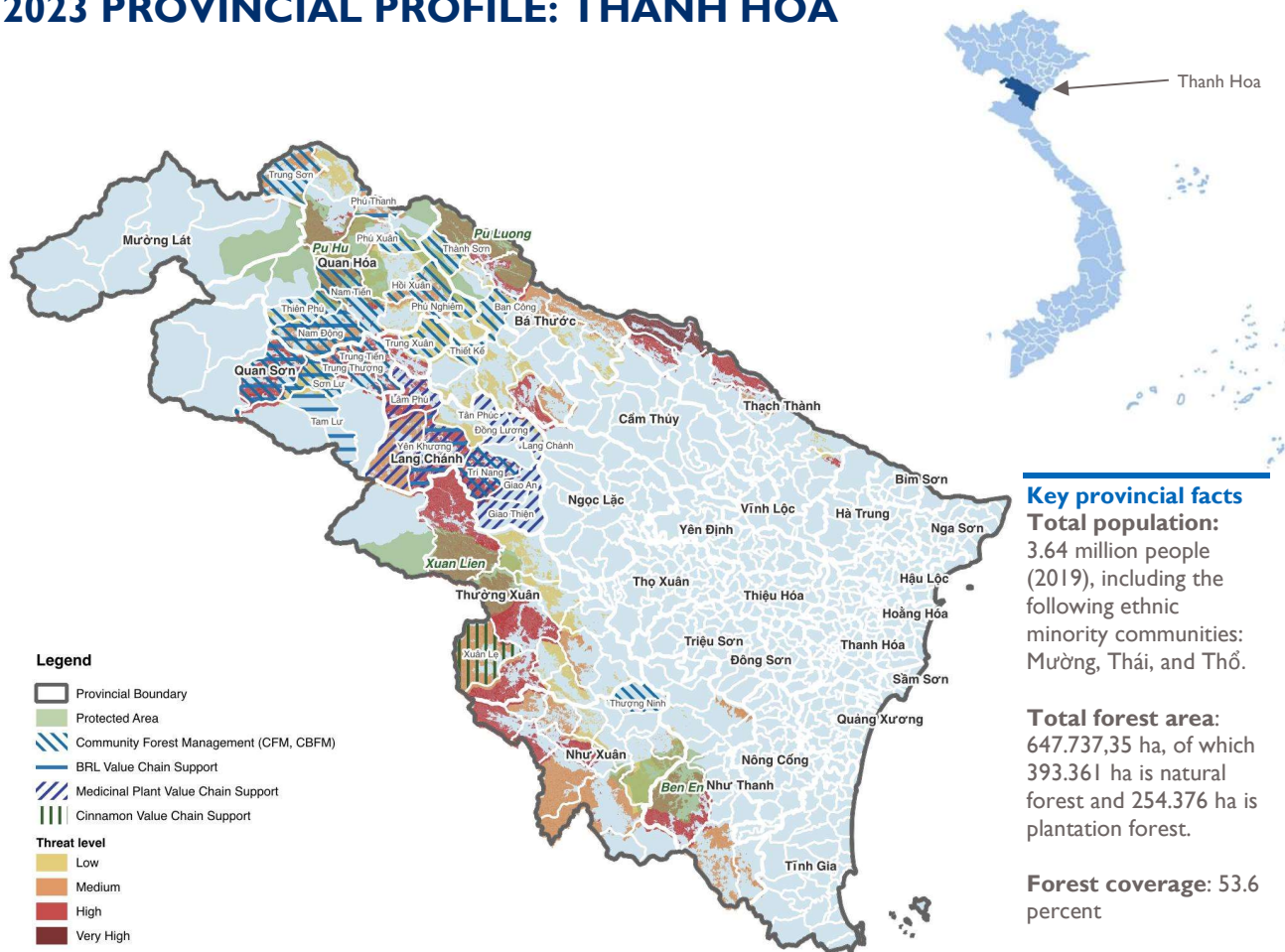


2023 PROVINCIAL PROFILE: THANH HOA



Key provincial facts

Total population: 3.64 million people (2019), including the following ethnic minority communities: Mường, Thái, and Thổ.

Total forest area: 647.737,35 ha, of which 393.361 ha is natural forest and 254.376 ha is plantation forest.

Forest coverage: 53.6 percent

Value chains the Project supports: Medicinal plants, rattan, bamboo, and cinnamon.

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.



45,949 ha. of forest areas under improved management



1,675,636 tons of CO₂ emissions reduced



\$2,883,996 committed towards conservation-friendly enterprises



5 conservation-friendly enterprises supported



2,425 people supported to adapt to climate change



10 laws, policies, plans, regulations, or standards developed



4,705 people trained



15 institutions with improved capacity



796 adults who perceive their land tenure is secure

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THANH HOA

In 2023, with technical support from USAID's Sustainable Forest Management Project (the Project), Thanh Hoa province implemented Sustainable Forest Management Plans to better manage a total area of 25,044 hectares (of which 8,745 ha are production forests). The Project engaged with Biomass Fuel Nghi Son through a partnership agreement to improve knowledge and promote participation in forest certification groups for households with the goal of certifying 4,500 ha of forest by 2024 and 14,000 ha of certified forest by 2026. The Project helped two Forest Protection Management Boards to build and deploy Forest Management and Monitoring Systems using technology, such as satellite imagery to check and detect changes and fluctuations in forest areas, using smartphones to gather field data and to quickly synchronize, and using QGIS to update changes in forest/ plantation status and to generate reports. The Project provided technical assistance to improve the capacity and produce high-quality seedlings for six selected nurseries and supported building 15 big-timber plantation models using the forest-thinning method and more than 40 forest-tending models using the branch-pruning method. The Project worked with 11 communities spanning 12,600 ha to enhance their management and protection of community forests, and initiated forest and forest land allocation associated with connecting forests to residential communities. The Project worked with Thanh Hoa province to upgrade Xuan Lien Nature Reserve to National Park status for better forest resource protection and biodiversity conservation. Once it is designated as a national park, Xuan Lien will have more opportunities for forest landscape and biodiversity conservation, and 32,000 members of forest-dependent communities in the buffer-zone will have enhanced international-domestic resource mobilization and better livelihoods through education, recreation, and ecotourism activities. The Project also developed the bamboo and rattan value chain, establishing four bamboo and rattan cooperative groups and organizing trainings to improve their skills and products based on market requirements. The Project also supported 54 female representatives of companies/ cooperatives/ production groups to improve their capacities in entrepreneurship and business planning related to forest protection and development for improved livelihoods and reduced pressure on forests. At the "Women's Start-up Contest to Promote Local Resources" organized by Thanh Hoa Provincial Women's Union, 11 Project-supported women won prizes and one businesswoman won the consolation prize at the national level for her idea of using indigenous medicinal plants to make healthcare products.

“With the support of USAID’s Sustainable Forest Management Project, we quickly began the application of QGIS-QFIELD technology to update information on forest patrol routes, to delineate fluctuating forest areas and at-risk areas, and to develop plans for forest patrol and monitoring so we can better perform approved sustainable forest management methods.”

- Mr. Le Thanh Cong, Deputy Head of Planning and Forest Protection Technique, Lang Chanh Forest Protection Management Board

In Thanh Hoa, improved sustainable forest management planning leads to economic development.

In 2023, the Sustainable Forest Management Activity supported the development of two sustainable forest management plans that will spur the development of ecotourism in But village, Nam Xuan commune, Quan Hoa, Pa Pang village, and Thanh Son commune, Ba Thuoc district. The plan will increase management efficiency, facilitate better protection of 1,260 hectares of community-managed forest area, and promote the ecological role of forests for forest-dependent communities, developing livelihoods for 197 households. This plan, when implemented, will meet the economic development needs of communities, while protecting the ecology and biodiversity of the surrounding area. It will also create more jobs for local communities through their participation in forest management, protection, and development activities and ecotourism development, especially for women who are often underutilized.



Terraced fields in Pa Ban village. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran