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Evaluating the Green Index in the Red River Delta Provinces in Vietnam towards the Goal of Sustainable Development

¹ Dang Thi Thuy Giang, ² Le Cao Dai

^{1,2} University of Labour and Social Affairs, Hanoi, Vietnam

Corresponding Author: **Dang Thi Thuy Giang**

Abstract

The Red River Delta region is a particularly important area in terms of politics, economics, culture, society, defense, security and foreign affairs of the country. To develop industries in the Red River Delta towards modernity, competitiveness, high added value and deep and comprehensive participation in the production network and global value chain, environmentally friendly behavior is required of businesses plays an extremely important role. Vietnam is adopting the Provincial Green Index to evaluate and rank environmentally friendly localities from the

perspective of business practices: Level of compliance with environmental laws; current status of application of environmentally friendly technology by local businesses, level of management and environmental behavior of businesses, level of interest, and policies to encourage environmentally friendly investment activities of local government and many other important environmental issues. This article aims to learn, analyze, and evaluate the scores of components of the provincial green index for provinces and cities in the Red River Delta region.

Keywords: Score, Green Index at Provincial Level, Red River Delta

1. Introduction

In the context of global competition and towards sustainable development, Vietnam's FDI investment in the coming time must be greener, have better quality, have higher technology, and bring higher added value. Credit capital also prioritizes lending to green and environmentally friendly projects. Vietnam must build an investment environment that is not only procedurally favorable but also greener and more sustainable. In this context, VCCI announced the Green Index for the first time. This is a set of indicators to evaluate and rank environmentally friendly localities from the perspective of business practices: Level of compliance with environmental laws; Current status of application of environmentally friendly technology by local businesses, level of management and environmental behavior of businesses, level of interest, and policies to encourage environmentally friendly investment activities of local government and many other important environmental issues. If the provincial competitiveness index is an index to measure and evaluate the quality of local economic management from the perspective of business practice The provincial green index is an index that evaluates and ranks the quality of local environmental governance from the perspective of business practice.

The Red River Delta region is a particularly important area in terms of politics, economics, culture, society, defense, security and foreign affairs of the country with the core being the capital Hanoi, the driving force for international development leading the country with 3 growth poles: Hanoi - Hai Phong - Quang Ninh. This is also a leading region in research and application of science, technology and innovation. To develop industries in the Red River Delta towards modernity, competitiveness, high added value and deep and comprehensive participation in the production network and global value chain, environmentally friendly behavior is required of businesses plays an extremely important role.

Therefore, the goal of this article is to evaluate the Provincial Green Index of provinces in the Red River Delta region in Vietnam in 2022, to review the quality ranking of local environmental governance from the perspective of business practice such as the level of application of environmentally friendly technology by businesses, the level of management and environmental behavior of businesses, the level of concern and willingness to invest in environmental issues of local governments and many other important environmental issues.

2. Theoretical basis

In 2022, VCCI officially launches the provincial Green Index survey as an integrated environmental component in the 2022 provincial competitiveness index survey. Built with a scientific, rigorous statistical methodology and understanding of the national context, the provincial green index aims to become a useful policy tool for agencies and authorities at all levels, At the same time, it is a reliable source of reference information for domestic and foreign investors. The Provincial Green Index was developed to provide input information for policy making at both central and local levels to minimize the negative impacts of climate change and environmental pollution on the environment with production and business activities and corporate sustainability. The 2022 Provincial Green Index has 4 component indexes made up of 44 indicators measuring the quality of environmental governance in provinces and cities in the direction of linking environmental protection with economic development.

Minimize environmental pollution and negative impacts of climate change (for businesses). Providing public infrastructure and services can be considered the most basic responsibility of provincial governments, even being included in central planning. nd climate change risks and the growing private economic sector in Vietnam, the responsibility of local governments has become increasingly greater in recent years because expected to solve infrastructure needs, support businesses in preparing, responding, and minimizing the growing impacts of climate change (floods, rising sea levels, droughts, etc.). For production and business activities.

Ensure compliance with minimum environmental standards. This component index measures the effectiveness of monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations implemented by provincial governments to minimize environmental harm caused by enterprises' production and business activities. This is also a fairly traditional state management field of local government, appearing in the early 1990s with the birth of the official private economic sector. The scope of this management field has of course expanded much further in the context of the rapid development of the official private economic sector in Vietnam since the Enterprise Law was promulgated in 2000. In recent years, the effectiveness of environmental management has become more urgent in the face of major environmental incidents caused by corporate violations, leading to greater concern from the people. However, the frequency of environmental inspections has tended to decrease in recent years, as many businesses reported that they had to incur additional costs due to frequently having to receive inspection teams from state agencies.

