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Environmental Protection 101

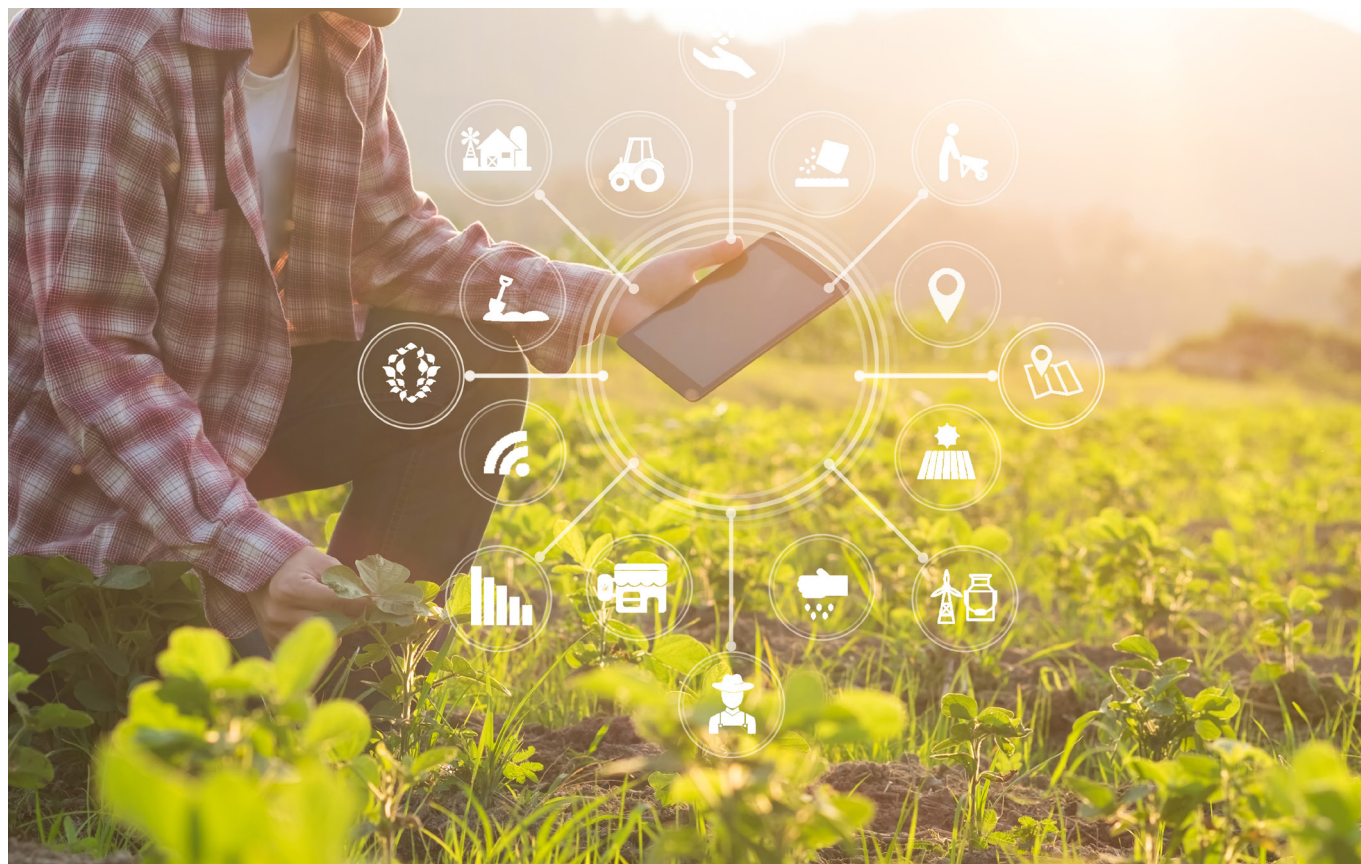


A transformation from a legal perspective

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Introduction



On 17 November 2020, the National Assembly of Vietnam enacted the new Law on Environmental Protection (“LoEP”). The LoEP which marked the successful culmination of years of efforts to build environmental policy, aims to tackle major challenges faced by Vietnam like other developing countries: climate change, environmental pollution, degradation and unsustainable consumption of natural resources.

The LoEP expresses notable changes which will have strong impacts on investment policy in Vietnam. To a certain extent public and private investment projects which likely have significant effects on the environment will be subjected to a systematic assessment and permit requirements under the more stringent regime laid out in the LoEP.

The LoEP has come into force as of 1 January 2022 and certain provisions on the preliminary assessment on environmental impact have already been effective since 1 February 2021. Additionally, the lawmaker has released De-

cree 08/2022/ND-CP (“**Decree 08**”) and ancillary Circulars guiding the interpretation and application of the LoEP.

This briefing highlights major provisions of the LoEP in respect of their relevance to foreign investment projects and emphasises significant changes in comparison with the previous regulations and in connection with other prevailing Vietnamese regulations. It is not intended to lay out the complexity of the topic in its entirety but to invite you to approach us with any specific questions in this regard. We look forward to supporting you.

Legal framework on environmental protection

I. Classification of investment projects

Amongst long-awaited significant changes for the environmental legislation addressed in the LoEP are the set of criteria and corresponding threshold for determining which type and size of projects are considered to have significant impact on the environment – and consequently shall be subject to environmental protection regulations.

