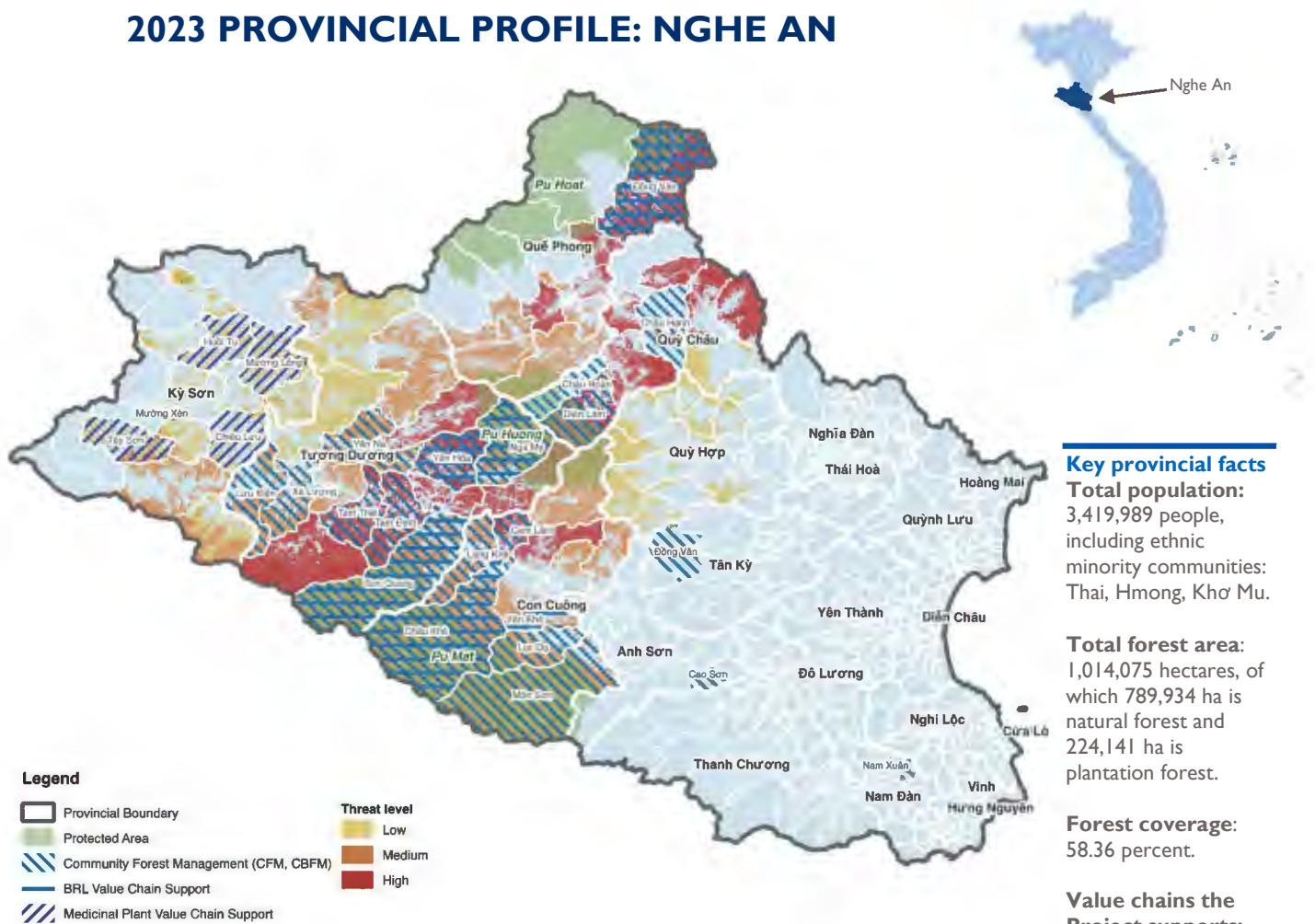


2023 PROVINCIAL PROFILE: NGHE AN



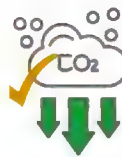
The shaded areas above show where project activities take place and areas that are facing threats of deforestation and degradation based on the project's baseline evaluation.

