the collaborative efforts of the two undertakings. Although there has been controversy over what form SAPA can take in reality – short-term project or long-term strategy – and only little progress has been attained so far, it is clear that SAPA could support the lives of poor farmers and fishers in positive ways. [The SAPA Strategy and ADP of MOFI share the same Steering Board.]

Taking lessons from the HEPR Program, a cross-sectoral Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy was approved by the Prime Minister (Document No 2685/VPCP-QHQT dated 21 May 2002) elaborating the Five- and Ten-Year Plans into a specific action plan. The strategy's overall objectives specify major policies and measures for the development of sectors and industries to ensure sustainable growth and poverty reduction, organizational arrangements, monitoring and evaluation, and mobilization of resources for strategy implementation.

A further key change in the working environment for aquaculture and fisheries in Vietnam is the recent enactment of the Fisheries Law by the National Assembly in October 2003. The law, drafted by a national team assisted by Norwegian experts, contains provisions on capture fisheries, aquaculture, resources management, services and trade, international cooperation, and rights and responsibilities of concerned parties in the sector.

2.1 Fisheries extension system

Currently, the government extension sector is limited by a lack of funding, and the provision of aquatic resources management-related information to individual communities is limited in areas without externally-funded projects. The Master Plan for Fisheries prioritizes the promotion of high-value aquaculture and fisheries, and a pro-poor focus. On the ground, this translates into a focus of extension efforts to coastal provinces, which are the only areas where provincial DOF offices and Fisheries Extension Centers (FECs) exist. In inland provinces, where extension efforts are directed through the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DOARD) and Agriculture Extension Centers (AECs), fisheries and aquaculture extension is often given a low priority.

Both the DOF and DOARD extension efforts are greatly limited by lack of funding and (adequately trained) manpower. Because coastal provincial DOFs often focus on support to coastal higher-value aquaculture such as shrimp culture, it does not seem that inland communities in coastal provinces with

an FEC receive more aquaculture information than those in inland communities supported by an AEC. In fact, all communities met during fieldwork contributing to this document had more or less the same information needs, whether supported by an FEC or AEC. Some of the information needs voiced by farmers were specific, such as instruction in a technique they had heard of, or how to treat a disease.

Furthermore, many stakeholders felt that projects (both those funded by government and by external agents) rarely had lasting significant impacts, because activities would stop once projects were over, indicating the need for greater local capacity-building. The efficiency and long-term impact of extension and project activities is only weakly assessed by the government and external agents such as donor agencies and international NGOs, and so important lessons about what works and what does not work are often not learnt.

2.2 Non-governmental organizations and mass organizations

Vietnamese NGOs have until recently had an uncertain legal status, and as a result have not figured greatly on the extension scene within the aquatic resources management sector. However, with their new-found rights, Vietnamese NGOs are likely to become more important in the future. Mass organizations are important and have extensive networks at provincial, commune and village levels, and as a result almost all existing projects work with mass organizations, mainly the Farmers' Association (FA) and the Women's Union (WU).

3. OBJECTIVES AND APPROACHES

The priority areas and approaches identified by STREAM Vietnam and its stakeholders all over the country are grouped under the four STREAM themes of livelihoods, institutions, policy development and communications. Until the next revision of the CSP, STREAM Vietnam will place priorities on the following immediate objectives:

3.1 Livelihoods

3.1.1 Develop capacity to utilize participatory approaches among service providers and a framework to understand aquatic resources use in poor communities

Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) approaches originally developed by DFID are acknowledged by STREAM Vietnam as an important starting point for analysis of poverty, emphasizing poor people's dynamic livelihoods strategies. The SL framework well illustrates the dependence of poor people's livelihoods on a range of resources including human (e.g., labor, education, skill), natural (e.g., land, fisheries, water, forest), social (e.g., kinship connections, status), financial (e.g., credit, savings, income) and physical (e.g., roads, tools); and highlights the role of policies, institutions and practices in mediating the value of poor people's resources to their livelihoods strategies.

STREAM Vietnam will work closely to develop capacity in livelihoods approaches with extension offices and related government and non-governmental agencies, including People's Committees, provincial DOARD, District Agriculture Offices, District Vet Stations, Resettlement Panels, Economics Offices, Women's Unions, Farmers' Associations, Youth Unions, Ministry of Fisheries, (especially the SAPA Strategy Office), and other development organizations supporting aquatic resources users.

Limited and uneven education and lack of inter-sector agencies addressing aquatic resources management initiatives will be some of the main obstacles to this aim. Other difficulties include the low level of government salaries which constrains the maintenance and management of skills within government organizations.