The LoEP sets out **six criteria for classification of investment projects** thereby assuming the potential environmental effects of each type.



Details of each criterion have been prescribed in Decree 08. Below we provide some rough guidelines on the classification for your orientation.

1. Scale – Capacity

1.1. Scale

Scale of a project shall be categorised corresponding to its essence. More specifically:

	Scale
Public investment projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Group projects of national significance- Group A projects- Group B projects- Group C projects
Projects utilising land, land with fresh water surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Large scale projects- Medium scale projects- Small scale projects
Projects utilising sea area	2 groups in line with the regulations on natural resources, sea and island environment of the relevant authorities
Projects exploiting natural resources	2 groups in line with the regulations on minerals and water resources of the relevant authorities

1.2. Capacity

For capacity of a project, Decree 08 specifies a threshold mechanism by which quantitative triggers are used to distinguish between large, medium and small projects based on the proposal for the investment project as submitted to the authorities, the feasibility study report, the economic-technical report or other equivalent documentation of projects on a case-by-case basis.

2. Type of business

Annex II of Decree 08 contains a **List of business lines which are likely to cause environmental pollution**. Each business listed in Annex II is then sub-classified by thresholds on the capacity of the project. For example, the business lines of manufacturing fabric, fibers, apparel in the segment of dyeing, dry wash or boiling are sub-classified into Large (capacity $\geq 50,000,000$ m²/year), Medium (capacity 5,000,000 to < 50,000,000 m²/year), Small (capacity < 5,000,000 m²/year).

Business lines that are not covered by Annex II are considered not typically causing the risk of environmental pollution.

3. Size of land use area (or fresh water surface)

Investment projects shall be categorised based on the area of land use (or land with fresh water surface) assigned to their implementation: a large project will be using an area of ≥ 100 ha, a medium project ranges from 50 ha to < 100 ha) and below the threshold of 50 ha the project will be considered small.

4. Size of sea area

Investment projects utilising sea area shall be grouped into two classes corresponding to the projects subject to permission for sea dumping, sea area intersecting and sea encroachment of either the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment ("MoNRE") or the People's Committee at provincial level.

5. Natural resources exploitation

Likewise, investment projects exploiting natural resources shall be grouped into two classes in line with the scale of projects requiring either MoNRE's or the provincial People's Committee's permit for exploiting minerals or water resources.

6. Environmentally sensitive factors

In addition to aforementioned five quantitative characteristics of the projects the LoEP considers the local environmental sensitivity (or current level of vulnerability) of geographical areas where the investment project shall be located. In particular, the LoEP defines the following areas as sensitive:

- concentrated residential and urban area;
- sources of water used for domestic water supply;
- natural conservation zones as stipulated by the laws on biodiversity and fisheries;
- forest areas in accordance with the laws on forestry;
- physical and cultural heritage and other natural heritage;
- land for wet rice cultivation of 2 or more crops;
- important wetlands;
- locations that require relocation or resettlement

According to aforementioned six criteria, the investment projects shall be classified into Group I, II, III and IV as follows:

- **Group I** - Investment projects are those that pose a high-level risk of adverse environmental impacts.
- **Group II** - Investment projects are those that pose a risk of adverse environmental impacts.
- **Group III** - Investment projects are those that pose a lower-level risk of adverse environmental impacts.
- **Group IV** - Investment projects are those that do not pose a risk of adverse environmental impacts.

Investment Project	Group			
	I	II	III	IV
▪ Projects listed in Annex II of Decree 08				
- having large scale and capacity	X			
- having medium scale and capacity, but having sensitive environmental factors	X			
- having medium scale and capacity		X		
- having small scale and capacity, but having sensitive environmental factors		X		
- having small scale and capacity			X	
▪ Projects on hazardous waste treatment	X			
▪ Projects importing scraps from abroad for use as raw production materials	X			
▪ Investment projects with construction components under the authority to decide or approve investment policies of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister (except for certain specific projects)	X			
▪ Group A projects with construction components				
- listed in Annex II of Decree 08	X			
- located in the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas	X			
- not being as a business of Annex II of Decree 08		X		
▪ Group B projects with construction components not being as a business of Annex II of Decree 08		X		
▪ Group C projects, not being as a business of Annex II of Decree 08				
- with construction components located in the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas		X		
- generating wastewater, dust, or emissions that must be treated or generating hazardous waste that must be managed in accordance with the waste management regulations			X	
▪ Projects on demolition of used ship	X			
▪ Projects to build nuclear reactor, nuclear power	X			
▪ Projects using land/land with a water surface/sea area:				
- on a large scale	X			
- on a medium scale but with environmentally sensitive factors	X			
- on a medium scale ***		X		
- on a small scale but with environmentally sensitive factors***		X		
▪ Investment projects on construction and business of infrastructure of industrial clusters		X		
▪ Projects of sea dumping, sea area intersecting, sea encroachment				
- under the authority of MoNRE to issue permits	X			

Investment Project	Group			
	I	II	III	IV
- under the authority of the People's Committee at provincial level to issue permits		X		
■ Projects exploiting minerals or water resources:				
- on a large scale and capacity	X			
- on a medium scale capacity but having environmentally sensitive factors	X			
- on a medium scale capacity***		X		
- on a small-scale capacity but having environmentally sensitive factors***		X		
■ Projects requiring conversion of land use purposes:				
- on a medium or large scale but having environmentally sensitive factors	X			
- on a small scale but having environmentally sensitive factors ***		X		
■ Projects requiring relocation or resettlement				
- on large scale	X			
- on medium scale***		X		
■ Projects not falling within the description of Group I, II, III				X

II. Environmental controls & assessments regime

With reference to the classification of investment projects summarised above certain assessment and approval requirements pertain to each of the Group I-III projects. In order to make reliable predictions on time, cost and effort involved in the project implementation it is crucial to apply the correct group and then deduct the required steps from there.

1. Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment

Group I projects are subjected to a *Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment* ("Preliminary EIA") during the period of conducting the pre-feasibility study on construction investment projects or the proposal for investment policy and request for approval of investment policy (as applicable under the laws on investment, public investment, investment in the PPP form, and on construction).

Competent authority to conduct the Preliminary EIA shall be the state agencies that are vested with the authority to examine the application dossier for decision on the investment policy.

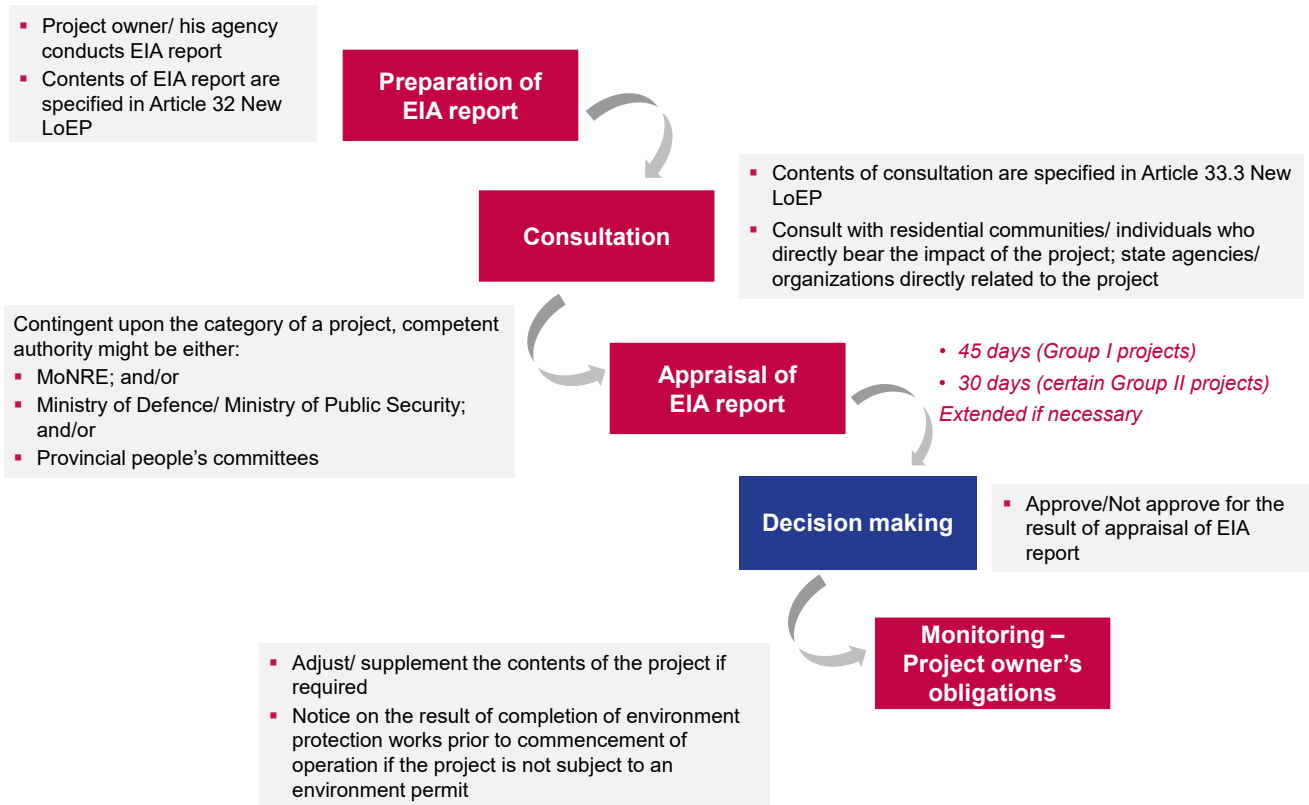
2. Environmental Impact Assessment

Group I and certain Group II projects require an *Environmental Impact Assessment* ("EIA") in parallel with the preparation of the feasibility study report or equivalent document.

Urgent public investment projects as prescribed by the law on public investment are exempted from the requirement to conduct an EIA.

For EIA authorities may – subject to the result of their appraisal of the EIA report – either:

- issue or amend mining licenses for mining investment projects;
- approve exploration plans and mining development plans for oil and gas exploration and production investment projects;
- approve feasibility study reports for PPP investment projects;
- conclude appraisal of feasibility study reports for investment projects on construction;
- issue environmental permits;



- issue permits for dumping at sea; and to decide on allocation of sea areas;
- decide on investment dossiers for investment projects which are not falling under any of the aforesaid items.