Summary of Progress to Date in the Province

The numbers below represent verified accomplishments through FY 23.



44,827 ha. of forest areas under improved management



1,712,056 tons of CO₂ emissions reduced



\$2,172,645 committed towards conservation-friendly enterprises



7 conservation-friendly enterprises supported



4,876 people supported to adapt to climate change



7,830 people who receive livelihood benefits



12,230 people trained



42 institutions with improved capacity



3,949 people using climate information or are implementing risk-reducing actions to adapt to climate change

ACHIEVEMENTS IN NGHE AN

Nghe An has approximately one million hectares of forested area—the largest forest area of any province in Vietnam. However, the province faces difficulties implementing sustainable forest management practices due to a shortage of technical and financial resources. In 2023, the USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project (the Project) helped Nghe An’s forest-dependent communities with the following achievements:

- **Strengthening community forest management:** Supported five communities to elaborate five Sustainable Forest Management Plans to protect 4,529 hectares (ha) across two districts; and provided support to 22 communities under forest protection contracts to prepare forest protection and management plans, including forest patrolling schedules, to better manage 15,308 ha. The Project supported the better management of 19,837 ha altogether in two districts of Tuong Duong and Con Cuong.
- **Environmentally friendly value chains and livelihood development:** Supported Nghe An to develop rattan, bamboo and leaves as well as medicinal plants value chains benefiting 1,431 people and mobilizing USD 274,000 in value chain investments from the private sector.
- **Improve sustainable forest management and forest certification:** Identified 43,3246 ha for improved forest management, including 10,000 ha of plantation forest for forest certification, of which 2,823.3 ha of plantation forest was awarded Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) and ‘Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification’ (PEFC) representing 29 farmers’ groups (1,072 people); and improved management of 24,843 ha by supporting District Protection Management Boards to develop and implement Sustainable Forest Management Plans.
- **Develop forest policies to strengthen forest law enforcement:** Developed seven provincial forest policies to strengthen forest law enforcement and building capacity of Forest Protection Department forces.
- **Forest environmental services payment mechanisms:** Updated and finalized Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) mapping and raised awareness on future launch of carbon trading via carbon-PFES, or C-PFES mechanism in Vietnam.

These initial achievements are helping Nghe An province implement Provincial Directive No. 10 (issued by Nghe An’s Party Standing Committee) to promote high-quality intensive plantations toward forest certification of 50,000 ha by 2025, and to implement the Provincial Strategy on Forestry Development 2020-2030, to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, enhance carbon stock and CO₂ sequestration, and to combat climate change.

Engaging the private sector to strengthen acacia forest’s value.

The Project is helping Nghe An improve sustainable forest management and expand FSC certification for more than 43,000 ha, including forest certification area. The Project engaged two private sector partners—BVN Thanh Chuong and Biomass Fuel Viet Nam (BFVN)—to improve the acacia value chain, in line with Provincial strategies and policies, to promote forest plantation and certification.

To date, the Project helped improve 24,843 ha of forest sustainable forest management by improving the quality of hedge orchards to enhance capacity of high-quality seedling production; by supporting silvicultural activities (thinning, tending/pruning); and by promoting that farmers convert from small to large timber plantation. Of this improved forest, 2,823 ha of acacia plantations were awarded PEFC and FSC certification under BMFV for 29 farmers’ groups (1,072 farmers) in Anh Son district. Both partners are in the final stage of conducting assessments of 8,800 ha of acacia plantations for FSC certification for 54 farmers’ groups (approx. 3,000 farmers) by the end of 2023.

This effort has resulted in initial impacts on both local communities and private sector partners through farmers’ improved knowledge and practices on sustainable forest plantation (i.e. improved quality of seedling production, silviculture knowledge, no-burning post-harvesting residuals, newly accessed market linkages, and FSC linkages for more income improvement opportunities.) On the other hand, the private sector partners benefit from improving their chain of custody and traceability of wood products.



Farmer, Nguyen Nhu Que in Phuc Son commune, Anh Son district. Photo credit: Bon Pham