

# Enhancing solid waste management in tourist cities in Viet Nam

Engaging public and private sectors in optimising municipal solid waste management throughout Viet Nam and ASEAN

## Context

Population growth and rapid industrialisation have led to a massive increase in the volume of global municipal solid waste. This challenge is acutely felt in Viet Nam. As highlighted in the 2019 National State of Environment report by Viet Nam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, there was a 46% surge in solid waste generation between 2010 and 2019. Urban areas were the primary contributors, responsible for 55% of the daily 64,658 tons of waste generated in 2019.

Tourist destinations contribute a sizable and growing proportion of municipal solid waste, including plastic packaging, containers and consumables. From the data provided by the Institute for Tourism Development Research (2019), 85 million domestic tourists discard an estimated 61,000 tons of plastic waste annually. 18 million international tourists contribute an additional 55,000 tons. This production of waste has put pressure on various tourist cities which lack adequate waste management and disposal capacity. This has led to increased degradation of the region's scenic beauty.

To address these challenges, Viet Nam has demonstrated a strong commitment to manage municipal solid waste, including waste at tourist regions. The government introduced the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2017 and the National Strategy for Integrated Solid Waste Management up to 2025. The Law on Environmental Protection, enacted in January 2022, emphasizes solid domestic waste management. Viet Nam further launched the Prime Minister's Directive No. 41/CT-TTg in December 2020, outlining urgent measures to enhance solid waste management.

Project name	ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE)
Country package	Enhancing solid waste management in tourist cities in Viet Nam
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	ASEAN (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam)
Lead executing agencies in Viet Nam	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)
Implementation partners	Pollution Control Department (PCD)
Duration	01.07.2022 – 30.06.2025

Sustainable tourism, which considers "respect for the environment" to be a principle and priority, is acknowledged in Resolution No. 81/2023/QH15 on the National Master Plan for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050. Additionally, Government Decree No. 08/2022/ND-CP articulates an ambition to eliminate the circulation and use of single-use plastic products and non-biodegradable plastic packaging in tourist areas and destinations from 2025.

Given this context, the ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE) project has selected Da Lat City as its pilot location. Da Lat, a medium-sized tourist city, presently lacks an efficient waste treatment system. The AMUSE project will contribute to environmental protection there as part of the national socio-economic development plan.

L-R: Municipal solid waste. Photo: © GIZ





Processing daily solid waste depends on rudimentary technologies and treatment systems in the ASEAN region.  
Photo: © GIZ

## Objectives

The primary objective of the ASEAN Municipal Solid Waste Management Enhancement (AMUSE) project is to strengthen the competency of relevant public and private actors to optimise municipal waste management and recycling in ASEAN small and medium-sized tourist cities.

The Viet Nam component of the project includes the following specific objectives:

- Awareness and capacity of ministries and local agencies on sustainable waste management will be strengthened.
- Stakeholders, including government agencies, tourism associations, project partners from other countries and localities, waste- and tourism-related agencies, will cooperate effectively to achieve common waste management goals.
- A pilot project to optimise municipal waste management and recycling in tourist cities which considers sustainability and gender aspects will be successfully implemented and serve as an example that can be replicated throughout Viet Nam.

## Approach

The AMUSE project will use a holistic, multi-level, and multi-stakeholder approach. The Viet Nam component of the AMUSE project will:

- Set up a new ASEAN-wide digital knowledge platform to provide knowledge, training, opportunities for dialogue, and information on standards for optimizing municipal waste management and recycling for Vietnamese public and private stakeholders.

- Support medium-sized tourist cities in Viet Nam, including Da Lat City, in their sustainable waste management implementation. For this, collaborations between responsible ministries, tourism associations and other local actors will be facilitated.
- Share experiences from field-tested solutions to municipal waste management and recycling in medium-sized tourist cities that consider sustainability and gender aspects.

## Expected Results

Project activities are planned and implemented in close coordination with partners including ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), in particular the ASEC's Environment Division and the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities, as well as national and local governments. The beneficiaries include national and local tourism associations and local tourism operators. The project expects the following outcomes:

- 75% of participants in training and knowledge exchange programs for optimizing municipal waste management and recycling will increase their capacity and be able to apply their new skills effectively within their areas of responsibility.
- Improved cooperation between the public and private sectors through collaborative dialogue within the project's framework.
- A higher level of tourist satisfaction with the cleanliness of Da Lat City in public spaces.
- Implement measures to enhance the involvement of women and underrepresented groups in municipal waste management in the pilot city.

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