Although STREAM is operational all over the country, Thai Nguyen (Northern Mountains), Quang Tri (Central Coast), and Long An (Mekong Delta) will be pilot provinces for the initiative.

3.1.2 Create awareness of aquatic resources management and diversified livelihoods alternatives among poor aquatic resources users

According to the Director General of FAO, fisheries and aquaculture contribute significantly to food security in the Asia-Pacific region. Fish makes up more than 50% of animal protein in most countries of the region. Fish provides a high protein food with additional benefits such as calcium, vitamin A, omega-3 fatty acids and (from marine sources) iodine, deficiencies in which are detrimental to the physical and mental development of all people, especially children. Speaking in Bangkok in 2001², the FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific said that greater recognition must be given to the nutritional role of fish for poor people, especially those living on and near water bodies. However, awareness of the role and importance of fish is still not widespread. For example, a study by FAO in 1999 diminished the role of fish, reporting that fish is not frequently consumed in Vietnam and provides less than 3% of total energy intake, with meat providing 6% of the total. However, fish (and meat) are usually considered in human diets as a source of protein. Fish contains large quantities of high biological-value protein, particularly sulphur-containing amino acids representing a significant supplementary value to vegetable proteins. In particular, fish contains appreciable quantities of lysine, an essential amino acid found in only small amounts in local cereals, rice, wheat and maize, which form the basis of the diet of many low-income groups.

Fish and other aquatic resources, even when eaten in small quantities, often have a defining role in nutritional security and it is this security that is most threatened as natural supplies disappear. Fish production should be adequately considered to obtain a fuller picture of food availability and nutritional adequacy.

Rice-fish systems and the collection of aquatic animals in paddies are important to poor people as a 'safety net' in times of 'hardship'. Furthermore, fish contribute a large proportion to family income in the Central Coast, and up to 50% in northern and southern Vietnam. However, an extension focus on intensive aquaculture – and the 'boom and bust' suffered in some shrimp systems – sometimes disadvantages poor people. The initiative will highlight the importance of diversified livelihoods compared to aquaculture as a single intensive activity.

Lack of clarity over ownership and user rights of water bodies, language barriers, low education among ethnic minorities and women; limited media coverage of aquaculture, management

² Opening statement by Dr R B Singh, Workshop on Improvement of Fishery Statistics in Asia and Pacific Countries, Bangkok, Thailand, 6-10 August 2001.

experiences and financial support; conflicts among people; loose cooperation between administrative sectors and lack of personnel also constitute key challenges.

Taking into account these challenges, STREAM Vietnam has identified its target groups: mountainous and ethnic minorities, coastal, landless and other poor communities with access to aquatic resources, international and Vietnamese NGOs, donor agencies, Women's Union, Youth Union, Farmers' Association, schools and community learning centers, and the Ministry of Fisheries.

3.1.3 Highlight the importance of poor people's access to credit

The National Poverty and Aquatic Resources Review (conducted by the DFID Natural Resources Systems Program) found in almost every part of the country that credit is the key resource that enables poor people to take up aquaculture and sustainable aquatic resources management. In many cases, when poor people are offered loans, their access to credit facilities is again affected by complicated procedures and guarantee measures.

STREAM will seek support from banks, the private sector, micro-credit institutions, local authorities, community groups and funding agencies to identify and support mechanisms to initiate projects and attract investment for community-based livelihoods support.

3.1.4 Mainstream gender issues

Gender equity is an important factor for general development and welfare. The Government of Vietnam recently issued a decree promoting gender education and men and women's empowerment. Committees for the Advancement of Women have been formed from national to commune levels. However, policies and attitudes towards gender issues vary among state offices, organizations and aquaculture development programs. Key areas for attention are believed to include:

Training and extension

- Paradigm shift attributing more support and funds to men and women extension workers
- Sensitization of policy-makers to gender issues in aquaculture
- Needs assessment in relation to current extension practices
- Implementation of new gender-sensitive extension practices to be conducted by extension staff (data collected should be gender-disaggregated), and
- Need to increase awareness among men and women of the value of their own contribution to aquaculture and the potential benefits they could draw from it.