Somewhat counter-intuitive, and depending on the group and particular classification (business line or other criteria), different authorities are assigned to conduct the EIA. However, most cases would be within the MoNRE's capacity, namely Group I projects and Group II projects marked by red asterisk.

3. Environmental Permit

Beyond the assessment of the plans and feasibility pertaining to a project, and before the project may officially be put into operation, an *Environmental Permit* ("EP") may be required for:

- Group I, Group II and Group III projects generating waste water, dust and emissions discharged into the environment which must be treated
- Group I, Group II and Group III projects generating hazardous waste which must be managed in accordance with the regulations on waste management

- Investment projects, establishments, concentrated production, business and service zones, and industrial clusters operating before the effective date of the LoEP have the same environmental criteria as the aforementioned projects subjected to Environmental Permit.

An EP may not be required for urgent public investment projects as prescribed by the law on public investment.

Once obtained, the EP is valid for up to 7 years for any Group I projects, and business establishments, concentrated production, business and service zones, and industrial clusters operating before the effective date of the LoEP having the same environmental criteria as Group I projects, and for up to 10 years for any other projects unless the EP itself provides for a shorter term.

III. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and other liabilities

1. EPR

The concept of *Extended Producer Responsibility* (“EPR”) liability has been first introduced in the old law on environmental protection in Vietnam. However, the EPR scheme then was only modestly effective, lacking specific guidance for involved parties in connection with the responsibilities on recycling and waste management.

In the context of Vietnam's shifting from a linear economy towards a circular economy as the government pledged at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26), the new LoEP, Decree 08 and guiding Circulars frame the mechanism and create tools for implementation of the EPR more rigorously.

1.1. Recycling

Accordingly, producers and importers of certain products (e.g. batteries, machine oils, tubes and tires, electronic equipment and means of transportation) and packages circulating in the Vietnamese market as listed in Annex XXIII of Decree 08 must comply with the statutory requirements on:

- Mandatory recycling rates: contingent upon the types of products and packages, ranging from 0.1% to 22% for the first three years and will be adjusted for every three years by the Government.
- Standard specifications on recycling solutions: A minimum recovery rate of 40% of the weight of the recycled products, packages according to the mandatory recycling rate.

The LoEP contains exemptions from mandatory recycling, namely for producers and importers whose products or packages are for the purposes of export, temporary import for re-export, research, learning or testing.

As to the methods for fulfilling recycling responsibilities, the involved producers and importers are entitled to choose which method to adopt, **either** (i) recycling products and packaging (by themselves and/or engaging eligible service provider(s)) **or** (ii) making a financial contribution to the Vietnam Environment Protection Fund (“VEPF”) to support recycling of products and packages following the calculation formula provided in Decree 08.

The implementation of the annual registration of plan and results reporting scheme in respect of recycling with the MoNRE prior to 31 March is only required for the producers and importers who do not making financial contribution to VEPF.

1.2. Waste treatment

Currently, waste treatment responsibilities solely impose financial burdens on producers and importers of products and packaging specified in Annex XXIII of Decree 08 in form of certain thresholds, fees or financial contribution to the VEPF. Every five years the government shall adjust and promulgate such thresholds or fees at the request of the MoNRE.

2. Other liabilities

In addition to the EPR other economic instruments to hold relevant investors and businesses accountable for compliance with environmental protection regulation in Vietnam include:

a. Deposit refund systems

The following business activities are subject to the deposit refund systems in connection with environmental protection:

- Mineral mining
- Waste burial
- Importation of scrap overseas as input for production.

The deposit refund systems require that a payment considered a compulsory deposit amount is made by the parties involved in aforesaid businesses and is fully or partially refunded if and when they fulfil tasks of recovery and improvement of the environment. Decree 08 provides for the formula to calculate the deposit amount, term and payment schedule.

b. Insurances for compensation of environmental damage

It is compulsory for the owners of large-scale projects and businesses listed in Annex II Column 3 of Decree 08 to maintain insurances on compensation of damages incurred by environmental incidents.

c. Disclosure of enterprise environmental information

The LoEP requires regularly that owners of projects and businesses must submit an annual report detailing environmental information, such as environmental protection, management of solid waste, hazardous wastes, waste water, dust & industrial emission monitoring system amongst others.

IV. Investment incentives

In terms of incentivisation of environmental protection activities, **Decree 08 details the subjects eligible for incentives in Annex XXX**, primarily investment projects engaging in recycling or waste treatment, further supportive manufacturing (e.g. public transportation means), producing technology (e.g. renewable energy) or rendering environmental protection services, and specific non-business activities related to environmental protection (e.g. innovation of technology, improvement of waste treatment works).

Incentives may include allocation of land or support in infrastructure development to the investors, exemption or reduction of land rental / land use fees, preferential interest rates for loans mobilised from VEPF or Vietnam Development Bank (**VDB**), and tax incentives. To be eligible for such incentives and to leverage it for their businesses, it is crucial for the investors to be aware of not only environmental protection legislation but also other sectoral legal regulation (e.g. investment, land, and tax). In any case investors should map their business plans to tackle the environmental agenda that the Vietnamese government is building for years to come.

