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Cover Photo: The Project supported Huong Xuan Cooperative in Hoa Binh province with development of the medicinal plant value chain according to GACP-WHO global standards. *Photo credit: Cintapo Tran*

USAID/VIETNAM SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

FY2024 Quarter I Report **October – December 2023**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

RBL	Rattan, Bamboo and Leaves
CBFM	Community-based Forest Management
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCVA	Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
CFE	Conservation Friendly Enterprises
CFM	Community Forest Management
CoC	Chain of Custody
CPC	Commune People's Committees
CPMU	Central Project Management Unit
CPFES	Carbon Payments for Forest Environmental Services
DAI	DAI Global, LLC.
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DLAI	Department of Legal Affairs and Inspection
DONRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
DPC	District People's Committees
DPI	Department of Planning and Investment
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
FA/FLA	Forest Allocation/ Forest Land Allocation
FIG	Farmer Interest Groups
FM/FMB	Forest Management/Forest Management Board
FORMIS	Management Information System for the Forestry Sector
FPD	Forest Protection Department
FRMS	Forest Resource Monitoring System
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FVDMS	Forest Violations Database Management System
FY	Fiscal Year
GACP-WHO	Good Agricultural and Collection Practices – World Health Organization
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GIS	Geographic Information System
GVN	Government of Vietnam
HG	Household Group
IT	Information Technology
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract

LE	Law Enforcement
LOP	Life of Project
LTTA	Long-Term Technical Assistance
MARD	Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development
MBFP	Management Board for Forestry Projects
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
OCOP	One Commune One Product
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PA	Partnership Agreement
PbN	Preferred by Nature (previously NEPCon)
PFES	Payment for Forest Ecosystem Services
PFMB	Protection Forest Management Board
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PPC	Provincial People Committee
PPCP	Public-Private-Community Partnerships
PPMU	Provincial Project Management Unit
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
SOW	Scope of Work
SoFC	State-owned Forest Company
STTA	Short-term Technical Assignment
TOT	Training of Trainers
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VBSP	Vietnam Bank for Social Policy
VIFORA	Vietnam Forest Owners Association
VNFF	Vietnam Forest Management and Protection Fund
VNFOREST	Vietnam Administration of Forestry
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

COVER STORY

Applying global agricultural standards to strengthen medicinal plants value chains in Vietnam

Co-written by: *Huong Nguyen, Non-Timber Forest Product Specialist and Cintapo Tran, Communications Manager.*



Guiding farmers on ginger collection according to GACP standards in Huong Son Cooperative, Nghe An province. Photo credit: VIRI.

When Mrs. Ha Thi Le, a Thai ethnic minority woman, opened her business, Huong Xuan Cooperative, she was not fully aware of the potential value of the medicinal plants that she collected from the forests. *“In my area, 60 percent of the population depends on the forest. My family regularly went inside the forest to collect herbs. At that time, we did not know how to sustainably exploit this kind of forest resource and we tried to collect all parts of the herb as much as possible for my own family.”*

Ms. Le’s business is a part of a burgeoning industry in Vietnam, where interest in traditional systems of medicine and, particularly, herbal medicine, has substantially increased, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating its economic potential. However, in parallel to its economic potential, the quality and public safety of these herbal medicines have led to demands for safety standards worldwide. To address these concerns, in 2001, the World Health Organization (WHO) developed methodologies for quality control of finished herbal products and released guidelines on Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) to help guide and standardize practices for medicinal plants.

What is GACP?

The WHO-GACP guidelines for medicinal plants provide resources on obtaining good quality medicinal plant materials for the sustainable production of herbal products classified as medicine, including the cultivation and collection of medicinal plants and certain post-harvest operations. Following these guidelines ensures that a country’s raw medicinal plant materials meet applicable national and/or regional

quality standards. In Vietnam, the Ministry of Health issued a policy (Circular No.19/2019/TT-BYT) on Good Agricultural and Collection Practices for Herbal Materials and Principles and Standards for Collecting Natural Herbal Materials, based on the WHO-GACP standards. Every herbal material cultivation and collection facility in Vietnam must comply with Vietnam's GACP, especially on procedures for GACP plantation certification.

The safety and quality of raw medicinal plant materials and finished products depend on a variety of factors that span the entire value chain from harvesting all the way through processing.

Inadvertent contamination by microbial or chemical agents during any of the production stages can deteriorate safety and quality. Thus, the guidelines on cultivation and collection must always consider environmental and ecological processes, as well as the welfare of local communities.



GACP-WHO certified plantation. Photo credit: VIRI



USAID delegation visits medicinal plant garden applying GACP standards in Huong Xuan Cooperative, Hoa Binh. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran.

GACP and sustainable forest management

USAID's Sustainable Forest Management Project (the Project) is reducing emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, and poor timber plantation management practices in seven target provinces. The

Project is building capacity on WHO-GACP standards for select conservation-friendly enterprises and for government staff in deforestation/ degradation hotspots of four provinces—offering a low-carbon farming solution to mitigate climate change and reduce the carbon footprint of land-use systems in the medicinal plant value chain. This helps create more jobs for local communities—especially women and ethnic minority people and reduces pressures on natural forest resources. Implementing natural forest protection and conservation methods (as guided by GACP) helps improve environmental issues and reduce the carbon footprint of medicinal plant cultivation and collection, contributing to Vietnam and USAID emissions reduction targets.



Creating impact through best practices in cultivation and harvesting of medicinal plants

Since 2022, the Project has partnered with 12 local conservation-friendly enterprises (CFEs) within the medicinal plants value chain to help them apply WHO-GACP approaches in their production. These enterprises span four provinces and are concentrated in areas identified as forest degradation hotspots. In 2023 alone, the Project led 47 training courses on WHO-GACP standards for 1,948 people, including government staff. The Project also supported 30 leaders from CFEs and local government agencies to participate in special training courses to receive the highest-degree GACP certificates issued by the National Institute of Medicinal Materials.

The Project also provided 201,200 high-quality-native medicinal seedlings to CFEs and their households. Thanks to the Project's technical support, in May 2023, An Xuan Organic Herbs Company became the first CFE in Quang Tri province to achieve GACP certification for five hectares of medicinal plants, thereby protecting the environment through better agricultural practices, such as the use of organic

fertilizer that reduces soil damage, conserving water use, and increasing local jobs to reduce pressures on forest resources.

Mrs. Le was one of those local business owners who received trainings from the project on WHO-GACP practices. When she opened her cooperative with eight members, including six Thai women, her business struggled due to a lack of capital, limited techniques for collecting, processing, and product design, limited marketing, and low-quality products, which resulted in unstable incomes.

Mrs. Le shared, *“I, myself, was not able to manage the Cooperative, from human resources to production.”* In November 2022, the Project signed a partnership agreement with Mrs. Le and her cooperative, which allowed Mrs. Le to participate in many trainings on business management, market access, financial access and WHO-GACP standards. She also attended the training organized by the National Institute of Medicinal Materials and earned the highest-degree GACP certificate.

“I gained a lot of knowledge on medicinal plants development and the roles of natural forests in medicinal plant conservation,” said Mrs. Le. *“I changed my behaviors on the restoration of native medicinal species in the forest.”*

With the Project’s technical support, Huong Xuan Cooperative created jobs for more than 120 Thai people, while applying WHO-GACP standards, thereby protecting the environment by utilizing a low-carbon farming solution for medicinal plants in Mai Chau district, Hoa Binh province. The project has also supported Ms. Le’s cooperative to develop two new herb shampoo and soap products and helped them attend the National and Provincial Medicinal Product Expo where Ms. Le promoted her products to new customers. As a result of the project’s support, Ms. Le even participated in the Women’s Entrepreneurship Contest where she won second place throughout Hoa Binh province.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAID Vietnam Sustainable Forest Management Activity (the Project) team is pleased to present the Fiscal Year 4, Quarter 1 Progress Report, which summarizes progress from October 1 through December 31, 2023. This quarter, the Project built on momentum across all five Objectives in seven target provinces to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation of Vietnam's natural forests, and to sustainably improve forest and plantation management practices.

A summary of the most significant Project contributions this quarter are highlighted in the box at the right, and further detailed from each Objective, as well as cross-cutting highlights, are provided below.

Objective 1 – Improve and expand community forest management (CFM).

- This quarter, to contribute to improved management of the country's 3+ million hectares of unallocated forest land being temporarily managed by Commune People's Committees (CPCs) nationwide, the Project provided policy recommendations on forest allocation and forest land allocation (FA/FLA) to communities in Quang Tri and Quang Nam, to support communities' future long-term management of currently unallocated forests and forest land.
- The Project held a consultation with 27 participants from Lao Cai province on the final draft of the ecotourism plan for Bac Ha Protection Forest Management Board (PFMB), prepared in FY23. Once approved and operationalized, it will enable local communities to promote community-based ecotourism integrated with protection and management of natural forests in Bac Ha district.
- The Project consulted with 1,416 participants from provincial and district departments for feedback on the Sustainable Forest Management Plan (in Lao Cai), on village conventions on forest protection and management (in Lao Cai and Quang Nam), and on CFPPG regulations (in Lao Cai and Son La).
- The Project conducted meetings with seven communities of Lao Cai, Son La, and Thanh Hoa to review and strengthen CFM institutional arrangements. At the meetings, communities established their own CFMBs, CFPPGs, forest protection patrolling schedules, and operations regulations to enhance the protection and management of 6,877 ha of community forests.

Objective 2 – Increase conservation-friendly enterprises in forest-dependent communities.

- In Q1, the Project provided technical support to 12 conservation friendly enterprises (CFEs) for new product research and development, resulting in 20 new products and eight improved products. The Project organized 10 training courses for 81 participants (all ethnic minorities) on technical operations, from pre-processing raw materials, to weaving, decorating, finishing, and storing products.
- This quarter, the Project supported 17 CFEs to display 154 unique products at the '2023 Handicraft Conservation and Development Festival'—the biggest event to preserve cultural and traditional craft villages in Vietnam, reaching thousands of domestic and international attendees. Afterward, the

FY24 Q1 in Numbers:

By the end of FY24 Q1, the project reached the following achievements:

- **34,767** people trained.
 - **61** policies or plans have been developed.
 - **\$33.6 million** has been mobilized towards conservation-friendly enterprises.
 - **61,356** people have received livelihood co-benefits.
 - **5,407,714** tons of CO2 emissions have been reduced, sequestered, or avoided.
 - **14,926,873** tons of CO2 will be avoided from the adoption of policies supported by the Project.
 - **141,401** ha under improved management.
-

Project facilitated all 17 CFEs to visit seven handicraft manufacturing enterprises, resulting in negotiations for purchase orders with 14 CFEs.

- In Q1, the Project supported Tien Phuoc Areca Drying Cooperative to determine a roadmap and SOW to establish a Production Unit Code for approximately 150 households planting 200 ha of areca for export in 2024.
- The Project worked closely with the sub-department of Rural Development (sub-DARD) of Quang Tri province—tasked by the PPC to be the focal point implementing the Master Plan for tung oil—to support Chan May Cooperative to develop a linkage dossier to apply for financial support from the National Targeted Program (NTP) with 117 households (100% ethnic minorities), covering 806 community-managed ha of tung oil area.
- In Q1, the Project collaborated with the sub-DARD of Quang Tri province and the Huong Hoa district Division of Agriculture to support two cooperatives to jointly facilitate linkages and off-farm contracting with 83 households (57% ethnic minority). The cooperation established 150 ha of arabica coffee, including the improved management of an existing 130 ha and replanting of 20 ha, with a planned total investment of USD 301,487 from 2024-2026.
- The Project conducted training on cinnamon nursery management for 41 farmers and district extension staff (14 females and 39 ethnic people). After the training, most farmers prioritized actions to select seeds from high-quality mother trees for nurseries to expand their plantations.
- The Project and the Department of Horticulture and Plant Protection of Son La province conducted two trainings on integrated plant health management (IPHM) for 47 farmers from two cooperatives for use on more than 200 ha of mango plantation trees.

Objective 3 - Increase functionality of law enforcement systems for forest crimes.

- By the end of Q1, the Project supported FPDs in seven provinces to record 2,028 administrative violations into the newly launched Forest Violation Data Management System (FVDMS). Following this testing phase, FVDMS will be deployed to the rest of the country in FY24.
- This quarter, the Project wrapped up its technical support to upgrade Xuan Lien Nature Reserve to a National Park (initiated in early 2023) in response to an urgent request of Thanh Hoa PPC. The Project held a final consultation workshop and then submitted the final plan to Thanh Hoa PPC.
- In Q1, the Project worked with Thanh Hoa PPMU and FPD to conduct a training on strengthening the enforcement of Forestry Law for 36 FPD staff (11 females, two ethnic minorities) from provincial FPDs, district FPDs, and forest management boards.
- With the Project's support, two national legal documents were amended and approved by MARD in Q1, including: 1) **Circular 13/2023/TT-BNNPTNT**, which amended and supplemented some Articles of **Circular 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT** (Circular 28) on sustainable forest management; and 2) Circular 20/2023/TT-BNNPTNT, which replaced Circular 32/2018/TT-BNNPTNT on methods of forest valuation.
- The Project helped revise Circular 32/2018/TT-BNNPTNT (Circular 32) to guide methods of forest valuation and methods of calculating cost norms for forest products, the value of forest user's rights, and of environmental values. This resulted in the issuance of Circular 20/2023/TT-BNNPTNT (replacement of Circular 32) which properly values the total economic values of forests and encourages non-State actors to participate in forest protection and development.

- After appraisal of the final draft of the revised Circular 32, Mr. Le Minh Hoan, Minister of MARD, shared at a Project-facilitated dialogue, *“When looking at forests, we should not see only timber. We should also look at the environmental, cultural, and religious aspects, which have far greater values.”*
- In Quang Nam province, the Project supported the recognition of an initial batch of elite cajeput trees—the start to the province’s plan for 50 ha of melaleuca plantation. The trees serve as traditional medicine, but also offer coastal protection and carbon sequestration benefits.
- In Q1, Thanh Hoa PPC issued Decision No 4513/QĐ-UBND, giving approval to the Master Plan on ecotourism for the special-use forest of 16,986 ha within Pu Luong Nature Reserve. By 2030, the ecotourism plan aims to welcome about 27,000 visitors, reaching a revenue of about VND 33 billion (USD 1.36 million), which will create jobs for about 500 local employers.

This quarter, with the Project’s technical support, the PPC of Nghe An province issued Resolution 18/2021/NQ-HĐND (Resolution 18) on policies to support agriculture and rural development, including support to “larger timber plantation forests and afforestation by endemic forestry species.” Nghe An PPC also issued a Decision on the Master Plan for the development of commercial large-timber forest 2016-2025 targeting 168,915 ha.

Objective 4 - Improve production forest management practices.

- In Q1, the Project provided 10,000 original germplasm to Minh Hoang nursery in Quang Nam to produce around one million cuttings for farmers to plant 500 ha of plantation. The Project also provided 252 kg of Acacia mangium seeds (to produce 11.3 million seedlings) to establish 5,000 ha of acacia plantation as well as 2,000 kg of cinnamon to four nurseries in Lao Cai.
- The Project continued providing technical assistance to transform small dimension timber plantations into large dimension timber plantations (LDTP) for eight households covering 20 ha in Thanh Hoa. A field verification of the transformed areas showed that the thinned plantations are in good condition.
- In Q1, the Project trained five staff of Biomass Fuel Vietnam (BMFV) on updating forest status maps for farmers’ groups in Nghe An covering about 4,600 ha with 2,680 households/members. The Project conducted similar training for four staff of Thien Hoang Forest Company (in Quang Nam), after which trainees updated maps for farmers’ groups with 2,300 ha and 359 households registered.
- In Q1, the Project conducted training on M&E and silviculture for 131 mostly ethnic minority heads and vice heads of 82 farmers’ groups in Hoa Binh.
- The Project conducted coaching on the application of remote sensing and QGIS for 35 technical staff and 15 partners of Hoa Binh Forestry Company in Hoa Binh, after which the trainees began applying their newly acquired techniques to monitor nearly 29,000 ha of forests under their management.
- In Quang Nam province, the Project has been actively supporting nine Thien Hoang farmers’ groups who have registered for SFM and certification of 2,271 ha of plantation as well as 13 Biomass Fuel Nghi Son (BMFN) farmers’ groups with 4,300 ha plantation registered in Thanh Hoa.

Objective 5 - Mobilize domestic resources for forest management and protection.

- In Q1, the Project helped revise Decree 156, on a SOW for a study on Carbon Payments for Forest Environmental Services (CPFES) in Son La province, on a nationally recognized tool, called ‘Q5PFES,’ and on a PFES monitoring and evaluation (M&E) platform, which is being piloted in seven provinces.
- In Q1, the Project continued working with the Vietnam Forest Management and Protection Fund (VNFF) to justify and revise draft Decree 156 to clarify who the payers and receivers are for carbon sequestration and storage services. This quarter, MARD submitted the 3rd version to the Office of

the Government (GO), which then issued a letter No. 9649/VPCP-NN requesting that relevant Ministries to provide feedback.

- This quarter, the Project also worked with the Son La Provincial Forest Protection and Development Fund (Son La Fund) and forestry experts to prepare a SOW for carbon potential estimation, providing inputs for a provincial proposal on carbon trading demonstration.
- This quarter, Q5PFES—an add-on tool developed by the Project to support PFES maps—was officially launched for national application.
- In Q1, VNFF held a provincial workshop to launch the pilot phase of a PFES M&E platform, developed by the Project, for rollout in seven provinces. The Project trained seven provincial funds and VNFF on using the PFES M&E platform, reaching 78 technical staff and leaders of provincial forest protection and development funds.
 - Mr. Le Van Thanh, Vice director of Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund- VNFF, shared, *“This platform is very important for implementing PFES policy in Vietnam. We hope it will provide us with an online and updated database to help us monitor, evaluate, and identify suitable actions to improve PFES policy implementation.”*

Cross-cutting Activities

Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion

- During Q1, the Project conducted 136 events, attracting a total of 3,930 participants (37% female and 86% ethnic minorities); and supported 13 women-led CFEs.
- In Q1, the Project improved the business planning competencies for 23 women cooperative directors or heads of interest groups in Quang Tri, after which they developed four CFE business plans. The Project supported the women to submit and earn prizes for their plans at the Women’s Start-up Competition, organized by the Provincial Women’s Union.

Communications

- This quarter, the Project boosted its visibility through social media outreach. In total this quarter, the Project’s activities were mentioned 18 times on international, national, and local media and partners’ websites, and in 11 social media posts on USAID’s Facebook platform that resulted in 579 direct engagements, one post on USAID’s X platform that was viewed 12 times, one post on USAID’s Instagram that was seen 12 times, and one post on DAI’s LinkedIn that was viewed 49 times.

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSES

Program Name:	USAID Sustainable Forest Management
Activity Start Date and End Date:	July 1, 2020– June 30, 2025
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	DAI Global, LLC.
Name of Sub-implementing partners	RECOFTC and NEPCo (Preferred by Nature)
Contract Number:	7200AA18D00020
Major Counterpart Organizations:	Management Board of Forestry Projects of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Forestry Protection and Development Fund of Lao Cai, Son La, Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces
Geographic Coverage:	Hanoi Capital, Vietnam Lao Cai, Son La, Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces, Vietnam
Reporting Period:	October – December 2023, FY2024

USAID/Vietnam seeks to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation of natural forests, and poor plantation management practices in Vietnam. Various political and economic drivers in Vietnam and internationally have resulted in widespread forest degradation and constrained development outcomes. Despite national increases in overall tree cover, there has been a reduction in total area of natural forests and in forest quality in Vietnam. The USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project (the Project) seeks to leverage several approaches to sustainable land management to address the drivers of forest conversion and degradation in target areas. Engagement with the private sector and improved co-management by communities, local authorities, and the national Government are at the core of these activities.

This Project focusses on reducing land-based emissions and increasing carbon sequestration in Vietnam's natural production forests and plantation production forests. These forests provide carbon, ecosystem, and economic services at local, national, and global scales. The USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project aims to:

1. Avoid carbon emissions from natural forest conversion.
2. Increase carbon sequestration through better management of plantation forests; and
3. Improve quality, diversity, and productivity of natural production forests.

II. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

INTRODUCTION

To help prepare for an accelerated pace of activity implementation in Year 4, the Project's technical team developed a comprehensive list of scopes of work (SOW) for anticipated consultants and activity concepts for the year. The Project organized a workshop in Dak Lak in December 2023 with Provincial project management units (PPMUs) from all seven project sites and the Central Project Management Unit (CPMU) in Hanoi to address issues and to receive approval for 59 new SOWs. This consultation and SOW approval enabled the Project to immediately proceed with implementation. This section of the report provides a summary of key activities that took place in Quarter I under each objective.

OBJECTIVE I. IMPROVE AND EXPAND COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

Task I.1: Strengthen Capacity of Government of Vietnam (GVN), Vietnam Forest Owners Associations (VIFORA) and Forest Owners to Develop and Implement Forest Management Models and Approaches

In the first quarter of FY24, the Project continued strengthening the capacity of provincial government and forest owners to promote relevant CFM-related interventions. Highlights include:

- ***The Project provided policy recommendations on forest allocation and forest land allocation (FA/FLA) to communities in Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces based on an FA/FLA policy implementation review conducted in FY23.*** Quang Tri and Quang Nam had allocated about 28,000 ha of forests and forest land for communities' long-term management, mainly with support from Greater Mekong Subregion

Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Project - Vietnam component (BCC Project) and Protection and Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems, accounting for 14 percent of total forest areas of the two provinces. The assessments involved consultations with 168 representatives from two provinces that yielded several policy recommendations to provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Developments (DARD) and FPDs to promote FA/FLA to communities. The assessments proposed that the two provinces formulate their own policies on FA/FLA to communities or address overlapping issues on communities' forest areas, such as provincial guidelines or procedures on FA/FLA to communities. This will improve and secure communities' forest and/or forest land tenure over community forests, thereby ensuring sustainable forest management.

- **The Project conducted consultations with representatives from FPDs at the provincial and district level (Mai Chau and Da Bac districts) of Hoa Binh province on community forest data use and management.** The surveys assessed the availability of data on FA/FLA to communities and community forests in the province, information on database management (status quo and future demand), and on potential solutions. Initial findings showed that data about community forests at the provincial or district level are scattered or outdated, even though residential communities are legal forest owners. The absence of an updated database on community forest information made it difficult to facilitate forest management at the provincial level. Although FPD representatives indicated their strong demand to establish a community forest database, the province has not prioritized this resource allocation. The Project gathered further feedback from Lao Cai, Son La, Nghe An, and Quang Tri on community forest information and database issues. The findings will be consolidated to help establish a pilot community forest monitoring system applicable to Project provinces.
- **Following the cooperation regulations established in FY23 in Quang Tri, the Project provided field coaching to community forest protection patrolling groups (CFPPGs) to carry out joint forest patrols.** During these trips, the Project strengthened the forest patrolling skills of CFPPG members to identify patrolling routes, observe signs and different types of forest encroachments, and to use software on their smartphones for forest patrolling. This technical support strengthened the communities' forest protection and patrolling capacities.

The Project held a consultation meeting with 27 participants from several departments of Lao Cai province on the final draft ecotourism plan of Bac Ha's PFMB for final review and approval. The Project helped prepare the ecotourism plan in FY23 to guide the development of tourism potential in the forested area, while conserving and promoting the values of biodiversity, ecological environment, and cultural identity, and to contribute to economic development and improve local living standards. The ecotourism plan identifies eight tourism destinations in eight communes (Thai Giang Pho, Lung Phinh, Bao Nhai, Lung Cai, Nam Mon, and Ban Lien communes) of Bac Ha township. Once approved and operationalized, these activities will enable local communities to promote community-based ecotourism integrated with the protection and management of natural forests in Bac Ha district.

Task 1.2: Build Community Capacity to Participate Effectively in Forest Management

This task focuses on three key interventions: i) support FA/FLA for communities in Lao Cai, Son La, and Thanh Hoa; ii) build communities' capacities to better manage their allocated forests (CFM); and iii) strengthen communities' capacities to more effectively manage and protect forests under forest protection contracts (FPCs) or forests allocated to individual households as community groups (CBFM).

Supported forest allocation/forest land allocation (FA/FLA).

In Q1, the Project focused on procurement of consultancy firms for field implementation in Lao Cai and Son La; and on the preparation of a technical design document and cost estimate for Thanh Hoa province. Details on progress are as follows:

- Following Lao Cai PPC's approval on the technical design document and cost estimate for allocation of 1,987 ha of forest to two communities, the Project collaborated with Lao Cai PPMU to prepare a SOW to hire a consultancy firm to lead field implementation. Procurement will take place in Q2.
- The Project completed the procurement process to hire a consultancy firm (tentatively scheduled to be onboard in Q2) to lead field implementation. The activity will allocate 15,000 ha of forests to 314 communities in 40 communes, reaching an estimated 100,000 beneficiaries in Muong La, Moc Chau, and Van Ho districts of Son La province.
- Thanh Hoa PPC issued a letter (dated October 2, 2023) requesting the establishment of a technical design document and cost estimate of FA/FLA for 345 ha of forest to one community by a licensed consultancy firm. The Project prepared a SOW that was endorsed by Thanh Hoa PPMU for the procurement process, which will take place Q2.

Strengthened communities' governance capacities in sustainable forest management.

- Enhanced and re-enforced communities' institutional arrangements:
 - The Project conducted consultations with 1,416 participants from provincial FPD, district FPD, CPC, CFMBs, CFPPGs, and PFMBs in Lao Cai, Son La, and Quang Nam to gain feedback on the SFMP (in LC), on village conventions on forest protection and management in Lao Cai and Quang Nam, and on CFPPG regulations in Lao Cai and Son La.
 - The Project conducted meetings in five communities of Son La with 269 people to review and strengthen CFM institutional arrangements to better manage forests allocated to communities. Previously, these communities only assigned heads of villages to oversee forest protection and management and thus, there were no regular forest patrols nor formal arrangements on CFM. At the Project-facilitated meetings, these communities established their own CFMBs, CFPPGs, forest protection patrolling schedules, and operations regulations that enhanced the protection and management of 3,045 ha of community forests.
 - In FY23, two communities in Thanh Hoa (But and Pa Ban) endorsed SFM Plans that included forest protection patrolling schedules. This quarter, the Project held meetings with CFPPGs, followed by two field patrols with 21 members (two females). Through these activities, the Project provided technical backstopping on forest protection patrolling skills (e.g., identification of patrolling routes, planning for forest patrols, and reporting).