Technology development and research

- Gender needs assessment to precede aquaculture research interventions
- Research policy formulation to support these needs, and
- Evaluation of gender sensitivity of technology in relation to women's and men's mobility, safety, and user-friendliness of the technology

Resource provision

- Credit to be assessed on the basis of access to collateral rather than ownership of collateral
- Provision of group credit
- Results of monitoring exercises to be utilized to improve attractiveness of aquaculture to banks
- Niche exploitation by women and men, and
- Strengthening capabilities of people's organizations through resource allocation and assistance in carrying out mainstream responsibilities

Further suggestions for improving women's and men's access to information include:

- Implementing some aquaculture extension through the Women's Union
- Organizing self-help aquaculture clubs which also discuss other issues relevant to men and women
- Maximizing the use of media such as radio for extension purposes (though this may be less useful for ethnic women and men who do not understand Vietnamese)
- Achieving a greater understanding of gender relations within communities that use aquatic resources, and the role and distinct needs of women and men in aquatic resources management
- Reaching and mobilizing rural women who lack production resources and information access and, because of domestic roles and cultural norms, are less accessible to projects, and
- Providing effective extension services that consider domestic work and travel constraints that prevent attendance at meetings and workshops.

SAPA and STREAM will liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which is currently developing a gender strategy for agriculture and rural development, with support from the ADB. STREAM will aim to promote gender equality within fisheries organizations. Target groups will be Women's Unions and Committees for Advancement of Women.

3.2 Institutions

3.2.1 Promote more effective methods in monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is essential for service providers. In combination with indicator based M&E, STREAM will develop and test an approach which combines ‘significant change’ approaches with indicator-based systems including logical framework Objectively Verifiable Indicators. Sharing the experiences with STREAM Vietnam will be institutions such as the Research Institutes for Aquaculture (RIA) No 1, 2 and 3, Ho Chi Minh University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, National Fisheries Extension Center, and development projects in the fisheries sector.

3.2.2 Build fisheries and agriculture extension system capacity to improve the livelihoods of poor aquatic resources users

Many simple aquaculture technologies that are appropriate for poor people are known but may require greater effort in terms of wider extension. Government extension agencies have tended to be dominated by technological concerns, often including extensive research, rather than in delivering these simple, low-cost technologies to poor people. Systems are sometimes under-resourced and sectors sometimes duplicate or contradict one another. STREAM will work to support capacity-building and improve communications for poverty alleviation through aquatic resources management.

Partners in the process might be national and provincial fisheries extension centers and donor agency projects (e.g., NORAD, UNDP, DANIDA-FSPS). In addition to professional state organs in fisheries, there will be participation of Women’s Unions and agriculture and rural development authorities, agriculture and fisheries extension centers and stations, Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, District Agriculture Offices, Culture and Information Offices and Panels at district and commune levels, Farmers’ Associations, Veterans’ Associations and Youth Unions.

3.3 Policy development

STREAM emphasizes people’s participation in all stages of planning through to implementation. With the initiation of SAPA in 2001, and the enactment of the Fisheries Law by the National Assembly in October 2003, STREAM will aim to promote the implementation of these policies and law, and necessary participatory development of sub-law regulations.

3.3.1 Policy implementation through support of SAPA

A critical issue now is implementation of new laws and policies. STREAM will seek to increase participation in SAPA through the promotion of self-help groups, so as to encourage feasible aquatic resources management and aquaculture development, and to address fish diseases, and environmental and social issues associated with aquaculture.

The Partnership Agreement between STREAM and MOFI specifies that STREAM and SAPA will build a network to coordinate and share lessons learnt among those responsible for supporting the livelihoods of poor people who depend upon aquatic resources management both nationally, in Vietnam, and also regionally through STREAM. STREAM will also provide capacity-building support to carry out jointly-agreed institutional development (involving training, office development, procedures and strategic planning) to SAPA.

Challenges will include limited human resources for implementation at central and provincial levels, and the prevalence of resource-focused (rather than people-focused) support policies for fisheries organizations that might limit options for aquaculture development in support of poverty alleviation.

As specified in the SAPA Strategy document, the strategy will be implemented gradually, beginning with capacity-building in livelihoods analysis that would provide the basis for development of a blueprint, and implementation of activities required to support poor people. The strategy targets twenty selected areas for main activities during the first five-year period from 2001 to 2005, in line with the national HEPR Program. Potential partners for this task will be the Women's Unions and Committees for Advancement of Women at various levels, People's Committees, Veterans' Associations, Farmers' Associations, District Political Education Centers and the agriculture extension system.

3.4 Communications

3.4.1 Facilitate two-way knowledge-sharing across Asia-Pacific and throughout Vietnam

Knowledge plays a critical role in the support of poor people to take up fish culture, select suitable practices and find markets. A communications strategy at both regional and national levels will highlight the importance of the use of various media and mechanisms, with a focus on experiences gained from participatory livelihoods approaches and analysis in aquatic resources management planning and implementation by communities.