Promote green practices. This component index measures the degree to which environmental goals are integrated into the broader state management responsibilities of the provincial government, Specifically, the government has integrated environmental protection goals into general development policies, into public procurement activities, and into activities to guide and disseminate legal regulations and practices to support businesses in "greening" their operating processes, production business models and corporate behavior. This role of the provincial government, if promoted, will contribute to promoting and even leading leading businesses to pursue strategies to become role models in environmental protection. This role may include

guiding businesses in making operational decisions that can position them to become leaders in energy savings or the use of sustainable, renewable energy.

Policies and services to support businesses in environmental protection. This component index evaluates the policies and support services applied by the provincial government to promote businesses with behaviors and decisions that create positive environmental impacts beyond minimum environmental standards according to Vietnamese laws or international standards. For example, business support services provided by local governments such as consulting services on licensing procedures for investment projects with environmental protection elements, training services, technical training the ability for workers to enable businesses to implement investment projects with environmental protection factors will contribute to solving the shortage of capacity building services for businesses to green production and investment activities.

3. Current status of provincial green index in the Red River Delta region of Vietnam in 2022

The Provincial Green Index is designed as a ranking index based on input criteria formed from a system of indicators measuring input policy factors (measures to evaluate the actions of local authority province) that may have a correlation with the current state of the environment and climate, such as natural disasters or air or water quality measurement indexes such as fine dust index (PM 2.5), nitrogen dioxide index oxide (NO2) or sulfur dioxide (SO2). According to VCCI's survey results in 2022, the highest provincial green score is 17.67, the lowest is 12.52, the median is 14.7. Comparing the list of provinces in the Red River Delta region, it is found that the green results at the provincial level are mostly above the median score. The provincial green scores of the Red River Delta provinces are shown in Fig 1. The province with the highest score is Bac Ninh (17.21), followed by Quang Ninh (17.12). The lowest are Hanoi (12.52) and Ninh Binh (13.43). Bac Ninh is on the list of provinces with the highest green score at the provincial level in the country. Bac Ninh strives to reduce the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions in Bac Ninh province's GRDP by 38 - 43% compared to 2018. The target by 2050 is to reduce the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions in Bac Ninh province's GRDP by 47 - 69% compared to 2018. Hai Duong ranks 6th in the country in terms of provincial green index with 16.53 points, after Provinces and cities: Tra Vinh, Lang Son, Bac Ninh, Quang Ninh, Da Nang; Ranked 2nd in the Red River Delta after Bac Ninh province.

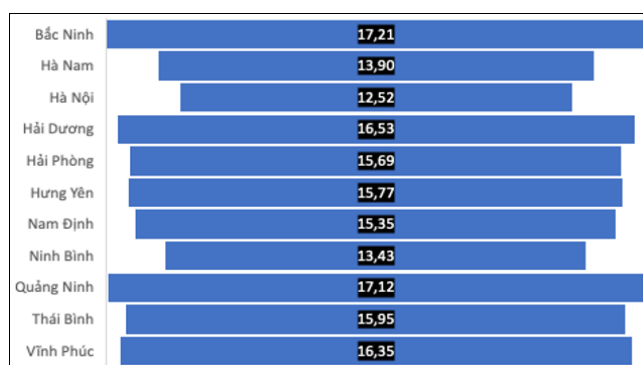


Fig 1: Provincial green index scores of the Red River Delta provinces

The results of surveying the scores of the four components of the provincial green index of the Red River Delta provinces are shown in Table 1. The provinces with good scores in all four components are Bac Ninh, Quang Ninh,

Hai Duong, Vinh Phuc. However, there are still provinces with very low scores, typically Hanoi, Ha Nam, and Ninh Binh.

Table 1: Provincial green component index scores of the Red River Delta provinces

Province	Minimize environmental pollution and negative impacts of climate change	Ensure compliance with minimum environmental standards	The leadership role of the provincial government in promoting Green practices	Policies and services to support businesses in environmental protection
Bac Ninh	6.85	5.23	3.59	1.58
Ha Nam	3.35	5.12	3.53	1.83
Hanoi	3.15	4.27	3.65	1.46
Hai Duong	4.61	4.61	5.15	2.13
Hai Phong	3.08	4.97	5.35	2.30
Hung Yen	4.25	5.79	4.28	1.46
Nam Dinh	3.14	5.78	4.25	2.20
Ninh Binh	3.42	4.94	3.60	1.49
Quang Ninh	5.12	5.26	4.74	2.01
Thai Binh	3.61	5.68	4.31	2.34
Vinh Phuc	4.35	5.51	4.48	2.02

Hanoi scored 12.52 points, ranked 63/63 provinces and cities. The provincial green component indexes ranked quite low, including: "Promoting green practices" reached 3.15 points, ranked 49/63; "Reducing environmental pollution and the impact of climate change" reached 4.27 points, ranked 59/63; "Ensuring compliance with minimum environmental standards" scored 3.65 points, ranked 59/63; "Policies and services to support businesses in environmental protection" scored 1.46 points, ranked 62/63. Bac Ninh achieved 17.21 points, ranked 2nd out of 63 provinces and cities. The provincial green component indexes ranked quite well, including: "Promoting green practices" reached 3.59 points, "Reducing environmental pollution and the impact of climate change" reached 6.85 points; "Ensure compliance with minimum environmental standards" scored 5.23 points; "Policies and services to support businesses in environmental protection" scored 1.59 points.

Quang Ninh achieved 17.12 points, ranked 4/63 provinces and cities. The provincial green component indexes ranked quite well, including: "Promoting green practices" reached 4.74 "Reducing environmental pollution and the impact of climate change" reached 5.12 points; "Ensure compliance with minimum environmental standards" scored 5.26 points; "Policies and services to support businesses in environmental protection" scored 2.01 points.

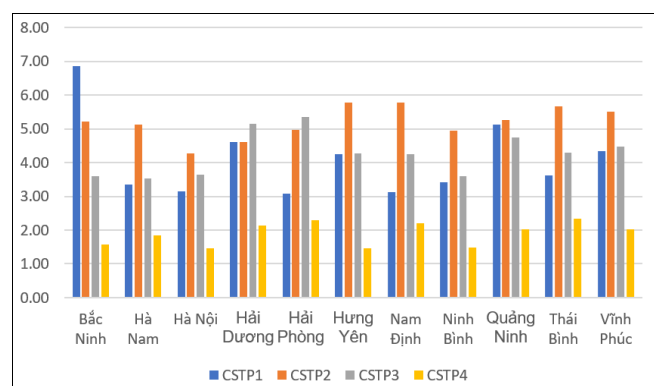


Fig 2: Component indices of provinces with the highest and lowest provincial green index

4. Conclusion

According to the 2022 survey results, the Provincial Green Index is an index that evaluates and ranks the quality of local environmental governance, including 04 component indexes: (1) Minimizing environmental pollution and negative impacts. extremes of climate change; (2) Ensure compliance with minimum environmental standards; (3) Promote green practices; (4) Preferential policies and services to support businesses in environmental protection. For 11 provinces and cities in the Red River Delta, there are quite good provincial green index scores. Especially two provinces: Bac Ninh and Quang Ninh, ranked 2nd and 4th out of 63 provinces and cities nationwide. Regarding the survey results of the 4 components of the provincial green index, it has been shown that most provinces have made efforts to develop policies to meet environmental standards and recognize the importance of green practices.

In Decision 826/QĐ-TTg, the Prime Minister requested to promote the socio-economic development of the Red River Delta region quickly and sustainably, towards environmental protection and ensuring national defense and security. This is a very challenging goal that requires local governments to make efforts and find solutions to realize the Government's policy. Regarding the trend of greener development, the general trend of the world is the need to join hands to protect the environment. Therefore, green development is an important global issue, the responsibility of all countries, businesses and people. Green development must be in every element of the development process.

In the context of climate change affecting many localities, applying the Provincial Green Index in parallel with the Provincial Competitiveness Index plays an important role in the development of businesses and the economy. Provinces/cities in the Red River Delta region all evaluate the Provincial Green Index as an important initiative, not only creating a basis for providing information to serve local policy planning, but also creates motivation for localities to take the right steps in socio-economic development, to minimize the negative impacts of climate change and environmental pollution on production and business activities and sustainability of the enterprise, in accordance with the development trend of the country and the world.

Therefore, localities need to encourage businesses to convert to greener business methods and promote the application of green and environmentally friendly technology. Along with that, when accepting investment projects, there needs to be multi-dimensional assessments of long-term environmental impacts. Thereby, creating motivation to create high added value and be environmentally friendly. Through the Green Index, we hope that provinces and cities will pay more attention to economic development associated with environmental protection. Providing timely information to support the government in making policies related to investment and the environment, promoting the building of a friendly business ecosystem, and orienting investors to be conscious of environmental protection to sustainable development.

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