V. Green finance

The agenda on green finance of Vietnamese regulators is provided in the LoEP and its guiding regulations in two pillars - **green credit** and **green bond**. **Green finance** aims to navigate the sustainable economy development and mobilise investment inflows to green projects in different sectors. To be granted green credit or issue green bonds, borrowers, issuers, and their projects/businesses respectively must meet the criteria in the **List of Green Classification** which is planned to be promulgated prior to 31 December 2022.

1. Green credits

The funds for green credits can be mobilised from various sources, e.g. credit institutions, foreign bank branches in Vietnam, VEPF, VDB, Vietnam Energy Efficiency for Industrial Enterprises (VEEIE) project of World Bank. The programme with details about criteria for eligibility, lending procedures (including project evaluation and selection), requisite documents, and reporting scheme will be varied depending on the lending policies of each lender.

In terms of transaction costs and requirement on tradable size, there is a tendency for small green project portfolios to opt for receiving green loan(s) rather than issuing green bonds.

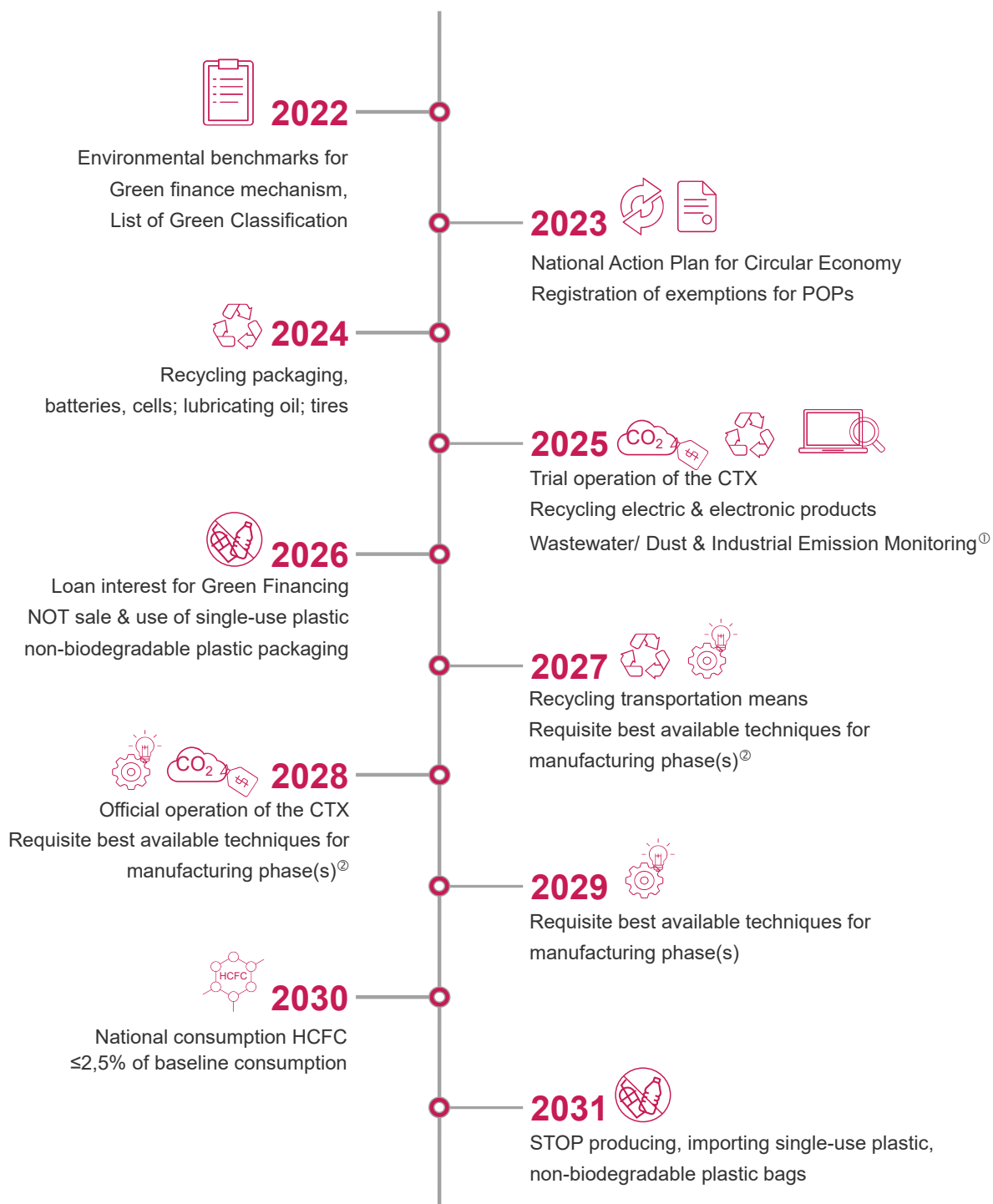
In recent years the Vietnamese market of green loans has established fueled by the banking sector's approach to offer eco-friendly loan packages in alignment with the lending demand and environmental protection objectives.

2. Green bonds

Under the LoEP issuers of green bonds can be either the Vietnamese government, local authorities or enterprises. The bond proceeds must be used for the projects categorised in the List of Green Classification (yet to be published). Additionally, information about accounting practices, management policy, and allocation of the proceeds of green bonds and about the project's environmental impact must be disclosed.

