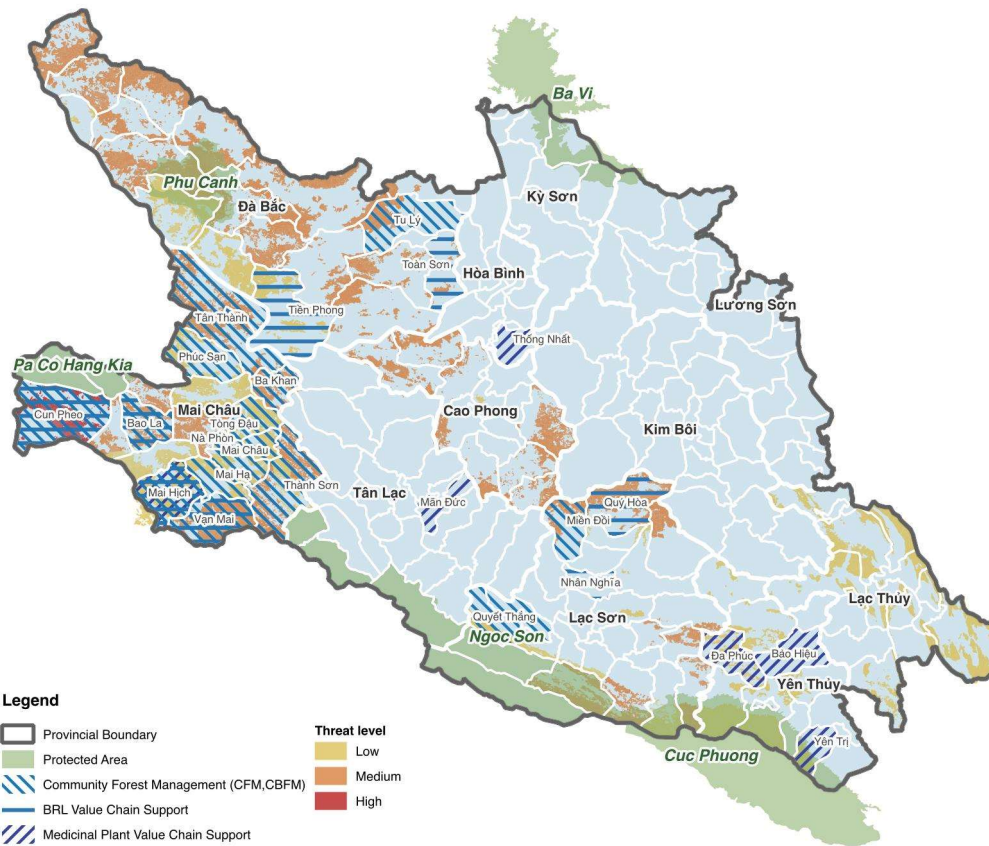


## 2023 PROVINCIAL PROFILE: HOA BINH



### Key Provincial Facts

**Total population:** 854,131 people in total, including five ethnic minority communities: Muong (63% total population), Thai, Dao, Tay, and Hmong groups.

**Total forest area:** 237,299 ha, of which 141,614 ha is natural forest, and 95,685 ha is plantation forest.

**Forest coverage:** 51.69 percent

**Value chains the Project supports:** Medicinal plants, bamboo, and acacia.

### Legend

- Provincial Boundary
- Protected Area
- Community Forest Management (CFM, CBFM)
- BRL Value Chain Support
- Medicinal Plant Value Chain Support
- Threat level**
- Low
- Medium
- High

The shaded areas above show where project activities take place and areas that are facing threats of deforestation and degradation based on the project's baseline evaluation.

### Summary of Progress to Date in the Province

The numbers below represent verified accomplishments through FY 23.



**13,631 ha** of forest areas under improved management



**717,892 tons** of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced



**\$16,380,277** committed towards conservation-friendly enterprises



**5** conservation-friendly enterprises supported



**1,998** people supported to adapt to climate change



**30,385** people who received livelihood benefits



**5,513** people trained



**11** institutions with improved capacity



**973** adults who perceive their land tenure is secure

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN HOA BINH

In 2023, the USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project carried out many activities to comprehensively support forest management and development in Hoa Binh province. Those activities resulted in positive outcomes for forest owners, communities, conservation-friendly enterprises, and other stakeholders in the province. Through targeted capacity building, the Project established 19 Community-based Forest Management Boards and 21 Community Forest Patrolling Teams. As a result, 7,131 hectares of natural forest (both protection and production forests) in 21 communities of Da Bac, Mai Chau, and Lac Son districts are now well managed by community patrolling teams. To improve production forest management practices, the Project helped establish 131 farmers' groups in 131 villages of 19 communes with 4,414 members total (90% ethnic minorities). These smallholder farmers' groups were granted sustainable Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificates for an area of 6,106 ha of acacia plantation reaching about 16,000 beneficiaries. The Project supported the plantation of about 500 ha of new acacia from seedlings, engaging 360 households. For International Day of Forests on March 21, 2023, the Project organized a successful tree plantation event with the participation of more than 250 representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hoa Binh's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, USAID, youth unions, local households, and mass media to plant 500 trees (*Michelia tonkinensis*) and to hand over one million acacia seedlings to local forest growers. To reduce pressure on forest resources, the Project supported 16 cooperative groups, five cooperatives and their 836 member households by enhancing the rattan-bamboo-leaves and medicinal plant value chains. The Project also increased functionality of law enforcement systems for forest crimes, developing policies and regulations to support forest protection in the province. As a result, the province piloted the innovative new Forest Violations Database Management System (FVDMS)—a digital tool to comprehensively track, monitor, and manage forest violation crimes— and developed six policies and regulations this year. The Project's targeted activities in Hoa Binh led to 13,630 ha of forest being under improved management.



The Project organized a visit to a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified forest. Photo credit: Tien Nguyen

---

*“The Huong Xuan Cooperative has received a lot of support from the Project through technical assistance, such as capacity building (trainings), product development and improvement (shampoo and soap), and market access. Thanks to these activities, I have become more confident in production and business to create more jobs and incomes for local people. Revenue from the cooperative has also increased by about 100% compared to before Project support.”*

Mrs. Ha Thi Le— an ethnic minority, female Director of Huong Xuan Cooperative in Mai Chau district, Hoa Binh province.

---

---

### Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification

Sustainable forest management and certification for production forests were highly prioritized in Hoa Binh this year. In 2023, the Project supported Hoa Binh to increase sustainable timber production by small-scale forest owners via technical trainings on silviculture; by facilitating increased demand from processors for certified wood; and through market linkages between forest owners and wood processing enterprises. To improve forest owners' plantation practices, the Project collaborated with Hoa Binh Biomass Investment Joint Stock Company (the Company) to support local forest owners to obtain sustainable forest management certification. As a result, small forest owners' groups were issued Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management certification for 6,106 hectares of acacia plantations. **So what?** Maintaining certified acacia forest will bring more opportunities and options to forest owners in Hoa Binh province, in terms of sustainable forest management, forest certification, and improved economic, social, and environmental efficiencies from forests. It will also improve the quality of 6,106 hectares of acacia plantation and will enhance the CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration of acacia forests, contributing to the Project and Vietnam's carbon sequestration and reduced emissions goals.

---