In this context, an Information Access Survey (IAS) was conducted by STREAM Vietnam in November 2003. Key findings of the IAS are:

- Sometimes the information needed by communities (and DOF and DOARD officials) has been tested in research or development projects within Vietnam, but has not spread to those providing aquaculture extension.
- Information-sharing, collaboration and communication between individual projects, between agencies and organizations within the sector (including national and international stakeholders) can sometimes be limited. Most DOF, DOARD, FEC and AEC offices have computers and internet access, but rarely search the internet for information. Often different institutions, agencies and initiatives are unaware of the activities of others, so efforts may lack coordination, be replicated, or impact adversely on one another.
- For information to be of use to government extension workers and community members, it needs to be presented in simple language in Vietnamese.

STREAM will support where possible communication among projects and institutions and agencies:

- At national and local levels there is a great need for the establishment of a coordinated network of projects within the agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, natural resources management and environmental sectors which could facilitate information-sharing and collaboration, and prevent the duplication of efforts, which should be coordinated by government agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD), the Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI), and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). STREAM could play a key role in facilitating the establishment of such a network.
- Many stakeholders expressed a need for a central internet service with an attached database providing information on individual projects and their activities by region or topic. The network could be linked to the international NGO network, and to the Vietnamese NGO network that is currently being established. If possible, such a site could provide links to, or integrate, the fisheries and aquaculture database library and information service developed by the Fisheries Informatics Center (FIC), which is planned to be posted on the internet at the end of 2003. For a central database to be of most use, it should be in simple language, in both Vietnamese and English, and include specific information on project findings and recommendations. Such information could include advice on how to seek credit, disease treatment, basic husbandry guidelines and fishing laws, for example. This would enable

computer-literate DOFs, FECs, DOARDs, AECs and mass organizations to access information on the internet that they would otherwise find hard to come by. If such a website is developed, it is essential that it be tested with intended users and modified until the information presented and the presentation format meet the needs of users.

- To reach communities, a wide variety of media could be used. These include awareness creation campaigns on TV, radio, video films, performing arts, posters, festivals and competitions, and specific information provided in the form of capacity-building.

3.4.2 Publicize the new Fisheries Law and Environment Protection Law, and their implications for poor aquatic resources users

STREAM Vietnam aims to mobilize the participation of the Fisheries Information Center, MOFI Department of Legislation and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to publicize these laws and commitments.

4. PARTNERSHIPS

STREAM Vietnam has engaged with a wide array of organizations and individuals during the development of the Country Strategy Paper. It is hoped that many of these will continue to discuss and work with the STREAM Initiative. For pilot activities, a strong partnership has been developed with the SAPA Steering Committee. The development of further relationships with the following organizations is considered important:

- Donor and international agencies, especially AUSAID, DFID, EU, FAO, UNDP and NORAD
- Non-governmental organizations such as VSO, Mangrove Ecosystem Research Center, IUCN, IMA, OXFAM GB and CARE
- Institutions such as RIA-1, HCMC University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Can Tho University
- Fisheries projects (international and national) in Vietnam, e.g., SUFA, SUMA, AIT Outreach, and
- Government agencies: Departments under MOFI, agriculture and fisheries services of Nghe An, Quang Tri, Long An, Thai Nguyen, Tay Ninh, Hoa Binh and Lai Chau provinces.

5. RESOURCING

The implementation of this Country Strategy Paper will depend on availability of funds committed by donor parties and projects in collaboration with STREAM. As a regional initiative, STREAM does not have the resources at its disposal to fully fund the implementation of this CSP. Although STREAM can provide ‘start-up’ funds for each of the objectives outlined in this document, this contribution will be modest compared to the total funds required. Securing the resources to achieve the objectives set out in this CSP is therefore central to the STREAM Vietnam mandate. It is recognized that securing these funds will be a challenge. It places a responsibility on, but also provides an opportunity for, STREAM Vietnam, the STREAM Regional Office and all STREAM partners to work together to explore and follow up all potential leads.

Some progress has already been made. This includes the identification of confirmed and potential funding sources from the bilateral, multilateral, non-governmental and corporate sectors in Vietnam, Southeast Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. Planning follow-up action to determine how STREAM and its partners can best coordinate their efforts and optimize income from these funding sources is a priority action. At the same time, significant cash and in-kind contributions have already been and will continue to be made to STREAM Vietnam from several sources, including the host government (Ministry of Fisheries), the EC-PREP, STREAM’s founding partners (DFID, AusAID, FAO and VSO), and the governments of the Asia-Pacific region (through NACA).

It is also important to recognize that, in some instances, the most effective way to deliver impact will be for STREAM to influence the ways in which other stakeholders utilize their resources rather than applying directly for financial assistance. A key STREAM resourcing strategy will therefore be to explore ways in which it can work with other stakeholders to ensure all available resources are effectively and efficiently used to address the key issues and constraints identified in this document.