VI. Roadmap for implementation

Below we try to summarise key milestones in respect of environmental protection mechanisms that the foreign investor should bear in mind when evaluating the impact of environmental protection regulation on their business and how these matters may affect their business agenda in the years ahead.



Notes:

- CTX: Carbon Trade Exchange
- HCFC: Hydrochlorofluorocarbon
- POPs: Persistent Organic Pollutants
- ①: for investment projects in Annex XXVIII – Column 4, Annex XXIX – Column 5 Decree 08
- ②: for specific investment projects/ businesses in Annex II Decree 08

VII. Opportunities and Challenges

1. Opportunities

Admittedly, the legal transformation of the environmental protection sector in Vietnam has received some attention from potential investors with regard to emerging investment opportunities:

a. Carbon market exchange

As of 18 January 2022, the Prime Minister promulgated Decision 01/2022/QĐ-TTg with accompanying List of greenhouse gas-emitting sectors and business establishments (**21 sectors and 1912 business establishments**) which may be adjusted every two years.

The domestic carbon market as a carbon emissions trading system allows for auctions, exchange, sales and purchase of greenhouse gas (**GHG**) emission quotas and carbon credits between listed businesses. MoNRE is vested the authority to certify carbon credits and GHG emission quotas at the request of eligible subjects within 15 business days.

Eligible greenhouse gas emitting businesses can participate in the international market on carbon credit exchange and off-setting. They may leverage potential benefits effectively if they have the knowledge on other compatible emissions trading systems at national or regional level.

b Renewable energy market

The Vietnamese market in this sector is moving faster than ever especially in the context of the sustainable development agenda emphasised in Vietnam's international commitments. Large scale wind, solar, hydro, waste to energy projects have been built and operating cross-country. The overarching issues (effectiveness and efficiency in the procurement framework, bidding mechanism and deployment schemes) are ever critical factors influencing investors' decisions on investment in these sectors.

2. Challenges

Throughout the on-going Vietnamese transformation process there are many daunting tasks and hurdles that investors must tackle in the process of adapting to new regulatory and legal requirements. Risk management and compliance costs dur-

ing the life cycle of a project were always main concerns to be discussed around the executive table. The latest environmental protection agenda in Vietnam adds to this as understanding the significance and scope of environmental protection regulation will be essential to succeed with large scale investment projects in the years to come.

Luther in Vietnam applies an interdisciplinary approach to help clients in a broad range of industries address their greatest legal and financial concerns and to comply with their environmental obligations. We are happy to assist in any of the steps and matters described herein and beyond. Feel free to reach out to one of us with your questions.

Hits the mark. Luther.

Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH is one of the leading corporate law firms in Germany. With some 420 lawyers and tax advisors, we can advise you in all fields of German and international corporate law. In addition to having offices in every economic centre throughout Germany, we are also present in 11 locations abroad: in Brussels, London and Luxembourg in Europe, and in Bangkok, Delhi-Gurugram, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, Singapore and Yangon in Asia.

Our advisory services are tailored to our clients' corporate goals. We take a creative, dedicated approach to achieving the best possible economic outcome for each of our clients. The name "Luther" stands for expertise and commitment. With a passion for our profession, we dedicate all our efforts to solving your issues, always providing the best possible solution for our clients. Not too much and not too little – we always hit the mark.

We know how crucial it is to use resources efficiently and to plan ahead. We always have an eye on the economic impact of our advice. This is true in the case of strategic consulting as well as in legal disputes. We have complex projects on our agenda every day. At Luther, experienced and highly specialised advisors cooperate closely in order to offer our clients the best possible service. Thanks to our fast and efficient communication, permanent availability and flexibility, we are there for you whenever you need us.

Luther has been named "Law Firm of the Year: Germany 2021" and also "European Law Firm of the Year 2021" by The Lawyer, one of the most well-known legal magazines worldwide.



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unyer, founded by Luther and Fidal in 2021, is a global organisation of leading international professional services firms. Besides law firms, unyer is also open to other related professional services, especially from the legal tech sector. unyer is based in Zurich as a Swiss Verein. unyer is globally connected but has strong local roots in their respective markets.

unyer has an exclusive approach and only accepts one member firm from each market. unyer members offer its clients full services across all jurisdictions with a compelling industry focus. The organisation has an annual turnover of more than EUR 650 million and includes over 2,500 lawyers and advisors in more than 10 countries in Europe and Asia. In September 2021, Pirola Pennuto Zei & Associati joined the international organisation.

