

The following is a list of obstacles to sustainable development in Vietnam:

- Lack of environmental and natural resource planning.
- Lack of integration between conservation and development.
- Lack of suitable organization.
- Weak environmental legislation.
- Difficulty to obtain reliable information.
- Lack of conservation awareness.
- Shortage of experienced personnel.
- High population growth.
- Lack of cultural taboos.

MANUFACTURING

The promotion of processed and manufactured goods for export is a high priority of the Vietnam government. It is well situated to serve the rapidly growing markets of Asia, and its rich and varied natural resources are yet to be fully developed. Vietnam's low labour costs also give it a comparative advantage in the assembly and manufacture of a wide range of labour-intensive goods.

Vietnam's industrial profile can be divided into heavy industry and light industry.

The heavy industry sector consists of iron, steel, mining, chemicals, cement, fertilizer, engines, and agricultural machinery, and centres around Hanoi and Haiphong. The firms that dominate the heavy industries are primarily state-owned.

Light industry has grown significantly faster than heavy industry during the last five years, while provincial and local state industry has grown faster than centrally-managed industry. The majority of Vietnam's light industry is in manufacturing and includes food processing, textiles, garments, footwear, and handicrafts. Light industry is situated mainly in the south and has been traditionally owned by provinces, cities and cooperatives. The private sector has gradually become more involved with the provincial and city enterprises and has been allowed to form competing enterprises.

Other light industry sectors include: plastic processing, ceramics, bicycles, light engineering goods, electric items, diesel motors, agricultural tools, bicycle tires and tubes, and light chemicals.

Initial opportunities in manufacturing will be in exporting to neighbouring countries, as the Vietnamese consumer does not have the purchasing power to spend on consumer products. The product types available to, and affordable by, the population during the next few years will remain limited.