Strengthened communities' capacities in forest protection and management.

In Q1, the Project prioritized key interventions to strengthen capacities of 14 communities in Lao Cai (2), Hoa Binh (4) and Nghe An (8), including: i) preparation of 14 forest protection and management plans; ii) development of forest protection patrolling schedules including patrolling routes; and iii) village-level regulations of community forest protection and development funds (with the main source of revenue from PFES). The Project helped these communities reinforce and improve their institutional capacities by having established CFMBs, CFPPGs as well as operations regulations of these bodies. This will improve forest protection and management efforts over 4,353 ha of forests under FPCs in Lao Cai & Nghe An and 2,500 ha of forests allocated to individual households in Hoa Binh.

To prepare for the expansion of the Project's CFM interventions, the Project conducted seven consultation meetings at the commune level and 20 village meetings in Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Quang Tri, and Quang Nam. Findings from these meetings indicated that the 20 selected communities represent the major types of community participation in forest protection and management. For instance, 12 target communities in Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, and Quang Tri collectively protect and manage forests allocated to individual households, but these arrangements are informal with limited technical and institutional capacities. During the community consultation process in Hoa Binh, the Project raised their awareness about the tenure rights of forest owners and on forest land, forest protection, and forest fire protection. In Q1, the Project also conducted consultations with eight communities in Quang Nam under PFCs, which face forest protection challenges, such as limited technical and managerial capacity and lack of safety gear for forest patrols (e.g., binoculars, smartphones, etc.). These community patrolling groups often have weak collaboration with PFMBs and/or CPCs and low payments for forest patrolling. Meeting participants from CPCs, PFMBs, and/or target communities confirmed their willingness to implement plans from Q2 onward.



Photo: Carrying out community forest protection patrolling in Thung Khe village. Photo credit: Nguyen Tuan Anh



Media event to raise community awareness on forest protection and management, forests, and forest land tenure. Photo credit: Nguyen Tuan Anh



Identification of forest protection patrolling routes in Nam Than's community forests (Lao Cai). Photo credit: Anh Phung

USAID promotes flood and climate resilience as part of sustainable forest management in mountainous Lao Cai Province.










Two communities (Nam Cang and Nam Tha) of Lien Minh commune, Lao Cai province manage and protect 6,305 ha of natural forests, which accounts for 75 percent of the commune's total forest area, of which 1,987 ha are allocated to individual households and 4,318 ha are under forest protection contracts with Sa Pa Protection Forest Management Board.

Despite having a large area of natural forests, the two communities lack the capacity and awareness to protect the forest or to improve sustainable forest management practices to build their resilience to withstand climate shocks, like flash floods, which have become more frequent and severe in the region. Recently, Lien Minh commune was hit by a devastating flood that caused serious damage and losses to local people's lives and livelihoods. In response, the Project helped the communities identify flood prevention measures to integrate into their Forest Protection Plans (FPPs). These measures include: i) identifying target forests for assisted natural regeneration measures; ii) restrengthening forest protection patrolling; iii) limiting expansion of nearby fish farming to preserve natural forests; and iv) integrating climate disaster information into community events. The updated FPPs integrated were officially endorsed in November 2023, which will help increase the communities' awareness of the key role of healthy forests in countering the impacts of climate change and ensuring that they are well prepared for future natural disasters and climate shocks.

Progress on Objective 1 activities is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Objective 1 Activity Progress

Status: Completed;  On track;  Behind;  Not started;  Cancelled

# / C				
		% achieved	Status	Description of Progress
Task 1.1: Strengthening Capacity of GVN, VIFORA, and Forest Owners to develop and implement forest management models and approaches				
I.1.5	Establish and operationalize the CFM Network to exchange information and lessons learned, and to promote CFM policies and practices	20%		No CFM network's meeting planned for Q1. Activities related to communications, cooperations, reviews on FA/FLA policies are progressing
I.1.6	Improve communities' capacity to monitor community and/or contracted forests	20%		Surveys on community forest database completed in Hoa Binh, and are progressing in other provinces
I.1.7	Enhance ecotourism integrated with strengthened management and protection of community forests, preservation and promotion of cultural values at CFM sites	80%		Final consultation on the Ecotourism plan completed
Task 1.2: Build community capacity to participate effectively in forest management				
I.2.4	Support allocation of forest and forest land to communities (including forest and forest land inventory/field demarcation), improve communities' capacity to participate in FA/FLA more effectively and better manage forests post-FA/FLA	30%		Nearly completed procurement of the consultancy firm for Son La; ongoing process of Lao Cai, and completed preparation for the procurement process for Thanh Hoa
I.2.5	Develop GESI-mainstreamed Sustainable Forest Management Plans for communities at CFM demonstration sites	10%		Completed seven SOWs
I.2.6	Implement forest sustainable management interventions to improve community forest management	30%		Provided field coaching/follow-up trainings for 19 CFM community forest protection patrolling groups
I.2.7	Improve the effectiveness of forest management and protection under community forest protection contract with forest management boards/ communities protecting forests allocated to households (CFM HG)	30%		Provided field coaching/follow-up trainings for CBFM community forest protection patrolling groups
I.2.8	Build capacities for communities which successfully developed and implemented SFM plans in CFM models	20%		Provided field coaching/follow-up trainings for CFM community forest protection patrolling groups
I.2.9	Improve awareness on CFM/CBFM, GESI, and land perception on tenure rights to forest land areas	10%		Integrated communications/awareness raising in commune and village level consultation meetings in Hoa Binh

OBJECTIVE 2. INCREASE CONSERVATION FRIENDLY ENTERPRISES IN FOREST DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

Task 2.1. Market-based value chain analysis

The Project planned to support Lao Cai and Quang Tri provinces to develop production criteria in compliance with the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR). However, the EU supported the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) to develop production criteria, so the Project discontinued its support on this to avoid duplication and will re-allocate resources for other activities. The Project will continue working with conservation friendly enterprises (CFEs) to ensure that they are aware of and involved in EUDR's activities and criteria.

Task 2.2. Strengthen Conservation Friendly Value Chains in Project’s Landscapes

Rattan bamboo and leaves (RBL)

In Q1, the Project provided technical support to 12 CFEs for new product research and development (R&D). As a result, the 12 CFEs developed 20 completely new products and improved eight traditional ethnic products to better meet customer demands. The Project organized 10 training courses for 81 participants (30 females and 81 ethnic minorities) using the farmer field school and learning-by-doing approach. The evaluation results at the end of the training courses showed that 100 percent of people improved their proficiency in technical operations, from selecting raw materials and pre-processing raw materials, to weaving, decorating, dyeing, finishing, and storing products.

The Project also supported 17 CFEs to participate in the ‘2023 Handicraft Conservation and Development Festival’ November 10-11, 2023, in Hanoi. This is the biggest event ever to preserve and inspire the cultural and traditional craft villages in Vietnam, organized by MARD in collaboration with Hanoi People's Committee. During this event, the Project supported CFEs to display 154 unique products, reaching thousands of domestic and international attendees to their booths, including senior managers from the National Assembly and Ministries. After the event, the Project facilitated 17 CFEs to visit seven handicraft manufacturing enterprises in Ha Noi and Ha Nam provinces at which CFE representatives learned about production organization models, product design and development, and production equipment to boost productivity and lower production costs. As a result, export businesses showed their interest and began negotiations with 14 CFEs, preparing 14 purchase orders, which will be signed in Q2.

Recognizing an exemplary pioneer for traditional bamboo handicraft production in Hoa Binh province.

Born and raised in Mai Hich—a mountainous commune of Mai Chau district— one of the largest bamboo and natural forest areas in Hoa Binh province, Mr. Vi Van Chien is accustomed to collecting forest products and producing artisanal items for daily use. For centuries, traditional handicraft production was the norm among Thai communities, where families use weaving equipment to produce handicrafts for their own use. Only recently have these traditional crafts been replaced by cheap, short-life plastic products. As a result, wicker products and crafts are dwindling, and fewer people—especially from the younger generation—are retaining these traditions to pursue artisanal work.

For Mai Hich commune’s mostly Thai ethnic residents, income generation from rice and livestock became insufficient due to low productivity and unfavorable conditions, so local people rely on the forest for additional income. Since 2022, with the Project’s support, Mr. Chien and others have received training on sustainable forest development and refresher training on weaving, product R&D, and linkages to purchasing partners. Mr. Chien encouraged his fellow villagers to establish an economic collaborative group (the Group) to restore and develop their beautiful traditional customs for additional income, while also enhancing forest protection.

With Mr. Chien’s encouragement and skills, the Group overcame initial challenges and revived its bamboo handicraft production. The Group has steadily grown and developed new products based on traditional local Thai products. Mr. Chien leads the Group in trade promotion, bringing new products to exhibitions, fairs, and workshops in Hanoi and other provinces (see figure 3). He has promoted and contracted purchasing partners, bringing steady orders and income of up to VND 200,000 per day for team members, compared to just one year ago, when they did not earn any income from RBL work.

His success was seen throughout the community. The Group expanded its membership from 40 to its current 160+ members. They agreed to jointly develop the cooperative to preserve traditional Thai

weaving integrated with community-based tourism, making use of their bamboo material while preserving the rich Thai culture. Mr. Chien and the whole Group expressed their gratitude and joy when the Project began supporting the community-based tourism development project, which is fully supported by government agencies, external investors, and local communities.

With support from the Project, there is a bright and promising future for Mr. Chien and his fellow Group members. In the future, people will have a sustainable income through weaving and developing bamboo eco-tourism, and certainly, Mr. Chien and the people of Mai Hich will contribute to better local forest management and development.

Minister Le Minh Hoan visited the Project-supported Dat Quang Green Areca Cooperative and shared his thoughts.

“These handicraft products made from areca leaves are environmentally friendly and remind us of the Vietnamese traditional culture. The Project needs to support cooperatives to create more successful stories for each product, integrating them into community and eco-tourism use for a win – win model.”



Hoa Binh province issued a written proposal to MARD for funding support to implement a development project for bamboo design and an innovation center in Mai Hich commune to support local community tourism development. With the Project’s support, Mr. Chien and members of the Mai Hich bamboo and rattan economic collaborative group have a bright, promising future. This weaving and bamboo ecotourism work will contribute to sustainable incomes while also enhancing local forest management and development.



Mr. Vi Van Chien (3rd from right, front row) with Chairman of the National Assembly Vuong Dinh Hue and Chairman of Hanoi People's Committee Tran Sy Thanh at national handicraft fair on November 10, 2023 in Hanoi. Credit: Dantri

Medicinal plants

In Q1, the Project provided technical support to the Central Southeastern Pharmacy Joint Stock Company (the Company) to develop a GACP-WHO¹ certified production plan for the company's raw material area within 2024. Prior to receiving technical assistance from the Project, the Company signed framework contracts to develop and purchase raw medicinal plant materials with nine agricultural cooperatives in Lang Chanh district, Thanh Hoa province. With the Project's support, four key company staff completed a GACP-WHO training course from November 28-30, 2023, at Hanoi Center for Research on Cultivation and Processing of Medicinal Plants, National Institute of Medicinal Materials. In 2024, the Center and Institute will provide training on GACP-WHO for medicinal plant producers in these nine cooperatives—a compulsory requirement for GACP-WHO certification of 25 ha with 200 cooperative members.

This quarter, the Project focused on improving CFEs' brand visibility. The Project developed business profiles and products for nine cooperatives and companies to enhance their participation in trade events and help introduce their products to wholesalers and potential end-users. Some profiles were available in both Vietnamese and English language so CFEs can do trade promotion overseas or via e-commerce. The Project supported two CFEs to participate in a U.S.-Vietnam Partnership Event to promote their products and gain experience on the purchasing behaviors of foreign customers.



The U.S. Ambassador visits the Project's exhibition booth and takes a picture with the CFEs (in ethnic traditional dress) and Project team
Credit: Cintapo



Ms. Annie Wallace, Director of Department of Climate Change, Energy and Environment, USAID Vietnam, meets CFEs.

“Thanks to USAID and the Project who have empowered entrepreneurs and created sustainable value and opportunities for the Cooperative to learn from the Project's experts. Herbs are more than just a drink. Contributing to community cohesion, forest and ecosystem protection is also how agriculture and culture can combine to create sustainable development for communities.” – Ms. Ha Thi Le, Director of Huong Xuan Cooperative (pictured in white ethnic traditional dress)

Areca

In Q1, the Project continued providing technical assistance to three CFEs in the areca value chain. The Project supported the Quang Nam Agricultural and Art Cooperative and Dat Quang Green Areca Cooperative to elaborate their business profiles and product catalogues to increase brand recognition to targeted clientele, suppliers, and potential investors. The Project also worked with Tien Phuoc Areca

¹ Thông tư 19/2019/TT-BYT Quy định Thực hành tốt nuôi trồng, thu hái dược liệu và... - Cơ sở dữ liệu quốc gia về VBQPPL - Bộ Y tế (vbpl.vn)

Drying Cooperative to determine a roadmap and scope of work to establish a Production Unit Code for approximately 150 households planting 200 ha of areca for export in 2024.

Tung oil

The Project worked closely with the sub-department of Rural Development (sub-DARD) of Quang Tri province, which was tasked by the Provincial People's Committee to be the focal point to support implementation of the Master Plan to develop tung oil for processing and consumption of tung fruit in the province. Both the Project and the sub-department supported Chan May Cooperative to develop a linkage dossier to apply for financial support from the National Targeted Program (NTP) for socio-economic development of ethnic minorities and mountainous areas (SEDEMA). The Cooperative built the linkage dossier with 117 households, of which 100 percent are Van Kieu ethnic minorities, in three linkage groups of three communities with a total of 806 community-managed ha of tung oil area. The linkage will include selecting elite trees, supporting the construction of nurseries, capacity building on farming techniques, sustainable harvesting, and training on primary post-harvest and processing.

Arabica coffee

In Q1, the Project collaborated with the sub-DARD of Quang Tri province and the Huong Hoa district Division of Agriculture to provide technical support to Son Nguyen and Khe Sanh Cooperatives to jointly facilitate linkages and off-farm contracting with 83 households (57% Van Kieu ethnic minority). The cooperation established 150 ha of arabica coffee, including the improved management of an existing 130 ha and replanting of 20 ha. The first three-year cooperation term (2024-2026) will invest a total of USD 301,487, of which the State will support USD 239,309 (79%) from capital of the NTP SEDEMA, while cooperatives and communities will contribute the remaining USD 62,178 (21%).

The core linkage scoped is to build high-quality coffee nurseries for replanting, training cultivation techniques for coffee agroforestry modelling, sustainable harvesting techniques, registering production unit codes, and traceability for export. As a result, the two cooperatives' application dossiers underwent review and will be submitted to the NTP Coordination Office for verification and budget allocation in 2024.

“We heard about the State's support policies, but we do not know how to write the application and where to submit. The Project has supported us in developing the linkage proposal dossier, on one hand will help us have more resources from the NTP. On the other hand, it will help our cooperative sign purchasing agreements with producers to supply quality coffee to meet customer requirements.”

- Ms. Nguyen Thi Hang - Director of Khe Sanh Agricultural Cooperative.



Ms. Nguyen Thi Hang at the Khe Sanh Cooperative's coffee nursery. Credit: Tuu Le

Strengthening the institutional capacity of farmer interest groups/cooperatives on cinnamon production and trade in Lao Cai and Thanh Hoa provinces.

Creating and strengthening linkages between cinnamon growers and CFEs contributed to the achievement of Lao Cai PPC's plan on the development of 7,500 ha of organic cinnamon. This quarter, the Project organized two trainings on cinnamon pre-processing for 74 farmers (46 females and 74 ethnic minorities). The director of Tam Hoi Cooperative (a benefiting CFE) co-led training on pre-processing so the CFE can buy raw products that meet its requirements.



Training on cinnamon pre-processing for ethnic people guided by the CFE. Credit: Huy Dang

Findings from a survey conducted with 104 farmers in Xuan Le commune, Thuong Xuan district, Thanh Hoa province showed that they did not apply sowing techniques correctly. Some farmers with bigger cinnamon plantations even bought cinnamon trees from other provinces, like Yen Bai, to grow. To support cinnamon growers who are self-seeding gain new knowledge and skills to collect and clean seeds, create pots, sow seeds, etc., the Project conducted a training on cinnamon nursery for 41 farmers and district extension staff (14 females and 39 ethnic people). After the training, most farmers prioritized actions to select seeds from high-quality mother trees for nurseries to expand their plantations.

“After attending the training, I learned more about cinnamon propagation knowledge, such as how to choose a mother tree for seedings, seed treatment, soil mixing, and planting trees in pots. The knowledge is very meaningful to me. Born and raised in this district where cinnamon has been growing for years, I have always been passionate about making my own cinnamon nursery to provide trees to myself, and my relatives. I will share the techniques I have learned with my neighbors in Xuan Le commune who are also cultivating cinnamon, but do not know sowing and planting techniques.”

- Ms. Vi Thi Luyen (middle), chairwoman of Xuan Le commune Women Union, cinnamon farmer.



Training participants practice potting soil



Mr. Luc Dang Khanh from Thuong Xuan Protection Forest Management Board. Photo credit: Luc Dang Khanh

"After attending the training, I now understand techniques and the process of selecting, sowing, planting, and caring for cinnamon seedlings. I will report to leaders, specialized departments, and train my staff. I hope the members of the two interest groups understand and successfully implement cinnamon propagation to develop and scale-up this family-based nursery model, that will improve household economies."

- Mr. Luc Dang Khanh, a member of Thuong Xuan Protection Forest Management Board

Strengthening the cultivation capacity of cooperatives and farmers under the fruit value chain.

Apart from climate change, crop smallholders in mountainous areas often produce low yields due to limited plant management techniques from farmers to improve soil quality and plant health. To address this issue, the Project and the Department of Horticulture and Plant Protection of Son La province conducted two training sessions on integrated plant health management (IPHM) for 47 farmers (33 females and 44 ethnic people) from two benefiting Cooperatives—Na Nga and Quyet Tam. After adopting the training techniques, the trained cooperatives are prepared to build demonstration models to convince their members to establish a high-quality fruit cultivation area. Cooperative members will apply what they learned to more than 200 ha of mango plantation trees and they will share it with other members and farmers outside the cooperative. By applying better plant management practices, the farmers—all local forest dependent communities—are expected to increase their incomes while also helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural cultivation.



The Project provides IPHM guidance through targeted field training for cooperatives. Photo credit: Thanh Lo



Trainees from participating cooperatives gain new knowledge on IPHM during targeted training in Son La province. Photo credit: Thanh Lo

More details on progress of Objective 2 activities are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Objective 2 Activity Progress

Status: Completed; ● On track; ● Behind; ● Not started; ● Cancelled

# / Code	Activities	Current Progress (Q1 FY2024)		
		% achieved	Status	Description of Progress
Task 2.1. Market-based value chain analysis				
2.1.2	Develop a plan to develop and upgrade value chains.	00	●	The Project planned to support Lao Cai and Quang Tri provinces to develop production criteria in compliance with European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR). However, the EU has supported the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) developing this production criteria, so the Project will not continue its support to avoid overlap and re-allocate resources for other activities.
Task 2.2. Strengthen Conservation Friendly Value Chains in Project's Landscapes				
2.2.2	Support the development of bamboo, rattan and leaves (RBL) value chain.	20	●	The Project supported RBL CFEs in product research and development, vocational training, trade promotion, and facilitation. Facilitate orders and contract with exporters.
2.2.3	Support the implementation and development of medicinal plants value chain (Dang ginseng, prickly pear, Anxilla tree, fenugreek, ginger, medicinal plants of the Red Dao ethnic group, turmeric, etc.).	10	●	The Project supported the Central Southeast Pharmaceutical Company to participate in training of trainers on GACP-WHO, moving forward to build a material area that meets GACP-WHO certification in 2024.
2.2.4	Support the development of cinnamon value chain.	20	●	The Project conducted two of out five trainings on cinnamon pre-processing for farmers in LC, and conducted a training on nursery for interest group in TH.
2.2.5	Support the implementation and development of betel nut tree value chain.	10	●	The Project supported capacity building for three CFEs in registering Production Unit Code, develop enterprise profiles and catalogs.
2.2.6	Support the development of Tung oil tree (<i>Vernicia montana</i>) value chain.	15	●	The Project supported Chan May Cooperative to build a linkage dossier with 117 Van Kieu ethnic minority households to sustainably manage and exploit 806 hectares of tung oil.
2.2.7	Support the development of the Arabica coffee value chain.	20	●	The Project supported Son Nguyen and Khe Sanh Cooperatives to build linkage dossier with 83 households to better develop 150 hectares of coffee, including existing 130 hectares and replanted 20 hectares of arabica coffee.
2.2.8	Support the development of fruit trees value chain (mango, longan, banana).	20	●	The Project conducted two out of five trainings on IPHM topics for mango farmers and developing a demonstration plantation.

OBJECTIVE 3: INCREASE FUNCTIONALITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS FOR FOREST CRIMES

In Q1 under Objective 3, the Project made progress supporting policy development at the national and provincial levels. This quarter, two Project-supported national policies and one provincial policy were approved, and one Project-supported provincial policy was submitted to the PPC for the final round of appraisal. While training events scaled back this quarter due to budget limitations, support for organizational capacity building continued with encouraging results.

Task 3.1: Support Law Enforcement to Maintain Forest Integrity through Analysis and Action Planning

Deployment of Forest Violation Data Management System (FVDMS).

The Project continued supporting Central FPD and MARD to deploy FVDMS in seven Project provinces. By the end of Q1, the Project supported FPDs in seven provinces to record 2,028 administrative violation cases into the system, by individuals and organizations, that took place from January 1, 2022 to December 20, 2023. This enabled forest protection authorities at the national and local levels to analyze and monitor violations systematically using evidence. The main types of violations recorded were: i) illegal deforestation (44.5%); ii) illegal transport of forest products (19.1%); iii) illegal storage, trading, and processing of forest products (16.6%); iv) illegal harvesting of forest products (7.8%); and other violations (12%).

Key figures in FVDMS deployment in seven Project provinces (updated December 20, 2023):

- Number of forest violation cases updated and monitored: **2,028**
 - Forest areas impacted: **455 ha**
 - Fined amounts in penalties: **VND 18.38 billion (USD 800,000)**
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FVDMS is first being tested in the Project's seven provinces and will then be deployed to the rest of the country in FY24, which will be a significant Project legacy to contribute to strengthening law enforcement well beyond the project period. In addition to recording administrative violation cases, the Project developed a new SOW and prepared to upgrade FVDMS to include the records of criminal violations. The Project team reached a consensus with the Central FPD/MARD on preparing a roadmap to deploy FVDMS nationwide in FY24.

Development of a plan for upgrading Xuan Lien Nature Reserve to Xuan Lien National Park.

The Project wrapped up its technical support to upgrade Xuan Lien Nature Reserve to a National Park, which started in early 2023 in response to an urgent request of Thanh Hoa PPC. The Project organized a final consultation workshop in October 2023, and then finalized and submitted the plan to Thanh Hoa PPC in November 2023.

The consultation workshop—chaired by the Director of Thanh Hoa DARD and attended by representatives of provincial departments under Thanh Hoa PPC, the Department of Forestry (DoF) under MARD, scientists, and experts from the National University of Forestry and other research institutes—reaffirmed the urgency of upgrading Xuan Lien Nature Reserve to National Park to strengthen forest management, protection, and development of the protected area and its buffer communities. Next quarter, the Project will continue following up on the approval process and will provide further technical support, if needed.



Capacity building for law enforcement (LE) agency officers.

In Q1, the Project continued working with Thanh Hoa PPMU and FPD to conduct a training to strengthen the enforcement of Forestry Law for 36 FPD staff (11 females, two ethnic minorities) from provincial FPDs, district FPDs, and forest management boards. The training covered three main topics: i) key contents of Decree 01/2019/NĐ-CP on forest rangers and forest protection forces of forest owners; ii) skills and experience sharing on forest fire fighting and prevention; and iii) skills practice using forest fire fighting and prevention equipment.



Forestry law enforcement training for FPD staff in Thanh Hoa province. Photo credit: Dong Nguyen

Based on provincial needs to strengthen forest LE, the Project worked with seven provincial FPDs to develop SOWs for the following: i) consultancy providing training on criminal violations investigation to forest rangers; and ii) consultancy providing training on determining damaged forest areas and tree volume from base diameters to support law enforcement. In the coming quarters, the Project will continue working with PPMUs and CPMU to provide capacity building for FPD staff and other LE agency officers.

Task 3.2: Support Improved Enforcement Practices in Project's Landscapes

Support the development of national policies.

Two national legal documents were amended and approved by MARD in Q1, including: 1) Circular 13/2023/TT-BNNPTNT, which amended and supplemented some Articles of Circular 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT on sustainable forest management; and 2) Circular 20/2023/TT-BNNPTNT, which replaced Circular 32/2018/TT-BNNPTNT on methods of forest valuation.

Amendment and supplementation of Circular 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT:

Circular 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT (Circular 28) was issued by MARD on November 16, 2018 to regulate the content of SFM Plans, to guide procedures for formulating and approving SFMPs, and to provide criteria for certification of sustainable forest management. USAID and the Project are strongly interested in the provisions on SFM planning, especially for individuals, households, and communities and national standards of sustainable forest management. The Project organized and/or joined several technical workshops to provide inputs to different versions of the revised Circular.

The Project's support on the revision of Circular 28 started in March 2023 and was successfully completed when **Circular 13/2023/TT-BNNPTNT** (which amends and supplements some Articles of Circular 28) was issued on November 30, 2023. The Project's support included: i) a consultant-led assessment of the implementation of Circular 28, proposed revisions, and support developing drafts of the amended Circular; ii) consultation field trips to four provinces to collect comments and feedback from actors who implement Circular 28 and are affected by Circular 28; and iii) technical meetings and workshops to provide comments to the drafts of the Circular.