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Our Legal & tax advisory services

Our international and Vietnamese lawyers provide comprehensive legal advice in all areas of corporate and commercial law equipping you with the relevant background to make profound, risk-controlled decisions:

Foreign direct investment and market entry

- assessment of investment locations
- advise on market entry regulation & restrictions
- correspondence & representation vis-à-vis authorities
- drafting & submission of application dossiers

Establishment of a business presence in Vietnam

- choice of type of investment vehicles
- corporate & tax structuring
- registration of branch or representative offices
- establishment of Vietnamese-foreign joint ventures and PPP projects

Corporate house-keeping

- capital measures (increase and reduction in charter or share capital), filing of relevant amendments to the charter
- changes of company name, charter, capital (transfer of shares, issuance of shares), shareholders/members, directors, representatives, auditors, office address
- shareholders' or members' agreements
- charter, rules of procedure
- out-of-court dispute resolution measures
- corporate documents (minutes, resolutions, notices)
- submissions to and correspondence with authorities
- authentication and legalisation of foreign documents

Termination & suspension of business operations

- liquidation of entities
- support in bankruptcy proceedings
- de-registration of branch or representative offices

Mergers & acquisitions

- M&A transactions
- domestic and cross-border asset or share deals
- full-scope legal and tax due diligence
- corporate restructuring measures
- post-merger / closing integration

Finance advisory

- banking, finance and insurance law
- corporate finance
- loan and security agreements
- local business bank accounts
- legal opinions for envisaged transactions

Real estate

- sale and purchase of land use rights
- commercial lease agreements
- construction contracts and
- financing structures

Compliance

- anti-corruption & anti-money-laundering compliance
- corporate governance and corporate compliance measures; advise on best practice corporate governance
- regulatory compliance
- tax compliance

Employment and labour law

- employment contracts
- secondments
- internal labour regulations and employment policies
- dispute resolution
- correspondence with labour authorities

Immigration law

- business visa, temporary residence cards
- work permits and work permit exemptions

Contract law and contract administration

- drafting and structuring of all types of domestic and cross-border commercial contracts
- INCOTERMS and int. contract framework
- FTA advisory services
- customs regulations, import and export restrictions
- structuring of e-commerce business models
- review of general terms and conditions

Intellectual property, business secrets & privacy law

- development and implementation of IP protection strategies
- registration of trademarks, designs and patents
- licence agreements, research and development agreements
- cross-border data transfer risk assessment (TRA)
- data protection requirements under GDPR for global services

Tax advice and tax structuring

- cross-border tax advisory services
- direct and indirect taxes
- tax structuring of M&A transactions
- transfer pricing
- e-commerce tax collection

Tax compliance

- commercial tax and special goods tax
- corporate income tax and withholding tax
- applications for relief under Double Taxation Agreements
- liaison with the relevant authorities and internal accounting departments
- digital economy taxation
- stamp duty and other local special taxes

Environmental Protection Law

- assessment of investment locations under environmental regulation aspects
- advise on applicable EIA regulation & restrictions
- correspondence & representation vis-a-vis authorities
- drafting & submission of application dossiers for:
 - Feasibility plan
 - Preliminary EIA and complete EIA
 - Environmental Permit
- renewal of permits.

Luther in Asia

Expertise

Legal advice – especially in Asia – is more than explaining the legal system to you. We are here to do more. We make a true effort to understand your business. We devise and help you implement legal and tax structures that work and let you focus on being successful in the world's most dynamic economic region.

Our Vietnam office works closely together with the other Luther offices in Asia and Europe. We take a holistic approach, dealing with Asia-wide compliance issues, assisting with the creation of international holding structures and ensuring tax-efficient repatriation of profits.

We provide the complete range of legal and tax advice to clients doing business in and from Asia. To offer a seamless service, we have teams in Europe as well as in Asia, led by partners with many years of experience on both continents. That way, we can immediately answer questions concerning investment decisions and provide our clients with an accurate assessment of the particularities of their projects, no matter where they are located.

Our lawyers unite substantial practical knowledge in important legal areas and cover the entire spectrum of law in Asia and beyond. We support foreign investors in the assessment of location and investment criteria, the structuring of investment projects, acquisitions and joint ventures. Finding and implementing solutions for sensitive areas like technology transfer and know-how protection also form part of our work. Alongside our clients we negotiate with future partners and local authorities and ensure the enforcement of their rights, in and out of court as well as in arbitration proceedings.

The services of our lawyers are complemented by our accountants, HR professionals and tax consultants offering all the services one would necessarily associate with a “one-stop shop” concept, from outsourced administration to accounting, payroll and tax compliance. Additionally, we provide corporate secretarial services, especially in Asian “common law” countries.

Collectively, our lawyers, tax consultants and professionals combine the competence and experience necessary to comprehensively assist comprehensively on all business matters in Asia. Our tax experts advise on individual and corporate tax compliance as well as on withholding tax issues, on Double Taxation Agreements and on complex international tax structures. Our accountants and professionals carry out the

time-consuming administrative tasks of accounting and payroll functions a business must undertake, allowing our clients to concentrate on growing their business.

Singapore

Singapore is a leading international trade and financial hub. As such, it serves as Asian headquarters for many international companies operating within the Asia-Pacific region.

With a staff strength of more than 90, Luther is by far the largest continental European law firm in Singapore. More than 26 lawyers from Singapore, Germany, France and other jurisdictions cover the full range of corporate and commercial legal work as well as the structuring of investments within South and South East Asia.

Our team is supported by excellent local Singaporean lawyers, notary publics, tax advisors, accountants, corporate secretaries and other professionals.

Shanghai

Shanghai is the main hub for doing business in China, and with a team of more than 20 international lawyers, Luther is the largest German-speaking law firm in the city. Our China team consists of German and Chinese legal experts most of whom have over a decade of experience in developing and entering the Chinese market.

Luther Shanghai is fully authorised to offer legal services including litigation and provides advice on all questions of Chinese law. Our legal team is supported by Chinese tax advisors, accountants, corporate secretaries and other professionals.

Region

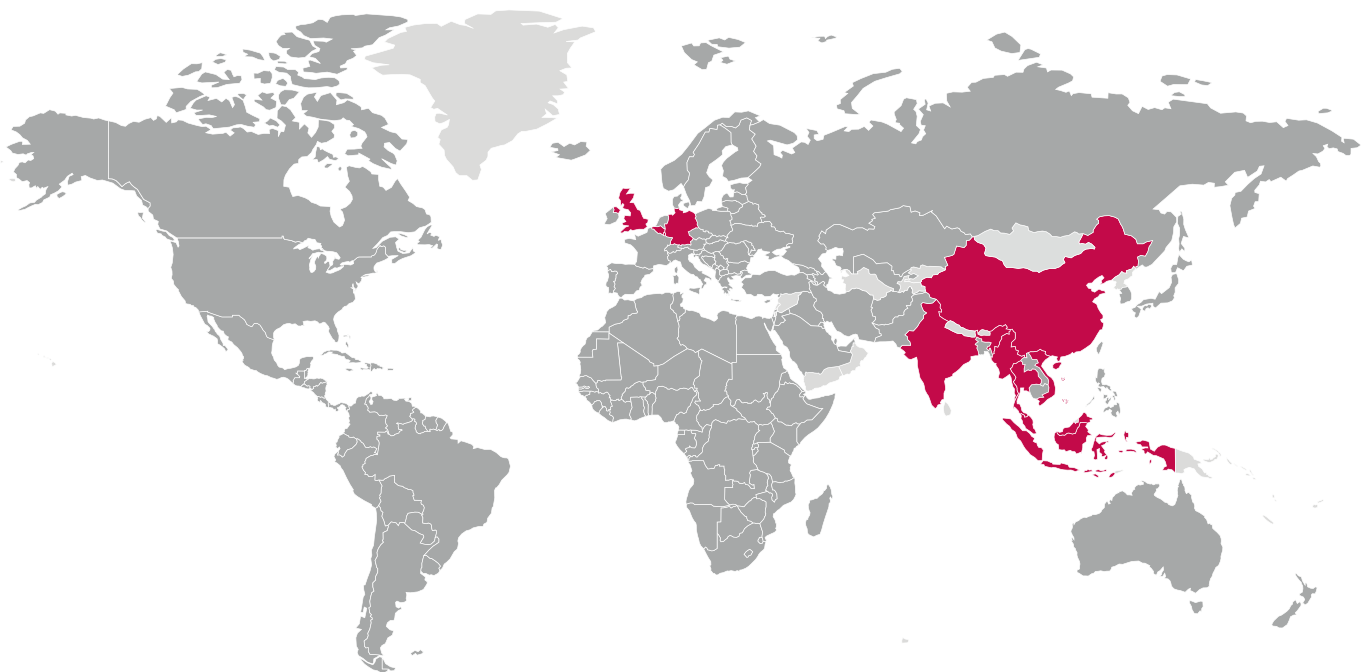
Our two principal Asian offices in Singapore and Shanghai are complemented by offices and teams in Yangon (Myanmar), Bangkok (Thailand), Delhi-Gurugram (India), Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Jakarta (Indonesia).

This network of Luther offices is further strengthened by the long-established business relationships that we have successfully developed both locally and with our regional partners in Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines and South Korea.

Our locations

We have a global outlook, with international offices in 11 key economic and financial centres in Europe and Asia. We also maintain close relationships with other commercial law firms in all relevant jurisdictions. Luther is a founding member of unyer (www.unyer.com), a global organisation of leading professional services firms that cooperate exclusively with each other. This way, we ensure a seamless service for our clients throughout their demanding international projects.

Our partner firms are based in Africa, Australia and New Zealand, Europe, Israel, Japan and Korea, the Middle East, Russia and the CIS, South and Central America, the US and Canada.



- Luther locations
- Best friends

Our locations

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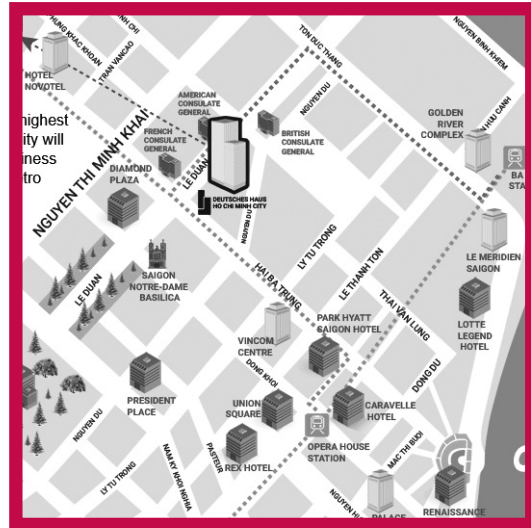
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For reasons of better legibility, the simultaneous use of gender-specific language forms is dispensed with. Corresponding terms apply in principle to all genders in the sense of equal treatment. The abbreviated form of language has editorial reasons and does not imply any valuation.

Release: October 2022

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