

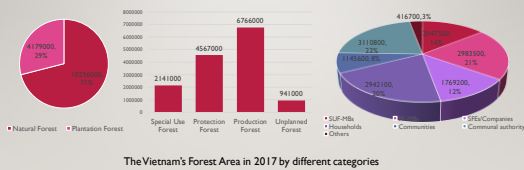
VIETNAM'S FORESTRY AND SOCIAL FORESTRY: A COUNTRY CONTEXT ON STATUS, CHALLENGES AND CSO ENGAGEMENT

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A GLANCE AT THE FORESTRY SECTOR OF VIETNAM

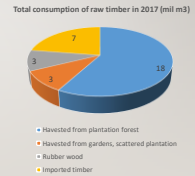
- Re-adjusted development objectives for the years 2020
 - Forest coverage: 42% (2020; 14.4 million ha) and 45% (2030)
 - Annual export turnover of timber and forestry products (TOP5; yearly app. 10% increased)
 - Maintained 25 million jobs in the sector
- Significant reform and development of PLRs
 - Directive 13 (2017) by the CCP: adopted logging-ban national wide
 - The Forestry Law (or FPDL 2004 revision) passed in Nov, 2017; renewing legal frameworks
 - National Target Program on Sustainable Forestry Development 2016-2020
- Adopted/introduced new forestry initiatives, facilitating good governance: PES, VPA-FLEGT, REDD+, off-set plantation, forest certifications (FSC, PEFC)
- Private engagement, increasing influences to both natural and plantation forests

THE STATUS OF SOCIAL FORESTRY IN VIETNAM



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- Est. 1.1 - 1.4 households in forest plantation; 3.1 mil ha; 16 mil m³ round-woods; avg. 2-3 ha/hh (Forest Trends, Vifores, 2017)
- Increased forest allocation to communities: 2011: 298,984 ha; 2015: 1,110,408 ha; 2017: 1,145,600 ha (MARD 2017, 2018)
- Est. 500,000 households benefited from PFES to manage and protect 5.87 mil ha (44%); household income: 2-3.6 mil/hh/year (8% total) (VNFE 2017)



THE STATUS OF SOCIAL FORESTRY IN VIETNAM

- Institutional/legal reforms:
 - Customary community forests in the Forestry Law
 - Policies to support EM in forest protection and plantation; logging-ban of natural forest
 - Linking the New Rural Program
 - Piloting ACMA/co-management
 - Private engagement (producers, suppliers) and their linkage to smallholders (commodity chain)
 - VNForest delegated FPD on community forest
- Promoting smallholders with ecological-economic forestry towards sustainable landscape restoration (longer rotation plantation)

| Forest owners | Beneficiaries | Area (mil ha) | PES (VND bil, 2016) |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Forest MBs | 208 | 2.9 | 802 |
| SFEs | 81 | 0.76 | 183.6 |
| CPCs | 467 | 0.59 | 65.7 |
| Households, communities | 115138 | 1.26 | 272.5 |
| Others | 195 | 0.36 | 71 |

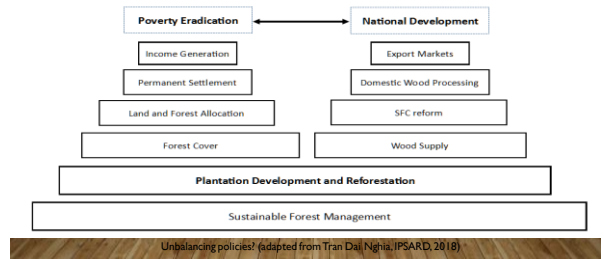
THE CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL FORESTRY IN VIETNAM

- Lacking highly-qualified policies and incentives to attract and secure long-term, effective engagement of local villagers/communities in management, protection, afforestation and restoration of natural forests:
 - Limited tenure/rights on natural forest and forestland
 - Incompatible, unequal benefit-sharing (PES, NTFFs) and/or uncertainty (REDD+)
 - Forest planning and land-use conflicts; high opportunity costs (illegal logging, encroachment)
 - Logging ban adopted, no commercial logging for community (natural) forests
- Limited state budget to regularly support village community engagement in protection of SUF, PF, particularly EM and/or poor households, given to the existing regulations
- Authority-driven; lacking relevant, capable community institutions to negotiate, preserve and benefit from the course of forest protection

THE CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL FORESTRY IN VIETNAM

- Lacking best-practices, evidences/CBA or demonstrations to attract and support smallholders and communities to invest in and/or shift from short-term to longer-rotation plantation, SFM/certification:
 - Technical, financial, institutional barriers; few forestry cooperatives or community enterprises
 - Risks from markets, natural disasters; no insurance in place for smallholders plantation
 - High opportunity costs (for silviculture practices and infrastructure)
 - PES for carbon sequestration (?)
- Lacking trust and commitment among smallholders, and between smallholders with suppliers, producers to re-organize production (land-use, business strategies, benefit-sharing, insurance, etc)

THE CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL FORESTRY IN VIETNAM



VIETNAM'S CSO RESPONSES TO SF CHALLENGES

- Communication and advocacy on community rights to natural forest in the Forestry Law (FORLAND, LANDNET), ICCA/co-management (PanNature, CSDM)
- Impact assessment, capacity building, independent monitoring related to VPA-FLEGT negotiation and implementation: VNGO-FLEGT
- SFE reform and land-use planning: FORLAND/CIRD
- Facilitating CSO-led forest governance monitoring (national, sub-national, landscape levels): PanNature (+WWF, RECOFTC), Tropenbos-VN, CRD, COPE, etc
- Institutionalizing state management of community forest: ICRAF and CSO partners
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