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In addition to providing the Drafting Committee with opportunities to consult with stakeholders, the Project mobilized its in-house experts and cooperated with other forestry-support organizations to provide its own comments to the drafts of the Circular. This is an innovative approach through which the whole Project contributes to the development of national forestry policy. Notably, the Project invited members of the Drafting Committee to a Community Forest Management Network meeting (designed and organized by Objective 1), where participants from the very grassroots level provided the Committee with practical experiences they faced when implementing Circular 28.

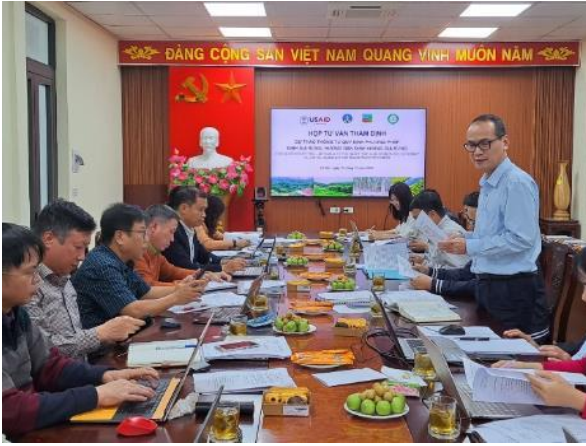
Circular 13/2023/TT-BNNPTNT provides more favorable legal conditions for the Project to achieve its objectives (especially Project’s Objectives 1 and 4) by giving clearer and more feasible guidance for forest owners, especially individuals, households, and communities, to develop and implement their SFM plans and ensure more effective forest management, protection, and development at the community level. It also set standards for SFM as part of sustainable forest certification.

Replacement of Circular 32/2018/TT-BNNPTNT

Circular 32/2018/TT-BNNPTNT (Circular 32) guides methods of forest valuation and methods of calculating cost norms for forest products, the value of forest user’s rights, and of environmental values. The current Circular 32 has two striking limitations, among others. Firstly, it applies only to State-owned forests, while forests owned by individuals, households, communities, and other economic actors (about 40% of the country’s 14.79 million ha) are equally important. Secondly, the current methods of forest valuation only prioritize the valuation of timber and forest products, failing to include other major values of forests, such as the biodiversity values.

The Project recruited a team of three reputable experts² in the sector to support the revision of Circular 32, which resulted in the issuance of Circular 20/2023/TT-BNNPTNT dated December 15, 2023 (replacement of Circular 32). The composition and expertise of the consultant teams helped properly value the total economic values of forests and encourage non-State actors to participate in forest protection, development, and plantations. This is because when more value and benefits can be generated from forests, it attracts more forestry investments, especially from the private sector. Circular 20/2023/TT-BNNPTNT will also help limit the conversion of forests to other use purposes, especially for economic and infrastructure projects due to the high costs of compensation, comprised of not only the present value of timber, but also the present and future incomes from other NTFPs, payable environmental forest services, incomes from supporting policies of the national and local governments, and total investments made at the time of valuation.

² One expert on forest economics and Finances; one forest valuation, PFES, CPFES expert, and one valuation of ecosystem services expert.



Mr. Pham Hong Luong, Head of the Secretariat of the Drafting Committee presents proposed revisions in the replacement Circular 32. Photo credit: Bui Thi Hai Nhung (DoF).

Shortly after appraisal of the final draft of the revised Circular 32, Mr. Le Minh Hoan, Minister, MARD, re-emphasized at a policy dialogue organized by the Department of Forestry (DoF) and moderated by the Project that, *“When looking at forests, we should not see only timber. We should also look at the environmental, cultural, and religious aspects, which have far greater values.”*

MARD adopted the Project’s technical advice and included ‘forest environmental values’ in Circular 20/2023/TT-BNNPTNT, described as, “the ecological values of forests, including biodiversity values, natural landscapes, and ecological functions of forests such as soil protection, water resources, nutrient cycles, carbon sequestration and storage and climate regulation,” in the methods of valuating

the total economic values of forests.

Together with Circular 33/2018/TT-BNNPTNT on forest inventory, which is being revised by MARD and expected to be approved in early 2024, Circular 20/2023/TT-BNNPTNT will allow for the correct determination of the total value of forests, which will lead to a more sustainable forestry sector in Vietnam that can achieve reduced emissions targets.

Support the development of provincial policies.

- **Recognizing elite cajeput trees (Quang Nam province)**

An emerging business in some districts of Quang Nam province, notably Tam Ky city and Thang Binh district, is distilling cajeput essence oil from cajeput trees (*Melaleuca cajeputi*), which is used as traditional medicine. To proactively ensure the raw materials and maintain good and consistent quality for Quang Nam’s cajeput oil, the Project supported Quang Nam to conduct research and analysis of *Melaleuca cajeput* samples and to prepare a dossier of application for a decision on the recognition of *Melaleuca cajeput* trees as elite trees in Quang Nam province.

In addition to its medicinal uses, *Melaleuca cajeput* trees—woody plants that grow up to 4-5m—also have the function of coastal protection and carbon sequestration when planted close together on sandy soil. Quang Nam plans to increase its concentrated *Melaleuca* plantation area to 50 ha in the coming years in response to the “one billion tree program” of the GVN and to increase the output of cajeput oil, create jobs, and increase incomes for local households. The Project’s support to recognize them as elite trees would provide high-quality seedling plants for melaleuca plantation, thus contributing to the Project’s Objective 5 and its targets of: i) improved forest areas (ID8); and ii) improved CO2 sequestration and storage of forest (IDs 6 and 7).



Members of the Appraisal Committee on a field trip to the natural cajeput forest in Binh Phuc commune, Thang Binh district. Photo credit: Tra Tran.



Pilot planting of Melaleuca Cajeput trees to develop into protective forests against flying sand in coastal Tam Ky. Photo credit: Tra Tran.

The first batch of elite cajeput trees (four) were recognized on October 3, 2023 in Decision 495/QĐ-CCKL of Quang Nam FPD. The Project’s support helped revise the methods of selecting qualified candidate trees and paved the way for follow-up support in FY24, including:

- Develop community forest management plan and benefit sharing mechanism for forest areas containing elite trees (supported by Objective 1);
- Support local communities to implement community forest protection plans (led by Objective 1); and
- Support the development of the cajeput essence oil distilling industry in Quang Nam province (led by Objective 2).

Thanh Hoa PPC approved the ecotourism Master Plan of Pu Luong Nature Reserve

On November 29, 2023, Thanh Hoa PPC issued Decision No 4513/QĐ-UBND, giving approval to the Master Plan on “Eco-tourism, relaxation and entertainment in the special-use forest of Pu Luong Nature Reserve until 2030, with a vision to 2045.” The Plan is implemented on 16,986 ha within Pu Luong Nature Reserve and is connected to the buffer zone communes of Ba Thuoc and Quan Hoa districts. The estimated approved budget for implementing the Plan is about VND 182.93 billion (USD 7.5 million).

By 2030, the ecotourism plan aims to welcome about 27,000 visitors (35% international, 65% domestic), contributing to achieving a target of 370,000 visitors to Ba Thuoc district and 31,700 visitors to Quan Hoa district; reaching a revenue of about VND 33 billion (USD 1.36 million) , which will be partially reinvested in the development of Pu Luong Nature Reserve and will create jobs for about 500 local employers (direct and indirect). The Master Plan introduces specific measures on environmental protection for tourism; forest development; nature and biodiversity conservation; mechanisms, policies, and solutions to raise awareness and develop human resources for tourism; develop tourism infrastructure and technical facilities; and develop tourism products. The Master Plan will help preserve and promote the value of natural landscapes, effectively mobilize and use the potential advantages of biodiversity and scenic spots, conserve cultural identities of ethnic groups, and create jobs, increase incomes, and improve the material and spiritual life of local people in Pu Luong Nature Reserve.

By supporting Thanh Hoa to develop this ecotourism Master Plan, the Project has gone beyond its support on plantations and community forests by supporting the mobilization of domestic resources for forest protection and development, increasing the total economic values of forests, including

environmental services, biodiversity, and cultural values. It also contributes to job creation and income generation for local communities.

Ongoing: Technical guideline on planting and taking care of selected endemic forestry species for intensive afforestation of large timber (Nghe An province)

Development of a plan for upgrading Xuan Lien Nature Reserve to Xuan Lien National Park



DARD; Photo Credit: Dong Nguyen

USAID supports Thanh Hoa province to develop plan to upgrade Xuan Lien Nature Reserve to national park status for better natural resource protection.

Xuan Lien Nature Reserve in Vietnam’s Thanh Hoa province covers a natural area of 25,000 ha—around 96 percent natural forests and four percent plantation forests—mostly comprised of forest ecosystems and wetlands of special national and global value. In this nature reserve and throughout Vietnam, it is important to preserve unique natural landscapes, biodiversity, endangered and rare species of animals and plants, genetic resources, traditional culture values, historical sites, and the provision of recreation and tourism sites to ensure environmental protection, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development. In Vietnam, land designated with national park status receives the highest level of protection, conservation, education, and recreation within the special use forest system.

Since February 2023, the Project has been supporting the Thanh Hoa’s PPC to develop a plan to upgrade Xuan Lien Nature Reserve to become a national park for added protection and benefits. As a national park, Xuan Lien will have more opportunities for forest landscape and biodiversity conservation, livelihood enhancement for communities in the buffer zone through education, recreation, and ecotourism activities, and international-domestic resource mobilization. On October 2, 2023, the Project, in collaboration with Thanh Hoa PPC, organized a consultation workshop with scientists, the Department of Forestry, and Vietnam Association of National Parks and Protected Areas to review the draft plan and provide feedback and experience to improve it. The Project will continue supporting Thanh Hoa province to improve and finalize the plan before submitting it to the central government for approval. Upgrading Xuan Lien Nature Reserve to a national park will contribute to biodiversity conservation (about 3,000 species of plants and animals), sustainable forest management of 25,000 ha, and livelihood improvement for around 32,000 members of forest-dependent communities. This will help reduce deforestation, forest degradation, and carbon emissions in Thanh Hoa province.

Nghe An province has the largest forest area in the country, with quite favorable conditions for developing plantation forests, including intensive large-timber plantation forests. However, in recent years, forestry enterprises and people in the province have still prioritized the development of small timber plantation forests, which, despite bringing immediate income, offers relatively low economic value. On December 12, 2021, the PPC of Nghe An province issued Resolution 18/2021/NQ-HĐND (Resolution 18) on “some policies to support agriculture and rural development in Nghe An province in 2022 – 2025,” which include support to “larger timber plantation forests and afforestation by endemic forestry species.” Following-up the resolution, Nghe An PPC issued a Decision on “Master Plan for the development of commercial large-timber forest 2016 - 2025” targeting 168,915 ha.

The Project’s ongoing support to develop a technical guideline on planting and taking care of selected endemic forestry species for intensive afforestation of large timber will be completed in April 2024. When completed, it will provide the following: i) technical guidance for forest owners and forestry companies who are developing large-timber forests; and ii) inputs to assess and revise Nghe An PPC’s commercial large-timber forest master plan, mentioned above.

Task 3.3: Build Capacity of the Environmental Justice System to Prosecute Environmental Crimes

Due to budget limitations, this task will be postponed to the coming quarters of FY24. The Project will conduct sharing workshops between law enforcement agencies (FPDs, police, courts, and Procuracy) on the legal proceeding process in Vietnam and its application, with a focus on criminal violations in the forestry sector. The Project developed SOWs for consultants to support capacity building for the environmental justice system to prosecute environmental crimes. These consultancies will be implemented in next quarters when funding is available.



“When looking at forests, we should not see only timber. We should also look at the environmental, cultural, and religious aspects, which have far greater values.”

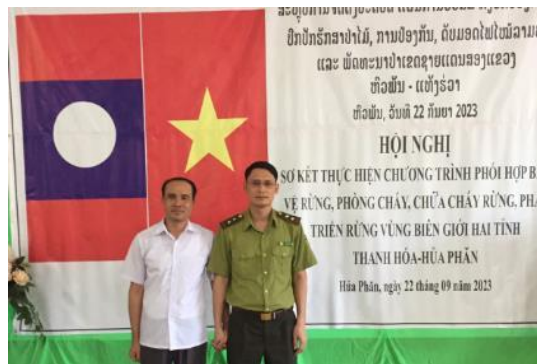
- Mr. Le Minh Hoan, MARD Minister, at policy dialogue on socializing afforestation and promoting the multi-use value of the forest ecosystem for a greener Vietnam.



Photo credit: Vietnam’s Agriculture Newspaper

“We are thankful for the Project’s support to have this training. Knowledge and skills on forestry law enforcement in general, especially on forest fires fighting and prevention are helpful for us. As one of the trainers of this training, I believe that the training will contribute significantly to support Thanh Hoa’s FPD force on better forest protection, management, and development.”

- Mr. Vu Ngoc Luat, Officer of Thanh Hoa Provincial FPD



Mr. Luat (on the right). Photo credit: Hoang Lam Tung

The progress of Objective 3 activities is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Objective 3 Activity Progress

Status: Completed; ● On track; ●

Behind; ● Not started; ● Cancelled

		% Achieved	Status	Description of Progress
Task 3.1: Support Law Enforcement to Maintain Forest Integrity through Analysis and Action Planning				
3.1.1	Develop and implement forestry law enforcement action plan in 7 provinces under the Project	15	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and updated implementation of provincial forest law enforcement action plan in Thanh Hoa.
3.1.2	Provide appropriate equipment and tools to Law enforcement agencies to strengthen forestry law enforcement	10	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided support on deployment of the FVDMS in seven provinces. Developed a new SOW for upgrade of FVDMS. Developed a roadmap for FVDMS deployment nationwide.
3.1.3	Conduct capacity building for Forest Rangers and other LE officers in prevention, detection, investigation and handling of forest violation and crimes.	10	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with provincial FPDs and PPMUs to identify capacity building needs. Developed SoWs for STTAs supporting trainings.
3.1.4	Conduct social behavior change communications, awareness raising and environmental education for relevant stakeholders in forest protection and development	10	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a concept note to implement the activity.
Task 3.2: Support Improved Enforcement Practices in SFM Landscapes				
3.2.1	Conduct assessment of customary laws and support the development of national and local policies and practice	45	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two out of three national policies and two out of seven provincial policies completed in Q1/FY24³ One provincial policy is being conducted in NA

³ 02 National policies completed: 1) the revised Circular 28 on sustainable forest management; and 2) the revised Circular 32 on method of forest valuation. ... Provincial policies completed: 1) Recognizing elite cajeput trees (Quang Nam province); 2) Eco-tourism Master Plan of Pu Luong Nature Reserve (Thanh Hoa province)

# / Code	Activities	Current Progress (Q1 FY2024)		
		% Achieved	Status	Description of Progress
3.2.2	Improve inter-agency coordination among forestry LEAs	30	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01 provincial inter-agency protocol for implementing Circular 21 on classification of timber enterprises is being conducted for QT. Another similar Protocol will be conducted for TH in Q3/FY24.
Task 3.3: Build Capacity of the Environmental Justice System to Prosecute Environmental				
3.3.1	Support capacity building for law enforcement agencies in prosecution of forest crimes	5	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity will be carried out in the coming quarters. Preparation for recruitment of trainers is completed.

OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVE PRODUCTION FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

During this quarter, the Project continued to provide technical assistance for the development of plantation value chains across the Project sites. Through existing partnership agreements, the Project provided training and capacity building to farmers and partners to help them implement sustainable forest management practices toward forest certification, while also supporting market linkages between timber suppliers and buyers.

Task 4.1. Increase production of sustainable timber by small-scale foresters

Providing technical assistance to propagate quality planting material to tree nurseries.

The Project conducted a field survey to identify additional nurseries in Quang Nam to potentially cooperate with. As a result, the Project selected four new potential tree nurseries to provide technical assistance to: Do Thuc Vinh Business Household, B.2.C Connection Company Limited, Lam Quoc Thinh Company Limited, and Chien Dan Agroforestry Seed Enterprise. Next quarter, the Project will provide original germplasm to the selected nurseries to establish hedge orchards, in addition to providing auto-irrigating systems and generators. This will help the nurseries better manage production processes and improve the quality of planting material.

In Q1, the Project provided 10,000 original germplasm to Minh Hoang nursery in Quang Nam. This germplasm will produce around one million cuttings/planting material for farmers to plant 500 ha of plantation. In the last year and first quarter of FY24, the Project provided 192 kg (31kg last year; and 161kg in Q1) of Acacia mangium seeds to 14 nurseries in Hoa Binh and 60 kg seeds of Acacia mangium to five nurseries in Thanh Hoa, in addition to 2,000 kg of cinnamon to four nurseries in Lao Cai. The Project also provided 252 kg (192 kg for Hoa Binh and 60 kg for Thanh Hoa) of Acacia mangium seeds to produce 11.3 million seedlings that are sufficient to establish 5,000 ha of acacia plantation. This quarter, the Project conducted field checks on the status of seedling production of all 23 selected nurseries, which showed that the seeds germinated very well with a survival rate of at least 85 percent.

In the last year, the Project provided 134,100 original germplasm/plantlets to 23 nurseries in Quang Nam, Quang Tri, Nghe An, and Thanh Hoa to establish hedge orchards. This quarter, the Project supported these nurseries by monitoring the development of hedge orchards and by providing technical advice on caring. A field survey revealed that original germplasm/plantlets of the hedge orchards grew well. These orchards will produce approximately 13.4 million quality cuttings/planting material, which are sufficient to establish 5,000 - 6,000 ha of plantation. Next, the Project is helping the nurseries prepare dossiers to recognize the origin of varieties to submit to FPD/DARD for approval.

Transformation of small dimension timber plantation into large dimension timber plantation and tending

In Q1, the Project continued providing technical assistance to transform small dimension timber plantations into large dimension timber plantations (LDTP) for eight households with a total area of 20 ha in Thanh Hoa. The Project supported thinning of Acacia mangium and Acacia hybrid trees that were three-to-four years old. The Project conducted field verification/acceptance checks of the transformed areas in Thanh Hoa, which showed that the thinned plantations are in good development.

In the last year, the Project provided IQPM (planted 799.92 ha), and assisted farmers with thinning (92.4 ha) and tending (146.1 ha) in Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Tri, and Quang Nam provinces. To monitor growth of plantations planted, thinned, and tended last year, the Project designed sample plots and collected growth data from 108 sample plots (SP) in Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Quang Tri, and Quang Nam where the Project provided technical assistance. The growth data includes increment of diameter, height, and planting density of trees. The main purpose of establishing a system of SP is to monitor and evaluate growth and other influencing factors of thinning, tending, and planting models supported by the Project. To date, the Project collected all growth data from SPs and is analyzing data to evaluate the growth rate of the plantations. Field surveys/observations also showed that farmers that received support from the Project did not burn vegetation/residue before planting. The application of unburnt technique will contribute to reducing carbon emissions.

Provision of high-quality planting material to farmers

In FY24, the Project planned to provide 3.365 million improved quality planting material (IQPM) to farmers in Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Tri and Quang Nam, prioritizing those who participated/ registered in FSC certification groups. In Q1, the Project conducted field survey and worked with farmers in these provinces and local partners to register forest farmers/recipients of IQPM. Now it is under the registration process. The Project will provide these IQPM to farmers to establish 1,530 ha of plantations.

The specific plan on provision of IQPM is shown in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Plan on provision of IQPM to households in FY24

#	Province	Species	(plantlet)	established (ha)
1	Thanh Hoa	Tissue culture acacia hybrid	550,000	250
2	Nghe An	Tissue culture acacia hybrid	440,000	200
3	Quang Tri	Tissue culture acacia hybrid	1,000,000	454.5
4	Quang Nam	Tissue culture acacia hybrid	275,000	125
5	Hoa Binh	Acacia mangium	1,100,000	500
Total			3,365,000	1,529.5

By providing IQPM, the Project will help raise awareness of plantation growers, encouraging them to prioritize the utilization of reliable sources of IQPM. This approach helps avoid the utilization of floating/uncontrolled/ non-registered planting materials that are available in the market.

Capacity building on forest management and certification for farmers/local partners

In Q1, the Project conducted training for five staff of BMFV on updating forest status maps for farmers' groups in Do Luong, Tan Ky district, Nghe An. These farmers' groups cover about 4,600 ha with 2,680 households/members. The staff of BMFV then helped farmers groups update forest status maps for implementing SFM and certification. The Project also conducted training for four staff of Thien Hoang

Forest Company (in Quang Nam) on updating forest status maps. After the training, the trained staff of Thien Hoang company updated maps for farmers' groups in Quang Nam with 2,300 ha and 359 households registered. These updated maps were used to implement management practices and pursue forest certification for the farmers' groups.

Table 5: The area of plantations certified in Q1, FY24

Group name	Province	Group member	Certified plantation area (Ha)	Date of certificate issuance
Thien Hoang Forestry Co., Ltd. Representing for Household Groups at Quang Nam Province; Lot A14 Binh Duong industrial zone, My Loi commune; Phu My district; Binh Dinh province	Quang Nam	359	2,271.40	20.12.2023
Association of Quang Tri Smallholder Forest Certification Groups; 39 Tran Hung Dao; Dong Ha, Quang Tri province	Quang Tri	85	526.48	Extended area to the existing certificate (surveillance audit held on 6-7.10.2023)
Total		444	2,797.88	

In Q1, the Project conducted training on M&E and silviculture for 131 (126 ethnic people) heads and vice heads of 82 farmers' groups in Tan Lac district, Hoa Binh. The training provided monitoring procedures and skills as well as silviculture techniques, like planting, tending, and thinning. The Project expects that the heads and vice heads of the groups will share the lessons learned with their group members through village/commune meetings.

In Q1, the Project provided training on reduced impact logging (RIL) for 104 participants (15 females) from farmers' groups associated with Quang Tri Paper Material Company. The training focused on RIL harvesting techniques, work safety, and chain of custody (CoC). These lessons learned will help chain saw operators work safely while protecting the environment and decreasing destruction of the remaining trees at the sites.

Providing technical assistance to implement SFM plans.

The Project continued its technical assistance in forest monitoring and management for PFMBs in Thanh Hoa and Nghe An by coaching 35 technical staff members (5 females) on the application of remote sensing and QGIS for. Out of the participants, 25 were from the three PFMBs in Thanh Hoa, and 10 were from the Tan Ky PFMB in Nghe An. The Project also conducted training on QGIS for 15 staff/partners of Hoa Binh Forestry Company in Hoa Binh. The training covered topics, such as using smartphones and GPS to collect field data to verify and update forest changes on maps, utilizing satellite images and QGIS to monitor and update forest changes, and compiling forest maps with QGIS. After the training, the staff members from the PFMBs and Hoa Binh Forest Company have been applying their newly acquired techniques to their work. The Project will continue to coach and support them as they monitor a total area of 28,878 ha of forests under their management.

In Quang Nam, the Project has been actively supporting the Thien Hoang farmers' groups to conduct assessments on various topics, such as environmental impact, social impact, biodiversity survey, and forest inventory for SFM planning for nine farmers' groups who have registered for SFM and certification of 2,271 ha of plantation. The Project sent assessment reports and SFM plans to the Thien Hoang farmers' groups, which were used in certification. The Project also provided technical assistance to assess

similar thematic topics for SFM planning for Biomass Fuel Nghi Son (BMFN) farmers' groups (13 groups with 4,300 ha of plantation registered) in Thanh Hoa. These thematic reports are under revision and will be finalized next quarter.

The Project conducted a field survey and worked with farmers and local partners to select households and areas of plantations to tend in Thanh Hoa province. So far, the Project identified 15 households with 50 ha of plantations registered for tending, which will take place next quarter. This activity helps raise people's awareness on the benefits of taking care of forests to improve tree growth, to improve the quality of wood when harvested, to increase people's incomes, and to contribute to improving the ability of forests/trees to absorb CO₂.

The Project has nearly completed a video on sustainable forest management in Quang Nam to share information on the Project's contributions to promoting sustainable plantation management and certification in the province. The video's main contents include: i) improving nursery capacity; ii) providing technical assistance to farmers to manage forests sustainably towards forest certification; and iii) supporting the implementation of improved silvicultural technical measures.

Piloting insurance for plantation

In response to damage caused by heavy storms in provinces like Quang Nam, the Project initiated a demonstration on satellite-based weather insurance (SbWI), in collaboration with the Hiep Thuan Cooperative. The Project has been working with the Hillridge Company to develop a blockchain-based insurance scheme to continue piloting this model and USAID already approved the scheme. The Project will sign the service contract in early next quarter with the Binh Minh Insurance Company to accelerate field demonstration in Quang Nam.

Task 4.2: Increase demand from processors for certified timber

In Q1, the Project continued providing technical assistance to local partners and farmers to implement their signed partnership agreements (PAs). The technical assistance covered technical training in silviculture, certification, farmers' group establishment, operation, management, forest mapping, and forest management planning (more details can be found in the capacity building section of 4.1, above).

The Project is assisting Vietnam National University of Forestry (VNUF) to develop an SFM/certification textbook. VNUF conducted field surveys on case studies and training needs assessment (TNA) to develop the textbook. To date, VNUF submitted the second draft of the TNA report and textbook outline to the team, which all are under technical review.

Task 4.3: Develop market linkages between timber producers and industry

In Q1, the Project continued to provide technical assistance to local partners to implement signed PAs promoting connections between wood processors and farmers' groups by establishing certified raw material areas. To date, with the technical assistance from the Project, BVN Hoa Binh expanded to 5,000 ha of raw material area with about 80 farmers' groups in Tan Lac district, Hoa Binh.

To promote linkages between producers, processors, and market, the Project drafted three SOWs on: i) deploying market linkage modalities on large timber associated with the carbon credit trade; ii) compiling low-carbon emission wood processing criteria; and iii) deploying market linkage activities for wood and wood products in the context of regulations on the export of deforestation-free wood products. The Project will implement these activities when sufficient funds are available.

USAID supports Hoa Binh Forestry Company to apply GIS and remote sensing technologies to improve forest management, protection, and monitoring capacity.

The Forestry Technical Department and five production teams of Hoa Binh Forestry Company (the Company) are responsible for managing 7,687 ha of forests and forestland. Over the years, the Company has mainly used MapInfo GIS software and hand-held GPS to plot and update maps of the status of forests and forest land. However, mapping forest changes by MapInfo/GPS takes a lot of time and resources, and detecting forest plots with changes has not been timely nor properly synchronized. Data connection/reporting from forest production teams to the technical department has not been regularly implemented. The Company's capacity on GIS application is limited, and thus, extracting data for reports is usually done manually.

To support the Company in improving its capacity to better manage forests, the Project conducted training for seven technical staff of the Company's technical department and eight staff of five forestry production teams on how to use QGIS software, QFIELD, and Sentinel 2 satellite imagery. The training focused on building a map database, creating accounts to synchronize forest monitoring data between production teams and the company's forestry technical department, and extracting/exporting data from updated maps to report on monitoring the current state of forests and forest land managed by the Company. Data collected from the field and satellite imagery will help the Company to better manage and protect forests according to the approved SFM Plan.

USAID's support in the form of online and in-person training and coaching has enabled the Company to be able to apply QGIS and QFIELD technologies and use Sentinel 2 satellite imagery in forest monitoring and management. The Company is also now able to regularly update forest status change, synchronize field forest status data and central data for management, better protect and monitor 7,687 ha of forest; and increase CO2 absorption from forests, which contributes to the fight against climate change.



QFIELD Installation and Use Guide to the forest protection patrol officers of the technical department and the forestry production teams. Photo by: Nguyen Thanh Tra



Guide data management and download the latest satellite images for technical staff at the Company office. Photo by: Nguyen Duc Canh

“Each year my nursery produces about 1.5 million of Acacia hybrid cuttings. In the past, my family often bought Acacia hybrid cuttings from the first-generation hedge orchard to grow as a second-generation hedge orchard. When buying cuttings, there were no documents showing origin of cuttings attached, so the origin of cuttings was unknown. Therefore, my hedge orchard is not eligible for an application for a certificate of source of planting material according to regulations. Now, the Project provided 3,000 original tissue culture germplasm of Acacia hybrid BVI 6 with full documents proving the origin. The cuttings/plants provided by the Project grow well and have rejuvenated to create buds, which in about one month will be put into production. Cuttings produced in the first two batches will be used to plant a second-generation hedge orchard, replacing the previous hedge orchards that reached the end of their exploitation period. In addition to providing quality cuttings, the Project staff closely supported and guided me with the planting and with pest/disease control. Now the Project is supporting me to make a dossier to request the competent authority to issue a certificate of origin for the hedge orchards. I will try to make the full use of my nursery and the resources supported by the Project to provide more quality planting material to local planters.”



Ms Nguyen Thi Hoa's hedge orchard after three months of planting. Photo by Dr. Pham Van Bon

- Ms. Nguyen Thi Hoa, My Lam Village, Thanh My Commune, Thanh Chuong District, Nghe An

Progress of Objective 4 activities is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Objective 4 Activity Progress

Status: Completed; ● On track; ● Behind; ● Not started; ● Cancelled

# / Code	Activities	Current Progress (Q1 FY2024)		
		% achieved	Status	Description of Progress
Task 4.1. Increase Production of Sustainable Timber by Small-Scale Foresters				
4.1.4	Implement capacity building for nursery gardens	30%	●	Provided 10,000 original germplasm/plantlets to a nursery in QN; Provided 161 kilograms Acacia mangium seeds for 14 nurseries in HB; conducted field check on hedge orchards/growth of original germplasm of nurseries in QT, QN, NA and TH who received technical assistance from the Project; conducted field check on seedling production by nurseries in HB and TH who received seeds from the Project;
4.1.5	Improve practices on sustainable forest management (SFM)	30%	●	Provided QGIS training/coaching for one FPMB in NA and one FPMB in TH and Forestry Company in HB who are managing 28,878 ha forests in total; training focused on application of QGIS/remote sensing technologies in forest mapping, monitoring and management; established four cinnamon farmers' groups in LC; and provided M&E training for 82 certification farmers' groups in HB; Conducted field survey on forest tending (50ha) and thinning (20ha) of farmers' plantation in TH; Provided training and facilitating updating forest status maps for farmers' groups in NA and QN; Updated and finalized thematic reports (SIA, EIA, NTFP, HCV/biodiversity) for SFM planning for farmers' groups in QN and TH;

# / Code	Activities	Current Progress (Q1 FY2024)		
		% achieved	Status	Description of Progress
				drafted SOW on study Acacia diseases in the Project sites; developed a video on SFM/certification for QN and it is under review;
Task 4.2: Increase Demand from Processors for Certified Timber				
4.2.2	Develop promotion and information material about certification and Chain of Custody (CoC) certification	60%	●	Drafted report on case study/TNA on SFM/certification and outline for the textbook; The Project is reviewing the report and textbook outline;
Task 4.3: Develop Market Linkages Between Timber Producers and Industry				
4.3.2	Build market linkages between forest owners and wood processing enterprises	10%	●	Drafted three SOWs on: (1) Deploy market linkage modality on large timber associated with carbon credit trade; (2) compile low carbon emission wood processing criteria; and (3) Deploy market linkage activities for wood and wood products in the context of the regulations on the export of deforestation free wood products;

OBJECTIVE 5: MOBILIZE DOMESTIC RESOURCES FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

In Q1, the Project made progress on the revision of Decree 156, on a SOW for a study on Carbon Payments for Forest Environmental Services (CPFES) in Son La province, on a nationally recognized tool, called 'Q5PFES,' and on a PFES monitoring and evaluation (M&E) platform, which is being piloted in seven provinces. More details on activities and achievements from this quarter are provided below.

Task 5.1 Pilot and Roll out Carbon Payments for Forest Environmental Services (CPFES) at Provincial and National Levels

In Q1, the Project continued working with VNFF to justify and revise the draft Decree 156 based on comments from relevant Ministries. The most updated version of draft Decree 156 was restructured to be clearer, particularly on the payers and receivers for carbon sequestration and storage services. According to comments made by Ministries, such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance (MOF) and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), all carbon value from forests invested by State budget will be traded by forest owners as organizations only. Other forest owners can sell carbon credits from plantation forests with private investments. On November 30, 2023, MARD submitted the third version of draft revised Decree 156 to the Office of the Government (GO). On December 8, 2023, the GO issued a letter No. 9649/VPCP-NN requesting that relevant Ministries to provide feedback for the justification of MARD. The GO also requested that MARD work with MONRE and MOF to ensure Article 72a harmonizes with Decree 06 and MoF's draft proposal on the domestic carbon market.

In addition to working on Decree 156 this quarter, the Project also worked with the Son La Provincial Forest Protection and Development Fund (Son La Fund) and forestry experts to prepare a SOW for carbon potential estimation, providing inputs for a provincial proposal on carbon trading demonstration.

Task 5.2. Build Awareness and Capacity for C-PFES and PFES Implementation

Q5PFES is an add-on tool developed by the Project to support the Forest Protection and Development Fund of the provinces to develop the Map of Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES). This quarter, it was officially launched for national application. On December 22, 2023, VNFF sent an official letter, No. 376/VNFF-BĐH, to all provincial forest protection and development funds in Vietnam requesting that they use QPFES for annual PFES map updates and development. Through this letter, VNFF recognized the tool as accurate and qualified for national application. As a result, provincial forest protection and development funds can now officially use the tool to ensure to the applicability and the

accuracy of PFES map data. The Q5PFES tool offers some advantages: It provides functions that required for PFES management such as extracting forest resources monitoring map, developing the Map of Payment for Forest Environmental Services, database management, statistical data. The tool supports FPDs to use QGIS (open-source software) to produce annual forest cover change maps. In addition, the Q5PFES tool is relatively error-free and it saves users' time process PFES maps.

In Q1, VNFF held a provincial workshop to launch the pilot phase of a PFES M&E platform, developed by the Project, for rollout in seven provinces. As a result of the Project's efforts, all provincial forest protection and development funds of seven provinces are aware of the importance of PFES M&E and are willing to collaborate to pilot the platform together with VNFF. The platform has been well received by DoF because it contributes to the Ministry's transition to 4.0 technology for forestry management. Given its relevance, the launching workshop was reported on the DoF Website.⁴

This quarter, the Project held four training courses for seven provincial funds and VNFF on using the PFES M&E platform, reaching 41 technical staff and leaders of provincial forest protection and development funds (9 women and four ethnic minority members). The platform uses PFES map data as an input for some indicators. Therefore, provincial fund staff also learned how to standardize PFES map data. Through these trainings, provincial fund staff learned about the importance of standardizing PFES maps to correct all forest owner codes and forest areas. By standardizing PFES maps, all provinces will have the same PFES map attribute data, which will facilitate consistent reporting data. Before entering the data to the official platform⁵ starting in January 2024, all seven provincial funds will need to complete the standardizing process for PFES maps.

Successful pilot leads to endorsement and national rollout.

Following a successful pilot, the Project-developed PFES mapping tool was officially endorsed for national use. The Q5PFES tool is an add-on to QGIS software, which helps users generate annual forest cover change maps, produced by FPDs as an input to produce PFES maps. With Q5PFES, users can update the forest area status, forest owner status, information of all forest owners to PFES maps. Users can use Q5PFES to export all reports and data that provincial funds can use for PFES payment distribution to forest owners every year, according to requirements of Decree 156. In 2023, the tool was piloted by seven Project provinces, and now it has been officially announced and endorsed by VNFF for use by all provinces—marking a notable achievement, both for the Project and for Vietnam's forestry sector.

In 2023, the Project developed the tool and provided trainings for 23 provincial funds, with rollout to an additional 17 provincial funds in southern provinces planned for 2024. The Project also provided online technical support via a technical group on Zalo for further guidance to technical staff and users of G5PFES from all provincial funds.

⁴ <https://cuclamnghiep.gov.vn/LamNghiep/Index/ap-dung-chuan-hoa-quy-trinh-thuc-hien-kiem-tra-giam-sat-thuc-hien-chi-tra-dvmtr--4826>.

⁵ <https://gsdg.vnff.vn>

QGIS uses open-source software, which avoids copyright costs (as seen with the previous PFES mapping tool, MapInfo) and thus, is a better tool for use by FDPs. All provincial funds must use forest cover change maps from FPDs as an input for annual PFES maps. Therefore, Q5PFES, an add-on to QGIS software, is a very useful tool to help provincial funds save time to develop and update PFES maps. By issuing official letter No 376/VNFF-BĐH, which recommends that all provincial funds in Vietnam use the Q5PFES tool, VNFF is demonstrating that Q5PFES is a reliable and useful tool. Provincial funds are also now authorized to use the tool officially to produce annual PFES maps.



Training on Q5PFES for leaders of 40 provincial forest protection and development funds. Photo credit: Nga Dang



Training on PFES M&E platform for Quang Tri and Quang Nam provincial forest protection and development funds. Photo credit: Nga Dang



Training on PFES M&E platform for Hoa Binh and Son La provincial forest protection and development funds. Photo credit: Nga Dang

“The PFES M&E platform is very important for implementing PFES policy in Vietnam. We have not had any consistent PFES M&E activities, and we hope this platform will provide us with online and updated database for indicators to help us monitor, evaluate, and identify suitable actions to improve PFES policy implementation.”

- Mr. Le Van Thanh, Vice director of Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund- VNFF



Mr Le Van Thanh, Photo credit: Nga Dang

Table 10: Objective 5 Activity Progress

Status: Completed; ● On track; ● Behind; ● Not started; ● Cancelled

# / Code	Activities	Current Progress (Q1 FY2024)		
		% achieved	Status	Description of progress
Task 5.1: Pilot and Roll out C-PFES at Provincial and National Levels				
5.1.2	Evaluate potentiality for carbon payments	5%	●	Discussed with Son La partner and developing SOW for STTA.
5.1.4	Set up and functioning of a C-PFES informal network of relevant stakeholders, including Governmental bodies, scientists, emitters, international organizations. The network will be maintained during the development and implementation of carbon payment mechanism.	0%	●	Waiting for further funds from USAID.
5.1.5	Develop guidelines, plans and related policy supporting for CPFES development.	0%	●	Waiting for further funds from USAID and approval of Decree 156.
5.1.6	Pilot CPFES after the approval by GVN.	0%	●	Waiting for further funds from USAID and approval of Decree 156.
Task 5.2: Build Awareness of and Capacity for CPFES and PFES				
5.2.1	Analyze status. Challenges of PFES M&E platform/tool implementation developed by VFD and some other organizations to consider the completion the tool of VFD and support provinces to apply and demonstrate national wide.	0%	●	Waiting for further funds from USAID.
5.2.2	Organize training courses and implement the use of PFES M&E software.	70%	●	Completed 4 training course for 7 provincial funds and VNFF. Filling in pilot data to platform will be done in the next quarter.
5.2.4	Trainings on PFES & CPFES for relevant stakeholders via training programs agreed with provinces and develop training documents.	0%	●	Waiting for further funds from USAID.

5.2.5	Evaluate potential of other payment sources such as aquaculture, industrial water, forest lease etc.	0%	●	Waiting for further funds from USAID.
5.2.7	Equipment's/ tools for PFES M&E.	0%	●	Waiting for further funds from USAID.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

The following section provides implementation challenges experienced in Q1 and measures taken to address them.

Objective 1- Improving Community Forest Management

Challenge: After the endorsement of SFMPs or FPPs and completion of various evidence required for reporting period in FY23, some communities faced technical difficulties to provide forest patrolling records due to discontinuation of the Project's support and the delay in provision of forest monitoring equipment (e.g., smart phones).

Solution: The Project communicated regularly with 19 community forest patrolling groups to monitor and ensure the implementation of forest patrolling schedules. The Project also liaised with other stakeholders, e.g., PFMBs, CPCs to promote joint forest patrolling with CFPGs, which gradually build the communities' capacities and momentum to ensure effective forest protection and management.

Objective 2- Promotion of CFEs and Value Chains

Challenge: Recently, the Project has focused on supporting CFEs with product R&D, marketing, and sales. However, delays in supporting the necessary production equipment for CFEs has led to a slow-down in orders and production, as well as an increase in production costs, thereby reducing their competitiveness.

Solution: The Project reviews and prioritizes the equipment list for procurement, especially low-cost items, but efficient equipment, such as rattan and bamboo splitting, polishing, and rounding equipment in the RBL value chain.

Objective 3- Increase Functionality of Law Enforcement Systems for Forest Crimes

Challenge: Due to budget limitations, some activities have not implemented yet in target provinces following the provincial forest law enforcement action plans.

Solution:

- OBJ 3 will work with provincial FPDs of provinces to find a suitable solution to implement planned activities in plans considering budget limitations.
- OBJ 3 staff (in-house experts) will invest their time to prepare for and implement selected capacity building activities in provinces instead of hiring local consultants that in Q3 and Q4 of FY24.
- Capacity building activities which required consultancy service (such as training on procedure and skills of initial investigation for FPD staff) will be postponed to Q3 and Q4 of FY24.
- In exceptional cases, OBJ 3 proposes to recruit policy development consultants in Q2 to support legal document development of GVN partners (MARD departments and provinces). Payments for consultancy services and other consultation events can take place after May 2024.

Objective 4- Improve Production Forest Management Practices

Challenge: Due to budget limitations, the Project had to delay procurement of original germplasm and seeds from the identified vendors for selected nurseries for production of planting material. As a result, the nurseries' capacity to produce IQPM remains limited, leading to the challenge of achieving the planned targets of ID8- *Improved Forest Management*.

Solution: On the one hand, the Project encouraged some of the selected nurseries to self-finance to buy certified IQPM available in the market for their nurseries. On the other hand, the Project negotiated with potential vendors in advance and prepared all related documents to convince them to produce original germplasm and seeds to be ready for the Project to procure when the budget is available.

Objective 5- Mobilize domestic resources

Challenge: Making the PFES M&E platform usable by provincial funds and VNFF includes some challenges, including:

- **Behavior change:** The biggest challenge is changing users' habits on PFES M&E, especially shifting to regularly monitoring and evaluating the implementation of PFES. Currently, most provincial funds carry out monitoring activities only when they are required by a higher-level authority. Using the PFES M&E platform will require them to regularly monitor, with some indicators requiring weekly monitoring. This also creates more workload for users in the provincial funds system. To reduce the workload for provincial fund staff, the PFES M&E platform was redesigned to add more automated calculations for indicators. This means that with less data inputted, the platform will generate more results and reports for different purposes.
- **System thinking:** Although all provincial funds have monitored and evaluated PFES implementation, their activities are not following all indicators required by VNFF in the PFES implementation monitor and checking handbook developed under USAID-VFD. PFES implementation should broaden its monitoring in accordance with different aspects, not only for payments received or distributed, but also for social and environmental impacts of PFES policies. Those aspects were largely ignored in the last 10 years of PFES implementation because it takes time to collect such data for monitoring. However, those aspects are important to prove to PFES payers that their investments (PFES payments) are effectively used for the intended purpose in the long-term to ensure environmental services are maintained.
- **Data management:** Currently, data for PFES implementation are available but are not managed in a system by different provincial funds. Therefore, every time VNFF needs data for reporting, they must send an official letter to provinces, which then need to collect data from different departments/units or even collect it from forest owners as organizations. This process will take time. By using the PFES M&E online platform, data is updated weekly, monthly, or quarterly as well as annually. VNFF or provincial fund leaders can access the platform anytime to get the most updated data. Those leaders can also create necessary interventions based on that data. For example, they can add more awareness raising activities, or speed up the distribution process in some districts having slow payments.
- **No standards for PFES maps:** Although MARD issued circulars guiding provincial funds to produce annual PFES maps, not all PFES map data are matched with payment distribution data. Different provinces have different types of attributions for PFES map. Many provinces do not have forest owner codes for forest owners or use incorrect codes for PFES payment area. Using the PFES M&E platform requires that all provincial funds standardize all PFES maps with correct information on forest owners and on forest area receiving PFES.

Solution: The Project plans to continue working closely with all provincial funds for every step of the data collection process, and on standardizing PFES maps to enter data to the platform. The Project also plans to work with VNFF to issue a temporary regulation to use the PFES M&E platform during the pilot phase by seven provincial funds and by VNFF. This regulation would regulate how provincial funds can collect data, and how to fill data into platform. The Project and VNFF will also need to develop a detailed workplan for weekly, monthly, and online support sessions to guide provincial funds in using the platform.

Communications

Challenge: This quarter, due to the Project's current financial resource limitations, communication events for special and related occasions, such as Vietnamese Women's Day, Vietnam Forestry Day, World Soil Day, and World Mountain Day could not be organized by the Project due to restricted travel resulting in limited technical event coverage.

Solution: The Project's communications team utilized digital platforms to produce and disseminate content and key messages on these occasions, instead of organizing events. The communications team have and will continue developing more stories, bullets, and social media posts to share via as the websites and social media channels (i.e., Facebook, X, Instagram, and LinkedIn) of USAID, DAI, RECOFTC, Preferred by Nature, MBFP, MARD, and provincial partners.

III. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

In Q1, the Project worked on the following areas of the MEL system:

Data quality assurance: This is one of the most important ongoing activities the Project's MEL team focuses on throughout implementation. The MEL team conducts monthly and quarterly reviews to minimize errors and validate evidence for all activities against the performance indicators. Detailed feedback on data quality and lessons learned are then discussed with each technical team to prevent recurrent errors. The MEL team also developed and shared a summary dashboard of final results with Project staff. So far, the process of data collection, verification, feedback, and reporting has operated smoothly. In October 2023, USAID conducted a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) on seven indicators reported by the Project. The DQA team provided a lot of positive comments on the Project's MEL system as well as data quality, and all DQA indicators are marked at the highest category which is "Recommended (no action required)" to report externally.

MEL plan update: This quarter, the MEL team updated the MEL plan in the following areas: i) addition of the two sections on Reporting in Development Information Solution (DIS) and Program participant feedback plan; ii) adjustment of some indicators' definitions; and iii) revision of indicator targets and disaggregation. The purpose of this update is to better reflect the actual interventions of the Project and to be suitable with the nature of activities. The revised version of the MEL plan has been completed and submitted to USAID for review and approval. After that, the MEL guideline will also be updated accordingly.

Learning events: In Q1, the Project organized an implementation workshop for FY24. MEL team was involved in facilitation of the workshop. In this workshop, lessons learned on activity implementation from FY23 were discussed by PPMUs. The key lesson learned was used to input for the FY24 implementation, especially the consultancy management activities.

MEL information system: In Q1, the MEL team updated the Project's MEL information system with most updated data and information on the FY24 workplan, reference materials, adjusted indicator definitions and targets, reports, infographics, and dashboards that are more convenient for Project staff to quickly access real-time MEL-related information and summary analysis of Project results and progress. Some of the new functions are still being upgraded and expected to be completed in Q2 to adapt to the Project staff's needs.

Organizational capacity development plans (OCDP): This quarter, the MEL team supported technical staff to conduct baseline scoring and develop appropriate capacity development plans for organizations planned to be supported in FY24. The organizations' capacity gaps were identified, providing the rationale for appropriate activities to improve their organizational development capacity. By the end of FY23, the MEL and technical teams will work together with the target organizations to review their performance progress under the Project interventions.

Data collection tool and template: Based on DQA team’s recommendations regarding indicator data collection tools, the MEL team reviewed and improved relevant forms and guidelines to fully capture necessary information to better reflect the nature of interventions that contribute to the indicators. In addition, a detailed tracker was also developed to closely monitor the implementation progress of organizational capacity development plans under IDs 2, 9 and 10. The tracker will provide timely information for the MEL team and technical team to help make appropriate decisions to ensure achieving the targets.

Indicator achievement progress is presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Indicator Achievement Progress

Main Activities/ Topics/ Disaggregation	FY2024				LOP		
	Actual Q1	Actual FY 2024	FY 2024 Target	% to Target FY2024	Actual to Date	Original LOP target	% to Original LOP Target
Indicator 1: EG 13-I Number of people trained in sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance							
Total (people)	757	757	8,327	9%	34,767	25,388	137%
Disaggregated by sex							
Male	473	473	5,627	8%	20,701	17,265	120%
Female	284	284	2,700	11%	14,066	8,123	173%
Disaggregated by Objective							
O1. Community Forest Management	171	171	3,995	4%	4,440	5,650	79%
Male	63	63	2,605	2%	3,295	3,955	83%
Female	108	108	1,390	8%	1,145	1,695	68%
O2. Conservation Friendly Enterprises	259	259	1,500	17%	8,278	9,150	90%
Male	130	130	985	13%	3,549	6,300	56%
Female	129	129	515	25%	4,729	2,850	166%
O3. Law Enforcement/ Cross Cutting	36	36	905	4%	3,593	400	898%
Male	25	25	725	3%	2,925	350	836%
Female	11	11	180	6%	668	50	1336%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	250	250	1,500	17%	17,466	10,000	175%
Male	223	223	970	23%	10,100	6,500	155%
Female	27	27	530	5%	7,366	3,500	210%
O5. Resources Mobilized	41	41	427	10%	990	188	527%
Male	32	32	342	9%	832	160	520%
Female	9	9	85	11%	158	28	564%

Description of Progress: During this quarter, the main training topics under each Objective were:

- Objective 1: Awareness raising on forest land tenure right perception
- Objective 2: Trainings on Integrated Plant Health Management (IPHM); GACP-WHO standard and restructuring of cooperatives and enterprises in medicinal plants value chain; Pre-processing for collective groups in the cinnamon value chain; and Product development and rattan material processing in the rattan, bamboo, and leaves (RBL) value chain
- Objective 3: Trainings on knowledge and skills in strengthening forest protection and forest fire fighting and prevention for FPD officers
- Objective 4: Trainings on occupational safety, reduced impact logging and monitoring chain of custody (CoC) for forest owners; Plantation household group management for leader/vice leader groups; and GIS application for partners' technical staff
- Objective 5: Trainings on PFES and M&E Platform for VNFF and provincial forest protection and development funds

Indicator 2: EG 13-2 Number of institutions with improved capacity to address sustainable landscape issues as supported by USG assistance.

Total (institution)	-	-	41	0%	109	70	156%
Disaggregated by Objective							
O1. Community Forest Management	-	-	4	0%	24	19	126%
O2. Conservation Friendly Enterprises	-	-	19	0%	38	39	97%
O3. Law Enforcement	-	-	4	0%	8	2	400%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	-	-	8	0%	37	7	529%
O5. Resources Mobilized	-	-	6	0%	2	3	67%

Description of Progress: In Q1, the Project worked to identify capacity needs to develop organizational capacity development plans (OCDP) for targeted institutions. By implementing these OCPDs, the Project expects to support improve capacity for following institutions:

- Community forest management boards on CFM planning, community's village convention on forest protection and management, and participatory forest patrolling and monitoring (Objective 1)
- Cooperatives, private firms, and collective groups on development of bamboo-rattan, medicinal plants, fruit trees, cinnamon, betel nut, and coffee and tung oil value chains (Objective 2)
- Department of Forestry, district FPDs, and nature reserve on capacity improving and awareness raising on law enforcement and forest monitoring (Objective 3)
- Forest protection management boards, wood processors, private firms, nurseries and FSC farmer groups on timber sawing planning, high quality seedling, civil-culture technique, sustainable forest management planning, and certification (Objective 4)
- Provincial FPDFs on PFES monitoring and evaluation, PFES map development and communication on PFES (Objective 5)

Indicator 3: EG.13-3 Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing sustainable landscapes formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as supported by USG assistance

Total (policy)	4	4	14	29%	61	34	179%
Disaggregated by Objective							
O1. Community Forest Management	-	-	4	0%	26	17	153%
O2. Conservation Friendly Enterprises	-	-	0	-	3	0	-
O3. Law Enforcement	3	3	9	33%	28	16	175%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	-	-	0	-	2	0	-
O5. Resources Mobilized	1	1	1	100%	2	1	200%

<p>Description of Progress: The policies completed in Q1 FY24 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Circular 20/2023/TT-BNNPTNT, which replaces Circular 32/2018/TT-BNNPTNT on methods of forest valuation and methods of forest valuation and methods of calculating cost norms for forest valuation. - Circular 13/2023/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 30, 2023 that amends and supplements Circular 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 16 November 2018 of the MARD on Sustainable Forest Management. - Decision 495/QĐ-CCKL dated October 3, 2023 of Quang Nam FPD - Recognition of Melaleuca Cajeput trees (Melaleuca cajeput) as the elite trees in Quang Nam province - Official letter No 376/VNFF-BĐH, which recommends that all provincial funds in Vietnam use the Q5PFES tool for PFES mapping 							
<p>Indicator 4: EG.13-4 Amount of investment mobilized (in million USD) for sustainable landscapes as supported by USG assistance</p>							
Total (million USD)*	-	-	1.58	0%	33.36	12.50	267%
Disaggregated by Objective							
O2. Conservation Friendly Enterprises	-	-	0.58	0%	12.05	4.50	268%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	-	-	1.00	0%	21.31	1.50	1421%
O5. Resources Mobilized	-	-	0.00	-	-	6.50	0%
<p>* Results in USD were based on the actual VND-USD exchange rate on the day when the mobilized funds were approved for investment or reported.</p>							
<p>Description of Progress: In previous fiscal years, the Objective 2 and Objective 4 signed PAs with CFEs and local partners to jointly scale up viable business models in supported value chains and to support implementation of sustainable forest management and forest certification in Project provinces. This year, the Project continued working with relevant stakeholders to implement the signed PAs, which is expected to leverage more funds from private sector partners. The actual number will be reported by the end of the fiscal year when evidence are collected and verified.</p>							
<p>Indicator 5: EG.13-5 Number of people receiving livelihood co-benefits (monetary or non-monetary) associated with the implementation of USG sustainable landscapes activities</p>							
Total (people)	-	-	16,500	0%	61,356	60,900	101%
Disaggregated by sex							
Male	-	-	8,250	0%	30,668	30,450	101%
Female	-	-	8,250	0%	30,688	30,450	101%
Disaggregated by Objective							
O1. Community Forest Management	-	-	6,200	0%	21,533	12,600	171%
O2. Conservation Friendly Enterprises	-	-	3,500	0%	14,212	18,300	78%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	-	-	6,800	0%	25,613	10,000	256%
O5. Resources Mobilized	-	-	0	-	-	20,000	0%
<p>* Number of people is estimated based on the average household size in each province.</p>							
<p>Description of Progress: In Q1, the Project, under Objective 1, supported 2 villages in Son La to develop the annual forest patrol plans, and forest management and protection conventions, which facilitates a benefit sharing mechanism from CFM activities for an estimated of 150 members of these communities. Under Objective 4's intervention, about 1,572 people benefited from sustainable forest management certification, which enables them to apply advanced techniques in managing and improving the plantation forest quality and to expand opportunities to access markets with better selling prices.</p>							
<p>Indicator 6: EG.13-6 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through sustainable landscapes activities supported by USG assistance</p>							

Total (ton CO2)	-	-	2,000,000	0%	5,407,714	7,820,716	69%
Disaggregated by Objective							
O1. Community Forest Management	-	-	1,000,000	0%	2,817,513	214,000	1317%
O3. Law Enforcement	-	-	0	-	-	3,080,150	0%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	-	-	1,000,000	0%	2,590,201	3,042,000	85%
O5. Resources Mobilized	-	-	0	-	-	1,484,566	0%
This indicator is reported annually							
Description of Progress:							
In FY24, the Project will focus on these key activities:							
- Upscaling field interventions at provincial levels that aim to improve and expand CFM at national level with the following key activities: (i) Maintain the CFM network to exchange lessons learnt and inform national policies on FA/FLA and CFM; (ii) Continue support and promote the cooperations mechanisms at community and commune levels, and other stakeholders like enterprises, small-scaled hydropower plants etc. (iii) Improve communities' capacity to monitor community forests and/or contracted forests; (iv) Enhance ecotourism integrated with strengthened management and protection of community forests, and the preservation and promotion of cultural values at CFM sites; (v) Promote and support FA/FLA to communities in Lao Cai, Son La and Thanh Hoa; (vi) Continue capacity building, awareness raising and support communities to implement SFMPs, FPPs with a strong focus to link with livelihood potentials (e.g., NTFPs) and/or community-based ecotourism.							
- Improving forest management practice, with the following key activities: (i) Continue providing intensive technical assistance to nurseries to produce IQPM, enabling smallholder/producers to access IQPM; (ii) Continue implementation of the 13 signed partnership agreements, working closely with partners to continue implementing agreed activities to help farmers and local partners improve forest management practices and to obtain certification of their plantation forests; (iii) Promote initiatives that assist wood processors in using/producing low carbon products.							
Indicator 7: EG.13-7 Projected greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided from adopted laws, policies, regulations, or technologies related to sustainable landscapes as supported by USG assistance							
Total (ton CO2)	-	-	30,747,69	0%	14,926,873	45,674,566	33%
This indicator is reported annually							
Description of Progress: In FY24, the Project will focus its effort on the following activities to contribute meaningfully to forestry law enforcement in Vietnam: (i) Support the development of national and local policies and practices, with priority given to monitoring and assessing the implementation of the Forestry Law and its bylaws; (ii) Support the development of MARD's Decision on compulsorily applying FVDMS nationwide and support the deployment of FVDMS in all 63 provinces and cities with forests in Vietnam; (iii) Support the implementation of the provincial LEAPs in seven provinces and (iv) Support the development and implementation of interagency coordination protocols between FPDs and other law enforcement agencies.							
Indicator 8: EG-13-8 Number of hectares under improved management expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of USG assistance							
Total (hectare)	2,797.88	2,797.88	85,000	3%	141,401	260,000	54%
Disaggregated by Objective							
O1. Community Forest Management	-	-	40,000	0%	79,763	140,000	57%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	2,797.88	2,797.88	45,000	6%	61,639	120,000	51%

Description of Progress: Under Objective 1: Areas have improved management through implementation of the CFM plan, and implementation of participatory forest management and protection with forest management boards. Under Objective 4: Areas have been improved management through sustainable forest management certification, demonstration of sustainable plantation management models for large-dimension timber plantation (new plantings or transformation to long-term plantations), plantation tending, high-quality planting materials, and high-quality seedlings, implementation of SFM plan. - Certification: 2271.4 ha in Dai Loc, Nong Son, Nam Giang, Phuoc Son Districts (Quang Nam) and 526.48 ha in Quang Tri Province							
Indicator 9: CBLD-9 Percentage of USG assisted organizations with improved performance							
Total (% organization)	-	-	80	0%	77	90	86%
Description of Progress: In FY2024, the Project aims to support 51 organizations including: 15 government agencies, 8 cooperatives, 8 private firms, 15 producer groups, and 5 village management boards.							
Indicator 10: Number conservation friendly enterprises supported by USG assistance							
Total (enterprise)	-	-	22	0%	45	35	129%
Disaggregated by gender							
Male-Led Enterprise	-	-	14	0%	18	26	69%
Female-Led Enterprise	-	-	8	0%	27	9	300%
Disaggregated by Objective							
O2. Conservation Friendly Enterprises	-	-	15	0%	38	35	109%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	-	-	7	0%	7	0	-
Description of Progress: The project started working to support 22 CFEs on the development of bamboo-rattan, medicinal plants, fruit trees, cinnamon, betel nut, and coffee and tung oil value chains (Objective 2) and sustainable production forest management such as timber sawing planning, high quality seedling, civil-culture technique, sustainable forest management planning, nurseries and certification (Objective 4).							
Indicator 11: Number of adults who perceive their tenure rights to land or marine areas as secure with USG assistance							
Total (adult)	-	-	6,000	0%	1,769	N/A	-
Disaggregated by gender							
Male	-	-	3,000	0%	973	N/A	-
Female	-	-	3,000	0%	796	N/A	-
This indicator is reported annually							
Description of Progress: The Project is currently working on improving perception on tenure rights to forest land areas through forest land allocation, forest allocation, public communication events and other CFM activities in the Project target provinces.							
Indicator 12: EG.II-5 Number of people supported by the USG to adapt to the effects of climate change							
Total (people)	-	-	1,275	0%	13,564	4,805	282%
Disaggregated by sex							
Male	-	-	744	0%	7,370	3,122	236%
Female	-	-	531	0%	6,194	1,683	368%
Disaggregated by Objective							

O2. Conservation Friendly Enterprises	-	-	375	0%	3,932	1,270	310%
Male	-	-	244	0%	1,616	825	196%
Female	-	-	131	0%	2,316	445	520%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	-	-	900	0%	9,632	3,535	272%
Male	-	-	500	0%	5,754	2,297	251%
Female	-	-	400	0%	3,878	1,238	313%

* The target indicated in the table is proposed target and has not yet been approved.

Description of Progress: In FY24, the Project will continue to organize capacity-building activities for government officials, forest owners and communities, integrating providing climate information, adaptation measures and practices on forest management, and increasing resilience of commodities to extreme weather. The main training topics include:

- Adopting GACP-WHO standards in medicinal plants value chain
- Planting, tending and harvesting technique for cooperatives in fruit trees values chains
- Product development in the rattan, bamboo and leaves (RBL) value chain
- Providing high quality seedling for plantation and fruit trees to increase resilience to extreme weather
- Application of climate-smart afforestation techniques according to FSC standards
- Promotion of no burning methodology for increased climate resiliency of production forest.

The uncertain obligation fund may affect the indicator achievement results.

Indicator 13: EG.11-6 Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by USG assistance

Total (people)	-	-	930	0%	10,984	2,538	433%
Disaggregated by sex							
Male	-	-	545	0%	5,968	1,649	362%
Female	-	-	385	0%	5,016	889	564%
Disaggregated by Objective							
O2. Conservation Friendly Enterprises	-	-	300	0%	3,183	770	413%
Male	-	-	195	0%	1,308	500	262%
Female	-	-	105	0%	1,875	270	694%
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	-	-	630	0%	7,801	1,768	441%
Male	-	-	350	0%	4,660	1,149	406%
Female	-	-	280	0%	3,141	619	507%

* The target indicated in the table is proposed target and has not yet been approved.

Description of Progress: In FY24, the Project will continue to support the communities in different fields, including processed medicinal plants and RBL products, development of business plans, market access, internal control skills, enhancing sustainable forest management and good silviculture practices.

IV. INTEGRATION OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

A summary of cross-cutting activities (including GESI, communications, and GIS) from Q1 is presented below.

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI)

In Q1, the Project continued improving competencies on business planning for 23 women who are directors of cooperatives or heads of interest groups in Quang Tri province. The training enhanced their competencies in business planning and environmentally friendly value chain development. After the trainings, these trained women developed four plans for their CFEs that detailed market and competitiveness analysis, marketing, operations, and financial projections. Of the four plans, the Project continued supporting them to fine-tune the plans for the Women's Start-up Competition, which was organized by the Provincial Women's Union. Of the four submissions, they won a special prize, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards at the provincial level. To support these women to secure additional resources, the Project coached them for the Innovative Start-up Contest, which was organized by the Provincial Department of Science and Technology on December 14, 2023.



Ms. Nguyen Thi Hang, Director of Khe Sanh Cooperative, won the special prize of Women Start-up Contest



Ms. Doan Thi Van, Director of Herbal Incense Cooperative, won the 1st prize on Women Start-up Contest

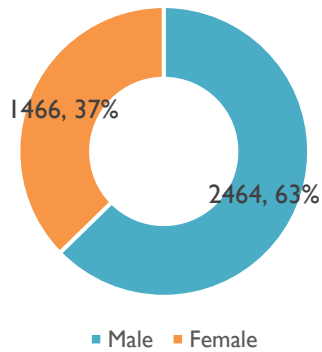
"Thanks to the support from USAID, I have developed the business and production plans of the cooperative. I have confidently made appropriate decisions in production and business activities. I know how to write proposals for competitions as well as share with members of the cooperative members confidently. I am grateful and appreciative of USAID's empowerment and companionship over the past time."

—Ms. Doan Thi Van, Director of Herbal Incense Cooperative.

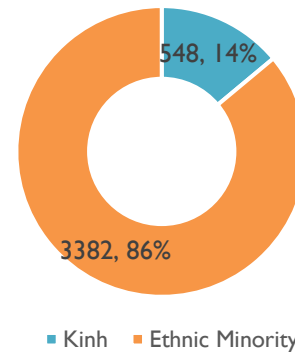
During Q1, the Project conducted 136 events, attracting a total of 3,930 participants (37% female and 86% ethnic minorities); and supported 13 women-led CFEs.

Exhibit I: Number of participants disaggregated by sex and ethnicity

Disaggregation by sex



Disaggregation by ethnicity



COMMUNICATIONS

During Q1, under the Communications and Outreach Plan, and CKM Strategy, the Project accomplished five major milestones that contributed to overall targets.

1. Increased visibility of Project achievements and learnings both within and outside of Vietnam.
2. Validated and demonstrated USAID's contributions to forestry in Vietnam.
3. Raised awareness about sustainable forest management issues in Vietnam, regionally, and globally.
4. Promoted replication of sustainable forestry best practices by sharing knowledge and lessons learned among forestry stakeholders.
5. Promoted adoption of proven sustainable forest management processes and approaches by developing and disseminating practical tools (i.e., toolkits, manuals, templates) based on Project learnings.

Produced and submitted quality Project content and results to USAID.

In Q1, the Project captured Project results, milestones, and early outcomes, which were presented to USAID in **seven Weekly Updates** and **three Bi-weekly Updates** with **13 Bullet Points**; and **two stories**, one on GACP-WHO guidelines for medicinal plants and one on FVDMS. To reach these milestones, the Project engaged all team members for contributions and inputs. In addition to sharing Project information and learning, this milestone also contributed to building trust and a teamwork spirit among Project staff and partners.

Earned coverage in international, national, and local media and on social media.

In Q1, the Project produced quality content for social media and traditional media, gaining coverage, which contributed to boosting the Project's visibility –both within and beyond Vietnam—and helped promote sustainable forestry-related messages. In total, this quarter, the Project and/or its activities were mentioned 18 times on international, national, and local media and partners' websites, and in 11 social media posts on USAID's Facebook platform (64,000 followers) that resulted in 579 direct engagements, one post on USAID's X platform (26,100 followers) that was viewed 12 times, one post on USAID's Instagram that was seen 12 times, and one post on DAI's LinkedIn that was viewed 49 times.

Supported USAID's events and visits.

The Project's CKM unit contributed to the Project's preparations to participate in a Vietnam-US Friendship Festival event organized by the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi on December 2, 2023. The team also supported the development of communication materials for USAID's visits to Project sites in Lao Cai from October 24-26, 2023 and to Hoa Binh from December 5-7, 2023.



Mr. Knapper and his wife visiting environment booth at the Vietnam-US Friendship Festival. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran



USAID delegation visiting Nam Cang community forest in Lao Cai province. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran



USAID delegation visiting Huong Xuan Cooperative on medicinal plant production in Hoa Binh province. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran



USAID delegation visiting BVN Company in Hoa Binh province. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran

Targeted technical guidance and monitoring from international consultant to oversee communications and outreach implementation.

This quarter, the Project hosted a targeted visit by its international Communications and Learning Advisor (STTA) to support the CKM team in checking on and improving the implementation status of its updated strategic communications plan, revised in quarter two of FY23. During the visit, the expert met with members of the senior management team, technical staff, as well as external partners and members of the USAID DOC team, to get feedback on areas for improvement, areas for collaboration, and opportunities to further boost Project visibility and reach. The expert also supported an internal human resource transition of a part-time CKM team member into a full-time CKM role based on the staff member's demonstrated capacity to support communications objectives. This move enables the Project to meet its ambitious CKM targets despite the Project's resource constrained period, which restricts external recruitment and new hires. Lastly, the expert identified near- and medium-term communications priorities and targets for FY24 for the team to accomplish to improve knowledge sharing, visibility, and to reach target audiences.

V. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATION

This section summarizes the Project’s engagement with other stakeholders and other USAID-funded programs.

COORDINATION WITH USAID AND OTHER DONOR-FUNDED PROJECTS

The Project organized two three-day field trips for a USAID delegation to visit the Project’s activities from October 24-26 in Lao Cai province and from December 5-7, 2023, in Hoa Binh province. Through these field trips, USAID discovered the Project’s implementation progress, achievements, and challenges as well as recommendations from different Project partners and beneficiaries who have been working on the C/BFM model, BRL, cinnamon standing seedling, acacia nursery, PFES as well as pellet and saw-log value chains. The findings and technical advice from USAID delegation on this field trip enables the Project team to prioritize its field work for the next quarter.

In Q1, DAI worked closely with CPMU and seven PPMUs to update the Project Document to capture the new targets and requirement for equipment purchase, including vehicle. It is expected that the latest Product will be finally updated and submitted for Prime Minister’s approval in the next quarter.

The Project continues to work closely with its allies in the USAID-SFM initiated Forestry Policy Support Group – an informal group whose members cooperate voluntarily with each other to provide support to and advocate for forestry policies. In Q1, the Project cooperated very closely with GIZ and RECOFTC to review and provide recommendations to the revision of Circular 28/2019/TT-BNNPTNT on sustainable forest management.

STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT’S NON-CAPACITY EVENTS

During Q1, the Project and its implementing partners conducted 104 non-capacity building events in seven Project’s provinces, including: i) Village meeting to agree on the draft plan for forest management and patrolling, and the CFM Regulations strengthening; ii) Meeting to develop and implement the Forest Protection Plan for various CFM villages; iii) meeting to develop a plan for sustainable management of community forests with GESI integration in communities; iv) Planning meeting for developing bamboo and rattan value chain; v) Market linkage activities (e.g. trade fair participation, business matching workshops) for the medicinal CFEs; vi) Survey on the ethnic minority custom law applied in the forest management, protection and use; vii) Communication and awareness raising event on LE in the forestry sector; and viii) Consultation meetings on thematic reports and SFM plans for the FSC forest certification groups.

More than 3000 local people (37% female) participated in these events, of whom 89 percent were ethnic minorities. (See detailed information in Exhibit 30.)

Exhibit 2. Stakeholders participated in Project non-capacity events during FY24-Q1

Number of Events	Total Participants	Male	Female	Kinh	Minority
382	3,173	1,991	1,182	339	2,834
		(63%)	(37%)	(11%)	(89%)

VI. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

In this section, the Project provides an overview of key management and administration tasks and activities completed during the quarter.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Since the Project received less funds than expected, the team worked on developing a prioritization list that can be followed to ensure key activities have sufficient funds for implementation. In particular, under Objectives 2 and 4, the management team worked with the technical staff to conduct a quick cost-benefit analysis of planned procurement of equipment and seedlings, developing a criteria to determine whether investments on equipment for conservation-friendly enterprises are reasonable and will lead to measurable improvements in livelihoods and increase in income. These criteria will be further reviewed prior to officially procuring this equipment in the upcoming quarters.

In early December 2023, the Project's management team traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia to attend DAI's Asia Pacific Project Innovation conference, where they networked with key staff from the Home Office, including the Environment Team and the Operations Team to identify potential support and coloration and learning opportunities for the Project's technical activities, including the launch of the carbon market in Vietnam under Objective 5. As a result of this workshop, the Project invited Mr. Barry Flaming, Carbon Finance Expert, to visit Vietnam and work with the Project to conceptualize critical activities that can help launch the carbon market in Vietnam.

The Project held two coordination meetings during this quarter. In December 2023, the Project held a review of its revised MEL targets in Ninh Binh, while covering new materials on communications and the upcoming World Forestry Day in March 2024. At this event, the Project also reaffirmed its commitments to increase its utilization of staff knowledge and skills, rather than heavily relying on external consultants to complete critical tasks. Also in December 2023, the Project met with senior leadership from the MBFP and representatives of the seven provinces to review the progress of implementation and identify areas for improvement. The Project also reiterated its plan for spending according to the Annual Workplan approved for FY24 is dependent on the availability of funds through May 2024.

PROJECT STAFFING AND SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS

A summary of staffing changes that took place during the last quarter are provided below. For long-term staff, a number of positions were removed due to reduction in total funding, including the Provincial Project Officers' position in the province. Additionally, some staff have resigned to pursue other opportunities outside of the Project or changed their positions during the last quarter. Below, we indicate whether each position will be replaced:

- Mr. Lo Quang Thanh, Conservation Enterprise Officer, left the project on October 6, 2023. No plan to replace his position.
- Ms. Le Thi Thanh Huyen, Procurement Officer, left the project on November 10, 2023. No plan to replace this position, until new funds are obligated.
- Mr. Nguyen Thanh Dien, Thanh Hoa Provincial Project Manager (PPM), left the project on November 24, 2023. His position has been advertised and SFM intends appoint the new PPM in Quarter 2.
- Ms. Than Thi Thanh Van, Quang Tri Provincial Project Officer, left the project on November 15, 2023.
- Mr. Cao Quang Tan, Ms. Nguyen Kieu Phuong, Ms. Nguyen Thi Nhung, and Ms. Vu Thanh Binh had their employment agreements terminated with no extension on December 31, 2023.

- Additionally, Ms. Dao Thi Kim Ngan was reassigned from Logistics Officer to Communications Officer, to support the project’s growing communications needs.

The following consultants were onboarded during this period:

Consult Name	Consultant and Task	Start Date	End Date
Tran Thi Thu Ha	Consultant 3 (Valuation of ecosystem services expert)	10/17/2023	12/31/2023
Nguyen Van Vu	Consultant 1 (Team Leader, Forestry Economic and Financing Expert)	10/20/2023	12/31/2023
Vu Tan Phuong	Consultant 2 (Forest valuation, PFES, CPFES expert)	10/23/2023	12/31/2023
Le Dang Khoa	Consultant on Arabica THAI seed germination rate testing	11/15/2023	2/15/2024
Nguyen Thanh Nham	Consultant to support the development of a Technical Guideline on planting and taking care of selected endemic forestry species for intensive afforestation of large timber in Nghe An province	12/22/2023	4/30/2024
Le Sy Doanh	VFBC Project Document Revising Consultant	12/18/2023	3/17/2024
Tran The Manh	Consultant on soil analysis and testing	12/19/2023	1/31/2024

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

During the last quarter, the Project sought to improve efficiencies by developing Blanket Purchase Agreements for transportation that are provided to each province. This will allow greater freedom—with sufficient controls in place—for project staff in the provinces to order their own transportation services without having to go through administrative task with Hanoi.

During the last quarter, the project also began the process of transferring its local registration from VUES (the current DAI Representative Office’s designated address), which closes in May 2024, to SFM, ensuring continued legal setup of the project office.

The Project has also began working with the MBFP on revising the Project Document, ensuring lessons learned from three years of implementation are reflected in this document. Importantly, the project seeks to ensure it will be able to seek approval from the Hanoi Tax Department for reimbursement of a greater share of VAT costs, by adding language that broaden the definition of what \$12.5 million-related activities may be reimbursable for VAT. The Project also sought to include the addition of project vehicles that the GVN has requested, with the added caveat that all equipment in the list will be subject to the availability of funds.

Finally, the Project made significant progress submitting its second VAT submission to the Hanoi Tax Department. In December, the project worked with the VAT consultant to properly inventory all VAT, review invoices, and ensure that all costs will be allowable, to minimize any issues with the Tax Department, thereby a quicker turnaround in terms of reimbursement for VAT incurred from April 2021 to November 2023. In the next quarter, the project expects to submit a request to USAID for reimbursement of VAT not allowable by the Hanoi Tax Department.

VII. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

The following section provides a summary of planned activities, including upcoming events, for Q2 of FY23, organized by objectives. These tasks include ongoing work from previous quarters.

Objective I. Improve Community Forest Management (CFM)

Task I.1 Strengthening capacity of GVN, VIFORA, and forest owners to develop and implement forest management models and approaches.

I.1.5. Establish and operationalize the CFM Network to exchange information and lessons learned, and to promote CFM policies and practices.

I.1.5.3. Design, print, and distribute communications materials (booklets, brochures, posters) on CFM.

I.1.5.4. Organize workshops/ communication events/ trainings on the role of communities in forest management, protection and development regulated in the law.

I.1.5.5. Promote cooperation for better forest protection, forest fire controls at CFM sites between communities with neighboring communities/ districts/ provinces.

I.1.5.6. Review and assess FA/FLA policies to communities which receive PFES payment and propose solutions for FA/FLA to communities.

I.1.6 Improve communities' capacity to monitor community and/or contracted forests.

I.1.6.1 Assess the current status of community forest database and monitoring system.

I.1.7 Enhance ecotourism integrated with strengthened management and protection of community forests, preservation and promotion of cultural values at CFM sites.

I.1.7.1 Support formulation of ecotourism plans for forest management boards integrated with strengthened management and protection of community forests, preservation, and promotion of cultural values at CFM sites.

Task I.2 Build community capacity to participate effectively in forest management.

I.2.4 Support allocation of forest and forest land to communities (including forest and forest land inventory/field demarcation), improve communities' capacity to participate in FA/FLA more effectively and better manage forests post-FA/FLA

I.2.4.1 Prepare plans for forest/ land allocations or re-allocation (incl. forest inventories and field demarcation).

I.2.4.2 Implement plans for forest/land allocation, provide land-use certification (incl. resource assessment and field demarcations).

I.2.5 Develop GESI-mainstreamed Sustainable Forest Management Plans for communities at CFM demonstration sites.

I.2.5.1 Develop preparatory plans for CFM development based on the CFM manual.

I.2.6 Implement forest sustainable management interventions to improve community forest management.

I.2.6.1 Establish, build capacity, and provide basic equipment to CFM Management Board.

I.2.6.2 Develop community forest protection and management regulations.

I.2.6.3 Provide support to conduct forest patrolling, forest monitoring.

1.2.6.4 Improved communities' capacities to monitor allocated forests (coaching, implement CF monitoring).

1.2.7 Improve the effectiveness of forest management and protection under community forest protection contract with forest management boards/ communities protecting forests allocated to households (CFM HG).

1.2.7.1 Conduct consultation with relevant partners to reach agreement of improved effectiveness of forest management and protection under community forest protection contract with forest management boards/ communities protecting forests allocated to households.

1.2.7.2 Develop and implement detailed plan under community forest protection contract with forest management boards/ communities protecting forests allocated to households.

1.2.7.3 Establishing, building capacity, and developing regulation for communities/forest patrolling groups.

1.2.7.5 Prepare and support implementation of the sustainable forest management plans integrated with ecotourism for target communities.

OBJECTIVE 2. INCREASE CONSERVATION-FRIENDLY ENTERPRISES IN FOREST DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

Task 2.2. Strengthen conservation-friendly value chains in Project's landscapes.

2.2.2 Support the development of RBL value chain.

2.2.2.2 Strengthen capacity for bamboo production and processing cooperatives/enterprises; provide tools and equipment for cooperatives/enterprises.

2.2.2.4 Provide support to cooperatives, enterprises, and groups in resource mobilization, product development, development of supply/raw material areas, promotion of market expansion, PPCP, policy dialogues.

2.2.2.6 Technical support for OCOP center of Dong Giang district.

2.2.3 Support the implementation and development of medicinal plants value chain (Dang ginseng, prickly pear, Anxilla tree, fenugreek, ginger, medicinal plants of the Red Dao ethnic group, turmeric, etc.).

2.2.3.1 Support the implementation of projects on developing medicinal herbs in QT province.

2.2.3.2 Strengthen institutional capacity of organizations, farmer interest groups/cooperatives, and enterprises; and improve the management and operating capacity of these groups.

2.2.4 Support the development of cinnamon value chain.

2.2.4.2 Conduct trainings on cinnamon pre-processing.

2.2.5 Support the implementation and development of betel nut tree value chain.

2.2.5.3 Training, provide vocational training on design and product design improvement (attach IQC with Viet Craft).

2.2.5.4 Provide support with connecting to the market and product promotion (attach IQC with Viet Craft).

2.2.5.7 Improve organizational and institutional capacity for cooperatives.

2.2.7 Support the development of the Arabica coffee value chain.

2.2.7.1 Strengthen institutional capacity of coffee cooperatives.

2.2.7.3 Provide technical assistance and strengthen capacity for cooperatives/communities on sustainable regeneration of Arabica coffee plantation areas with intercropping techniques (fruit trees) and provide tools and equipment for CFEs.

2.2.8 Support the development of fruit value chain.

2.2.8.3 Organize training on IPMH for mango farmers and cooperatives.

OBJECTIVE 3: INCREASE FUNCTIONALITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS FOR FOREST CRIMES

Task 3.1: Support law enforcement to maintain forest integrity through analysis and action planning.

3.1.1 Develop and implement forestry law enforcement action plan in seven provinces under the Project.

3.1.1.2 Upgrade and implement law enforcement action plans in seven provinces.

3.1.2 Provide appropriate equipment and tools to law enforcement agencies to strengthen forestry law enforcement.

3.1.2.2 Upgrade FVDMS and procure equipment for LEAs in provinces.

3.1.3 Conduct capacity building for forest rangers and other LE officers in prevention, detection, investigation and handling of forest violations and crimes.

3.1.3.2 Conduct capacity building for Forest Rangers and other LE agencies.

3.1.4 Conduct social behavior change communications, awareness raising and environmental education for relevant stakeholders in forest protection and development.

3.1.4.4 Conduct TOT training for LEAs and related stakeholders on communication and awareness raising skills.

Task 3.2: Support improved enforcement practices in Project's landscapes.

3.2.1 Support the development of national and local policies and practice.

3.2.1.3 Hoa Binh: Technical Guideline for planting and caring for some medicinal plants under the forest canopy in Hoa Binh province.

3.2.1.3 Nghe An (On-going): Develop Technical Guideline on planting and taking care of selected endemic forestry species for intensive afforestation of large timber in Nghe An province.

3.2.1.3 Quang Nam: Technical Guideline for exploiting the sap of Apitong trees in natural forests in Dai Loc district.

3.2.1.3. Central FPD: Prepare for the revision of Circular 33/2018/TT-BNNPTNT on forest inventory and monitoring forest development.

Task 3.3: Build capacity of the environmental judicial system to prosecute environmental crimes.

3.3.1 Support capacity building for law enforcement agencies in prosecution of forest crimes.

3.3.1.1 Organize the "Experience sharing workshop of provincial law enforcement agencies".

OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVE PRODUCTION FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Task 4.1. Increase production of sustainable timber by small-scale foresters.

4.1.4 Implement capacity building for nurseries.

- 4.1.4.1 Conduct training on nursery management for managers and key staffs on high-quality seedlings, cutting, and tissue culture production.
- 4.1.4.2 Provide supplies and materials to selected nurseries for improving quality and productivity of the nurseries.
- 4.1.4.3 Provide technical training on production of high-quality planting materials.

4.1.5 Improve practices on sustainable forest management.

- 4.1.5.1 Establish/reinforce groups of plantation owners.
- 4.1.5.2 Trainings on groups management for groups' leaders (and integrate with GESI training).
- 4.1.5.4 Organize trainings on sustainable plantation management/certification for plantation owners (and integrate with GESI training).
- 4.1.5.5 Organize trainings on SFM planning and implementation for forest owners (organization and integration with GESI training).
- 4.1.5.6 Demonstrate sustainable plantation management models for large dimension timber plantation (new plantings or transformation to long term plantations).
- 4.1.5.7 Provide support of high-quality planting materials to groups members.
- 4.1.5.12 Support piloting plantation insurance for forest owners.
- 4.1.5.13 Develop/update/implement SFM plan.

OBJECTIVE 5: MOBILIZE DOMESTIC RESOURCES FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

Task 5.1 Pilot and roll out C-PFES at provincial and national levels.

- 5.1.2.1 Support Son La, through the provincial Forest Protection and Development Fund, to conduct carbon trading assessment, which provide inputs to the development of the project on carbon credit trading of the province.
- 5.2.1.2 [Continue] Support VNFF and Provincial Fund to standardize PFES maps.

Task 5.2. Build awareness and capacity for CPFES and PFES implementation.

- 5.2.2.2 [Continue] Train and provide technical support to Provincial Fund in updating PFES M&E database.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

GESI

- 2.2.14.2 Support Women led and owned CFEs for implementation of business planning.
- 3.1.6.3 Support provinces to implement GESI action plan for forestry sector at provincial level.

CKM

- 3.1.5.1 Develop and print out SFM Communication Materials (success story book, photo book, policy brief).

3.1.5.5 Organize photo trips to collect representative images and information in provinces for the SFM Success Story Book, Photo Book, Policy Brief and other publications.

3.1.5.13 Develop, design, and print out the SFM Knowledge Materials (technical reports, guidelines, modalities, etc.).

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Key MEL activities planned for next quarter include:

- Update data into the MEL information system;
- Update the consultancy progress regularly;
- Coordinate with Project staff to collect indicator data and ensure quality of data collected;
- Organize quarterly meetings with Project staff to review achievement progress and update the plan based on implementation and the new context;
- Update the EMMP;
- Conduct assessments on the impact of the Project activities contributing to the forest monitoring and CO2 emissions reduction.

Operations

- Transfer the company's Representative office from 28A Tran Hung Dao to Capital Place, 29 Lieu Giai and will update to the new address with the Tax Department
- Submit the second VAT claim and follow up with Tax Department regarding the due diligence process.
- Continue with Project Document revision.
- Continue with receiving approval for the Project Implementation Manual.

ANNEXES

Annex I: Activity Progress

Code	Activity	Location	Timeline (Oct 2023 to Sept 2024)				Progress Description for FY24					
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Expected Result	% Workload Completed	Status	Progress	Description of Progress for (Q1 FY23)	Plan for the next quarter
THPI	Improve Community Forest Management											
I.1	Strengthen the capacity of Vietnamese stakeholders (GVN, VIFORA and Forest Owners) to develop and implement forest management models and approaches with participation from local communities											
I.1.5	Establish and operationalize the CFM Network to exchange information and lessons learned, and to promote CFM policies and practices	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN					2 policy briefs related to CFM are finalized at the central level					
I.1.5.2	Conduct meetings between CFM network members	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN					2 policy briefs related to CFM are finalized at the central level	-		TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	
I.1.5.3	Design, print, and distribute communications materials (booklets, brochures, posters) on CFM	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT					One video clip, 2000 SFM notebooks; 2,138 leaflets, posters, booklets on community forest protection and management; 4,360 leaflets and posters on forest fire fight; 1,300 leaflets on forest/forest land tenure produced and disseminated	-		TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	
I.1.5.4	Organize workshops/ communication events/ trainings on the role of communities in forest management, protection and development regulated in the law	HB, QT, QN					2 training workshops/events organized in QN and QT for 140 participants (40% women, 30% ethnic minority)	33		HB: Not started QT: Completed QN: Cancelled	HB: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Cancelled	QT: The PPMU agreed not to organize a consultation workshop but only collect opinions from relevant departments on the Land and Forest Allocation Report and agreed on the report. QN: PPMU proposed to postpone this activity in Q1FY24

1.1.5.5	Promote cooperation for better forest protection, forest fire controls at CFM sites between communities with neighboring communities/ districts/ provinces in collaboration with OBJ3	SL, QT				02 events/regulations coordination to promote cooperation in forest protection and forest fire prevention among neighboring localities with the CFM model implemented in SL and HB provinces. 5 community collaboration meetings/plans developed and implemented.	50	SL: Not started QT: Completed	SL: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	SL: Coordinating with Objective 3 to propose a regulation on CFM&D at small hydropower plant's basins. QT: The Project has supported the completion of 5 coordinated patrol and forest fire prevention and fighting plans of 11 communities and 1 sub-area of the Border Protection Forest Management Board in Dakrong district and Huong Hoa district with a total forest area of 4,164 hectares.	SL: Complete a draft of coordination regulation.
1.1.5.6	Review and assess FA/FLA policies to communities which receiving PFES payment and propose solutions for FA/FLA to communities (linked with OBJ3&5)	TW, QT, QN				Two assessment reports on forest/forest land allocation policy assessment and proposing solutions to promote FLA/FA to communities completed for QT and QN	100	TW: Completed QT: Completed QN: Completed	TW: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	Two assessments on FA/FLA policies in QT and QN completed	
1.1.6	Improve communities' capacity to monitor community and/or contracted forests	TW, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN									
1.1.6.1	Assess the current status of community forest database and monitoring system	TW, SL, TH, NA, QN				1 general report assessing the current status of community forest database and monitoring system	18	TW: Ongoing SL: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	Consultation in progress in LC, SL, NA, QT	Report on community forest database completed
1.1.6.2	Application of community forest monitoring system for community having CFM plans and adapt tools for community forest monitoring and patrolling	TW, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN				Report/minutes/evidence of forest monitoring/patrolling in forest areas under SFMP or FPPs established and/or integrated into relevant reporting tools of FPD or FMBs	1	TW: Not started SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started	TW: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant to train on the using of FRMS software.	SL: Recruit consultant to implement activity.
1.1.7	Enhance ecotourism integrated with strengthened management and protection of community forests, preservation and promotion of cultural values at CFM sites	LC				One approved ecotourism project to ensure better maintenance and protection of 7,315 ha of natural forests currently assigned/contracted to communities for protection					

1.1.7.1	Support formulation of ecotourism plans for forest management boards integrated with strengthened management and protection of community forests, preservation and promotion of cultural values at CFM sites	LC				One approved ecotourism project to ensure better maintenance and protection of 7,315 ha of natural forests currently assigned/contracted to communities for protection.	80	LC: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack	LC: Organized consultation meetings with district-level stakeholders, edit the second draft of the Plan. Collected opinions from relevant departments and branches	LC: Submit to the Provincial People's Committee for approval of the Plan
1.2 Build community capacity to participate effectively in forest management											
1.2.4	Support allocation of forest and forest land to communities (including forest and forest land inventory/field demarcation), improve communities' capacity to participate in FA/FLA more effectively and better manage forests post-FA/FLA	LC, SL, TH				Finalized/approved and completed FA/FLA plans and/or procedures/guidelines/issuance of LURCs for a total of 17,341 ha land in 3 provinces (LC, SL, TH).					
1.2.4.1	Prepare plans for forest/land allocations or re-allocation (incl. forest inventories and field demarcation)	LC, SL, TH				Finalize district-level FA/FLA plans; technical designs/cost estimations approved	-	LC: Not started SL: Not started TH: Ongoing	LC: Behind SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	TH: Developed TOR; Recruited consulting units for technical design - land allocation estimates associated with forest allocation for the residential community of Bang village, Trung Thuong commune, Quan Son district (345ha)	SL: Establish F/FL allocation steering committees at all levels. TH: Technical design - Estimates for land and forest allocation to the Bang village community with an area of 345 hectares will be completed and submitted to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Thanh Hoa province for appraisal before submitting to Thanh Hoa Provincial People's Committee for approval.
1.2.4.2	Implement plans for forest/land allocation, provide land-use certification (incl. resource assessment and field demarcations)	LC, SL, TH				Completed/implemented FA/FLA to communities	2	LC: Not started SL: Ongoing TH: Not started	LC: Behind SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	SL: On the process of recruiting consultant	SL: Continuing the consultation recruiting process and sign the contract.
1.2.5	Develop GESI-mainstreamed Sustainable Forest Management Plans for communities at CFM demonstration sites	LC, SL, TH, NA, QN				Five (5) finalized/approved CFM plans with 3,205 ha forests					

1.2.5.1	Develop preparatory plans for CFM development based on the CFM manual	LC, SL, TH, NA, QN			Identified core-groups and detailed plans to prepare SFMPs for five target communities	21	LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack	LC: The Sustainable Forest Management plan has been submitted to the Commune People's Committee for confirmation SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant NA: The draft SOW is developed	LC: Support the implementation of the sustainable management plan after approval SL: Continue the consultation recruiting process.
1.2.5.2	Collect primary data, conduct surveys, mapping, baseline assessment for CFM Plan formulation	SL, TH, NA			Data collection/ mapping development/baseline assessment are completed for CFM communities	2	SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started	SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant	SL: Continue the consultation recruiting process.
1.2.5.3	Conduct consultation meetings with local authorities/key farmers and relevant stakeholders on draft CFM plan	SL, TH, NA			The drafted CFM plans are consulted with over 1,000 people (40% female, 30% EM)	2	SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started	SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant	SL: Continue the consultation recruiting process.
1.2.5.4	Integrate GESI with CFM plans and regulations	SL, TH, NA			CFM plans are integrated with GESI	2	SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started	SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant	SL: Continue the consultation recruiting process.
1.2.5.5	Finalize CFM plans	SL, TH, NA			Five (5) CFM plans are finalized and approved	2	SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started	SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant	SL: Continue the consultation recruiting process.
1.2.6	Implement forest sustainable management interventions to improve community forest management	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			2,650 people benefit from the CFM models and 35 communities increased capacity to better protect an area of at least 26,668 ha (10.285 ha to be reported under ID8 in Y4)					
1.2.6.1	Establish, build capacity and provide basic equipment to CFM Management Board	LC, SL, TH, NA, QT, QN			At least 35 CFM committees are established and capacity is increased for CFM management	12	LC: Not started SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Behind SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	SL: Strengthened 5 CFM boards an patrolling teams.; Supported communities to develop 5 CFM plans and 5 CFM regulations.	SL: Strengthened 2 CFM boards an patrolling teams.; Support communities to develop 2 CFM plans and 2 CFM regulations.
1.2.6.2	Develop community forest protection and management regulations	LC, SL, TH, NA, QN			Establish at least 35 village conventions on forest protection and management	40	LC: Ongoing SL: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QN: Completed	LC: Ontrack SL: Behind TH: Ontrack	LC: The convention has been completed and submitted to the Commune People's Committee for approval SL: Delayed waiting for budget allocation. NA: The draft SOW is developed QN: Ca Dy People Committee issued the Decision on recognizing the protocol on forest protection for 03 communities (Ben Giang, Ca Lai, Pa Ong)	SL: Continuing the consultant recruiting process. QN: Continue to implement in Q2

1.2.6.3	Provide support to conduct forest patrolling, forest monitoring	LC, SL, TH, NA, QT, QN				Patrol reports/minutes/evidence according to the plans/regulations on patrolling and protecting community forests in 5 villages piloting CFM	20	LC: Not started SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	LC: Behind SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	SL: Supported 7 out of 10 CFM patrolling teams to do the CFM patrolling trips as their plans. NA: The draft SOW is developed QN: Forest patrolling groups of communities organized the patrolling trips as planned	SL: Supported 5 CFM patrolling teams to do the CFM patrolling trips as per their plans. QT: Support 05 patrol guides and record forest patrol records for the Community Forest Protection Team
1.2.6.4	Improved communities' capacities to monitor allocated forests (coaching, implement CF monitoring)	LC, SL, TH, NA, QN				16 communities are trained and implement activities on the forest patrolling and monitoring process	5	LC: Not started SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started QN: Ongoing	LC: Behind SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant QN: Support in organizing forest protection patrols and document information in logbooks	SL: Prepare for the consultant recruiting process. NA: Support forest protection patrol activities for 05 communities that have built CFM including Dinh Huong, Dinh Thang, Quang Phuc, Dong Tien, Chom Lom QN: Support in organizing forest protection patrols and document information in logbooks
1.2.6.5	Establishment of livelihoods under forest canopy livelihood (NTFPs, medicinal plants...)	LC, HB, TH, NA, QN				16 models on assisted natural regeneration in six target communities' forests, including medicinal plants/NTFPs under forest canopy linked with community based ecotourism, established physical models of community forest	2	LC: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	NA: The draft SOW is developed	
1.2.6.6	Support establishment of community nurseries for forest enrichment of community forests	SL, QN				Four community-nurseries for three communities with SFMPs established and operationalized	3	SL: Ongoing	SL: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant	SL: Prepare for the consultant recruiting process
1.2.7	Improve the effectiveness of forest management and protection under community forest protection contract with forest management boards/communities protecting forests allocated to households (CFM HG)	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				50,208 ha forests with forest protection and management plans are better protected and managed by 81 communities, and 27,000 ha of supporting for implementation of forest protection contracts to communities in QN (in cooperation with OBJ4)					

1.2.7.1	Conduct consultation with relevant partners to reach agreement of improved effectiveness of forest management and protection under community forest protection contract with forest management boards/ communities protecting forests allocated to households	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN					Establish/agree upon the coordination mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of contracted CFM for villages/communities	20	LC: Not started HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Not started QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Behind HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	HB: # Consulted with related stakeholders in Hoa Binh province about community forest data management. # Organized two commune meetings to consult with related sides about community forest management in Son Thuy and Tan Thanh communes, Mai Chau district. TH: Completed 07 village/7 commune/5 commune/4 district meetings to confirm participation and unify the coordination mechanism in implementing local activities. QT: Carried out consultations with relevant parties to unify the coordination mechanism for managing and protecting forests assigned to households in Khe Ha village, Huong Hiep commune, on November 15–16, 2023. QN: A consultation meeting with relevant stakeholders was organized at Thanh My town's People Committee to discuss and agree to implement the Project's activities at 08 communities	HB: Conduct consultation with relevant partners to reach agreement of improved effectiveness of forest management and protection under community forest protection contract with forest management boards/ communities protecting forests allocated to households TH: Implemented 08 village/8 commune/7 commune/2 district meetings to confirm participation and unify the coordination mechanism in implementing local activities. NA: Work with communities, confirming participation in the 2024 project plan in Que Phong district
1.2.7.2	Develop and implement detailed plan under community forest protection contract with forest management boards/ communities protecting forests allocated to households	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN					Forest protection plan is developed for over 81 contracted village communities/forest protection groups and is confirmed by local authorities	17	LC: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	LC: Completed the development of Forest Protection Plans for 02 communities HB: Organized village meetings to consult with related sides about community forest management at 11 villages of Mai Ha, Van Mai, Thanh Son, Son Thuy and Tan Thanh communes (Mai Chau district). TH: Supported the forest protection patrol teams of 2 communities in implementing forest protection patrol activities with 21 participants (02 women). NA: "Organized 08 Community Consultation meetings to complete and approve the Plant Protection Management Plan for 8 communities, Yen Hoa commune, Tuong Duong district with an area of 3,024 hectares - Developed a draft SOW to recruit consultants to deploy communities according to Plan 2024" QN: Supported 02 communities to develop forest protection and management Plans, now it is on the process of getting further inputs from community.	LC: Continue to develop forest protection plans for two communities HB: Develop and implement detailed plan under community forest protection contract with forest management boards and communities protecting forests allocated to households TH: Develop two protection patrol plans and fire prevention plans for two communities and household groups to cooperate in forest protection management NA: Continue to support communities that have developed a Forest Protection Plan to carry out Community Protection and Protection Patrols QT: Develop a forest protection and management plan for the community Household group in Khe Ha village, Huong Hiep commune, Dakrong district QN: Finalize 02 CFM plans to submit to the Thanh My People Committee to verify for implementation.

1.2.7.3	Establishing, building capacity, and developing regulation for communities/forest patrolling groups	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Over 81 CFM committees/groups/communities will be provided with equipment and have increased capacity to patrol and protect forests	11	LC: Not started HB: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	HB: Organized village meetings to carry out CBFM activities and communications/awareness on tenure rights to forest land areas at 4 villages of Thanh Son and Son Thuy communes (Mai Chau district). NA: Consolidated 8 prevention and control groups for 8 communities of Yen Hoa commune, Tuong Duong district QN: Supported two communities to develop forest patrol plans, delegate tasks for its members to involve in patrolling, taking notes and reporting	HB: Establish or build capacity and develop regulations for communities and forest patrol groups QT: Support the meeting to establish or strengthen the patrol protection group and develop operating regulations of the forest protection group for the Khe Ha household group
1.2.7.4	Provide basic patrolling equipment for the community forest patrolling groups	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Over 81 CFM committees/groups/communities will be provided with equipment and have increased capacity to patrol and protect forests	3	LC: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	LC: Behind HB: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	QN: Collaborated with Dong Giang Protection Forest Management Board, forest rangers to support the forest protection groups to implement forest patrolling plan.	HB: Provide basic patrolling equipment for the community forest patrolling groups QN: Continue to support for these communities in Q2
1.2.7.5	Prepare and support implementation of the sustainable forest management plans integrated with ecotourism for target communities	LC, TH, NA				11 ecotourism development plans for 1 community in LC, 2 communities in TH, and 8 communities in NA	3	LC: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing	LC: Behind TH: Ontrack	NA: The draft SOW is developed	
1.2.7.6	Support strengthening community-based forest management, sustainable forest management and forest certificates	QN					10			QN: The SOW is developed	
1.2.8	Build capacities for communities which successfully developed and implemented SFM plans in CFM models	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				At least 3,885 people will be trained and have increased capacity to better manage forest areas					
1.2.8.1	Conduct trainings on land-use planning; participatory forest zoning for CFM planning process	SL, TH				At least 755 people trained on FA/FLA techniques/assigning areas for CFM (40% women, 30% ethnic minority)	5	SL: Ongoing TH: Not started	SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	SL: On the process of recruiting consultant	SL: Prepare for the consultant recruiting process.
1.2.8.2	Conduct trainings on forest protection patrolling/participatory forest monitoring/forest fire fight & prevention	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				At least 1,270 people trained on participatory forest monitoring/patrolling skills (40% women, 30% ethnic minority)	3	LC: Not started SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant NA: The draft SOW is developed	SL: Prepare for the consultant recruiting process.

1.2.8.3	Conduct trainings on financial management skills in CFM models	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			At least 400 people trained in CFM/CBFM financial management skills in participating village communities (40% women, 30% ethnic minority)	2	LC: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	NA: The draft SOW is developed	
1.2.8.4	Conduct trainings on GESI in CFM planning and implementation	SL, TH			At least 250 people trained on GESI knowledge in CFM/CBFM in participating village communities (40% women, 30% ethnic minority)	5	SL: Ongoing TH: Not started	SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit a consultant	SL: Prepare for the consultant recruiting process.
1.2.8.5	Conduct trainings on sustainable and effective use of NTFPs (medicinal plants, bamboo shoots, bamboo, Loi bamboo, Lung bamboo)	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			At least 710 people trained on sustainable use of NTFPs (medicinal plants, bamboo shoots, bamboo, Loi bamboo, Lung bamboo) (40% women, 30% ethnic minority)	3	LC: Not started SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit a consultant NA: The draft SOW is developed	SL: Prepare for the consultant recruiting process.
1.2.8.6	Conduct trainings on establishing and operating ecotourism services in CFM sites	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA			At least 460 people trained on establishing and operating ecotourism services at CFM sites (40% women, 30% ethnic minority)	3	LC: Not started SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	SL: Completed SOW to recruit a consultant NA: The draft SOW is developed	SL: Prepare for the consultant recruiting process.
1.2.9	Improve awareness on CFM/CBFM, GESI, and land perception on tenure rights to forest land areas	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN			Increase awareness about forest protection and management, CFM/CBFM, forest/forest land tenure for at least 6,000 people					
1.2.9.1	Communications and awareness on CFM/CBFM, raising to improve communities' perception on tenure rights to forest land areas as secure in seven provinces	LC, SL, TH, NA, QN			Awareness-raising communication events are conducted, contributing to raising awareness for at least 1,900 people at CFM sites	-	LC: Not started SL: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack		
1.2.9.2	Conduct experiential learning tours on CFM focusing on forest patrolling/monitoring, and ecotourism linked with forest protection	SL, HB, TH, NA, QN			Nine (09) tours are conducted with 225 participants	-	SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started	SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack		

1.2.9.5	Conduct baseline and endline surveys	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN				Baseline & endline reports on the perception of people on CFM/CFM, forest/forest land tenure at CFM sites	-	LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Behind SL: Ontrack HB: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack
THP2 Increase Conservation Friendly Enterprises in Forest Dependent Communities									
2.1 Task 2.1. Identify Target Value Chains, Barriers, and Opportunities									
2.1.2	Develop a plan to develop and upgrade value chains	LC, QT				Develop I development plan for Tung trees combined with processing and consumption in 2 districts of the province.			
2.1.2.5	Development of criteria for certifying the 'deforestation-free' production (cinnamon and coffee commodities)	LC, QT				01 set of deforestation-free production criteria	-	LC: Cancelled QT: Cancelled	LC: Cancelled QT: Cancelled QT: The Project planned to support Lao Cai and Quang Tri provinces to develop production criteria in compliance with European Union deforestation regulation (EUDR). However, the EU has supported the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) developing this production criteria, so the Project will not continue its support to avoid overlap and re-allocate resources for other activities
2.2 Task 2.2: Strengthen Conservation-Friendly Value Chains in SFM Landscapes									
2.2.2	Support the development of bamboo, rattan and leaves (RBL) value chain	SL, HB, TH, NA, QN				Increased capacity of 9 entities; 457 people trained; Improve livelihoods of 3260 people; mobilized \$609,000 USD; 2500 ha with better management			

<p>2.2.2.2 Strengthen capacity for bamboo production and processing cooperatives/enterprises; provide tools and equipment for cooperatives/enterprises</p>	<p>SL, HB, TH, NA, QN</p>				<p>Increased capacity of 9 entities; 2500 ha with better management</p> <p>36</p>	<p>SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QN: Ongoing</p>	<p>SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack</p>	<p>SL: 03 groups have been being improved their capacities. Proposed equipment to support to RBL groups was approved since FY23, waiting budget for implementing. HB: The Project identified a list of equipment needed to support CFEs. These are the minimum equipment required to produce products for purchasing orders signed between CFEs and exporting enterprises. TH: # Improved production process management capacity and vocational skills for 11 members of Tam Lu Bamboo and Rattan Cooperative Group # Supported 2 members of Yen Thang bamboo and rattan cooperative group to participate in the training course on completion of knitting skills NA: # Organized 1 training course on improving capacity to develop rattan and bamboo leaf furniture products for 10 people in Tam Quang commune, Tuong Duong district (4 men, 6 women) # Organized 1 training course to guide THT to standardize regulations. Production program in Chau Khe commune for 12 members of Chau Khe commune's collective (12 women, 0 men) # Supported 4 members (2 men, 2 women) of Diem and Nua village to participate in the training course on completion of knitting skills QN: 01 unit and farmers improved capacity on Rattan Material Zone Investigation; The activity to investigate the Rattan Material Zone will be implemented after winter season in Quảng Nam. Identified a list of equipment needed to support CFEs for the production of order symbols.</p>	<p>SL: Continuing to implement the capacity building activities to support to RBL groups/cooperatives. HB: Strengthen capacity for bamboo production and processing cooperatives/enterprises; provide tools and equipment for cooperatives/enterprises TH: Improve capacity in vocational skills and order management for bamboo and rattan cooperative groups NA: Improve capacity in vocational skills and order management for bamboo and rattan cooperative groups</p>
<p>2.2.2.4 Provide support to cooperatives, enterprises, and groups in resource mobilization, product development, development of supply/raw material areas, promotion of market expansion, PPCP, policy dialogues</p>	<p>SL, HB, TH, NA, QN</p>				<p>457 people trained, provide livelihood support to 3269 people; mobilize \$609,000 USD</p> <p>31</p>	<p>SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QN: Ongoing</p>	<p>SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack</p>	<p>SL: Organized a 2-day tour for 02 officials of the Women's Union of Phong Lai commune, Thuan Chau district, and 02 officials of the Farmers' Association of Na Ot commune, Mai Son district, to develop the rattan product value chain, bamboo, and leaves in Hanoi City and Ninh Binh Province. + Organized cooperative groups (Green Bamboo Cooperative, bamboo chopsticks production group in Chieng Ban commune, Mai Son district and wicker group in Phong Lap commune, Thuan Chau district), to participate in the product promotion fair in the city. Hanoi from November 8 to 11, 2023. Organize a tour to learn practical experiences at export enterprises and craft villages in the city. Hanoi and Ha Nam province for cooperative groups (Green Bamboo Cooperative, bamboo chopsticks production group in Chieng Ban commune, Mai Son district and wicker group in Phong Lap commune, Thuan Chau district)</p>	<p>Provide support to cooperatives, enterprises, and groups in resource mobilization, product development, development of supply/raw material areas, promotion of market expansion, PPCP, policy dialogues</p>

					<p>HB: # Organized a training on technical weaving for 8 members of cooperative groups in Cun Pheo commune.</p> <p># Organized a training on preparation for cooperative establishment for 26 members of Mai Hich 1 cooperative group in Mai Hich commune.</p> <p># Organized a study tour for 4 people from organizations related to bamboo and rattan value chain development in Hoa Binh province (01 from Bui Traditional Craft Village Cooperative, 01 from Lac Son District Women's Union and 02 from Cun Pheo Commune Farmers' Union).</p> <p># Supported 5 people from cooperative and cooperative groups (01 from Bui Traditional Craft Village Cooperative, 01 from Duc Phong Cooperative Group, 01 from Mai Hich 2 Cooperative Group, 01 from Bao La Cooperative Group and 01 from Cun Phep 2 Cooperative Group) to join the Vietnam traditional craft village development fair.</p> <p># Organized a training on dyeing techniques for 11 member of cooperative groups from Cun Pheo, Bao La and Mai Hich communes.</p> <p>TH: # Supported 4 people from cooperative and cooperative groups (01 from Yen Thang bamboo and rattan cooperative group; 01 from Tam Lur bamboo and rattan cooperative group; 01 from Son Dien bamboo and rattan cooperative group; 01 from Son Lu bamboo and rattan cooperative group) to participate in the Fair to preserve and develop Vietnamese craft villages</p> <p># Organized a visit to the bamboo and rattan production model for 2 members of Yen Thang Commune Women's Union</p> <p>NA: # Organized a visit to the bamboo and rattan production model for 2 members of Yen Khe Commune Farmers' Association</p> <p># Supported 3 members from cooperative and cooperative groups (01 from Tam Quang bamboo and rattan cooperative group; 01 from Diem village bamboo and rattan cooperative group; 01 from Nua village bamboo and rattan cooperative group; 01 from Son Lu bamboo and rattan cooperative group) to participate in the Fair to preserve and develop Vietnamese craft villages</p> <p>QN: 02 producer groups participated at the Handicraft Fair in Ha Noi; 02 producer groups learned new designs of the product and knew to how to use the machine for rattan material processing</p>
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2.2.2.5	Organize oversea study tours for experiences regarding the development of market-oriented RBL value chains	SL, HB, TH, NA, QN				Representatives from provinces	-	SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QN: Not started	SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Cancelled NA: Cancelled QN: Ontrack	NA: to be cancelled due to fund reduction	
2.2.2.6	Technical support for OCOP center of Dong Giang district	QN				OCOP center was built	30	QN: Ongoing	QN: Ontrack	QN: Agreed members of the Cooperative Management Board; The Cooperative establishment procedure was finalized at the end of December	
2.2.3	Support the implementation and development of medicinal plants value chain (Dang ginseng, prickly pear, Anxilla tree, fenugreek, ginger, medicinal plants of the Red Dao ethnic group, turmeric, etc.)	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Increase capacity of 14 CFEs; 690 people trained; Improve livelihoods of 2,600 people; mobilize \$460,000 USD	-				
2.2.3.1	Support the development and implementation of projects on developing medicinal herbs in the area	QT				20 people trained; 50,000 USD mobilized; 400 people benefited;	75	QT: Ongoing	QT: Ontrack	QT: The consultant worked in Cat village, Huong Son commune, on October 2 and trained on restructuring medicinal enterprises on October 3–4 with 12 participants from seven farmer groups and medicinal companies and cooperatives. Four restructuring plans for medicinal enterprises have been sent to the project consultant for review and comment.	QT: Continue to support CFEs in restructuring and promoting the implementation of Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) implemented in the Medicinal Materials Project
2.2.3.2	Strengthen institutional capacity of organizations, farmer interest groups/cooperatives, and enterprises; and improve the management and operating capacity of these groups	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Increased capacity of 14 CFEs	6	LC: Not started HB: Not started TH: Ongoing NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TH: Supported 4 participants from Central Southeastern Pharmacy Joint Stock Company to participate in the training course on GACP - WHO NA: Designed a product catalog for trade promotion for Nghe An Pharmacy Company, Huong Son Cooperative. QT, QN: Designed a product catalog for trade promotion for CFEs	HB: Strengthen institutional capacity of organizations, farmer interest groups/cooperatives, and enterprises; and improve the management and operating capacity of these groups TH: Support Central Southeastern Pharmacy Joint Stock Company to participate in the 2nd national fair of medicinal herbs, traditional medicine, and medicinal products NA, QT, QN: Develop SOW and select IQC vendor to continue implementing activities (depending on budget availability).

2.2.3.3	Training for medicinal plants producers (cooperatives/enterprises) on sustainable cultivation, care, and post-harvest processing techniques, associated with principles of forest protection and development	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				670 people trained (40% women, 60% ethnic minority)	8	LC: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	QT: Completed the creation of leaflets for composting organic matter using microbial products from agricultural by-products.	HB: Training for medicinal plant producers (cooperatives/enterprises) on sustainable cultivation, care, and post-harvest processing techniques, associated with principles of forest protection and development TH: Support Central Southeastern Pharmacy Joint Stock Company to conduct training on GACP - WHO for medicinal farmers QT: Support Truong Son Cooperative and An Xuan Company to promote the recording of medicinal herb production diaries of affiliated households
2.2.3.4	Support farmers/cooperatives/enterprises in accessing high-quality medicinal seedlings and equipment to develop sustainable supply areas.	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				2,600 people supported	-	LC: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack HB: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Behind QN: Behind	Delayed due to budget allocation	HB: Support farmers, cooperatives, and enterprises in accessing high-quality medicinal seedlings and equipment to develop sustainable supply areas. NA, QT, QN: To be implemented upon budget availability.
2.2.3.5	Support medicinal plants companies/cooperatives/groups in accessing resources; developing and promoting products, policy dialogues, PPCP associated with the OCOP program	LC, HB, TH, QT, QN				US\$460,000 mobilized	12	LC: Not started HB: Ongoing TH: Not started QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	HB: Supported Bao Hieu and Huong Xuan cooperatives in designing catalogs to use for promotion purposes. QT: Supported Truong Son Cooperative to complete the development of a strategy to bring baby bath water to the market QN: Supported Minh Phuc Cooperative to participate in the local industrial products contest in 2023. Tra My Minh Phuc Cinnamon dishwashing product won first prize.	HB: Support medicinal plants companies/cooperatives/groups in accessing resources; developing and promoting products, policy dialogues, PPCP associated with the OCOP program TH: Support Central Southeastern Pharmacy Joint Stock Company in accessing resources; developing and promoting products, policy dialogues, PPCP associated with the OCOP program QT: Continue to support Truong Son Cooperative to perfect the strategy of bringing baby bath water to the market
2.2.4	Support the development of cinnamon value chain	LC, TH				Increased capacity of 4 CFEs; 240 people trained; Improved livelihoods of 960 people; 555,7ha improved					
2.2.4.1	Strengthen institutional capacity for farmer interest groups/cooperatives on cinnamon production and trade (e.g. business plan, internal regulation, by-laws etc.)	LC, TH				Increase capacity for 2 cooperatives, and 2 collective group	-	LC: Not started TH: Not started	LC: Ontrack TH: Ontrack		

2.2.4.2	Training for members in cinnamon farmer interest groups/cooperatives/enterprises on the sustainable cultivation, care and post-harvest processing techniques associated with principles of forest protection and development	LC, TH				240 people trained (30% women, 50% ethnic minority)	45	LC: Ongoing TH: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	LC: Conducted training on cinnamon processing and preservation for 2 cinnamon groups (total 74 members) in Thuong and Nam Cam villages, Nam Dang commune, Van Ban district TH: Provide technical knowledge on selection and sowing cinnamon for 41 members of two cinnamon interest groups in Xuan Le commune, Thuong Xuan district	LC: Conduct training on cinnamon processing and preservation for 3 cinnamon groups in Nam Dang commune, Van Ban district TH: Provide technical advice to members of cinnamon cooperative groups on selection and sowing cinnamon (when members sow their seedlings and need technical support)
2.2.4.3	Support cooperatives in accessing high-quality seedlings and developing sustainable cinnamon supply areas with the principle of ZERO-deforestation	TH				240 households improved plantation	-	TH: Not started	TH: Ontrack		TH: Collect information (Government programs) on cinnamon value chain development in Thuong Xuan district
2.2.4.4	Support cooperatives/enterprises in improving business capacity, connecting with markets, and promoting products	LC				Increase capacity for 2 cooperatives, and 2 collective group	0	LC: Not started	LC: Ontrack		
2.2.4.6	Provide equipment to improve production efficiency	LC				CFEs provided with equipment to improve production efficiency	0	LC: Not started	LC: Behind	LC: Delayed due to budget allocation.	LC: To be implemented upon the budget available.
2.2.5	Support the implementation and development of betel nut tree value chain	QN				Provide support to 3 cooperatives; 95 people trained, 380 people with improved livelihood					
2.2.5.2	Training on cultivation, care, and post-harvest processing techniques for producers	QN				At least 70 people trained (70% women)	-	QN: Not started	QN: Ontrack		QN: Preparing SOW to hire consultants to support operations. The activity will be implemented in Quarter 3
2.2.5.3	Training, provide vocational training on design and product design improvement (attach IQC with Viet Craft)	QN				CFM is supported to improve production capacity, at least 10 people trained	-	QN: Not started	QN: Behind	QN: Delayed due to budget allocation.	QN: To be implemented based on the available budget
2.2.5.4	Provide support with connecting to the market and product promotion (attach IQC with Viet Craft)	QN				at least 2 activities to connect with the market	50	QN: Ongoing	QN: Ontrack	QN: Participated in the trade fair in Ha Noi	
2.2.5.5	Provide equipment to improve production efficiency	QN				2 CFEs are provided with several machines and equipment according to the plan	-	QN: Not started	QN: Ontrack	QN: Identified a list of equipment needed to support CFEs for the production of order symbols	QN: To be implemented based on the available budget

2.2.5.7	Improve organizational and institutional capacity for cooperatives	QN				2 selected CFEs will have increased capacity in cooperative management, financial management and internal control	20	QN: Ongoing	QN: Ontrack	QN: Approved SOW and procurement procedure in progress	QN: This activity will be implemented and completed in Q2
2.2.6	Support the development of Tung oil tree (Vernicia montana) value chain	QT									
2.2.6.1	Provide training to farmer interest groups on sustainable cultivation, harvesting and post-harvested processing techniques towards certification schemes	QT				180 people trained (35% women, 70% ethnic minority)	-	QT: Not started	QT: Ontrack		
2.2.6.2	Provide assistance on developing Tung oil tree (Vernicia montana) nursery gardens	QT				1 nursery garden with capacity built	-	QT: Not started	QT: Ontrack		
2.2.6.3	Provide support on post-harvest processing and market connections between groups of farmer interest groups and agencies/cooperatives and businesses	QT				20000USD is mobilized, 120 people with improved livelihoods and 2200 ha of Tung with better management	-	QT: Not started	QT: Ontrack		
2.2.7	Support the development of the Arabica coffee value chain	QT									
2.2.7.1	Strengthen institutional capacity of coffee cooperatives	QT				Increased capacity of 2 cooperatives	-	QT: Not started	QT: Ontrack		
2.2.7.2	Provide technical support (including some key equipment) to Arabica coffee cooperatives in producing compost from coffee pods	QT				100 benefitted	-	QT: Not started	QT: Ontrack		
2.2.7.3	Provide technical assistance and strengthen capacity for cooperatives/communities on sustainable regeneration of Arabica coffee plantation areas with intercropping techniques (fruit trees)	QT				25 people trained, 160 with improved livelihoods, 20000USD mobilized, 1000ha of coffee with better management	50	QT: Ongoing	QT: Ontrack	QT: The PPMU and project staff worked with Chan May Khe Sanh, Son Nguyen Cooperative to check the linkage documents according to Decree 98 on October 17, 2023. Purchased and provided 150kg of THAI coffee seeds to 2 cooperatives, Khe Sanh and Son Nguyen, to grow seedlings.	QT: Promote the implementation of THAI coffee seed incubation

	and provide tools and equipment for CFEs										
2.2.7.4	Provide technical assistance to coffee cooperatives/enterprises to develop and promote coffee products linked with OCOP program	QT				2 cooperatives received technical assistance	-	QT: Not started	QT: Ontrack		
2.2.8	Support the development of fruit trees value chain (mango, longan, banana)	SL				Increase capacity for 2 CFEs; improve livelihood for 240 people					
2.2.8.1	Strengthen institutional capacity of cooperatives/enterprises in fruit production and business	SL				Increase capacity for 2 CFEs	-	SL: Not started	SL: Ontrack		
2.2.8.2	Support fruit cooperatives in product development, trade promotion, market connection, and integration with government programs (e.g. OCOP)	SL				One product gets OCOP 3 star certification	-	SL: Not started	SL: Ontrack		
2.2.8.3	Technical training on planting, taking care of, and pre-processing mangos and longans	SL				2 models on IPHM (Integrated Crop Health Management)	40	SL: Ongoing	SL: Ontrack	SL: Conducted 02 training IPHM courses on the topics of the soil health and plant protection chemical.	SL: Organize the 03 training topics on IPHM courses for two cooperatives.
2.2.8.5	Provide equipment and tools to improve production and business efficiency	SL				Several equipment have been agreed as per signed PAs, and approved	-	SL: Not started	SL: Ontrack	SL: Moved from FY23 to FY24 up on the budget reallocation from Sponsor.	SL: To be implemented upon budget availability
2.2.11	Trainings on sustainable value chain development methods in forest-dependent communities for forest rangers and CFEs with a focus on women-led CFEs (with GESI integration)	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				59 people trained (40% women, 20% ethnic minority)					

2.2.11.1	Organize trainings on sustainable value chain development and private sector engagement approaches with the integration of Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) for forest rangers	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			24 CPMU/PPMU staff have better understanding on value chain development approach and engage the private sector in value chain development	-	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TW: Conduct the training in Q3 as planned and upon budget availability	TW: Conduct the training as planned
2.2.11.2	Organize trainings on sustainable value chain development and private sector engagement approaches with GESI integration for women-led Conservation Friendly Enterprises (CFEs) with GESI integration	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			35 people trained (40% women, 20% ethnic minority)	-	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TW: Conduct the training in Q3 as planned and upon budget availability	TW: Conduct the training as planned
2.2.14	Coordinate with VBSP and Women's Union to support the implementation of the "Women's Economic & Environmental Empowerment Initiatives" in implementing value chains	HB, TH, NA, QT			240 women-led/managed groups/CFEs or individual women improved capacity in business planning; 320 people improved livelihoods					
2.2.14.1	Support enterprises/cooperatives participating in value chains (focusing on women-led enterprises/cooperatives) in accessing preferential capital from VBSP to promote Women's Economic & Environmental Empowerment Initiatives	HB, TH, NA, QT			240 women-led/managed groups/CFEs or individual women improved capacity in business planning; 320 people improved livelihoods	13	HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Ongoing	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	QT: Supported to review and revised proposal of CFEs to submit for the exam as well as cost for the Organizing Committee of the Provincial Women's Union's initiatives. As a result, with the support of the Project, there were 4 winning plans/Proposals including 1 special prize, 1 first prize, 1 second prize and 1 third prize. The SFM supported the two CFEs revised the proposals to submit on Competition organized by Technology and Science Department of QT province	QT: Support Ta Lu Khe Sanh Coffee Co., Ltd. to build an association contract
2.2.14.2	Select potential business models to support their development	HB, TH, NA, QT			8 models selected	-	HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack		
THP3 Increase Functionality of Law Enforcement Systems for Forest Crimes										
3.1 Support Law Enforcement to Maintain Forest Integrity Through Analysis and Action Planning										
3.1.1	Develop and implement forestry law enforcement	LC, SL, HB, TH,			Implement 7 Law enforcement action plans					

	action plan in 7 provinces under the Project	NA, QT, QN									
3.1.1.2	Update and implement the forestry LE Action plan in 7 provinces	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				7 Law enforcement action plans implemented;	26	LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	LC, SL, HB, NA, QT, QN: Continued to support the planned activities under the provincial Forest Law Enforcement Action Plan TH: Organized consultation and got comments on the Draft Plan to upgrade Xuan Lien Natural Reserve into Xuan Lien National Park from provincial, district, and central government agencies Organized a training class to improve capacity on forest fire protection and prevention for forest rangers in the province. - Organized a conference to summarize forestry work in 2023 and share experiences in implementing the Forestry Law in Thanh Hoa province.	Continue to support the planned activities under the provincial Forest Law Enforcement Action Plan
3.1.2	Provide appropriate equipment and tools to Law enforcement agencies to strengthen forestry law enforcement	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				The system developed, finalized, operated and deployed at nationwide (60 forested provinces; 295 people trained/60 provinces.					
3.1.2.2	Support deployment of the Forest Violations Database Management System (FVDMS) at the nationwide, and support the development of MARD's Decision on applying the FVDMS nationwide	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				The system developed, finalized, operated and deployed at nationwide (60 forested provinces; 295 people trained/60 provinces.	15	TW: Ongoing LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TW: - Provided technical support on FVDMS deployment in seven provinces - Developed a SoW on upgrade of FVDMS - Developed a road map to deploy the system at nationwide 7 Provinces: FPDs staffs are continuing to update and monitor forest violation cases through the FVDMS	Continue providing support on FVDMS deployment in 7 provinces
3.1.2.3	Provide equipment for strengthening forestry law enforcement	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				LE equipment provided for provinces under the Project	10	LC: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Behind HB: Ontrack TH: Behind NA: Behind QT: Behind QN: Behind	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN: identified needs on LE equipment of FPDs in 7 provinces	
3.1.3	Conduct capacity building for Forest Rangers and other LE officers in prevention, detection, investigation and handling of forest violation and crimes.	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				460 people trained					

3.1.3.2	Conduct capacity building activity (Develop training agendas, curriculum and materials; Conduct trainings) for forest rangers and other LE officers	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				460 people trained	15	LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	- Identified needs and topics on capacity building in law enforcement for FPDs - Completed SOWs for recruiting STTAs	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN: Prepare for STTA recruitment and LE training QT: Organize a training course on investigation skills supporting law enforcement
3.1.4	Conduct social behavior change communications, awareness raising and environmental education for relevant stakeholders in forest protection and development	TW, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				150 people trained					
3.1.4.4	Conduct GESI-integrated SBCC/BCC, awareness raising, environmental education events	SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				150 people trained	10	SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	SL: Behind HB: Ontrack TH: Behind NA: Behind QT: Behind QN: Behind	SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN: Developed a concept note of this activity	SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN: Prepare materials for communication and awareness-raising events
3.1.4.5	Awareness raising for management personnel at provincial level on priority topics of the Project (through the Central Propaganda and Education Commission)	TW				04 posts related to 4 prioritize topics of the Project, published on the monthly news of the Central propaganda and training commission; 10 activity report of the Central propaganda and training commission on a central and provincial level	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		
3.1.5	Cross-cutting - Communication: Dissemination of the Project's results					70 network members trained					
3.1.5.1	Develop and print SFM Communication Materials (E-Newsletters, Policy Brief, Photo Book, Yearly Forestry Report 2022)	TW				1 success story, 1 policy brief, annual report of the forestry sector in 2022, 1 photobook	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		
3.1.5.2	Develop and print SFM promotional materials (T-shirts, backpacks, 2023 new year calendars)	TW				Design and print shirts, backpacks	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		

3.1.5.3	Organize trainings for SFM Communicators Network members; Network members support to implement communication activities in provinces	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				70 network members trained	-	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack		
3.1.5.5	Organize photo trips to collect representative images of project activities in provinces for news/articles, newsletters and other publications	TW				Photos, information, and data are collected to produce communication/outreach materials	20	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Integrated into the field trips and USAID visits to collect images, information, quotes and other materials for development of stories, photo book...	TW: Continue implementing as planned
3.1.5.7	Organize 1 Press trip for Journalists to SFM Project sites	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				30 journalists participated in press trip at SFM Project sites	-	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack		
3.1.5.8	Produce a documentary film on SFM activities	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				1 documentary (10-12 min) on Project results	2	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack		
3.1.5.9	Disseminate the SFM technical knowledge materials to nationwide	TW				Information about project activities are advertised	30	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Elaborate the bullets, stories, briefs, social media posts about the Project's activities, results and share on the USAID's website and social media channels	TW: Continue implementing as planned
3.1.5.10	Design SFM E-Learning Tool link to MBFB's website	TW				A E-learning system developed. Project documents, photos, and videos are updated on E-Learning	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		
3.1.5.11	Produce a set of Vietnam Forest Photos and a Vietnam Forest Video	TW				01 Photo set (200 photos) of beautiful forest landscape of Vietnam and 01 video clip (10 min) Vietnam Forest is produced		TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		
3.1.5.13	Develop, design and print out the SFM Knowledge Materials (technical reports, guidelines, modalities.)	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				The SFM Knowledge Materials (technical reports, guidelines, modalities.) developed, designed and printed out	6	TW: Ongoing LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	TW: Worked with the teach team to select the reports, materials, and manuals to design according to USAID's communication guidelines. Work with USAID about the links website for the Project's posts QT: Compiled relevant documents and content to make knowledge products of the Project	TW: Continue implementing as planned QT: Continue to collect and revise the technical documents

3.1.6	Cross-cutting - Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)	TW, HB, TH					450 people trained, 5 GESI Action Plans are developed at 5 provinces, and implemented at 6 provinces	-				
3.1.6.3	Support provinces in developing and implementing GESI action plan in FM at the provincial level	HB, TH					2 trainings, workshops on GESI, management skills (60 people trained)	-		HB: Not started TH: Not started	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	
3.1.6.4	Support Department of Forestry, Management Board of Forestry Projects improving capacities (GESI, GESI integration in project management, women advancement, leadership, etc.)	TW					60 staff improved GESI, management capacity to better manage projects	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack	TW: Conduct the training in Q3 as planned and upon budget availability	TW: Conduct the training as planned
3.1.7	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)	TW										
3.1.7.1	Upgrade the data management and reporting information system including monitoring of project intervention areas	TW					MEL data management system is updated including the project intervention areas	25	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Updated the MEL Information System based on achievement to-date and plans/ targets for the coming fiscal years. Coordinated the reporting process using the monthly activity progress reporting system by province. The process has been smooth and was able to provide timely information for the Project monthly meeting.	TW: Coordinate the reporting process using the activity progress reporting system by province. Continue updating the SFM MEL information system based on the actual achievement and additional request on data (if any).
3.1.7.3	Conduct surveys, and collect data and supporting documents for MEL indicators	TW					Baseline data and evidence documents for project indicators are collected	20	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Worked with technical staff to conduct baseline performance scoring and develop organizational capacity development plans for organizations/ institutions planned to support during this year.	TW: Continue completing baseline scoring and agreeing on the organizational capacity development plans with supported organizations/ institutions.
3.1.7.5	Conduct internal data quality assessment and activity progress monitoring	TW					Feedback results are sent to technical staff to improve data quality	25	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Conducted monthly data review and verification, and provided timely feedbacks to technical staff for data quality improvement. In the Data Quality Assessment (DQA) conducted by USAID in October 2023, the Project received a lot of positive comments from DQA team on the MEL system and data quality, and all the DQA indicators are marked in the highest category "Recommended (no action required)" to report externally.	TW: Continue reviewing and verifying monthly data. Organize quarterly meeting with Project staff to review achievement progress in quarter 1, and update upcoming activity plan based on actual implementation.
3.1.7.6	Update MEL plan, methodology and data collection tools	TW					MEL plan is updated and approved	75	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Updated the data collection process, indicator definitions and targets to align with the achieved progress and actual implementation. Updated version of the MEL plan has been completed and submitted to USAID for review and approval. Developed a tracker for the implementation of organizational capacity development plan to collect data for ID2, 9 and 10 on a quarterly basis.	TW: Follow up to get USAID's approval for the updated MEL plan. Update the MEL guideline based on adjustments in the MEL plan and share with Project staff.

3.1.7.7	Provide MEL and EMMP training for project staff and partners	TW				Project staff and stakeholders are trained	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack	TW: According to the workplan, the training is expected to conduct in Q3 FY24. On the other hand, during the whole Project implementation process, the MEL team regularly provide guidance to technical staff and partners on the reporting system, MEL forms, MEL procedures... (when necessary).	TW: Continue providing guidance for Project staff and partners as necessary.
3.1.7.8	Update Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)	TW				EMMP is updated	-	TW: Not started	TW: Behind		TW: MEL team will update the EMMP to align with the FY24 annual report in the
3.1.7.9	Conduct assessments on the impact of the Project activities contributing to the forest monitoring and CO2 emissions reduction	TW				Report on the Project impact	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		TW: The research outline and research plan will be developed
3.1.8	Activities that support project management										
3.1.8.1	Provide office equipment for PMUs	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Office equipment is purchased (if any) and handed over for effective use.	-	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Behind LC: Behind SL: Behind HB: Behind TH: Behind NA: Behind QT: Behind QN: Behind	Due to the limited funding source, the purchase is delayed until further notice	Develop SOW, and market survey. Starting the purchase once the fund resumed.
3.1.8.2	Provide support for office equipment maintenance costs	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Office equipment is maintained and serviced for use	20	TW: Ongoing LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	Support maintenance for equipment under the project inventory list such as Photocopier....	Continue supports upon request
3.1.8.3	Update Project Implementation Manual (PIM) Update Project Document	TW				The PIM Project Manual is updated and applied. Project documents are updated, adjusted and approved by agreement of the parties.	90	TW: Ongoing	TW: Behind	TW: The PIM has been revised and submitted to MARD. Waiting for approval	TW: Waiting for PIM approval. Starting revision of Project Document
3.1.8.4	Provide partial support for PMUs' office costs for effective project management	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Some office operating costs are covered to ensure the effective running.	5	TW: Ongoing LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	Support for stationeries for management tasks of CPMU	Continue supports upon request

3.1.8.5	Meetings and workshops related to project management (meetings to deploy activities, planning meetings, technical meetings, capacity building, etc.)	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Events are agreed and organized as planned	30	TW: Ongoing LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	A Launching FY24 workplan took place in DakLak on mid-December 23 with the full participation of MARD, MBFP, CPMU, PPMUs.	There might be a workshop to finalize the revised Project Document. A training on the ODA Aid confirmation procedures for PPMU accountants in January 24. Depending on the availability of funding source.
3.2 Support Improved Enforcement Practices in SFM Landscapes											
3.2.1	Conduct assessment of Customary laws and Support the development of national and local policies and practice	TW, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN				11 policies developed; including: 05 national policies and 6 provincial policies					
3.2.1.3	Identify and support development of other needed policies and practices	TW, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN				07 policies to be submitted; of which there are 2 national policies and 5 provincial policies	7	TW: Not started SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TW: The activity starts in Q2 of FY24. However, specific support depends on budget availability. SL: Completed SOW to recruit consultant HB: The activity is planned to start in Q2 FY24. However, it can be further postponed to Q3 due to budget unavailability. TH: The activity need to be postponed to Q3 FY24 due to budget unavailability NA: SOWs for two policies have been developed. Consultant for developing guidelines on plantation and caring of native species in NA province have been identified QN: SOWs to recruit consultant is drafted	TW: Discuss with DOF and FPD to identify policies to support and supporting plan. SL: Start the implementation of the activity if budget is available. If not, then the implementation can be postponed to Q3 FY24 NA: Organize 01 consultative workshop and 01 field survey on developing guidelines on plantation and caring of native species in NA province
3.2.1.5	Support the assessment of the Forestry Law (period 2019-2022); review selected bylaw documents and monitor the implementation of these legal documents	TW				Report: assessment of Forestry Law; recommendations for revision, supplement of the Law and related bylaws	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack	TW: The activity will take place from Q3 of FY24. The Project's support depends greatly on budget availability.	TW: Start discussing with DOF and some forestry-support projects/organizations, who are willing to support the review of the Forestry Law of Decree 01/2019/ND-CP, to develop a plan for implementing this activity. Actual support would take place in Q3 FY24 when budget is available.
3.2.1.6	Support the review of legal documents that regulate the tasks and authorities of forest protection forces	TW				Report on policy review; Draft revised Decree 01/2019/ND-CP	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack	TW: Central FPD acts as the focal point of the revision of Decree 01/2019/ND-CP on forest protection forces. FPD will start the revision of this Decree after February 2024, e.g. in Q2 of FY24	TW: Start discussing with FPD and some forestry-support projects/organizations, who are willing to support the revision of Decree 01/2019/ND-CP, to develop a plan for revision of Decree 01/2019/ND-CP. Implementation of this Plan would take place from March or April 2024

3.2.1.7	Organize technical meeting for policy discussion to support the policy development/revision of VNFOREST	TW				01 round-table discussion or a briefing session with Members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Commission for Science, Technology, Environment; Support the Central Commission for Propaganda and Education (Party) to disseminate the information on C-PFES in selected provinces; 02 - 04 Technical workshops on forestry policies; and Reading materials for these events (Policy briefs, technical reports)	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack	TW: The activity will take place in Q3 and Q4 of FY24. The organization of the policy discussion and briefing sessions depends greatly on budget availability. Meanwhile, the Project is consolidating and refining technical and thematic reports as preparation for the development of discussion documents used in these events	TW: No activity in Q2 FY24
3.2.1.8	Support the review and revision of Circular 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT	TW				1 Circular is amended and issued	100	TW: Completed	TW: Ontrack	TW: Circular 13/2023/TT-BNNPTNT, which amends some Articles of Circular 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT on sustainable forest management were approved and promulgated by the Minister of MARD on November 30, 2022	TW: No follow-up activity in Q2 FY24
3.2.1.9	Support the development of the revised Circular 32/2018/TT-BNNPTNT on forest valuation	TW				01 Circular is revised and issued	100	TW: Completed	TW: Ontrack	TW: Circular 20/2023/TT-BNNPTNT, which replaces Circular 32/2018/TT-BNNPTNT, on methods of forest valuation and cost norm of forest valuation were approved and promulgated by the Minister of MARD on December 15, 2023	TW: No follow-up activity in Q2 FY24
3.2.2	Improve inter-agency coordination among forestry LEAs	HB, TH, QT				3 protocols updated, developed, amended, issued	-				
3.2.2.1	Support development and improvement of inter-agency coordination protocols in forestry law enforcement	HB, TH, QT				3 protocols updated, developed, amended, issued	-	HB: Not started TH: Not started QT: Not started	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack		
3.3	Build Capacity of the Environmental Judicial System to Prosecute Environmental crimes										
3.3.1	Support capacity building for law enforcement agencies in prosecution of forest crimes	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				105 people participated the sharing workshop					

3.3.1.2	Support experience sharing workshops between law enforcement agencies (FPDs, Police, Court, Procuracy) in prosecution of forest crimes cases	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				105 people participated the sharing workshop	-	LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack		
THP4 Improve Production Forest Management Practices Activities											
4.1 Promote sustainable timber production by small-scale forest owners											
4.1.4	Implement capacity building for nursery gardens	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				134 people trained; 9 organization improved capacity; 450 thousand USD mobilized; 2360 people benefit; 25800 ha improved management					
4.1.4.1	Conduct training on nursery management for managers and key staffs on high-quality seedlings, cutting, and tissue culture production	TH, NA, QT, QN				128 people trained (40 females)	8	TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	QN: Selected four potential nurseries for cooperation in FY24	TH: Support Biomass Fuel Nghi Son Company on an internal evaluation audit of FSC certification for about 4,300 hectares of plantations in Nhu Thanh and Nhu Xuan districts. QT: Organize a training course for garden owners and technical staff of seven nurseries that have been supported with original seedlings
4.1.4.2	Provide supplies and materials to selected nurseries for improving quality and productivity of the nurseries	LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				2120 people benefitted; 17300 ha forests are of improved management practices; 4 institutions are assisted;	15	LC: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Completed QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Behind HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Behind QN: Ontrack	LC: Visit and check the growth of seedlings at nurseries receiving cinnamon seed support in fiscal year 2023 HB: Monitored acacia seedlings produced by supported nurseries TH: Evaluated the quality and germination rate of 60kg of Acacia Mangium seeds provided to 5 selected nurseries in Thanh Hoa. NA: Examine Acacia hybrid hedge orchards for seven nurseries supported original germplasm. QT: Continued to inspect the planting and care of 85,000 original seedlings and 100,000 FY23 year-level seedlings at nurseries. A survey of 10 new nurseries to prepare for FY24 plan QN: 10,000 original seedlings are going to be handed over to one nursery in December 2023; the remaining 20,000 seedlings for two nurseries are under procurement and expected to be handed over in Q2. Four new nurseries proposed the equipment and seedlings, including three electric generators, 80,000 original seedlings, and 01 seedling box-making machine.	LC: Continue to visit and check nurseries HB: Monitor acacia seedlings produced and seedlings supported for planting by supported nurseries TH: Provide 20,000 original Acacia hybrid seedlings to two selected nurseries. NA: Supporting nurseries to complete dossiers for hedge orchards certification of Acacia hybrid; - Supply 40.000 original germplasm of the acacia hybrid. QT: Support 07 nurseries that have been supported with original seedlings to complete procedures for recognition of seed sources for first-line seed gardens QN: 20,000 seedlings will be handed over to two nurseries in Q2

4.1.4.3	Provide technical training on high quality planting materials	NA, QN				24 people trained (30% women)	5	NA: Ongoing QN: Not started	NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack		NA: Training to enhance nurseries' capacity for Acacia hybrid production (1 course).
4.1.4.5	Support and develop technical guide for the selection of Cinnamon mother trees area for seed production based on available good quality Cinnamon forest	LC				240 people benefited from 25 ha of Cinnamon seed stand (soil, seeds); 8,500 ha of cinnamon forest was established using seeds from the transformed seed forest	10	LC: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack	LC: Visit and check the cinnamon seed gardens	LC: Provide guidance for thinning the cinnamon seed gardens
4.1.5	Improve practices on sustainable forest management (SFM)	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				4180 people trained; 14 organization improved capacity; 4 million USD mobilized; 16220 people benefit; 63687 ha improved management; 2 enterprise support					
4.1.5.1	Establish/reinforce plantation household groups	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				2650 people were trained; 3000 beneficiaries; 1500 ha of better managed forest	9	LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack SL: Behind HB: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Behind	LC: Discuss and agree with potential stakeholders, partners, and CFEs for the formation of cinnamon organic groups SL: Waiting for DPC to approve the plan. QT: - Activities carried out by the Forest Certification Association (CCR): consolidated and established 11 groups of CCR households (85 households with 536.08 hectares) that have been officially evaluated and are waiting for an official report from the evaluation unit. - Support QT Paper Materials Company to prepare for the assessment and issuance of FSC certification for five groups of households (445 households with an area of 3970.91 hectares). Participate in evaluating forest certification of Quang Tri Paper Materials Company from November 6–8, 2023 QN: Completed SOW but due to budget allocation, consultants have not been recruited.	LC: Established five organic cinnamon groups, trained five groups on silviculture SL: Following up on the approval process of DPC. QT: Coordinate with Quang Tri CCR Association and relevant parties to organize seminars and guide households to replant forests and treat post-exploitation vegetation by non-burning methods.
4.1.5.2	Trainings on groups management for groups' leaders (and integrate with GESI training)	HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				150 people trained (50 females)	10	HB: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	HB: Organized a training course on monitoring and evaluation, silviculture & sustainable forest management certification for leaders and deputy leaders of household groups in Tan Lac with 131 participants.	
4.1.5.4	Organize trainings on sustainable plantation management/certification for plantation owners (and integrate with GESI training)	SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				2230 people trained (750 females)	10	SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	SL: Behind HB: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Behind	SL: Waiting for DPC to approve the plan. QT: Organized a training course on low-impact exploitation and labor safety for groups of forest certification households in Hai Lang (Paper Material Company) from October 23-26, 2023 (4 classes) with 104 participants	SL: Following up on the approval process of DPC.

4.1.5.13 Develop/update SFM plan	SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				6900 beneficiaries; 45045 ha of better managed forest; 2 businesses supported	24	SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	SL: Behind HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Behind	SL: Waiting for DPC to approve the plan. HB: Supported Hoa Binh Forestry Company in applying GIS for forest management. 15 people were trained to manage 7,687 ha forest and forest land belongs to the Company TH: - Support the installation and deployment of the forest monitoring and management system using QGIS-Qfield software for the Thuong Xuan PFMB; - Support Lang Chanh and Nhu Thanh PFMBs to develop the complete forest status management map using QGIS software. NA: - Support Tan Ky PFBM in implementing GIS into forest patrol, updating and monitoring; - Support BMFV on the internal evaluation/FSC standard checking. QN: Completed SOW but due to budget allocation, consultants have not been recruited.	SL: Following up on the approval process of DPC. HB: Develop/update SFM plans TH: - Continue to directly support Forest Protection stations under Thuong Xuan Protection Management Board to use the Qfield application on the cellphone to monitor and update changes in the forest patrolling process; - Support Thach Thanh Protection Management Board to install and deploy the forest management and monitoring system using QGIS-Qfield. - Support Lang Chanh and Nhu Thanh PFMBs to build tools for extracting reports from forest status data using QGIS software. - Support Biomass Fuel Nghi Son company to standardize and fix NCs of the FSC map after the FSC internal/official audit. NA: - Train to enhance staff's capacity of Thanh Chuong and Tan Ky PFMBs in forestry law enforcement; - Support Tan Ky and Thanh Chuong PFMBs; and Forestry Con Cuong Company using QGIS to build forestry map replace MapInfo; - Support Con Cuong Forestry Company implement GIS into forest patrol, updating and monitoring; - Support convert 50 ha from small timber to larger timber plantations; tending/pruning for contracted households of Cong Cuong Forestry Company; - Support BMFV to estimate CO2 absorption of acacia plantations belong to their material plan areas.
4.1.5.14 Provide support forest owners in plantation tending	TH, QT				170 ha of planted forests are taken care of; 220 beneficiaries	-	TH: Ongoing QT: Not started	TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	TH: - Evaluate and select 50 hectares of qualified plantation to support forest tending by pruning branches and trunks in Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa province	TH: - Support/Guide the registered households who participated in the forest tending activity by pruning branches and trunks in the proper techniques; - Conduct evaluation and liquidation of support costs for plantation areas implemented as agreement. QT: Survey and support households to take care of forests

4.1.5.15	Develop management software/application for production and use of planting material/plantation with improved management practice	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				120 people were trained, the management system for the production and use of forest seeds/planting material/plantations was developed and implemented nationwide	15	TW: Ongoing LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	The Project has selected the vendor and is now waiting for funding to proceed with the implementation.	Implement based on funding availability
4.1.5.16	Training on development/ updating forest maps	TH				50 forest rangers trained	-	TH: Not started	TH: Ontrack		
4.1.5.17	Study diseases on Acacia in the project provinces	TW				Report on assessment of pests and diseases on acacia was developed	5	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: The drafted SOW is completed	TW: Finalize the SOW and implement based on funding availability
4.1.5.18	Proposing solutions to promote sustainable forest management, forest certification to increase forest carbon stocks for forest areas managed by groups of households/Cooperative groups	TW				Report proposing solutions to promote sustainable forest management, forest certification to increase forest carbon stocks for forest areas managed by groups of households/Cooperative groups	5	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: The technical proposal is developed	TW: Finalize the technical proposal and implement the activity
4.2	Support and promote increased demand from processing factories for certified timber										
4.2.2	Develop promotion and information material about certification and CoC certification	TW				Textbook on SFM/CoC developed, print 300 books					
4.2.2.2	Developing teaching curriculum/textbook on sustainable forest management and CoC for forestry training universities in the country	TW				Textbook on SFM/CoC developed, print 300 books	60	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Draft report on SFM case study is under technical review	TW: The draft report will be completed
4.3	Build market linkages between forest owners and wood processing enterprises										
4.3.2	Build market linkages between forest owners and wood processing enterprises	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				60 participants in the market connection forum; 205 attendees at the SFM Conference					
4.3.2.1	Organize the 1st "SFM and FSC Dialogue/Forum" between representatives of plantation owners, Wood processing companies, FDI wood companies,	TW				Two workshops held; Wood processing businesses and forest owners are connected. (100 participants)	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		

VIFOREST, VNFOREST and local authorities										
4.3.2.2 Advise the PPC to organize an investment promotion conference in the field of forestry (forest planting and processing for export) to invite businesses and connect domestic and foreign investments.	SL, QT				Contract/cooperation agreement/memorandum of understanding signed between forest owners and bamboo/wood processing enterprises	-	SL: Not started QT: Not started	SL: Ontrack QT: Ontrack		
4.3.2.3 Organize the first conference on deployment/implementation of SFM and forest certification between forest owners, wood processors and local authorities	QN				Workshop on SFM/CCR is held/certification understanding of SFM/CCR is enhanced (45 participants)	-				
4.3.2.5 Organize provincial workshop to share experiences in implementing and maintaining forest certification	NA				Forest owners and farmer groups understand how to obtain and maintain FSC; 50 participants	-	NA: Not started	NA: Ontrack		
4.3.2.6 Organize international study tour to exchange experience in Acacia plantation management and production of high quality planting material	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				22 participants	1	TW: Ongoing LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	TW: Developed draft SOW	
4.3.2.7 Develop/compile a standard on wood processing based on low carbon emission for members of wood associations	TW				The standard is developed	5	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Developed draft SOW	
4.3.2.8 Baseline survey the current emission and pilot wood processing based line carbon emission	TW				Evaluation and pilot report developed	5	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Developed draft SOW	
4.3.2.9 Deploy market linkage modality on large timber associated with carbon credit trade	TW				Model implemented/results reported	5	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Developed draft SOW	
4.3.2.10 Deploy market linkage activities for wood and wood products in the context of Regulations on the export of deforestation free wood products	TW				Reports/guidelines/documents	5	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Developed draft SOW	TW: Finalize the SOW and implement based on funding availability

4.3.2.1.1	Develop/update/compile knowledge products	TW			Documentation/tutorials/ procedures developed /updated/edited;	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		
THP5 Mobilize Domestic Resources for Forest Management and Protection SFM Pre Implementation Activities										
5.1 Pilot and Roll out C-PFES at Provincial and National Levels										
5.1.2	Evaluate potentiality for carbon payments	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			7 reports showing potential carbon capacity of each provinces for trading in future. 1 report at central level showing potential carbon of mangrove for trading					
5.1.2.1	Carry out CPFES feasibility study (potential buyers, potential payers, willingness to pay)	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			7 reports showing potential carbon capacity of each provinces for trading in future. 1 report at central level showing potential carbon of mangrove for trading		LC: Not started SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	SL: Draft SOW for assessment	SL: Recruit consultants to implement activity.
5.1.4	Set up and functioning of a C-PFES informal network of relevant stakeholders including governmental bodies, scientists, emitters, international organizations. The network will be maintained during the development and implementation of carbon payment mechanism.	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			Increased awareness for members on CPFES and domestic carbon trading mechanism.					
5.1.4.1	Set up C-PFES informal network including relevant stakeholders of CPFES and domestic carbon trading.	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			Provinces and stakeholders will share their experiences in implementing CPFES	-	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack		

5.1.5	Develop guidelines, plans and related policy supporting for CPFES development	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Specific instructions for CPFES implementation are developed				
5.1.5.2	Develop guidelines, mechanism for forest producers to sell carbon credits (integrate GESI)	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				1 central level guidance on the process of registering and selling domestic carbon credits to forest owners -	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack		
5.1.5.3	Develop guidelines on measuring, reporting, verification of CO2 carbon credits (integrate GESI)	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				1 national level guidance on domestic MRV and MRV systems for international carbon transfers -	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack		
5.1.5.4	Develop online database for GHG inventory, MRV of LULUCF	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				1 online registration system for emission reduction result of forestry sector, and forest carbon credit registry system 3	TW: Ongoing LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	The drafted SOW has been developed	Implement based on funding availability
5.1.5.5	Develop circulars guiding CPFES implementation	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				One circular is issued -	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack		
5.1.5.6	Develop carbon credit standards	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Develop 1 standard system for validating, verifying, and assessing carbon credits for domestic carbon transfers. carbon trading strategic plans for two provinces are developed. -	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack		

5.1.6	Pilot CPFES after the approval by GVN	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Conference on the implementation of Decree 156 at the national and provincial level					
5.1.6.1	Launching workshop and develop implementation plan	TW, LC, SL, TH				Conference announcing decree 156, and introducing implementation plans of some provinces.	-	TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started TH: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack		
5.1.6.2	Piloting carbon verification and trading in province	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Forest owners and forest areas are selected to pilot the establishment of projects on credit trading transactions and credit appraisal	-	LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack		
5.1.6.3	Capacity building (training) for stakeholders to carry out GHG inventory and measure, report and appraise GHG mitigation in the forest and forestry land sector (LULUCF)	TW				All provinces will have trainers join TOT (160 people) to guide how carry out GHGs inventory for LULUCF in their provinces	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		
5.2	Build awareness and capacity for CPFES and PFES implementation										
5.2.1	Analyze status. Challenges of PFES M&E platform/tool implementation developed by VFD and some other organizations to consider the completion the tool of VFD and support provinces to apply and demonstrate national wide	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Each province has finalized a PFES map					
5.2.1.2	Develop carbon maps and standardize PFES maps	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Finalize and update payment maps of several provinces using the QGIS tool. Carbon map of the whole province	50	LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	Standardized PFES map as input for PFES M&E platform	Continue standardize the PFES maps

5.2.2	Organize training courses and implement the use of PFES M&E software	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				40 people trained on PFES M&E software, 5 people trained on QGIS add-on, increased capacity for 7 provincial funds and VNFF					
5.2.2.1	Develop/ update communication materials for capacity building and advocacy for PFES	TW, SL, HB, TH, QT				- Design PFES and CPFES communication materials, including leaflets, newsletters, videos, seminars, contests, and promotional products for potential carbon buyers. - Informational boards are installed in provinces that need them - Extracurricular materials integrating PFES for students and teachers	-	TW: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started QT: Not started	TW: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	Implement based on funding availability	
5.2.2.2	Guide provincial fund officers to pilot PFES M&E platform (integrate GESI in one indicator)	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Each province and the central fund can use PFES M&E software	68	All provinces are ongoing	All provinces are Ontrack	Completed training courses for 7 Provincial Funds and VNFF staff	Guide the data entry process into the PFES M&E platform
5.2.2.4	Upgrade the PFES M&E platform and guide to use updated version	TW				The software is upgraded to meet the needs of provincial and central fund officers.	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		
5.2.2.5	Support to finalize the indicators using in PFES M&E	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				PFES M&E manual is updated, designed and reissued	-	All provinces are not started	All provinces are Ontrack		QN: No activity
5.2.2.6	Support to develop add-in on QGIS to develop PFES map	TW, QT				All provincial funds across the country can use the tool in producing PFES map	100	TW: Completed QT: Completed	TW: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	VNFF issued letter request all provincial funds to use the tool	
5.2.4	Trainings on PFES & CPFES for relevant stakeholders via training programs agreed with provinces and develop training documents	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Provincial fund officers, forest owners, CPCs, and communities trained (793 people), increased capacity for 7 provincial funds and VNFF.					

5.2.4.1	Training on carbon trading market	TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				80 people trained, including fund officers, forest rangers, forest owners, and companies. TW will participate with 1 selected province	-	All provinces are not started	All provinces are Ontrack
5.2.4.7	Conduct advanced training on using QGIS in developing PFES map	HB, NA, QN				45 people trained	-	HB: Not started NA: Not started QN: Not started	HB: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack
5.2.4.8	Other PFES training	HB, TH				0 people trained	-	HB: Not started TH: Not started	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack
5.2.4.10	Training on producing PFES map according to new guidance in new Decree 156	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				65 people trained	-	All provinces are not started	All provinces are Ontrack
5.2.4.11	Training/workshop on updated policy related to PFES	TW				Training workshops to provide policymakers and local forest owners with updates on PFES policies.	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack
5.2.5	Evaluate potential of other payment sources such as aquaculture, industrial water, forest lease etc....	TW				Feasibility report will be completed			
5.2.5.1	Evaluate potential of other payment sources such as aquaculture, industrial water, forest lease etc....	TW				Comprehensive assessment and draft Decision of MARD on increase payment level from hydropower plants due to the electricity price increasing more than 20%. Study on potential PFES payment from ecotourism / aquaculture nationally	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack
5.2.7	Equipment's/tools for PFES M&E	SL, HB, TH, NA, QT				The fund's equipment for PFES M&E activities is handed over	-		
5.2.7.1	Equipment for PFES M&E	TW, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT				The fund's equipment for PFES M&E activities is handed over	-	TW: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started	TW: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack