



# USAID/VIETNAM SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

## FY2024 Quarter 2 Report January – March 2024



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Cover Photo: The Project organized a unique 'Symposium in the Forest' in the stunning bamboo forest of Yen Thang commune, Lang Chang district, Thanh Hoa province to convene 100+ partners, leaders, and forest owners in dialogue on innovations in sustainable forest management. The event was held in honor of International Day of Forests, March 21, 2024. (See Cover Story for more details.) *Photo credit: Cintapo Tran*

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BMFV	Biomass Fuel Vietnam Company
CBFM	Community-based Forest Management
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CFE	Conservation Friendly Enterprises
CFM	Community Forest Management
CFPPT	Community Forest Protection Patrolling Team
CKM	Communication and Knowledge Management
CMB	Community Management Board
CoC	Chain of Custody
CPC	Commune People's Committees
CPFES	Carbon Payments for Forest Environmental Services
CPMU	Central Project Management Unit
DAI	DAI Global, LLC.
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DLAI	Department of Legal Affairs and Inspection
DOF	Department of Forestry
DONRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
DPC	District People's Committees
DPI	Department of Planning and Investment
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
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
FPC	Forest Protection Contract
FPD	Forest Protection Department
FPP	Forest Protection Plan
FRMS	Forest Resource Monitoring System
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FVDM	Forest Violations Database Management System
FY	Fiscal Year
GACP-WHO	Good Agricultural and Collection Practices – World Health Organization
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GHG	Green House Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
GVN	Government of Vietnam
HCV	Biodiversity High Conservation Value
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
IQPM	Improved Quality Planting Material
IT	Information Technology
LE	Law Enforcement
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
LOP	Life of Project
LTTA	Long-Term Technical Assistance
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MARD	Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development
MBFP	Management Board for Forestry Projects

MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MOIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NR	Nature Reserve
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
NTP	National Targeted Program
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
QGIS	Quantum geographic information system
RBL	Rattan, Bamboo and Leaves
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
RIL	Reduced Impact Logging
SbWI	Satellite-based Weather Insurance
SEDEMA	Socio-Economic Development of Ethnic Minorities and Mountainous Areas
SFCG	Association of Smallholder Forest Certification Group
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIA	Social impact assessment
SoFC	State-owned Forest Company
SOW	Scope of Work
STTA	Short-term Technical Assignment
TNA	Training Need Assessment
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VBSP	Vietnam Bank for Social Policy
VIETCRAFT	Vietnam Handicraft Exporters Association
VIFORA	Vietnam Forest Owners Association
VNFF	Vietnam Forest Management and Protection Fund
VNFOREST	Vietnam Administration of Forestry
VNUF	Vietnam National University of Forestry
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## COVER STORY

**A month of action and awareness for International Day of Forests shines spotlight on sustainable forestry and forest innovations in Vietnam.**



In Vietnam and worldwide, widespread forest degradation from illicit timber harvesting, forest land conversion, and poor forest management practices is threatening the environment, communities, and livelihoods. Despite national increases in overall tree coverage, Vietnam’s natural forests are reducing in area and worsening in quality, which is leading to increased carbon emissions.

The USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project is helping Vietnam overcome this challenge by linking communities, local authorities, the national government, and the private sector to jointly address the drivers of forest conversion and degradation. Through new investments in forestry, improved community-led forest protection and management, and sustainable forest value chain development, the Project helped place 141,401 hectares of Vietnam’s forests under improved management, sequester and reduce 5.41 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, mobilize \$33.36 million in private and public sector funds towards conservation friendly enterprises, and will benefit 61,358 people in Vietnam.

### **Putting the spotlight on Vietnam’s forests**

In honor of [International Day of Forests](#) (March 21)—a global day designated by the United Nations in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness on the importance of all types of forests, the Project implemented a month-long outreach and action campaign to raise awareness about the importance of protecting Vietnam’s forests to address climate change. This year’s international day theme was, *‘Forests and Innovation: New solutions for a better world.’*



The Project’s campaign highlighted innovations and best practices that are improving the management of Vietnam’s forests, including monitoring and evaluation support for Vietnam’s Payment for Forest Environment Services (PFES) mechanism and the launch of innovative typhoon insurance to protect acacia plantation. The campaign also showcased champions and partnerships to promote sustainable forest management across the country, including efforts to develop the acacia wood value chain to meet global demand for quality, traceable wood products. It culminated with a ‘Symposium in the Forest’ held in the bamboo forest setting of Thanh Hoa—the largest Luong bamboo area in the country— convening 100+ forest-dependent community leaders alongside high-level attendees from USAID Vietnam (including the USAID Vietnam Mission Director) and from the government, to engage on the role of forests to address the impacts of climate change in Vietnam.



Scenes from the unique Symposium in the Forest in the bamboo forest of Yen Thang Commune, Thanh Hoa province. (Top left): The USAID Vietnam Mission Director, Ms. Aler Grubb, enters the Forest in the Symposium grounds in Thanh Hoa, along with the USAID delegation. (Top right): Diverse perspectives from a panel discussion at the Symposium dialogue. (Bottom photos): local forest-dependent community members, including ethnic minorities, join the Symposium event held in their community. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran

### **Kickstarting a month of awareness raising about sustainable forest management**

The campaign kicked off on March 1<sup>st</sup> with a virtual #Race4Forests inviting runners from anywhere in the world to contribute to a team goal of running “1,400 kilometers in honor of Vietnam’s 14 million hectares of forest.” Runners joined the group through the UpRace application and then logged their runs towards the team goal, all while posting messages and photos showcasing their love for forests. Within the month, 241 global runners far surpassed the 1,400 km goal by running more than 18,000 kms in total.





### Spotlight on innovations, value chains, and community efforts throughout the campaign

Throughout the month, the Project highlighted several forestry innovations it supports, including a milestone for a first-of-its-kind of index insurance in Vietnam that will protect acacia plantation farmers from losses due to natural disasters, like typhoons.

On March 8, following support from the Project and Hillridge Company (an insurance technology provider), Hiep Thuan Agricultural Cooperative became the first customer of an innovative typhoon index insurance product, covering 150+ hectares of Vietnamese acacia forest, which will encourage farmers to continue planting acacia.

Mr. Nguyen Huu Duong, Director of Hiep Thuan Agricultural Cooperative, shared, "Annually, our cooperative members suffer huge losses due to typhoons, making some question the viability of planting acacia. With this insurance, we believe we can bring peace of mind to forest owners, increasing market access for our certified timber."



Bao Minh and Hiep Thuan Cooperative signed a partnership agreement witnessed by the USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project (which facilitated the linkage) and Hillridge Company. Photo credit: Hong Duc

On March 11, the Project highlighted its support to strengthening Vietnam's acacia value chain, as hundreds of wood furniture producers and manufacturers gathered at the Quy Nhon Outdoor Lifestyle Fair (Q-FAIR). The Project hosted a dialogue, in partnership with the Association of Vietnam Timber and Forest Product (VIFOREST) that showcased lessons learned from its acacia value chain development across the country. The Project is supporting farmers to adopt sustainable acacia production practices

and helping enterprises, like Thien Hoang Group—a wood pellet processing company— to achieve global certification standards and improve business linkages to meet global demand for quality, traceable wood products.

According to Ms. Ha Nguyen, Assistant to the CEO of Thien Hoang Group, “We are not a forest destroyer. We are a forest producer, in favor of conserving the environment. And that is also what our customers care about.”



Large dimension timber in the processing stage (left); wood product display by Project-supported enterprises at the QFair event (right). Photo credit: Kimberly Keeton.

The dialogue highlighted Vietnam’s success in creating incentives for farmers to expand their plantation forests and to adopt sustainable production practices, like shifting to longer rotations and improving the quality and traceability of trees.

During the dialogue, Mr. Pham Quoc Noi, a Project-supported forest owner who cultivates high-quality acacia, shared his experience adopting these improved methods. “I saw the benefits when I switched, and I want to encourage my neighbors to use good quality seedlings and good plantation management practices. I can see the acacia trunk [of the improved variety] is heavy and dense compared to the small thin trunks before that could not withstand a storm. While the cost of one improved seedling is higher, it is more productive. It lasts longer and the quality is much better.”



In the days leading up to International Day of Forests (March 21), the Project hosted a high-level USAID delegation, including the USAID Vietnam Mission Director, Ms. Aler Grubbs, to visit community forest of Pa Ban village, Thanh Son commune. Ba Thuoc district, Thanh Hoa province with the community forest protection patrol team that set up with support from the Project.





Forest trek in Thanh Hoa province with high-level USAID delegation (including Mission Director and COR, pictured at left) and local forest-dependent community members/ patrollers during the month-long International Day of Forest action campaign. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran

### One-of-a-kind convening in the bamboo forest of Thanh Hoa



Highlights from the Symposium in the Forest on March 21, which convened 100+ participants in the bamboo forest setting of Yen Thang Commune, Thanh Hoa province, to raise awareness about the importance of forests to address climate change. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran

Finally, the month-long campaign culminated on March 21—International Day of Forests—with a unique Symposium in the Forest held in the bamboo forest setting of Yen Thang commune, Lang Chanh district, Thanh Hoa province, which boasts the largest Luong bamboo area in the country. The setting was not only scenic for the 100+ government leader, donor, and forest owner attendees, but it showcased firsthand the importance of the bamboo forest to address climate change and to sustain livelihoods among local forest-dependent communities.

The participants enjoyed an ‘Art-Walk’ exhibition showcasing the vibrant local bamboo culture through photographs, bamboo products developed by Project-supported enterprises, and musical performances using traditional bamboo instruments.

Then, the USAID Vietnam Mission Director, Ms. Aler Grubbs, officially opened the event with remarks highlighting the importance of sustainably managing Vietnam’s forests, in partnership with government, investors, and forest owners. Then, the Project welcomed diverse panelists up to the locally-made bamboo stage to share their perspectives on topics related to the Forestry Day theme of *Forest and Innovations*, such as PFES success; innovations in community forest management, and opportunities in non-timber forest product value chain and ecotourism development.

The event was a success, and local leader, Ms. Lo Thi Tien, Vice Chairwoman of the Yen Thang Commune People’s Committee shared, *“Thanks to the USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project, the Symposium in the Forest will serve as a platform for Yen Thang commune to showcase its commitment to community-based bamboo forest ecotourism development while fostering meaningful connections with visitors from near and far.”* Mr. Vu Van Hung, Deputy Director General, Management Board of Forestry Projects (MBFP) cum Director, USAID Sustainable Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation Project (VFBC) shared, *“The Project highly appreciates the co-organization and co-sponsorship of the Symposium in the Forest by Yen Thang Commune People Committee; Bamboo Weaving Economic Collaborative Groups from Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Nam and Son La; and Vietnam Handicraft Exporters Association (VIETCRAFT). This encourages collaborative local and national efforts on sustainable forest management interventions in the Project”*.

### **Carrying the dialogue and action beyond the campaign**

While the International Day of Forests campaign was an opportunity to spotlight the importance of collective contributions to sustainable forest management worldwide, the Project is working towards this goal in Vietnam year-round with an aim to reduce emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, and poor timber plantation management practices.

To date, the Project has mobilized **USD 33.36 million** of investments to develop conservation-friendly enterprises of forest-dependent communities; placed more than **141,000 hectares** of forest land under improved management, contributing to **5.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>** emissions being reduced, sequestered, or avoided; developed **63 policies or plans** that strengthened the Government of Vietnam’s ability to manage and protect forests, thereby avoiding nearly 15 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; and provided **61,356 forest-dependent people** with livelihood co-benefits.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAID Vietnam Sustainable Forest Management Activity (the Project) team is pleased to present the Fiscal Year 4, Quarter 2 Progress Report, which summarizes progress from January 1 through March 31, 2024. 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).

- The Project facilitated community consultations with Commune People's Committees, forest rangers, and communities to develop forest protection patrolling schedules and establish regular communications channels. Some communes issued formal cooperation regulations or regular joint-patrols by establishing taskforces, completing five joint forest patrols (52 person-days), which helped maintain momentum on community forest protection.
- The Project conducted community consultations with 1,367 peoples (809 females and 1,342 ethnic minorities) to support 14 communities with the preparation of Forest Protection Plans (FPPs) or re-enforcement of community management institutions, covering 8,669 ha of forests through various forest ownership arrangements.

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

- In the rattan, bamboo, leaves (RBL) value chain, the Project supported eight conservation-friendly enterprises (CFEs) this quarter with branding and visibility through new websites that will be launched next quarter. The Project facilitated business linkages at large trade fairs, resulting in two new purchase orders for Luc Dong Quang Nam Company and a new contract valued at USD 22,000 for Son La Bamboo Company. During the past three months, the Project also started negotiation on principles, terms and conditions, roles, and responsibilities of CFEs with major e-commerce platforms, Amazon, and Etsy, to promote CFEs' handicraft products to global markets.
- In the medicinal plants value chain, the Project connected Central Southeast Pharmaceutical Company in Thanh Hoa with buyers for export orders. The company now has a purchase order valued at 3.9 billion VND (about USD 166,000) for the next two years, and another in negotiation for 30.5 billion VND (around USD 1.3 million) over three years.
- In the areca value chain, the Project supported brand and product profiling for three CFEs and facilitated Dat Quang Green Areca Cooperative to secure a USD 35,000 contract with Viet Anh Sedge Production Export Joint Stock Company to export two containers of areca-made handicrafts.
- After a Project survey among 104 farmers confirmed incorrect sowing techniques, the Project provided training to support cinnamon growers gain new knowledge and skills to collect and clean

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#### FY24 Q2 in Numbers:

By the end of FY24 Q2, the project reached the following achievements:

- **36,415** people trained.
  - **63** policies or plans have been developed.
  - **\$33.36 million** has been mobilized for forest management.
  - **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.
-

seeds, create pots, sow seeds, etc. After the training, most farmers prioritized actions to select seeds from high-quality mother trees for nurseries to expand their plantations. This season, six households maintained successful cinnamon nurseries with 40,000 seedlings, following the Project's technical guidance.

- In the fruit value chain, the Project and the Department of Horticulture and Plant Protection of Son La province conducted two trainings on integrated pest management and biodiversity improvement for 53 farmers (38 females and 50 ethnic people) from two cooperatives who are now applying their learnings to more than 200 ha of mango plantation trees.

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

- By the end of Q2, the Project supported Forest Protection Departments (FPDs) in seven provinces to record 2,040 administrative violations into the Project-developed Forest Violation Data Management System (FVDMS) covering 455 ha with fines issued for a total of VND 18.38 billion (USD 834,000).
- During this quarter, the Project worked with the National FPD under MARD to train 38 FPD staff (two females) from provincial FPD, district FPDs, and forest management boards in Quang Tri province on initial investigation skills to handle forest violations and crimes.
- In Son La, the Project organized, for the first time ever, a Ceremony where leaders of the Provincial and District People's Committees (PPC and DPCs) formally co-signed their commitments to strengthen state management responsibility for forest management, protection and development, forest fire prevention and fighting. Provincial leaders and 12 city and district leaders made commitments demonstrating the accountability of local governments to effectively manage up to 694,741.6 hectares of forestry land.
- The Project supported the development of a Technical Guideline on planting and caring for selected endemic forestry species for intensive afforestation of large timber in Nghe An province (to be completed and approved in April – May 2024), which will inform development of the Provincial Plan for Intensive Large Timber Plantation in Nghe An province.

### **Objective 4 - Improve production forest management practices.**

- The Project selected five nurseries in Thanh Hoa province to receive training on IQPM production techniques and support to establish hedge orchards, which will yield approximately 10 million IQPM collectively annually, for supply to wood producers to establish 5,000 ha of plantations with high productivity and wood yield. In Q2, the Project supplied 20,000 acacia hybrid original germplasm to Minh Hoang and "9 Vui" nurseries in Quang Nam to establish hedge orchards, which is estimated to produce about two million IQPM (cuttings), sufficient for planting 1,000 ha of plantations.
- Utilizing the propagation materials previously received from the Project, 26 nurseries have collectively produced 9,891,423 IQPM. These IQPM have been sold to 1,143 wood producers for establishment of 4,022 hectares of plantations.
- The Project provided technical assistance to 19 households to tend 32.2 hectares of plantation in Thanh Hoa, and to 44 households to tend 100 hectares of plantation in Quang Tri, promoting healthy growth, and ensuring higher productivity and yields in their plantations. These tended plantation models also serve as demonstration sites, enabling other farmers to witness proper management practices firsthand, encouraging them to adopt similar approaches for improved productivity and quality wood production in the future.
- In the previous quarter, the Project trained 104 participants from farmers' groups associated with Quang Tri Paper Material Company on reduced impact logging (RIL), which significantly contributed to

certification achievements this quarter. In January 2024, Quang Tri Paper Material Company achieved certification for 4,496.60 ha of plantation in Quang Tri. Past technical assistance to the Biomass Fuel Vietnam Company (BMFV) in Nghe An also contributed to 4,202.88 ha of plantation involving 1,960 farmers' group members achieving certification this quarter.

- In Q2, the Project provided training and coaching sessions focused on the application of the quantum geographic information system (QGIS) and Sentinel 2 satellite imagery for forest monitoring, benefitting a total of 56 technical staff from forest companies in Hoa Binh and two forest protection management boards in Thanh Hoa. Trainees are now effectively updating forest status changes, synchronizing field forest status data with central management systems, and better protecting and monitoring a total area of 29,426 hectares of forest.
- With the Project's support, Hiep Thuan Agriculture Cooperative signed a typhoon index insurance contract covering 154 hectares of acacia plantation with Bao Minh Insurance Company. This is the first use of typhoon index insurance applied to forest plantations in Vietnam.

### **Objective 5 – Mobilize domestic resources for forest management and protection.**

- This quarter, the Government of Vietnam (GVN) officially assigned the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to lead the development of domestic carbon standards and an MRV mechanism for forest carbon credits, aiming to facilitate participation in both domestic and international markets. The Project, in collaboration with DOF, initiated drafting a scope of work to recruit consultants to develop domestic carbon standards and the MRV mechanism.
- The Project finalized a SOW for a firm to develop a platform for a greenhouse gas inventory within the forestry sector, marking completion of the first phase, with plans to integrate it national inventory platform during the second phase. This platform will share forestry emissions reduction data with the national system, while also incorporating all information related to forest carbon trading.
- VNFF issued an official letter this quarter to launch the pilot of the PFES M&E platform at the end of June 2024. The Project has been supporting the development and piloting of this platform. VNFF issued another letter on a detailed workplan to pilot the PFES M&E platform, assigning seven provincial funds to collect data from commune People's Committees managing forests and organizational forest owners for data entry. By early July, VNFF will organize a workshop to review the piloting outcome before expanding the adoption of the platform to the remaining provinces in Vietnam.

### **Cross-cutting Activities**

#### **Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion**

- During Q2, the Project conducted 66 events, engaging a total of 2,516 participants (49% female and 81% ethnic minorities); and supported 13 women-led conservation-friendly enterprises (CFEs).
- In Q2, the Project led a training on business start-ups and improving businesses for 22 women (15 ethnic people) who either lead business and/or collaborate with forest-dependent communities. The training provided knowledge on business planning, circular economy approach, and environmental protection.
- One Project-supported coffee business owner, Ms. Nong Thi Hanh, an ethnic minority who owns three hectares of coffee plantation, expanded her business in late 2023 with the Project's support. Applying improved practices, she has already reached 80 percent of her 2024 revenue target, as of March. Her business idea won 2nd prize at a women's entrepreneurship contest organized by the Quang Tri Women's Union. Ms. Hanh shared, *"Thanks to the Project, I was able to systematize my business."*

## Communications

- The communications highlight this quarter was the Project’s successful implementation of a month-long International Forest Day campaign, which included activities and outreach milestones, such as:
  - 25+ campaign/Project-related social media and web posts, generating nearly 1,200 total engagements.
  - A first-of-its-kind ‘Symposium in the Forest’ event that convened 100+ local leaders, partners, and forest-dependent community members to jointly observe International Day of Forests by engaging in dialogue on the importance of forests to address climate change in the community of Yen Thang commune, Thanh Hoa whose livelihood depends on the sustainable use of bamboo forests. Local leader, Ms. Lo Thi Tien, Vice Chairwoman of the Yen Thang Commune People’s Committee shared, *“Thanks to the USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project, the Symposium in the Forest was a platform for Yen Thang commune to showcase its commitment to community-based bamboo forest ecotourism development while fostering meaningful connections with visitors from near and far.”*
  - 241 runners from around the world coming together in the #Race4Forests to run more than 18,000 kms in honor of Vietnam’s forests.

## Plans for next quarter

At the end of Q2, due to USAID funding limitations, USAID instructed the Project to delay implementation of most activities until further notice pending on new authorized funds expected in June 2024. While this significantly impacts Project implementation in Q3, the Project plans to focus on internal activities that make use of available resources and knowledge, including the following:

- Build a database on knowledge management resources generated to-date and adapt existing materials for wider dissemination;
- Facilitate internal coordination and skills sharing on knowledge management and other areas for Project staff based on identified skills gaps;
- Focus on developing and adapting new communication materials internally, including cataloguing and making use of the Project’s extensive image library; and
- Review, develop/adjust SOWs for activities that will take place in Q4.



# I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

## PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSES

<b>Program Name:</b>	USAID Sustainable Forest Management
<b>Activity Start Date and End Date:</b>	July 1, 2020– June 30, 2025
<b>Name of Prime Implementing Partner:</b>	DAI Global, LLC.
<b>Name of Sub-implementing partners</b>	RECOFTC and NEPCo (Preferred by Nature)
<b>Contract Number:</b>	7200AA18D00020
<b>Major Counterpart Organizations:</b>	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
<b>Geographic Coverage:</b>	Hanoi Capital, Vietnam Lao Cai, Son La, Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces, Vietnam
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January- March 2024, Q2 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

In Fiscal Year 4 (FY2024), the Project is expanding the success achieved in FY2023 and addressing gaps to ensure activities reach overall targets and that lessons learned from implementation are properly captured for continuous use and application.

This section of the report provides a summary of key activities that took place in Quarter 2 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 second quarter of FY24, the Project's assistance focused on enhancing cooperation on forest protection, forest fire prevention and control between communities and local authorities/ forest management boards.

As forest owners recognized by Forestry Law and/or as forest protection contract holders, community forest protection patrolling teams are forest custodians who directly conduct forest patrols and sometimes encounter forest violations. However, they do not have the authority to handle forest violations during their forest patrols; this task falls within the mandate of forest rangers. In Q2, the Project facilitated cooperation between communities and local authorities and forest management boards on forest protection, forest fire prevention, and control in all seven Project provinces. Commune People's Committees or protection forest management boards (PFMB) sent forest rangers or technical staff to join community consultations to develop forest protection patrolling schedules together with the community forest protection patrolling teams (CFPPT). Consequently, forest rangers, technical staff of PFMBs and CFPPTs established communications channels, such as Zalo groups, to keep everyone informed about upcoming patrol schedules or technical issues related to forest protection. At the commune level, some CPCs, such as Quy Hoa commune (Hoa Binh) or Son Dien commune (Thanh Hoa), issued cooperation regulations or regular joint-patrols by establishing a taskforce comprised of: i) one commune police officer, ii) one forest ranger, and iii) a community military officer together with the CFPPTs in the respective commune. In Q2, these multiple taskforces conducted five joint forest patrols, including four patrols (20 person-days) in Son Dien and one patrol (32 person-days) in Quy Hoa commune. Although no forest violations were found during these joint forest patrols, such cooperation significantly improved CFPPTs' skills and knowledge while also helping to maintain momentum on community forest protection.

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

This task focuses on three key interventions: i) strengthen communities' capacities to more effectively manage and protect forests under forest protection contracts (FPCs) or forests allocated to individual households as community-based forest management groups (CBFM); and ii) improved effectiveness of PFES' utilization for forest protection.

#### Strengthened communities' capacities in forest protection and management.

In Q2, the Project conducted community consultations with 1,367 peoples (809 females and 1,342 ethnic minorities) to support 14 communities with the preparation of Forest Protection Plans (FPPs) or re-

enforcement of community management institutions, covering 8,669 ha of forests through various forest ownership arrangements (as shown in Figure 1):

**Figure 1: Target communities supported by Objective 1 to develop forest protection and management plans in Q2-FY2024**

Province	Community	Total community forests (ha)	Forests allocated to communities (ha)	Forests allocated to households (ha) under community management	Forests under forest protection contracts with FMBs (ha)	Forests under informal forest protection contracts with CPCs
Son La	Muong Chien 2	180	136		30	14
Son La	Khua Vai	1,003	326		677	
Son La	Nam Nghiep	1,144	1,144			
Quang Nam	Dung	1,154	942			212
Hoa Binh	Kha village community	497	105	392		-
Hoa Binh	Lau village community	434	29	304		102
Hoa Binh	Khan village community	502	88	412		2
Hoa Binh	Long village community	546	78	457		10
Hoa Binh	Nghe village community	1,312	557	711		43
Nghe An	Cooc	171			171	
Nghe An	Yen Hop	520	242		278	
Nghe An	Yen Huong	392			392	
Nghe An	Dinh Yen	346			346	
Nghe An	Canh Khin	469	314		155	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,669</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>2,276</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>383</b>

- Four communities in Son La and Quang Nam provinces manage and protect 3,481 ha of forests, of which 2,547 ha of forests are allocated to communities and 708 ha of forests are under FPCs with Muong La Nature Reserve in Son La. This also includes 226 of ha forests are under temporary management of Commune People's Committees but are informally assigned to these communities for protection.
- Five communities in Hoa Binh manage and protect 3,290 ha of forests, of which 857 ha of forests are allocated to communities; and 2,276 ha of forests are allocated to households. This also

includes 157 ha of forests, which are under temporary management of Commune People's Committees but are informally assigned to these communities for protection.

- Five communities in Nghe An manage and protect 1,898 ha forests, of which 556 ha forests are allocated to communities and 1,342 ha forests are under forest protection contracts with Tuong Duong Protection Forest Management Boards.

Regardless of forest ownership arrangements, the respective community forest management boards took the responsibilities of forest protection and management as their extra duties. Previously, they often did not establish formal community forest protection patrolling teams and thus, the communities' forest protection and management efforts were not effective. Thanks to the Project's support, these communities have significantly improved their institutional capacities by having set up 14 community forest management boards (CFMB); community forest protection patrolling teams (CFPPT) and designed patrolling routes with fixed patrolling schedules that cover the whole 8,669 ha of community forest areas in Son La, Nghe An, Hoa Binh and Quang Nam.

### **Support to improve communities' utilization and management of PFES for re-investment into forest protection to benefit women and vulnerable groups.**

Most communities in the target CFM sites enjoy PFES as one of the major benefits from community forests. Earlier, community management boards (CMBs) in most communities invested revenue only in community infrastructure and the rest was equally divided among all community members. During the FPP preparation process, the communities established CFPPTs and fixed patrolling schedules, and also agreed to allocate a certain proportion (at least 10% of total revenue) dedicated to CFPPTs. The rest is assigned for common community benefits (e.g., communal houses, village roads, etc.). The dedication of PFES fund for forest protection, and Project's follow up, has formalized community forest patrolling efforts, thereby enhancing engagement by all community' members in community forest protection and management.

#### ***How PFES helps improve community's protection activities in Pa Ban village, Thanh Son commune, Ba Thuoc district, Thanh Hoa province***

Pa Ban village, located in Ba Thuoc district of Thanh Hoa province, encompasses a total forest area of 243.9 hectares. Of this, 161.2 hectares were allocated to individual households in 1999, while 82.7 hectares were allocated to communities in 2018. The community forests primarily yield non-timber forest products such as bamboo shoots and medicinal plants, intended solely for domestic use and not for commercial purposes. Despite the two different allocations, the Pa Ban village community collectively organizes forest protection activities covering the entire 243.9 hectares of forest. These efforts mainly involved spontaneous forest protection patrols, conducted without fixed schedules. Since 2013, the Pa Ban community has received 42,2 million VND from the PFES, with 11,1 million VND allocated in 2022 alone. While the PFES revenue remains modest, it holds significant importance for Pa Ban village. These funds have supported the repair of village roads, communal houses, and facilitated community festivals. Thanks to the Project's support, the community has developed its Sustainable Forest Management plan and attended the technical training on financial management skills, through which they have agreed to allocate 20-30 percent of annual PFES revenue for forest protection patrolling activities. Building on this commitment, Pa Ban has established community groups dedicated to forest protection patrols, implementing clear schedules that cover the entirety of the community forests.





*“Pa Ban receives limited annual PFES revenue, just above 10 million VND. This revenue serves as our sole resource and foundation for establishing and operating our community teams responsible for forest protection tasks. The Community Forest Protection Patrolling Teams (CFPPT) bear the responsibility of safeguarding community forest areas entirely, encompassing both community-owned and household-owned forests. Given the scarcity of resources, we must meticulously evaluate all expenses to ensure adequate allowances for CFPPT members. We deeply value the pivotal role of these CFPPTs while emphasizing that the protection of community forests is the responsibility of every community member.”*

**Mr. Ngan Van Mua, Village’s Communist Party Secretary of Pa Ban village.**

Photo credit: Dong Le



*Media event to raise community awareness on forest protection and management and forest land tenure in Nang Cat community (Thanh Hoa). Photo credit: Thong Nguyen*





*A joint forest patrol by multi-taskforce of Son Dien commune (Thanh Hoa). Photo credit: Tu Pham (Quan Son district's Forest Ranger)*

Progress on Objective I activities is presented in Table I.

**Table I: Objective I Activity Progress**

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

# / Code	Activities	Current Progress (Q2 – FY2024)		
		% achieved	Status	Description of Progress
<b>Task 1.1. Strengthening Capacity of GVN, VIFORA, and Forest Owners to develop and implement forest management models and approaches</b>				
1.1.5	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 Q2
1.1.6	Improve communities' capacity to monitor community and/or contracted forests	20%		Consultancy report review: ongoing
1.1.7	Enhance ecotourism integrated with strengthened management and protection of community forests, preservation, and promotion of cultural values at CFM sites	80%		Final approval/acceptance: pending
<b>Task 1.2: Build community capacity to participate effectively in forest management</b>				
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	30%		Procurement of the consultancy firms for Son La and Lao Cai: Ongoing Consultancy for Thanh Hoa: Ongoing
1.2.5	Develop GESI-mainstreamed Sustainable Forest Management Plans for communities at CFM demonstration sites	10%		Recruitment of STTAs: Pending
1.2.6	Implement forest sustainable management interventions to improve community forest management	40%		Provided field coaching/follow-up trainings for community forest protection patrolling groups
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)	40%		Provided field coaching/follow-up trainings for CBFM community forest protection patrolling groups
1.2.8	Build capacities for communities which successfully developed and implemented SFM plans in CFM models	30%		Provided field coaching/follow-up trainings for CFM community forest protection patrolling groups
1.2.9	Improve awareness on CFM/CBFM, GESI, and land perception on tenure rights to forest land areas	40%		Integrated communications/awareness raising in commune and village level consultation meetings in Thanh Hoa and Quang Nam

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

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

#### Rattan, bamboo, and leaves (RBL)

The Project worked with eight conservation-friendly enterprises (CFEs), supporting them with public visibility and enhanced marketing tools, paving the way to foster improved customer engagement to attract more investors and boost sales. The CFEs in five project provinces include: Quang Dat Green Areca Cooperative, Quang Nam Bamboo, Rattan and Leaves Association, Duc Phong Company, Ban Diem Cooperative, Ban Thai Bamboo Cooperative, Bui Traditional Craft Village Cooperative, Green Bamboo Cooperative, and Son La Bamboo Company; all have contributed resources to develop their own websites for product promotion. The Project is working closely with these eight CFEs to provide



technical assistance, especially in website structure and content to promote their business visibility, branding, and business approaches. These websites are expected to be launched in the next quarter.

The Project also supported CFEs to participate in trade promotion events, initiate e-commerce, and facilitate purchase orders. In Q2, in collaboration with the Department of Trade Promotion, Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), by mobilizing MOIT resources, the Project supported a representative of Luc Dong Quang Nam Company to participate in the Ambiente Frankfurt Fair in Germany from January 26-30, 2024. After the fair, Luc Dong Company successfully signed two product purchase orders with Atex Duy Thanh Company and Thanh Vinh Company. The Project also facilitated market linkages between Son La Bamboo Company and Ngoc Dong Ha Nam Handicrafts Export CO., LTD in Ha Nam province, to sign a contract for two containers of May Loi bamboo poles for export to the U.S. market valued at USD 22,000. The Project also assisted in starting negotiations on principles, terms and conditions, roles, and responsibilities of CFEs with Amazon and Etsy to bring CFEs' handicraft products to the international e-commerce platforms.

On March 21, 2024—International Day of Forests—the Project hosted a dialogue session between stakeholders, including CFEs, export businesses, local state management agencies, and central policy-making agencies in the RBL and medicinal plants value chains in Thanh Hoa province. The dialogue attracted 100+ participants and emphasized potential strengths and added value to promote traditional practices and to encourage entrepreneurship, especially for start-ups owned by ethnic minority women. This dialogue stayed the platform to discuss topics such as better forest management integrating with increased income for forest dependent communities, harmonizing landscape development and conservation, integration of RBL value chain with ecotourism, stakeholder engagement and resource mobilization from public, private sector and collaboration with community.

*“We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Sustainable Forest Management Project for connecting and supporting our company to participate in this meaningful event. We were amazed at the scope of the Trade Fair and the opportunities we can pursue. The participation in this fair far exceeded our initial expectations. We successfully captured and signed orders on-site.”*

**Mr. Tran Trung Hieu, Director of Luc Dong Company, shares his thoughts after returning from the Ambiente 2024 fair in Germany.**



## Medicinal plants

The Project connected the Central Southeast Pharmaceutical Company in Thanh Hoa with a network of women-owned businesses for export orders. The company is in negotiation with MKV Management Consultancy Company Limited for purchase orders of 4,000 herbal sleeping pillows and 2,000 boxes of herbal scented candles, with a total value of 3.9 billion VND (about USD 166,000) for the next two years. The company has also been in touch with a company in Norway to produce and export flagship products recently supported by the Project. This purchase order will be implemented in the next three years for a range of products, including more than 10 tons of essential oil; 2,000 herbal sleeping pillows; 6,000 boxes of herbal scented candles, 5,000 boxes of foot bath salts, 5,000 boxes of chamomile tea, 1,000 boxes of

honeysuckle tea, and 5,000 boxes of root powder. The total expected value is 30.5 billion VND (around USD 1.3 million).

In Q2, the Project continued providing technical support to CFEs on product traceability and sales. The Project supported Truong Son Cooperative to pilot a new herbal bath product for children, resulting in the sale of 1,200 products to the market soliciting customer feedback for improvement. To date, the Cooperative has submitted a “Product Self-declaration” to the relevant government agencies for approval before selling a higher volume of products to the market. On product traceability, the Project helps CFEs fine-tune forms for cultivation and collection of medicinal plants based on the World Health Organization’s guideline on Good Agriculture and Collective Practices (GACP-WHO) and to transfer those into a digital platform. In total, 140 farmers have practiced this record-keeping technique for 82 ha of cinnamon and 30 ha of melaleuca.

In August 2023, the Project provided certified celastus (*Ehretia asperula* Zoll. et Mor) seedlings to produce herbal tea by 15 ethnic farmers and trained them on cultivation/tending techniques. After four months of growing, one farmer collected 200 kg of fresh celastus and sold it to Huong Xuan Cooperative, earning 700,000 VND. The remaining plantation will be collected by the CFE in the next month. Huong Xuan used this material to produce teabags (from leaves) and condensed tea (from the trunk) to market as cholesterol, stomach, and liver treatments/supplements.



The Project provided celastus seedlings in August 2023.  
Credit: Dat Ha



Celastus growing by November 2023.  
Credit: Dat Ha



Buying celastus from the affiliated farmers in February 2024.  
Credit: Ha Thi Le, Director of Huong Xuan Cooperative

## Areca

In Q2, the Project continued providing technical assistance to three CFEs involved in the areca value chain in Quang Nam province. This included supporting Quang Nam Agricultural and Art Cooperative and Dat Quang Green Areca Cooperative to create business profiles and produce product catalogues aiming at enhancing brand recognition to targeted clients, suppliers, and potential investors. The Project supported development of the strategy, marketing, and branding identity, and collaborated to implement a coding system for product categories to enhance management efficiency and production planning for the CFEs. The Project facilitated Dat Quang Green Areca Cooperative in establishing contact with Viet Anh Sedge Production Export Joint Stock Company for information exchange, negotiation, and contracting for the export of areca-made handicrafts. Notably, the initial order secured in Q2 amounted to two containers valued at USD 35,000.

## Arabica coffee

In Q2, the Project continued to support stakeholders and CFEs to accomplish linkage documentation with coffee producers to meet funding requirements from the National Targeted Program (NTP) for



socio-economic development of ethnic minorities and mountainous areas (SEDEMA) for 2024. Collaborating with Quang Tri DARD, The Project supported reviewing and gaining approval for the Plan on off-farm coffee production and consumption for Son Nguyen Cooperative. The Plan was approved in principle by the provincial council. Son Nguyen Cooperative is in the process of revising the list of affiliated households to ensure alignment with the poverty or near-poverty criteria outlined in Decree No. 07. /2021/ND\_CP dated January 27, 2021, on multidimensional poverty standards for 2021-2025. The Khe Sanh Cooperative has expressed interest in submitting a project proposal to NTP SEDEMA, administered by the Central Vietnam Farmers' Association. They will review the dossier to comply with the instructions outlined in Decree 27/2022/ND-CP dated April 19, 2022. The Project is supporting linkages to establish high-quality coffee nurseries for replanting, training on cultivation techniques for coffee agroforestry modelling, sustainable harvesting techniques, registering production unit codes, and traceability for export. Once approved and implemented, the Plan aims mobilize at least USD 301,487, with the State providing USD 239,309 (79%) in support from capital of the NTP SEDEMA. Cooperatives and communities will contribute the remaining USD 62,178 (21%), leading to improved forest management for approximately 150 ha of coffee. This includes rejuvenating existing 130 ha and expanding by an additional 20 ha, thus increasing income for 252 Van Kieu households in Huong Hoa forest-dependent communities of Quang Tri province.

### **Strengthening the institutional capacity for 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 has 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 a training on cinnamon pre-processing for 26 farmers (19 females) owning a total of 27.5 ha of cinnamon (average 8-year-old). The director of Tam Hoi Cooperative (a benefiting CFE) co-lead the training on pre-processing, so the CFE to procure raw products meeting its requirements.



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

Findings from a survey conducted among 104 farmers in Xuan Le commune, Thuong Xuan district, Thanh Hoa province showed that they did not apply correct sowing techniques. The Project provided training to support self-seeding cinnamon growers, equipping them with new knowledge and skills in seed collection, seed cleaning, pot creation, and seeding. After the training, most farmers prioritized selecting seeds from high-quality mother trees for nurseries to expand their plantations. In this season, six households implemented cinnamon nurseries with 40,000 seedlings, following the Project's technical guidance (e.g., choosing the soil, mixing soil with bio-microbial fertilizer, etc.), while an additional 35,600 cinnamon trees were planted.

“Thanks to the knowledge gained from the project, I am very confident in sowing cinnamon. Nearby households also came to observe, asked me how to do it, and some households asked me to cultivate more and sell it to them. The farmers also regularly exchange knowledge and experience. This season, I am very confident and believe that the seedlings will grow well. Then we can scale up to many other households.”

**Mr. Hoang Thanh Mao, team lead of Xuan Son village cinnamon farmers’ group who attended Project training on cinnamon nursery.**



Photo Credit: Nga Dao

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

Apart from climate change, smallholder farmers in mountainous regions often face low yields due to limited plant management. To address this issue, the Project and the Department of Horticulture and Plant Protection of Son La province conducted two trainings on - integrated pest management and biodiversity improvement. A total of 53 farmers including 38 females and 50 ethnic minorities from Na Nga and Quyet Tam Cooperatives participated. The trained cooperative members are now applying their newfound knowledge to over 200 ha of mango plantation and planning to share it with other cooperative members and farmers. By adopting better plant management practices, these local forest dependent communities are expected to increase their incomes while contributing to greenhouse gas emissions reduction in agricultural cultivation.



Trainer is guiding on finding, taking samples of pests and diseases. Photo credit: Dat Ha









Practicing Indigenous Microorganism (IMO) and bio-composting to improve quality of soil. Photo credit: Dat Ha

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
<b>Task 2.1. Market-based value chain analysis</b>				
<b>Task 2.2. Strengthen conservation friendly value chains in Project's landscapes</b>				
2.2.2	Support the development of bamboo, rattan and leaves (RBL) value chain.	40		<p>The Project worked with eight CFEs, supporting them with public visibility and enhanced marketing tools, paving the way to foster improved customer engagement to attract more investors and boost sales.</p> <p>The Project also supported CFEs to participate in trade promotion events, initiate e-commerce, and facilitate purchase orders.</p> <p>Project hosted a dialogue session between stakeholders, including CFEs, export businesses, local state management agencies, and central policy-making agencies in the RBL and medicinal plants value chains development in Thanh Hoa province.</p>
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.).	20		The Project connected the Central Southeast Pharmaceutical Company in Thanh Hoa with a network of women-owned businesses for export orders.
2.2.4	Support the development of cinnamon value chain.	40		The Project conducted three out of five trainings on cinnamon pre-processing for farmers in LC and connecting business with Tam Hoi Cinnamon Cooperative, 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.	50		The Project continued to support capacity building for three CFEs in registering Production Unit Code, develop enterprise profiles and catalogs.
2.2.7	Support the development of the Arabica coffee value chain.	40		The Project continued to support stakeholders and CFEs to accomplish linkage documentation with coffee producers to meet funding requirements from the NTP SEDEMA for 2024.
2.2.8	Support the development of fruit trees value chain (mango, longan, banana).	50		The Project conducted 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 Q2 under Objective 3, the Project made progress supporting policy development and implementation focusing on: i) further support the implementation of national policies at local levels; and ii) preparation for the review and revision of national and provincial policies that fit the Project's objectives. The Project continued building capacity for the Forest Protection Department (FPD) force in prevention, detection, investigation, and handling of forest violations and crimes through continuous deployment of Forest



Violations Database Management System (FVDMS), conducting the first training on investigation skills and preparing a handbook for communication and awareness raising events.

### **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 Q2, the Project supported FPDs in seven provinces to record 2,040 administrative violation cases into the system, by individuals and organizations, that took place from January 1, 2022 to March 25, 2024. 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 (44.9%); ii) illegal transport of forest products (19.1%); iii) illegal storage, trading, and processing of forest products (16.3%); iv) illegal harvesting of forest products (8.3%); and other violations (11.4%).

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.

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#### **Key figures in FVDMS deployment in seven Project provinces (updated March 25, 2024):**

- Number of forest violation cases updated and monitored: **2,040**
  - Forest areas impacted: **455 ha**
  - Fined amounts in penalties: **VND 18.38 billion (USD 834,000)**
- 

#### **Development of a plan to upgrade 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 a request of Thanh Hoa PPC.

As a national park, Xuan Lien will have more opportunities for forest landscape and biodiversity conservation (sustainable forest management of around 25,000 ha, and biodiversity conservation of about 3,000 species of floras and faunas), livelihood enhancement for communities around 32,000 forest-dependent members in the buffer zone through education, recreation, and ecotourism activities, and international-domestic resource mobilization.

In Q2, the Project continued supporting Xuan Lien NR and Thanh Hoa province in the approval process of the plan.



*A beautiful landscape of Xuan Lien Nature Reserve.  
Photo Credit: Ha Nguyen*

#### **Capacity building for law enforcement (LE) agency officers.**

According to the National FPD, although the quantity of forest violations and crimes is decreasing in the recent years, the severity and complexity of forest violations is increasing, especially criminal violations and crimes. FPD force throughout the country is facing many challenges in prevention, detection, investigation, arrests, and prosecution of forest violations. These difficulties are mainly from a lack of

proper knowledge, experience, and skills of FPD staff. Their limited capacity results in wrong and inconsistent decisions as well as delays in handling forest violations and crimes cases.

In Q2, the Project collaborated with the National Forest Protection Department (FPD) under MARD, to build the capacity of FPDs on initial investigation skills to handle forest violations and crimes. The first training on investigation skills conducted in Quang Tri province for 38 FPD staffs (two females) from provincial FPD, district FPDs, and forest management boards in Quang Tri province.

The training focuses on key topics, including: (i) skills for FPDs to collect and handle reporting information related to forest violations and crimes; (ii) skills how to identify and classify between administrative forest violation cases and criminal forest violation cases; (iii) skills and procedure in initial investigation what the FPD is responsible (evidence collection, interviewing, observation, report writing, problem-solving, etc.); (iv) classification of crimes and offences related to forestry sector; and (v) lessons learned and discussions. The training was highly appreciated by Quang Tri FPDs, and supported the effective protection, management, and development of forest resources, as well as forestry law enforcement in Quang Tri province. The training in Quang Tri was the first in a series of trainings the Project is planning to build capacity of both national and local FPDs on investigation skills strengthening forestry law enforcement system.

In the coming quarters, the Project will continue working with PPMUs and CPMU to provide capacity building activities for FPDs and other LEAs.

### **Raise awareness on forest protection, management, and development for forest-dependent communities.**

Raising awareness for communities, especially forest-dependent communities, is a key Project intervention to strengthen forestry law enforcement. In the past years, the Project conducted some communication and awareness raising events on forest protection and development in hotspot areas on deforestation and forest degradation in seven provinces. The results were positive and encouraged scaling up in other areas. To sustainably scale up this model, the FPDs should take the main responsibility (not the Project) to prepare and implement the events, with the Project's support. In FY24, the Project planned to support FPDs on: (i) preparing a handbook for communication and awareness raising events; (ii) conducting TOT trainings for key FPDs staff in charge; and (iii) providing support so FPD units can organize some communication and awareness raising events in local areas.

In Q2, the Project continued preparing the handbook on forest protection, management, and development to support these events. The Project will finalize this handbook in the coming months and will use it for the TOT trainings.

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



*Training on investigation skills in the forestry sector. Photo: Quy Phan*



*Open discussion during the training. Photo: Quy Phan*

In Q2, the Project is focusing its effort on: i) further supporting the implementation of national policies at local levels; and ii) preparation for the review and revision of national and provincial policies that fit the Project's objectives.

### **Strengthening the commitments of local governments in forest management, protection, and development.**

The Forestry Law 2017 identifies forest protection as “all-people’s responsibility,” including government agencies, organizations, households, individuals, and communities (Article 43). Directive 13-CT/TW (dated January 12, 2017) of the Secretariat of the Party’s Central Committee emphasizes—and the follow-up Conclusion 61-KL/TW (dated August 17, 2023) of the Secretariat’s on strengthening the roles of the Party in forest management, protection and development re-emphasizes—that, “forest management, protection and development is the responsibilities of the Party’s organizations, governments and heads of agencies and organizations at all levels.” Yet, there is a popular misunderstanding that the tasks rely mainly on forest protection forces with FPDs as the major focal points.

USAID supports Son La province government authorities to strengthen forest management, protection, and development and organize in Son La City on March 12, 2024, for the first time ever, a Ceremony where leaders of the Provincial and District People’s Committees (PPC and DPCs) formally co-signed their commitments on “strengthening the state management responsibility for forest management, protection and development, forest fire prevention and fighting.”

*“Forest protection should not rely solely on the 374 staff of the Forest Protection Department. Rather, it is, first and foremost, the responsibility of the Party’s organizations and local governments”.*

#### **Mr. Nguyen Thanh Cong -Vice Chairperson of Son La PPC**

managed, making tangible contributions to sustainable forest management and development, thus enhancing the capacity of Son La’s forests to store and sequester carbon, and, at the same time, contributing to the province’s biodiversity conservation targets.

Provincial leaders and 12 city and district leaders made commitments demonstrating the accountability of local governments to effectively manage up to 694,741.6 hectares of forestry land. By mobilizing all levels of local authorities to fully exercise their state management responsibilities, the provincial forestry sector will become better



*Mr. Nguyen Thanh Cong, Vice Chairman of the Son La PPC makes a speech at the signing ceremony. Photo credit: Than Nguyen*



*Mr. Nguyen Thanh Cong, Vice Chairman of Son La PPC signs commitments with leaders of 12 District People's Committees at the signing ceremony. Photo credit: Dong Nguyen*

### **Support the development of a Technical Guideline on planting and caring for selected endemic forestry species for intensive afforestation of large timber in Nghe An province.**



Accelerating the development of intensive large-timber forest plantation is a priority listed in the National Sustainable Forest Development Strategy 2021-2023, which promotes: self-reliance on raw material sources that serve the exporting timber processing and furniture industries; the promotion of forest environmental services; and the creation of jobs and improvement of the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. The realization of large timber plantation requires careful and comprehensive preparation, such as identifying forestry species that suit the soil and climate conditions of each province, ensuring high-quality seedling and variety, identifying plantation areas according to the provincial spatial master plans and forestry development plans.

The Project is supporting 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, which is in the first stage of the preparation, and will inform development of the Provincial Plan for Intensive Large Timber Plantation in Nghe An province.

The Technical Guideline is scheduled to be completed in next quarter, providing funding availability. The Provincial Plan for Intensive Large Timber Plantation in Nghe An province is planned to be developed after the guideline is available and as funding is available.

### **Support the approval of one national policy**

After many rounds of discussions and clarification, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Luu Quang directed MARD and concerned Ministries to revise Decree 156/2018/ND-CP, the amendment of which was supported by the Project in FY23, into 3 Decrees covering 3 groups of contents: forest management and protection; temporary conversion of forest use purposes; and payment for carbon sequestration and storage service of forests (C-PFES).

On March 6, 2024, the GVN approved Decree 27/2024/ND-CP providing for “Plan for temporary use of forests” as part of the amendment of Decree 156/2018/ND-CP. The new Decree allows the use of forests to carry out the construction of temporary works serving the development of power grid projects for socio-economic development that serves national and public benefits according to the provisions of construction law, electricity law and other relevant laws but do not change the temporarily used forest area to another using purpose. Decree 27/2024/ND-CP came into force on the date of signing, e.g., on March 6, 2024.

### **Preparation for the development of important national forestry policies.**

Following up the conclusion of the Secretariat of the Party’s Central in its Conclusion 61-KL/TW (the development of which was supported by the Project in 2023), the GVN has issued Resolution No 29/NQ-CP dated March 8, 2024 to announce the Government’s Action Plan for implementing the Secretariat’s Conclusion 61-KL/TW and Directive 13-CT/TW. The Resolution highlights MARD’s responsibility as the focal point Ministry in charge of the following: i) reviewing and updating forestry policies to expand the subjects to be allocated and leased forests; ii) completing specific and feasible mechanisms and policies to effectively manage special-use forests, protection forests, and production forests; and iii) creating incentives to attract people’s participation, and to mobilize social resources for forest management, protection, and development activities, and for sustainable forestry economic development. It also contains policies on forest zoning, protection and development must be associated with stabilizing and improving the lives of ethnic minorities and people in forested areas; increases forest protection norms and forest protection contract levels to match reality; and continues to improve policies to promote the effective development and implementation of forest environmental services, especially forest carbon sequestration and storage services.

In response to requests from the Department of Forestry (under MARD), the Project is engaging with DOF's divisions to prepare to develop and revise the following:

- **The GVN's Decree on liquidation of plantation forests:** This Decree helps accelerate the administrative procedures for harvesting plantation forests invested fully or partially by the state budget and replacement forests invested by budget collected from development projects. It ensures the quick rotation of forest plantation and thus, ensures forest coverage.
- **A Technical Guideline to be applied nation-wide on no-burning technique,** which would limit the practice of burning after harvest in plantation forests and thus, remarkably reduce CO2 emissions due to forest burning.
- **MARD's proposal to the Government,** then from the Government to the Executive Committee of the National Assembly, **for revision of the Forestry Law 2017,** making it in line with Conclusion 61-KL/TW and compatible with other Laws, such as the Revised Land Law, Construction Law, Tourism Law, State Investment, and Investment Laws.

More national policies on C-PFES and carbon credit markets are described under Objective 5 in this report.

### **Task 3.3: Build capacity of the environmental justice system to prosecute environmental crimes**

The Project developed a plan to 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. Due to budget limitations, this task will be implemented in the coming quarters of FY24.

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.

*“In the recent years, forest violations and crimes, for instance, illegal deforestation, illegal transport of forest products, illegal storage, trading, and processing of forest products, illegal harvesting of forest products, are trending towards increased complexity and seriousness, especially in the remote mountainous areas where ethnic minority people are living. Despite more effort on preventing and handling forest violations and crimes, we, the FPD units, are facing many difficulties and challenges in detecting, preventing and handling forest violations because of: (i) limitations in human resources (FPD staff) to work on a larger area with complicated mountainous terrain; (ii) limited education, skills, and experience on prevention, investigation and handle of forest violations and crimes; and (iii) limitations on equipment and tools required for forestry law enforcement.*”



Mr. Thanh – Participating the investigation skills training.  
Photo Credit: Dong Nguyen

*Thanks to the Project for supporting us to organize a training on investigation skills, which we were very limited on. The training is very useful and meets our needs. This training has provided new knowledge and skills for the FPD force by appropriated topics and practical cases. We will apply what we learned on investigation skills to our work, and will share techniques and skills to commune-based FPDs. The FPD force in Quang Tri will complete our roles and responsibility to manage, protect, and develop forests, and to strengthen forestry law enforcement. We hope that the Project will continue supporting Quang Tri FPDs to organize other trainings in the coming time.”*








**- Mr. Nguyen Duc Thanh, Deputy head of mobile forest protection and firefighting unit, Quang Tri provincial FPD.**

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

# / Code	Activities	Current Progress (Q2 - FY2024)		
		% Achieved	Status	Description of Progress
<b>Task 3.1: Support Law Enforcement to Maintain Forest Integrity through Analysis and Action Planning</b>				
3.1.1	Develop and implement forestry law enforcement action plan in 7 provinces under the Project	36		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued supports on implementation of provincial forestry law enforcement action plans in seven provinces.</li> </ul>
3.1.2	Provide appropriate equipment and tools to Law enforcement agencies to strengthen forestry law enforcement	29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided support on deployment of the FVDMS in seven provinces.</li> </ul>
3.1.3	Conduct capacity building for Forest Rangers and other LE officers in prevention, detection, investigation and handling of forest violation and crimes.	20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted training on investigation skills in handling forest violations and crimes in Quang Tri province</li> </ul>
3.1.4	Conduct social behavior change communications, awareness raising and environmental education for relevant stakeholders in forest protection and development	20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed a concept note to implement this activity.</li> <li>Prepared a handbook for communication and awareness raising events</li> </ul>
<b>Task 3.2: Support Improved Enforcement Practices in SFM Landscapes</b>				
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"> <li>Supported 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</li> <li>GVN approved Decree 27/2024/ND-CP providing for "Plan for temporary use of forests" as part of the amendment of Decree 156/2018/ND-CP</li> <li>Prepared for the development of important national forestry policies.</li> </ul>
3.2.2	Improve inter-agency coordination among forestry LEAs	50		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted signing workshop on strengthening the commitments of local governments in forest management, protection and development (in Son La province).</li> </ul>
<b>Task 3.3: Build Capacity of the Environmental Justice System to Prosecute Environmental</b>				
3.3.1	Support capacity building for law enforcement agencies in prosecution of forest crimes	5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This activity will be carried out in the coming quarters</li> <li>Preparation for recruitment of trainers is completed</li> <li>Prepared a concept note for this activity.</li> </ul>

## **OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVE PRODUCTION FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

During Q2, the Project maintained efforts to deliver technical assistance to enhance plantation value chains across the Project sites. The Project extended support to selected nurseries, aiding them in producing improved quality planting material (IQPM). Leveraging existing partnership agreements, the Project persistently conducted training and capacity building sessions for farmers and partners to foster the adoption of sustainable forest management (SFM) practices conducive to forest certification. Concurrently, it facilitated market connections between timber producers and potential buyers, further bolstering the sustainable development of the industry.

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

#### **Providing technical assistance to nurseries for production of**

In Q2, the Project conducted comprehensive training sessions focused on nursery management and techniques to produce IQPM. Twelve participants (four females) from seven nurseries in Quang Tri benefited from these sessions, which trained nursery managers and technical staff with insights into government regulations governing the production of forest planting material (FPM) and the management of hedge orchards. This understanding is crucial for ensuring the improved quality of produced FPM and assisting wood producers in optimizing productivity and yields in their plantations.

Additionally, The Project conducted a field survey and selected five nurseries in Thanh Hoa province (Dai Hung company, Tuan Minh company, Thach Thanh FPMB, Lang Chanh Forestry Company, and Le Thao Nguyen Company) to receive training on IQPM production techniques. Nurseries will be provided with watering systems, acacia mangium seeds, and original germplasm to establish hedge orchards. These hedge orchards are expected to yield approximately 10 million IQPM collectively annually, with each nursery contributing an average of two million IQPM. The produced IQPM will be supplied to wood producers to establish 5,000 ha of plantations with high productivity and wood yield, thereby contributing to carbon storage efforts. The Project supplied 20,000 acacia hybrid original germplasm to Minh Hoang and “9 Vui” nurseries in Quang Nam to establish hedge orchards. This is estimated to produce about two million IQPM (cuttings), sufficient for planting 1,000 ha of plantations.

The Project extended assistance to seven nurseries in Nghe An and three nurseries in Quang Nam that previously received technical assistance and propagation material from the Project, to prepare dossiers for submission to the (FPDs of Nghe An and Quang Nam). This will facilitate certificates/licenses recognizing and approving the hedge orchards for IQPM production. As the result, during Q2, Nghe An FPD issued certificates approving the hedge orchards of six nurseries for IQPM production. Certificates for the remaining four nurseries (one in Nghe An and three in Quang Nam) are expected to be issued in April 2024, as FPDs require additional time for appraisal. These certificates will guide wood producers in accessing trustworthy sources of IQPM, facilitating the development of plantations with higher productivity and yield, while avoiding purchase of unregulated planting material from unreliable sources.

Since 2023, the Project has been providing propagation materials, such as acacia mangium seeds, cinnamon seeds, and original germplasm, to the nurseries for IQPM production. As of March 31, 2024, utilizing the propagation materials received from the Project, 26 nurseries have collectively produced 9,891,423 IQPM. These IQPM have been sold to wood producers for establishment of 4,022 hectares of plantations. Detailed information regarding the IQPM produced by the nurseries is provided in the Table 4 below:

**Table 4: Detailed information of IQPM production by the nurseries as of March 31, 2024.**

#	Province	No. of nurseries supported	Type of IQPM production	IQPM sold as of Mar 31, 2024 (plantlet)	Area of plantations (ha)	No. of Households bought IQPM (HH)
1	Lao Cai	4	Cinnamon seedling	1,212,907	368	245
2	Hoa Binh	15	Acacia mangium seedling	3,436,626	1,688	443
3	Thanh Hoa	6	Acacia mangium seedling	1,312,460	656	173
4	Quang Nam	1	Acacia hybrid cuttings	3,929,430	1,310	282
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>9,891,423</b>	<b>4,022</b>	<b>1,143</b>

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

During Q2, the Project provided technical assistance to 19 households to tend 32.2 hectares of plantation in Thanh Hoa, and to 44 households to tend 100 hectares of plantation in Quang Tri. The guidance focused on pruning of plantations to help farmers effectively manage their forest stands, promoting healthy growth, and ensuring higher productivity and yields in their plantations. These tended plantation models also serve as demonstration sites, enabling other farmers to witness proper management practices firsthand, encouraging them to adopt similar approaches for improved productivity and quality wood production in the future.

In 2023, the Project supplied IQPM to farmers in Nghe An, facilitating establishment of 72.8 hectares of plantations. Additionally, technical assistance was provided to farmers in thinning 13.23 hectares of plantations. During the Q2, 2024, the Project continues to support these farmers by monitoring the growth rates of both the Project-supported plantations and those established by farmers without the Project assistance. The purpose of this monitoring effort is to demonstrate the advantages of using IQPM and thinning technique for the development of large timber, showcasing higher productivity and yield potential.

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 producers avoid the utilization of floating/uncontrolled/ non-registered planting materials that are available in the market. Data collection for monitoring of growth rate is going on in the field and once all data collected, the Project will analyze data and prepare report on the growth rate in the next quarter.

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

During Q2, the Project continued to deliver technical assistance to local partners and farmers' groups focusing on implementing improved silviculture practices, sustainable forest management (SFM) toward certification. The Project provided training sessions on silviculture, SFM, and certification for a farmers' group comprising 42 members (24% female) as well as training on group management and monitoring techniques for 14 participants, including heads and members of farmers' groups, as well as leaders of Hiep Thuan cooperative (21% female). These farmers' groups in Hiep Duc district, Quang Nam province intend to affiliate with the Hiep Thuan Agriculture Cooperative to implement SFM. The knowledge gained from these training sessions will enable the Hiep Thuan farmers' groups to expand their certified plantation area by an additional 202 hectares, augmenting the existing certified plantation area of 1,195 hectares to a total of to 1,397 hectares by the end of 2024.



The Project facilitated the establishment of two cinnamon farmers' groups comprising 102 members, including 17 percent females and 40 percent ethnic minorities who collectively own 225 hectares of cinnamon plantations in Bao Yen district, Lao Cai province. These farmers' groups have affiliated with Thai Tuan Cinnamon Company, which will purchase cinnamon products from them.

In the previous quarter, the Project conducted training on reduced impact logging (RIL) for 104 participants, including 15 females, from farmers' groups associated with Quang Tri Paper Material Company. The other training encompassed topics such as silviculture, work safety, and chain of custody (CoC). This assistance significantly contributed to certification efforts. As of January 25, 2024, Quang Tri Paper Material Company, representing 442 farmers' group members, achieved certificate for 4,496.60 ha of plantation in Quang Tri. Throughout FY2023 and Q1 of FY24, the Project provided technical assistance to the Biomass Fuel Vietnam Company (BMFV) in Nghe An to expand forest certification area by 4,202.88 ha of plantation involving 1,960 farmers' group members in the districts of Anh Son, Tan Ky, and Do Luong, Nghe An province. This assistance contributed to achieving certification for the plantations belonging to these farmers' groups this quarter. Details of the certification achieved in Q2 of FY24 are shown in Table 5 below:

**Table 5: The plantation areas certified in the Q2, FY24**

Group name	Province	Group member (farmers)	Certified plantation area (Ha)	Date of certificate issuance
Biomass Fuel Vietnam [Representing for Anh Son Smallholder Group] at this audit is extended from Anh Son district to 3 districts as Anh Son, Tan Ky and Do Luong of Nghe An province.	Nghe An	1,960	4,202.88	Extended area to the existing certificate (surveillance audit held on Oct.30-Nov.3, 2023; Decision date on Dec. 27, 2023
Quang Tri Matte Paper Co., Ltd (Rep. for Smallholder group in Hai Lang Dist., Quang Tri Province); Thuong Xa Village, Hai Thuong Commune; Hai Lang Dist. Quang Tri province;	Quang Tri	442	4,496.60	Jan. 25, 024
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,382</b>	<b>8,699.48</b>	

Also in Q2, the Project undertook a comprehensive review of documents pertaining to BVN Hoa Binh and associated farmers' groups in Hoa Binh province in preparation for a certification audit. These documents encompassed thematic reports, including an environmental impact assessment (EIA), social impact assessment (SIA), biodiversity high conservation value (HCV) study, forest inventory, and SFM plan and procedures. BVN Hoa Binh is currently updating these reports to ensure compliance. The Project also continued to provide technical assistance to farmers' groups in Quang Nam province to address non-conformities identified during the previous certification audits, gearing up for the upcoming surveillance audits scheduled for April 2024.

### Providing technical assistance to implement SFM plans

In Q2, the Project provided training and coaching sessions focused on the application of the quantum geographic information system (QGIS) and Sentinel 2 satellite imagery for forest monitoring, benefitting a total of 56 technical staff of three forest owners. In particular, the training was provided to 10 staff (two females) from Hoa Binh Forest Company, while coaching was extended to 32 technical staff from Thach Thanh PFMB and 14 from Thuong Xuan FPMB in Thanh Hoa province. The trainings emphasized QGIS

software installation, utilization of software and images for monitoring forest changes and patrolling, compilation of forest maps, spatial data analysis, and extract data for reporting purposes. Following the in-person training, the Project continued to provide virtual coaching to help ensure trainees apply their acquired knowledge into their daily work routines. Through continuous support from the Project, including both online and in-person training, these forest owners are now proficient in utilizing QGIS, QFIELD technologies, and Sentinel 2 satellite imagery in forest mapping, monitoring, and management tasks. As a result, they are effectively updating forest status changes, synchronizing field forest status data with central management systems, and better protecting and monitoring a total area of 29,426.01 hectares of forest. This proactive approach enhances CO2 absorption from forests but also contributes to the global efforts in combating climate change.

**Table 6: Details of the training and coaching sessions on the application of QGIS**

#	Forest owner	Training/coaching themes	Management area (ha)	Participant		
				Total	Male	Female
1	Hoa Binh forestry company	Application of QGIS and Sentinel 2 satellite imagery; QGIS-QFIELD model to patrol; track and monitor forests; Convert, manage data, and edit/compile forest maps using QGIS	8,093.01	10	8	2
2	Thach Thanh PFMB		8,119.00	32	31	1
3	Thuong Xuan PFMB		13,214.00	14	14	0
	<b>Total</b>		29,426.01	<b>56</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3</b>

In Q2, the Project supported Quang Tri province to advocate for the adoption of non-burning site preparation techniques before planting. Collaborating with the Project and Quang Tri FPD, the Association of Smallholder Forest Certification Groups of Quang Tri (SFCG) organized a provincial workshop titled, “Development of plantation forests through non-burning site preparation after forest exploitation, towards green development, greenhouse gas reduction, and enhanced carbon absorption” with 19 participants, including three females. Attendees included representatives from Quang Tri Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), district and provincial FPDs, and Extension center representatives. In the workshop, discussions centered on the draft non-burning plan for the province, subsequently approved by Quang Tri DARD, on February 23, 2024. The approved plan aims to implement non-burning techniques for site preparation before planting 2,000-3,000 hectares annually.

Following the approval of the non-burning plan, the SFCG, in conjunction with the Project organized five additional workshops across Gio Linh, Vinh Linh, Cam Lo, Trieu Phong, Hai Lang district, engaging 105 participants (13 females). The workshop educated participants about the benefits of non-burning techniques and disseminating the approved provincial non-burning plan to encourage wood producers to adopt this technique, thereby contributing to a reduction of carbon emissions.

In Q2, the Project established a partnership agreement (PA) with Con Cuong Forest Company (the Con Cuong) in Nghe An, aiming to provide technical assistance to wood producers affiliated with Con Cuong to develop 495 hectares of large timber plantations. Implementation of the PA will commence upon availability of funds.

### **Piloting insurance for plantation**

In response to plantation damage caused by heavy storms in provinces, like Quang Nam, the Project initiated a demonstration for an innovative satellite-based weather insurance (SbWI) product, in collaboration with the Hiep Thuan Cooperative. The Project also collaborated with the Hillridge Company to develop an insurance scheme for further pilot this model for future expansion.

With the Project’s support, Hiep Thuan Agriculture Cooperative (affiliated with 40 forest owners in Hiep Thuan district) signed a typhoon index insurance contract covering 154 hectares of acacia plantations

(ages from 3 to 5 years) for one year (from January 15, 2024 to January 14, 2025) with Bao Minh Insurance Company. Typhoon Index Insurance is based on a simple, online purchasing process, with a transparent and pre-determined calculation that will typically see farmers, plantations, and agribusinesses receive re-imbusement from Bao Minh for damage to their plantations within ten days. Payouts are calculated by a satellite-based system that measures the severity of the typhoon and the distance of the farm from that storm. The Index Loss percentage will depend on the category and distance of the eye of the storm at the time it passes closest to the Insured Asset Coordinates. This is the first use of typhoon index insurance applied to forest plantations in Vietnam. This initiative aims to minimize losses from natural disasters and swiftly restore farmers' production if such events occur during the insurance coverage period. If successful, this pilot program could encourage wider adoption among forest owners and cooperatives to protect plantation and minimize losses and mobilize more participation of wood processors and traders to involve in development of acacia value chain. These advantages also encourage small producers/farmers to prolong the rotation of plantations for large timber purpose that contributes to carbon absorption.

#### **Task 4.2: Increase demand from processors for certified timber**

In Q2, the Project continued providing technical assistance to local partners and farmers to implement signed PAs. This assistance included technical training in silviculture, certification, establishment and management of farmers' group, forest mapping, and forest management planning (more details can be found in the capacity building section of 4.1, above).

Additionally, the Project is assisting Vietnam National University of Forestry (VNUF) to develop an SFM/certification textbook with ongoing revisions to the textbook outline based on field surveys and a training needs assessment (TNA) by VNUF. The textbook outline is expected to be completed in the next quarter.

#### **Task 4.3: Develop market linkages between timber producers and industry**

In Q2, the Project continued to provide technical assistance to local partners to establish certified raw material areas, facilitating connections between wood processors and farmers' groups/ producers. Notably, Quang Tri Matte Paper Co., Ltd., representing a smallholder group in Hai Lang District, Quang Tri Province achieved forest certificate for 4,496 hectares of plantation, enabling collective certification efforts and access to socio-economic benefits. This sets an example for other wood producers to improve their plantation management practices, thereby earning international certifications and maintaining competitiveness in the market. Certification also provides access to the certified product market, enabling Quang Tri Matte Paper Co., Ltd to legally sell certified products acquired from farmers' groups to a broader global consumer base. Certified wood may gain higher prices and improves competitiveness, benefiting small plantation owners.

During Q2, the Project conducted surveys and collected information on the demand for sawn timber/lumber in Quang Nam province. Quang Nam PPMU issued a survey form with a questionnaire and distributed them to nine wood processing enterprises in the region, receiving six responses. However, the data collection remains incomplete because some enterprises did not fully respond to the survey. In the upcoming quarter, the Project will continue collecting data on lumber demand, analyzing it and preparing a report. Additionally, the Project will make efforts to establish connections between lumber buyers and producers.

On the occasion of the International Day of Forest, the Project supported conservation-friendly enterprises to participate in the Quy Nhon International Outdoor Lifestyle Fair. This initiative aimed to promote improved practices and market linkages throughout the acacia value chain to better seize the

opportunity for enhanced livelihoods and to increase carbon sequestration through better management of plantation forests. The Project collaborated with the Vietnam Timber and Forest product Association to organize a dialogue with the theme of “Strengthening Acacia value chain in Vietnam”. It featured perspectives from various acacia value chain actors, including acacia growers, improved seedling nursery managers, and local forest group leaders. Conversations covered the need to combat illegal logging and ensure deforestation-free supply chains, promote green trade, and widely promote forest certification and traceability to ensure sustainable forest management and green growth in the long term. The dialogue also highlighted Vietnam’s success in creating incentives for farmers to expand their areas of plantation forest and in successfully promoting the adaptation of sustainable acacia production practices (e.g., shifting to longer rotations, improving the quality and traceability of trees, and reducing harmful post-harvest burning practices). However, more effort and enabling policies are needed for farmers to see the value in shifting from traditional methods to improved practices.

### **Typhoon index insurance: An innovative solution to mitigate plantation damage from natural disasters.**

*In 2020, “Typhoon No. 9” devastated a significant area of plantation in Hiep Duc district, resulting in substantial losses for plantation owners. The threat of this recurring risk hinders many from expanding their plantation areas. To provide forest owners with a sense of security to develop large timber plantations coupled with forest certification, and to improve income for forest owners, they require reassurance and coverage for losses from wind and storm disasters. This quarter, with support from the USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project, Hiep Thuan Agriculture Cooperative (signed a typhoon index insurance contract with Bao Minh Insurance Company, covering 154 hectares of acacia plantations ranging from 3-to-5 years old, owned by 40 forest owner households affiliated with the Cooperative in Hiep Duc district. This is the first instance in Vietnam that forest owners and the Cooperative are participating in a typhoon index insurance scheme to cover plantations. This insurance product will help plantation owners minimize losses and swiftly restore production in the event of natural disasters. If the typhoon index insurance pilot proves effective, the Cooperative will continue to encourage more forest owners to participate, thereby reducing losses from natural disasters.*



*Representatives of Hiep Thuan Agricultural Cooperative signed the typhoon index insurance contract with Bao Minh Insurance Company. Photo on March 07, 2024 by Hillridge.*



"As a household nursery owner, with years of experience producing acacia seedlings to serve the plantation owners in the region, my participation in a training course on nursery management and seedling production techniques funded by the USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project in Hoa Binh province proved invaluable. During the course, I gained new knowledge and insights into forest tree variety management and regulations, helping me understand and adopt regulatory principles in our production practices. This ensures our seedling production complies with regulations on tree variety management. The Project also equipped me with seedling production techniques, and imparted new knowledge about forest tree varieties and acacia propagation methods. Armed with this knowledge, I improved the quality of seedlings, ensured compliance with regulatory standards, and supplied it to the market, thereby facilitating sustainable plantations in the region.

In addition, the Project supplied us with superior quality acacia mangium seeds, surpassing those purchased by my family before. These high-quality seeds yield fast-growing, disease-resilient seedlings, instilling trust among buyers for plantation establishment. By promoting the use of high-quality seedlings with traceable origin, the Project encourages wood producers to change to a habit of using high quality seedlings instead of buying unreliable seedlings available on the market, thereby, improving productivity and yield of plantations for people in the region."

**Mr. Bui Van Chieu**, (Muong ethnic minority), owner of Bui Van Chieu Household Nursery, Binh Son commune, Kim Boi district, Hoa Binh province







Nursery with Acacia mangium seedlings from the seeds provided by the Project. Photo: Bui Van Chieu

Progress of Objective 4 activities is presented in Table 7.

### Table 7: Objective 4 Activity Progress

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

# / Code	Activities	Current Progress (Q1- FY2024)		
		% achieved	Status	Description of Progress
<b>Task 4.1. Increase Production of Sustainable Timber by Small-Scale Foresters</b>				
4.1.4	Implement capacity building for nursery gardens	35%		Provided 20,000 original germplasm/plantlets to a nursery in QN; conducted field check of hedge orchards/ original germplasm growth in nurseries in QN and NA, which received technical assistance from the Project to help nurseries obtaining certificates for hedge orchards; conducted training on nursery management and IQPM production in QT; conducted checking of seed germination rates at the nurseries that received assistance/propagation material from the Project.
4.1.5	Improve practices on sustainable forest management (SFM)	50%		Conducted QGIS training for Hoa Binh Forest company in HB and provided coaching on application of QGIS in forest management for two FPMBs in TH which collectively manage 29,426.01 hectares of forests; established two cinnamon farmers' groups in LC and provided silviculture/certification training for one certification farmers' group in QN; Conducted field acceptance verification of tending 32.2 hectares of farmers' plantation in TH; Conducted field survey for tending 100 hectares of plantation in QT; Provided training and facilitated/updated forest status maps for farmers' groups in TH; Updated thematic reports (SIA, EIA, NTFP, HCV/biodiversity) for SFM plans for farmers' groups in TH; drafted SOW on procurement of IQPM for HB, TH, NA, QT and QN; Started piloting typhoon index insurance for plantations in QN.
<b>Task 4.2: Increase Demand from Processors for Certified Timber</b>				
4.2.2	Develop promotion and information material about certification and Chain of Custody (CoC) certification	70%		Revised/updated report on case study/TNA on SFM/certification, and outline for the textbook.
<b>Task 4.3: Develop Market Linkages Between Timber Producers and Industry</b>				
4.3.2	Build market linkages between forest owners and wood processing enterprises	20%		The project conducted surveys and collected information on the demand for sawn timber/lumber in Quang Nam province. In the next quarter, the Project will continue to collect data on lumber demand, analyze it and prepare report. The Project will work on connecting lumber buyers with the producers.

## OBJECTIVE 5: MOBILIZE DOMESTIC RESOURCES FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

In Q2, the Project engaged in discussions with the Department of Forestry (DOF) to shift the direction of Carbon Payment for Forest Environmental Services (CPFES) toward a new approach that prioritizes for offset mechanism in domestic market which is independent from the approval of Decree 156 focusing on domestic and international voluntary market. During this quarter, the Project initiated activities to develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) inventory platform that will subsequently integrate forest carbon credit information and domestic carbon standards, along with a monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) mechanism to verify forest carbon credits. The Project collaborated with the Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund (VNFF) to commence piloting the PFES Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) platform in VNFF and across seven provinces.

## **Task 5.1 Pilot and roll out CPFES at provincial and national levels**

This quarter, the Deputy Prime Minister convened a workshop to discuss the revision of Decree 156. After the workshop, the Prime Minister decided to split the revision into three separate Decrees, with Article 72a slated to become its own decree. Concurrently, on March 6, 2024, the Government office officially assigned the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to lead the development of domestic carbon standards and an MRV mechanism for forest carbon credits, aiming to facilitate participation in both domestic and international markets. The Project, in collaboration with DOF, initiated drafting a scope of work (SOW) to recruit consultants to develop domestic carbon standards and the MRV mechanism. The recruitment process will commence in the next quarter. In parallel, the Project finalized a SOW for a firm to develop a platform for a GHG inventory within the forestry sector. This marks completion of the first phase, with plans to integrate it to the national inventory platform during the second phase. This platform will share forestry emissions reduction data with the national system, while also incorporating all information related to forest carbon trading. The procurement process to develop the platform started in March 2024, and the selection of the firm to be finalized in the next quarter. Also this quarter, the Project developed a SOW for a study of forest carbon potential in Son La province, with the recruitment of consultants now concluded. The consultants will be onboarded in April, but as a consequence of USAID funding limitations, the Project was instructed by USAID at the end of March 2024 to delay implementation of most activities until further notice pending on new authorized funds expected in June 2024. Consequently, this activity will be delayed until funding is available.

## **Task 5.2. Build awareness and capacity for C-PFES and PFES implementation**

VNFF issued an official letter, No 41/QĐ-VNFF-BĐH, dated March 08, 2024 to launch the pilot of the PFES M&E platform end of June 2024. e. On March 14 and 20, VNFF issued letter on a detailed workplan to pilot the PFES M&E platform, assigning seven provincial funds to collect data from commune People's Committees managing forests and organizational forest owners for data entry. The data entry phase is scheduled for every Thursday from March 27 through July 3, 2024, with online guidance from the Project and VNFF staff. By early July, VNFF plans to organize a workshop to review the piloting outcome before expanding the adoption of the platform to the remaining provinces in Vietnam.

During this quarter, the Vice Minister endorsed a plan to conduct a study and develop a proposal to increase PFES payment level in response to a more than 20 percent increase in electricity and water price in last five years. According to Decree 156, when electricity and water prices increase by more than 20 percent, MARD is authorized to prepare a proposal for submission to the Prime Minister adjusting the PFES payment level accordingly. The Project has collaborated with VNFF to develop the SOW for preparing the proposal to be submitted the Prime Minister. However, due to implementation delays as a result of USAID funding limitations, the recruitment process will be delayed.

### **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
<b>Task 5.1: Pilot and Roll out C-PFES at Provincial and National Levels</b>				
5.1.2	Evaluate potentiality for carbon payments	20%	●	Consultants for Son La have been recruited and are in the process of preparing contracts
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.
5.1.5.3	Develop guidelines on measuring, reporting, verification of CO2 carbon credits (integrate GESI)	5%	●	DOF has issued the first technical request for MRV for forest domestic carbon credit trading and standards
5.1.5.4	Develop online database for GHG inventory, MRV of LULUCF	20%	●	SOW has been completed and recruitment of firm has commenced.
5.1.5.6	Develop carbon credit standards	5%	●	The government office has officially assigned MARD to lead the development of domestic carbon standards. DOF has issued first technical request for domestic carbon standards.
5.1.6	Pilot CPFES after the approval by GVN.	0%	●	Waiting for further funds from USAID and approval of Decree 156.
<b>Task 5.2: Build Awareness of and Capacity for CPFES and PFES</b>				
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.
5.2.2.2	Guide provincial fund officers to pilot PFES M&E platform (integrate GESI in one indicator)	80%	●	VNFF has issued two official letters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- regulating the adoption of PFES M&amp;E platform</li> <li>- Detailed workplan for piloting the platform until June 30,2024.</li> </ul>
5.2.2.4	Upgrade the PFES M&E platform and guide to use updated version	100%	✓	First phase has been completed with 15 indicators developed in the platform, subsequently it is ready for piloting in 7 provincial funds and VNFF
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.
5.2.5.1	Evaluate potential of other payment sources such as aquaculture, industrial water, forest lease etc.	5%	●	Vice Minister has endorsed VNFF to conduct the study and prepare proposal for MARD to submit to Government office, aiming to increase PFES payment level in response to the increase of electricity and water prices by more than 20% in last 5 years.
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 presents implementation challenges experienced in Q2 and measures taken to address them.

### Objective 1- Improving Community Forest Management

**Challenge:** Despite the completion of SFMPs or FPPs, communities in target CFM sites continue facing technical and financial difficulties implementing various activities outlined in the SFMPs, such as managing and developing NTFPs or promoting community-based ecotourism activities.

**Solution:** The Project communicated with local authorities (e.g., in Lao Cai) to mobilize funding from alternative sources and to promote synergies with other government activities to support implementation of SFMPs. The Project also selected members from communities actively engaged in community-based ecotourism activities to participate in start-up and business planning trainings under OBJ2, in order to facilitate more proactive SFMP activity implementation.

### Objective 2- Promotion of CFEs and Value Chains

**Challenges:** The Project has recently assisted Chan May Cooperative in building a linkage project to develop the Tung oil value chain, seeking funding from the National Target Program for Socio-Economic Development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas for implementation between 2024 - 2026. However, it conflicted with one regulation stipulated in Resolution No. 99/2022/NQ-HDND dated December 9, 2022, of the People's Council of Quang Tri province, which embraces only tissue culture seedlings. Therefore, Tung oil is not eligible which exclude supports for Tung oil tree because it does not have tissue culture seedlings.

**Solution:** The Project will firstly advocate to Quang Tri Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, sub-departments of rural development for amendment of the aforementioned Resolution, to add Tung oil in the eligible list. Secondly, the Project will continue its support to Chan May for further explore and access potential resource mobilization for the cooperative during the time the cooperative has not yet been eligible for funding from the National Target Program for Socio-Economic Development for their Tung oil development.

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

**Challenge:** Due to budgetary constraints, some activities outlined in the provincial forest law enforcement action plans have not yet been implemented across target provinces.

**Solution:**

- OBJ 3 will work with provincial FPDs to find a suitable solution for implementing planned activities subject to budget constraints, for example: collecting written comments of concerned actors to the drafts of provincial policies instead of organizing consultation workshops; organizing online exchanges to coach local FPD focal points on updating FVDMS system instead of organizing training workshops.
- OBJ 3 staff (in-house experts) will allocate their time to prepare for and implement selected capacity building activities in provinces instead of hiring local consultants.
- Capacity building activities that require consultancy services (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, applied only for utmost important and urgent assignment, OBJ 3 proposes to recruit policy development consultants in Q3 to support legal document development for GVN partners (MARD departments and provinces). Payments for consultancy services and other consultation events would be scheduled after June 2024.

## Objective 4- Improve Production Forest Management Practices

**Challenge 1:** Initial surveys indicate that potential suppliers lack sufficient quantities of acacia mangium seeds and acacia hybrid tissue original germplasm to supply to nurseries in Q3 of FY24 to produce IQPM.

**Solution:** The Project will extend the period for supplying acacia mangium seeds and acacia hybrid tissue original germplasm to Q4 of FY24 to enable suppliers to meet the demanded quantity.

**Challenge 2:** Some nurseries previously requested the Project's assistance in providing acacia hybrid tissue original germplasm of AHI and BV10. However recently, AHI and BV10 were affected by diseases caused by the fungus, *Ceratocystis manginecans*, in plantation forests in Nghe An, Quang Tri, Quang Nam provinces.

**Solution:** The Project will explain the risks associated with the fungus disease to these nurseries and encourage them to replace the acacia hybrid tissue germplasm of AHI and BV10 with safer alternatives, like BV 523, X101, X102 which are more disease-resistant.

## Objective 5- Mobilize domestic resources

**Challenge:** Despite commitments with partners, activities including developing platform and MRV may be delayed due to limited available funding.

This quarter, the Project encountered situations in which committed activities with DOSTIC and VNFF were delayed due to budget constraints. Although DOSTIC received offers from other donors for the same activities outlined, these are already in the Project's approved workplan, so the Project remains committed to carrying them out, and Another activity in our workplan, VNFF and DOF have already submitted to MARD Vice Minister the implementation plan to prepare submission documents to submit to the Prime Minister to increase PFES payment level from April through August 2024 but until now the activity is postpone due to budget constraints. The risk for the Project is that by postponing support until June it may be too late for USAID to remain leading and losing opportunity to support to DOF.

**Solution:** Request USAID approval to conduct procurement, start process and payment to be done when funds are available.

## Communications

**Challenge:** The Project's budget constraints are leading to restricted travel and limited event coverage, which impedes the team's ability to organize communication events for special and related occasions, such as the International Day of Forest (March 21) and Earth Hour (March 23). Otherwise, designing and printing-out the communication materials like success story book, photo book, knowledge products has been not yet implemented.

**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 websites and social media channels (i.e., Facebook, X, Instagram, and LinkedIn) of USAID, DAI, RECOFTC, Preferred by Nature, MBFP, MARD, and provincial partners.

Additionally, during the current budget constrained scenario, the communication team will make use of its internal resources and capacity to focus on urgent tasks, such as working closely with other technical teams to focus on building a database on knowledge management and to share and leverage knowledge and information related to Project goals and activities. The team will complete an inventory of existing knowledge generated and will identify specific uses for audiences for these products, working with the team to catalogue and repackage them, as needed. In addition, the communications team will develop new materials internally, catalogue its image library, and continue to improve the capacity of staff.

# III. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

In Q2, the Project worked on the following areas of the MEL system:

**Data quality assurance:** The MEL team conducted 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 is 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.

**MEL information system upgrade:** The Project has entered its fourth year of implementation with a significant volume of MEL-related information and data, which has led to a higher demand for data management and data use for decision making and reporting. Consequently, in Q2, the MEL team reviewed all the current functions of the MEL information system and upgraded it to better and more promptly meet the reporting, data management and data utilization requirements. Newly developed or upgraded functions include integrating all indicator databases and quarterly reports into the system, generating provincial progress report, and automating the indicator projection dashboard. In the next quarter, the team plans to improve data visualization functions such as developing specific dashboard for each indicator and generating provincial infographics to effectively deliver data and information.

**MEL plan and MEL guideline update:** In early Q2, USAID approved the Project's updated MEL plan for FY24, which was revised during last quarter, to better reflect the actual interventions of the Project and suited the nature of activities. The plan was translated into Vietnamese to enhance understanding among technical staff, field staff, and partners, thereby increasing productivity and effectiveness in coordination and collaboration. Additionally, the MEL team also adjusted the MEL guideline, a summary version of the MEL plan, providing detailed information on indicator definitions, data disaggregation, evidence collection types, data collection frequency, and technical staff responsibilities for each indicator. By the end of the quarter, the adjusted guideline was available in both English and Vietnamese for dissemination within the Project and relevant partners.

**Monthly implementation plan update:** Given limited funds for activity implementation, an active tracking system is essential to monitor actual implementation and budget availability to support the activity planning process. Therefore, in Q2, the MEL team updated the Project's monthly planning tool, introducing new function to automatically synchronize information on conducted activities against approved plan, expenditure costs, and remaining budget. This function will furnish technical staff with adequate information to develop appropriate plans with a reasonable budget for the month, enhancing the Project's activity management effectiveness.

**Survey for community's perception on land tenure right:** In March, the MEL team collaborated with Objective 1 to conduct survey in Hoa Binh province to study the communities' perception on their land tenure rights following the Project's awareness raising interventions on this topic. The team provided support in calculating sample size and designing sampling method to ensure the representativeness of the surveyed populations. Additionally, The MEL team aid in developing the data collection form, survey questionnaire and guided technical staff on data collection method and process to ensure comprehensive and accurate data collection. In the next quarter, we will continue to support the survey's implementation in other provinces and will process with data analysis and reporting once the data collection is complete.

Indicator achievement progress is presented in Table 7 below.

**Table 8: Indicator Achievement Progress**



Main Activities/ Topics/ Disaggregation	FY2024				LOP		C
	Actual Q2	Actual FY 2024	FY 2024 Target	% to Target FY2024	Actual to Date	Original LOP target	
<b>Indicator 1: EG 13-1 Number of people trained in sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance</b>							
<b>Total (people)</b>	1,648	2,405	8,327	29%	36,415	25,388	
<b>Disaggregated by sex</b>							
Male	797	1,270	5,627	23%	21,498	17,265	
Female	851	1,135	2,700	42%	14,917	8,123	
<b>Disaggregated by Objective</b>							
O1. Community Forest Management	1,204	1,375	3,995	34%	5,644	5,650	
Male	496	559	2,605	21%	3,791	3,955	
Female	708	816	1,390	59%	1,853	1,695	
O2. Conservation Friendly Enterprises	121	380	1,500	25%	8,399	9,150	
Male	29	159	985	16%	3,578	6,300	
Female	92	221	515	43%	4,821	2,850	
O3. Law Enforcement/ Cross Cutting	38	74	905	8%	3,631	400	
Male	36	61	725	8%	2,961	350	
Female	2	13	180	7%	670	50	
O4. Production Forest Management Practices	285	535	1,500	36%	17,751	10,000	
Male	236	459	970	47%	10,336	6,500	
Female	49	76	530	14%	7,415	3,500	
O5. Resources Mobilized	-	41	427	10%	990	188	
Male	-	32	342	9%	832	160	
Female	-	9	85	11%	158	28	
<b>Description of Progress:</b> During this quarter, the main training topics under each Objective were: - Objective 1: Awareness raising on forest land tenure right perception; and field coaching on forest patrolling skill - Objective 2: Trainings on Integrated Plant Health Management (IPHM); Start up and improve your business (SIYE) processing for collective groups in the cinnamon value chain; Research and development of OCOP products in the medicinal plants value chain; and Rattan nurseries development in the rattan, bamboo, and leaves (RBL) value chain - Objective 3: Trainings on Investigation skills in the forestry sector - Objective 4: Trainings on Non-burning vegetation treatment after harvesting; Nursery management/high quality s production for nursery managers and key staff; Silviculture techniques, sustainable plantation management, forest certification, occupational safety, and establishment/reinforcement of plantation owner groups for plantation owner stakeholder; Plantation household group management for leader/vice leader groups; and GIS application for partner technical staff							
<b>Indicator 2: EG 13-2 Number of institutions with improved capacity to address sustainable landscape issues as supported by USG assistance.</b>							

## IV. INTEGRATION OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

A summary of cross-cutting activities (including GESI, communications, and GIS) from Q2 is presented below.

### GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI)

Findings from a rapid survey with women-owned/led CFEs on how gender would affect their business performance showed that: (i) women got support from their families; (ii) women had a strong influence in their communities; (iii) women could make decisions about their businesses; and (iv) women wished to have better management skills to improve their businesses. Further discussion with the surveyed women revealed that, although they were good at product development, they lacked business planning and management skills. Beyond the Project's support and training on business planning or entrepreneurship, these women also received continuous coaching on business management from the Project. The below story of change demonstrates the positive impact the Project has had on women-owned or led CFEs.

#### **USAID boosted economic cooperation between ethnic women-led enterprise and coffee farmers in Quang Tri to create economic and social impacts to wider ethnic community.**

Ms. Nong Thi Hanh owned three hectares of coffee and ran a café, also selling her raw coffee mainly to local people. As an ethnic woman running a growing business, Hanh faced difficulties negotiating sales contracts with large customers and ensuring sufficient coffee bean stock to meet sales demand. After attending a Project-led training on starting up businesses and understanding the challenges of ethnic minorities living in mountainous areas, she decided to expand her business by forming Ta Lu Khe Sanh Coffee Company Limited in September 2023. The Project supported her to develop a business strategy and create linkages with 60 coffee farmers who owned 108 ha of coffee plantation with an expected output of about 757 tons of fresh coffee. Newly trained on business planning, production planning, and marketing, Hanh decided to invest in more equipment and facilities for coffee processing. For 2024, she planned to earn revenue of five billion VND, and by March 2024, she had already reached 80 percent of her revenue target for the year! Benefiting from the Project, Hanh also changed her production approach toward more environmentally friendly practices by using 150 tons of coffee bean shells to produce 120 tons of bio-fertilizer and by reducing firewood by 30 percent (equal to 7 tons of firewood). Hanh's business idea won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize at a women's entrepreneurship contest organized by the Quang Tri Women's Union. Hanh shared, "Thanks to the Project, I was able to systematize my business and aware of my company performance."



*Ms. Nong Thi Hanh (in yellow shirt) attending a business start-up training led by the Project.*

In Q2, the Project organized a start-up training on improving businesses for 22 women (15 ethnic people) who lead business and collaborate with forest-dependent communities. The training provided knowledge on business planning, circular economy approach, and environmental protection.

Trainee, Ms. Pham Thi Hiep, a Muong ethnic woman who produces and trades herbal teabags, shared her feedback on the training program. "Before attending the training, I found it very difficult to present my ideas and was not sure how to meet the requirements of green growth or circular economy required by the Women's Union Entrepreneurship Contest. After two days of training, I knew what I needed to present and what more I needed to do. I understood the circular economy and the '3R' model (reduce, recycle, reuse) that I will apply in my production process. At the same time, as the chairwoman of Cam Quy Commune Women's Union, I will also share my training take-aways with my fellow sisters so they will understand that economic growth must be associated with environmental protection and sustainable development, so they can change their practices accordingly."

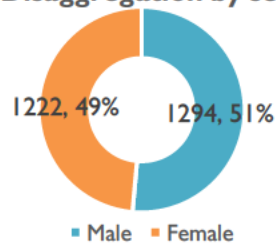


Ms. Pham Thi Hiep (2<sup>nd</sup> in pink shirt) at the start-up and 'Improve Your Business' training led by the Project.

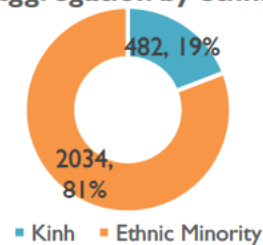
During Q2, the Project conducted 66 events, attracting a total of 2,516 participants (49% female and 81% ethnic minorities); and supported 13 women led CFEs.

**Exhibit I: Number of participants disaggregated by sex and ethnicity.**

**Disaggregation by sex**



**Disaggregation by ethnicity**



**COMMUNICATIONS**

During Q2, under the Communications and Outreach Plan, and CKM Strategy, the Project accomplished five major milestones that contributed to overall Project targets.

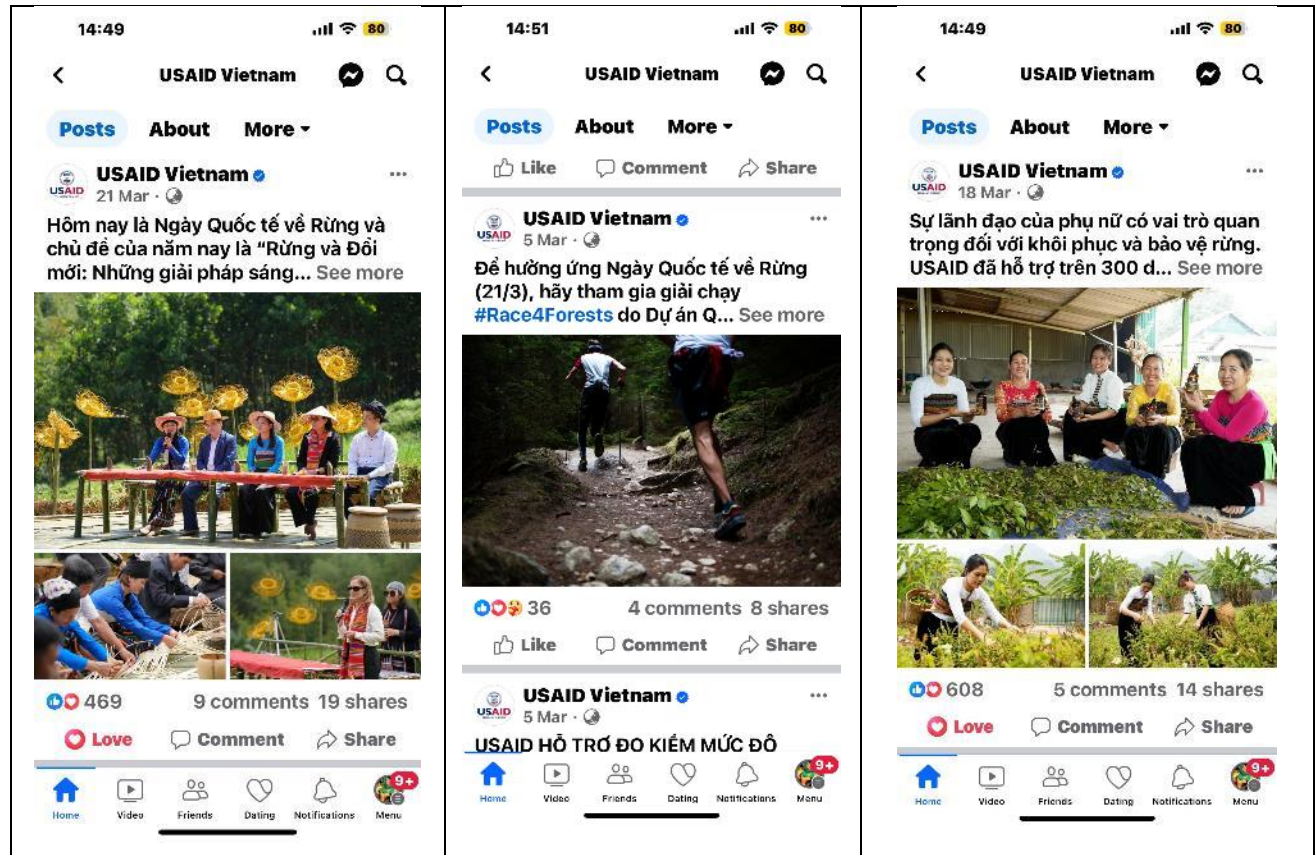
1. Increased visibility of Project achievements and learnings both within and outside of Vietnam;
2. Validated and demonstrated USAID's contributions to forestry in Vietnam;
3. Raised awareness about sustainable forest management issues in Vietnam, regionally, and globally;
4. Promoted replication of sustainable forestry best practices by sharing knowledge and lessons learned among forestry stakeholders; and
5. Promoted International Day of Forests (March 21) through a month-long communication campaign including digital outreach, in-person events, and other activities.



## Produced and submitted quality Project content and results to USAID.

In Q2, the Project captured Project results, milestones, and early outcomes, which were presented to USAID in **six bi-weekly updates** with **12 bullet points**; and **two champion profiles** on women leading two conservation-friendly enterprises (one in bamboo-rattan-leaves value chain, and one in the medicinal plants value chain) in Thanh Hoa province. 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.

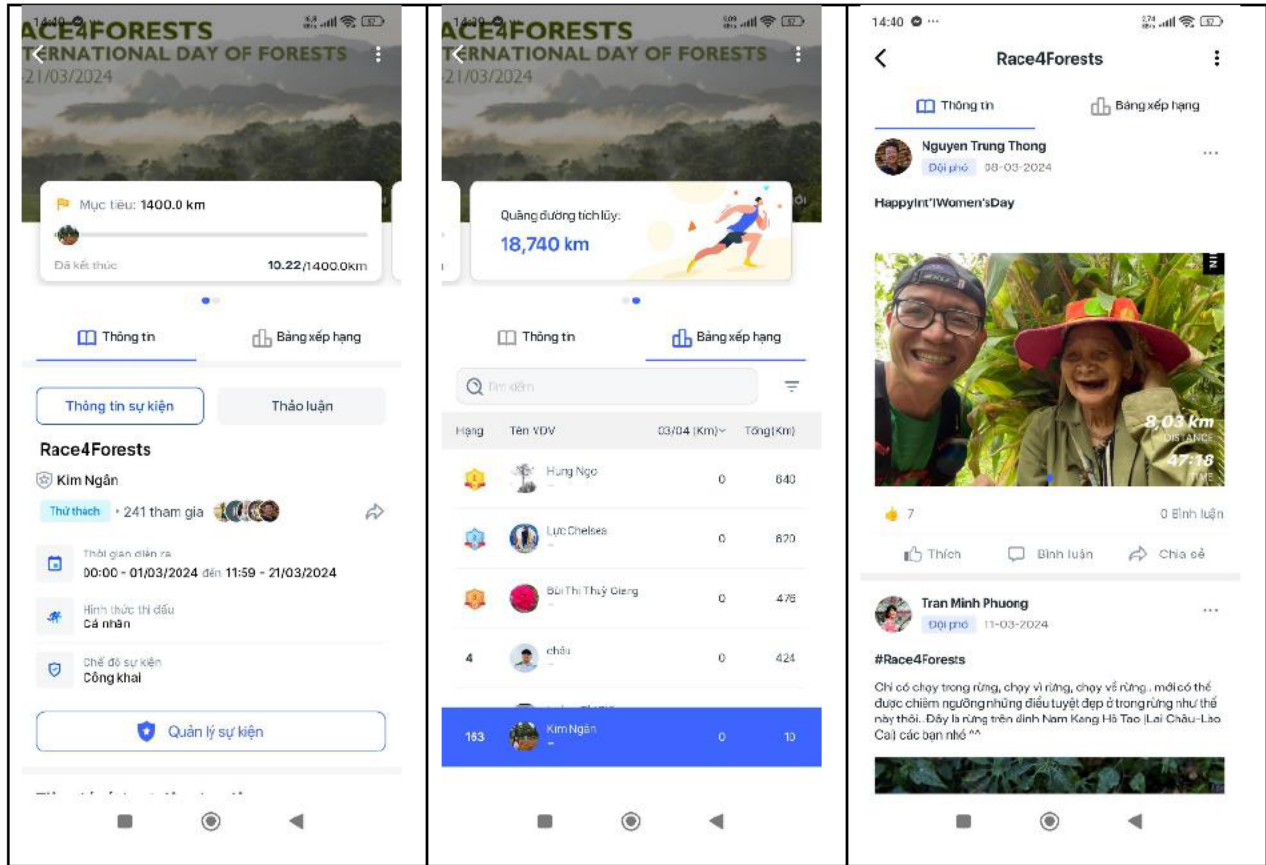


This quarter, the Project achieved its highest level of visibility and reach on traditional and social media to date through a series of targeted outreach posts and coverage, as part of the International Forest Day month-long campaign. The communications team developed and disseminated campaign-related posts highlighting key messages about sustainable forestry and forestry innovations and champions. This effort resulted in 15 articles and/or stories being published in Vietnamese media (newspaper, television, etc.) and/or official websites of government bodies and organizations, which mentioned the Project's achievements. The Project maintained an active presence on social media platforms, including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, managed by DAI and USAID Vietnam. Throughout this quarter, 10 posts showcased the Project's activities, generating substantial engagement. These posts received reactions from 1,198 individuals, reflecting the active engagement of our combined audience, which includes more than 88,000 followers on USAID and DAI's Facebook platform, 285,000 followers on DAI LinkedIn and



more than 1,000 followers on USAID’s Instagram account. Furthermore, these posts were shared or reposted 51 times, extending the Project’s global reach across social media networks.

## Organized successful communications campaign to commemorate International Day of Forests, March 21, 2022



Mr. Hung Ngo commented on the Race4Forests: “I was so glad to join this race. The photos shared by other runners made me understand more about the beauty and values of forests. I will find more chances to run in the forests in the future.”

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21 as International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raises awareness on the importance of all types of forests. To the occasion, the Project organized a month-long communications campaign with series of activities, events, stories, and targeted outreach throughout the month of March.

To kick off the campaign and raise awareness about the importance of forests, the Project launched a virtual “Race4Forests” inviting runners from anywhere around the world to contribute to a team goal of running “14,000 kms in honor of Vietnam’s 14 million hectares of forests” any time between March 1 and 21. In just three weeks, 241 global runners (87 female) from Vietnam, USA and Nepal (including 32 Project staff and about 20 runners from USAID Vietnam) far surpassed the team goal by running a total of 18,740 kms.

In the two days leading up to International Day of Forests, of March 19 and 20, 2024, the Project hosted high-level visits with a USAID Vietnam delegation, including Mission Director, Ms. Aler Grubbs, to visit community forest sites under Pa Ban village, Thanh Son commune, Ba Thuoc district, Thanh Hoa

province. The Project is helping Pa Ban village improve and expand community forest management by empowering community members via financial management trainings, forest patrolling, and participatory forest inventory and sustainable community forest management plan. The Project also supports community-based forest ecotourism with effective participation of women, highlighting innovations in community forest management. Mr. Luong Van Thap, a Muong person who is Head of Pa Ban Village and leader of Pa Ban community forest protection patrolling team, shared, *“Thanks to the USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project, we deeply value the pivotal role of the community forest protection patrolling teams while emphasizing that the protection of community forests is the responsibility of every community member. Our team has two active female members - Mrs. Ngan Thi Long, age 35 and Mrs. Ngan Thi Nga, age 33. They are also members of Pa Ban Village Women Union, and helping to delivery information, knowledge about the values of community forest and importance of community forest management to wider women’s union.”*



*Mr. Luong Van Thap (age 44) and his community forest protection patrol team of Pa Ban village share their experiences managing and protecting the with the USAID Vietnam Mission Director, Ms. Aler Grubbs. Photo credit: Cintapo Tran*

The month-long campaign culminated on March 21, at Yen Thang commune, Lang Chanh district, Thanh Hoa province, when the Project hosted a unique ‘Symposium in the Forest’ that honors Vietnam’s diverse forest communities by taking place outdoors, set against the stunning backdrop of the bamboo forest and set among the rice paddy fields of Yen Thang. In addition to engaging discussions on forest management-related topics, attendees were treated to an enchanting exhibition from the site entrance to a bamboo-made stage showcasing the vibrant bamboo culture, from a display of bamboo value chain photographs to a showcase of bamboo products developed by Project-supported enterprises, to cultural performances using traditional bamboo instruments. The Symposium dialogue brought together local leaders, USAID



representatives, and members of forest-dependent communities to discuss topics, such as PFES achievements in Vietnam, innovations on NTFP value chain development, and inclusive community-based ecotourism and community forest management. The Symposium welcomed 100+ esteemed guests, including USAID/Vietnam Mission Director Aler Grubbs; representatives of relevant agencies under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund (VNFF); Thanh Hoa Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; local conservation friendly enterprises; the Bamboo Weaving Economic Collaborative Group; Community Forest Management networks; representatives from Vietnam National University; and members of the national and provincial mass media. The Symposium greeted thousand local Thai people from Yen Thang village and nearby ones.

Mr. Vu Van Hung, Deputy Director General, Management Board of Forestry Projects (MBFP) cum Director, USAID Sustainable Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation Project (VFBC) shared, *“The Project highly appreciates the co-organization and co-sponsorship of the Symposium in the Forest by Yen Thang Commune People Committee; Bamboo Weaving Economic Collaborative Groups from Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Nam and Son La; and Vietnam Handicraft Exporters Association (VIETCRAFT). This encourages collaborative local and national efforts on sustainable forest management interventions in the Project”*. The Symposium in the Forest was a unique experience to celebrate Vietnam’s vibrant forest communities and traditions, and to highlight the Project’s contributions to promoting sustainable forest management to reduce emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, and poor timber plantation management practices for a greener, healthier Vietnam.





*Highlights from the Project's successful 'Symposium in the Forest' in Yen Thang commune, Lang Chanh district, Thanh Hoa province, to commemorate International Day of Forests on March 21, 2024. More than 100 partners, local leaders, donors, government officials, local ethnic communities, and forest owners convened for the occasion to experience the bamboo-themed exhibition and engage in dialogue on forestry innovations, Photo credit: Cintapo Tran*

## 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

In addition to its regular meetings with and bi-weekly updates for USAID, in Q2, the Project cooperated with Thanh Hoa concerned agencies to organize an important event to celebrate the International Day of Forest on March 21, 2024 in Lang Chanh district of Thanh Hoa province. The Mission Director of USAID Vietnam, Ms. Aler Grubbs, led the delegation from USAID Vietnam to attend the event, exchanged with representatives of MARD, local governments and other key actors involving in forest protection, value chain, community-based ecotourism. The MD joined a dialogue herself as a panelist and presented USAID's point of view on PFES and C-PFES. (Details provided in session "Communication" right above).

Prior to that, USAID delegation visited and monitor the community forest management and protection activities on March 20, 2024 in Ba Thuoc district, where members of the community forest protection group of Pa Ban village (Thanh Son Commune) walked the delegation through the forests and introduce to them how their forest management and protection tasks are planned and implemented and how revenue from payment for forest environmental services is used for this purpose.

Delay in budget allocation from the donor requires the Project to adapt and re-prioritize its activities. Regular meetings, mostly online, were organized in Q2 with CPMU and the seven PPMUs to define the selection criteria of prioritized activities, identify specific activities to carry out and find the methods of implementation, which are less costly. The Project kept the practice of developing monthly plans, in which the selected activities were discussed and agreed upon with PPMUs.

At the national level, few policy support activities were conducted in Q2 due to budget constraint. Nevertheless, communication channels are well maintained between the Project and its partners Department of Forestry (DOF) and Forestry Protection Department (FPD). The Project's in-house and outsource experts continued to provide comments to the national policies being developed, notably on the follow-up clarification of Decree 156, which resulted in the issue of Decree 27/2024/NĐ-CP dated March 6, 2024 on temporary conversion of forest uses, and the development of the Decree on Production Forest Liquidation.



## STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT'S NON-CAPACITY EVENTS

In comparison to Q1, less non-capacity building events in seven Project's provinces: 104 events with the participation of more than 3,000 local people in Q1 and 28 events with 868 participants in Q2. One of the main reasons is that most of the communication and awareness raising events on LE in the forestry sector and consultation events, which normally involved a large number of participants at community levels, are postponed to Q3 and Q4.

It is, however, noticed that the percentages of women participating in non-capacity building events increased slightly: 43% female participants in Q2 in comparison to 37% in Q1.

**Exhibit 2. Stakeholders participated in Project non-capacity events during FY24-Q2**

Number of Events	Total Participants	Male	Female	Kinh	Minority
28	868	497	371	137	731
		(57%)	(43%)	(16%)	(84%)

## 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

During this quarter, the Project reduced its operational activities due to the constraints to the Project's budget, with staff prioritizing tasks that did not require external consultants or other vendors. Instead, the project continued to work on prioritization, conducting cost-benefit analyses to determine which activities would help the project achieve its targets at the lowest price, thereby ensuring best value to USAID. Below, the Procurement Staff coordinated with the MEL Team and the Technical Team to identify priority needs in order to prepare for the next obligation:

- **Forest Land Allocation/Forest Allocation:** The operations team worked with Objective 1 to identify a cost estimate and a timeline from procurement to completion that will ensure the Project reaches the targets set under Indicator 8 and Indicator 5.
- **Procurement of Seedlings for Nurseries:** Objective 4, in coordination with the Procurement team conducted a cost-benefit analysis showing the amount of seedlings and the type of commodities that will maximize the total areas covered under Indicator 8. As a result of this cost-benefit analysis, the Procurement Team began identifying vendors that can provide sufficiently supply.
- **GHG Inventory for the Carbon Market Database System:** The project began working on identifying a local vendor who can help develop the carbon market database system that will be used for the launch of the domestic carbon market in Vietnam. Since this is a priority for the government of Vietnam, the Project team is prioritizing its procurement.

With these three priority activities in mind, the Project has held continuous conversations with USAID related to extending the project to allow sufficient time for the completion of these activities. The project will submit the request for an extension by the beginning of the next quarter.

In addition to the activities above, USAID issued the project a Stop Work Order notice effective April 1, 2024, due to the delays in funding from USAID Headquarters. As a result of the Stop-Work order, the project will only conduct activities that do not incur additional workshop or travel related costs without prior notice to USAID.

## 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 staff resigned during the quarter, some with no plans for replacement. Below, we indicate whether each position will be replaced:

- Dr. Do Dang Teo, Deputy Chief of Party, resigned effective on January 7, 2024. His position will be replaced. Mr. Tran Le Tra, Environmental Governance Director, is serving as Acting DCOP until the position is permanently filled.
- Mr. Nguyen Huu Tien, Provincial Project Manager for Hoa Binh, resigned effective on January 12, 2024. His position was readvertised. Mr. Canh Nguyen, Silviculture Specialist, is currently serving as Acting Provincial Manager until the Stop-Work Order is lifted.
- Dr. Pham Van Bon, National Coordinator for Objective 4, resigned effective on February 29, 2024. His position will not be readvertised.
- Additionally, during this period, the Project has promoted Mr. Nguyen Xuan Dai, Forestry Officer for Thanh Hoa, to become Provincial Manager for Thanh Hoa, effective March 1, 2024, after a competitive recruitment process. His former role, Forestry Officer, will not be replaced.

The following consultants were onboarded during this period:

Consult Name	Consultant and Task	Start Date	End Date
<b>Nguyen Thuy Duong</b>	Provincial Administrative Consultant for Hoa Binh	January 1, 2024	February 29, 2024
<b>Vu Thanh Binh</b>	Logistics Consultant in Hanoi	January 1, 2024	February 29, 2024
<b>Ma Quoc Lam</b>	MEL Database Consultant	January 1, 2024	March 31, 2024

## OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

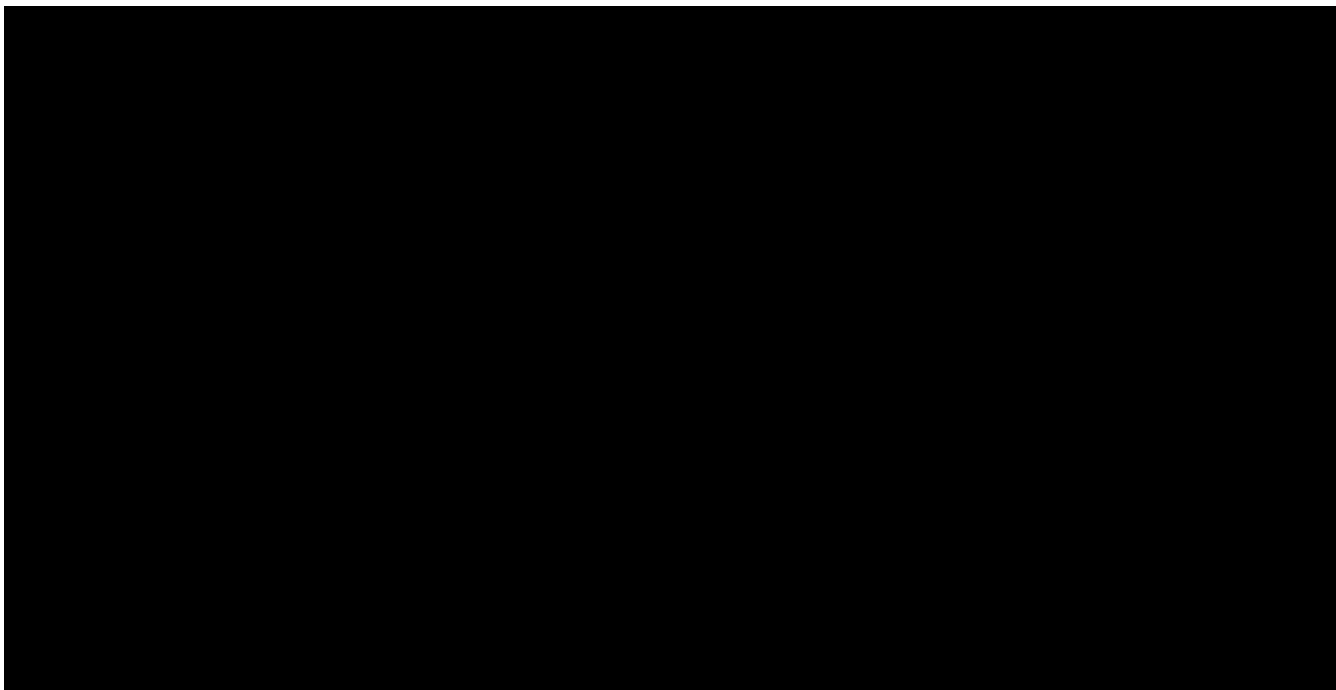
During this quarter, the project continued to work on developing Blanket Purchase Agreements for transportation services and for workshop services depending on the availability and the needs in each province.

The Project has submitted a revised version of the Project Document in January 2024, ensuring lessons learned from three years of implementation are reflected in this document. Importantly, the project document included updated language to allow for reimbursement of a greater share of VAT costs and 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. During this quarter, the Tax Department had additional questions and conducted an inspection of vouchers to ensure costs are accurate. The Project is yet to obtain reimbursement for VAT costs, now expected next quarter.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The table below provides a summary of the Project's spending over the past quarter, in accordance with the requirements of the contract.



## **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 1.1 Strengthening capacity of GVN, VIFORA, and forest owners to develop and implement forest management models and approaches.**

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

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

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

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.

### **Task 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**

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

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

#### **1.2.6 Implement forest sustainable management interventions to improve community forest management.**

1.2.6.3 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).**

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

## **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.**

2.2.2.4 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.**

2.2.5.2 Training on cultivation, care, and post-harvest processing techniques for producers

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.

### **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 start implementation of 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. Department of Forestry (under MARD): Support the development of the Decree on liquidation of plantation forests.

**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.

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

### **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**

4.2.2.2 Developing teaching curriculum/textbook on sustainable forest management and CoC for forestry training universities in the country

### **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**

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

## **OBJECTIVE 5: MOBILIZE DOMESTIC RESOURCES FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION**

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

5.1.5.3 Initiate development guidelines on measuring, reporting, verification of CO2 carbon credits (integrate GESI)

5.1.5.4 Initiate development of online database for GHG inventory, MRV of LULUCF

5.1.5.6 Initiate development of carbon credit standards

**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.

5.2.5.1 [Delay] Evaluate potential of other payment sources such as aquaculture, industrial water, forest lease etc.

## **CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES**

### **GESI**

2.2.14.2 Support Women led and owned CFEs for implementation of business planning.

### **CKM**

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

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;
- 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;
- Initiate development of CO2 stock estimation tool based on the Circular 23 on CO2 inventory and MRV on the forestry sector.

### **Operations**

- Continue with the due diligence process for the VAT claim with the Tax Department;
- Continue procurement process for blanket purchase agreements for hotels and workshop services;
- Continue research into suppliers for equipment and seeds and seedlings to be procured once an obligation has been provided;
- Document the process for operations, finance, and procurement policies followed by the project for lessons learned.

# ANNEXES

## Annex I: Activity Progress

Code	Activity	Location (Province - District - Commune)	Timeline (Oct-2023 to Sept-2024)				Expected Result	Progress Description for FY24				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		% Workload Completed	Status	Progress	Description of Progress for (Q2- FY23)	Plan for the next quarter
<b>THPI Improve Community Forest Management</b>												
<b>1.1 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</b>												
<b>1.1.5</b>	<b>Establish and operationalize the CFM Network to exchange information and lessons learned, and to promote CFM policies and practices</b>	<b>TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</b>					<b>2 policy briefs related to CFM are finalized at the central level</b>					
<i>1.1.5.2</i>	<i>Conduct meetings between CFM network members</i>	<i>TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</i>					<i>2 policy briefs related to CFM are finalized at the central level</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started</i>	<i>TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack</i>	<i>TW: No activity</i>	<i>TW: No activity</i>
<i>1.1.5.3</i>	<i>Design, print, and distribute communications materials (booklets, brochures, posters) on CFM</i>	<i>TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT</i>					<i>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</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>TW: Not started LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Ongoing</i>	<i>TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack</i>	<i>NA: Not yet implemented QT: Design and print communication products about the rights and obligations of the community when allocated land and forests by the state to distribute in meetings with the community</i>	<i>QT: Continue to design and print communication products about the rights and obligations of the community when allocated land and forests by the state to distribute in meetings with the community when fund available</i>



1.1.5.4	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: Completed
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	QT: Completed
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	QT, QN: Completed
1.1.6	<b>Improve communities' capacity to monitor community and/or contracted forests</b>	<b>TW, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN</b>								
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	28	TW: Ongoing SL: Not started TH: Not started NA: Completed QN: Completed	TW: Behind SL: Behind TH: Behind NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	SL: There were no activities due to limited fund NA: Implementation on track QN: Completed the assessment in Q1
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 QN: Not started	TW: Behind SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	SL: In preparation process NA: Not yet implemented

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				80	One approved ecotourism project to ensure better maintenance and protection of 7,315 ha of natural forests currently assigned/contracted to communities for protection.	LC: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack	LC: Consulted relevant departments on the 3rd draft proposal	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				43	Finalize district-level FA/FLA plans; technical designs/cost estimations approved	LC: Ongoing SL: Completed TH: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	LC: Completed the SOW for recruitment of land and forest allocation consultants SL: Completed SOW and selection criteria for the consulting unit to monitor L&FL allocation activity of the contractor. Prepared to sign a contract with L&FL allocation consultant TH: Complete the support for Quan Son District People's Committee to develop technical design documents and estimates to submit to the Provincial People's Committee for approval.	LC: Recruit consultant
1.2.4.2	Implement plans for forest/land allocation, provide land-use certification (incl. resource assessment and field demarcations)	LC, SL, TH				7	Completed/implemented FA/FLA to communities	LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing TH: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	LC: Complete the SOW for recruitment of land and forest allocation consultants SL: On process of recruiting consultant.	SL, LC: Recruit consultant to implement, monitor and d activity.

<b>I.2.5</b>	<b>Develop GESI-mainstreamed Sustainable Forest Management Plans for communities at CFM demonstration sites</b>	<b>LC, SL, TH, NA, QN</b>					<b>Five (5) finalized/approved CFM plans with 3,205 ha forests</b>	
<i>I.2.5.1</i>	<i>Develop preparatory plans for CFM development based on the CFM manual</i>	<i>LC, SL, TH, NA, QN</i>					<i>Identified core-groups and detailed plans to prepare SFMPs for five target communities</i>	<i>43</i>
							<i>LC: Completed SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QN: Completed</i>	<i>LC: Ontrack SL: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack</i>
							<i>LC: The Sustainable Forest Management Plan has been confirmed by the Commune People's Committee SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund NA: Collected basic information about the community expected to build CFM - Tuc Pang village, Dong Van commune, Que Phong district</i>	<i>LC: Support the implementation of sustainable management plan after approval NA: Continue to collect relevant information from the Tuc Pang community</i>
<i>I.2.5.2</i>	<i>Collect primary data, conduct surveys, mapping, baseline assessment for CFM Plan formulation</i>	<i>SL, TH, NA</i>					<i>Data collection/ mapping development/baseline assessment are completed for CFM communities</i>	<i>2</i>
							<i>SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started</i>	<i>SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Behind</i>
							<i>SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund NA: Not yet implemented</i>	
<i>I.2.5.3</i>	<i>Conduct consultation meetings with local authorities/key farmers and relevant stakeholders on draft CFM plan</i>	<i>SL, TH, NA</i>					<i>The drafted CFM plans are consulted with over 1,000 people (40% female, 30% EM)</i>	<i>2</i>
							<i>SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started</i>	<i>SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Behind</i>
							<i>SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund NA: Not yet implemented</i>	
<i>I.2.5.4</i>	<i>Integrate GESI with CFM plans and regulations</i>	<i>SL, TH, NA</i>					<i>CFM plans are integrated with GESI</i>	<i>2</i>
							<i>SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started</i>	<i>SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Behind</i>
							<i>SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund NA: Not yet implemented</i>	
<i>I.2.5.5</i>	<i>Finalize CFM plans</i>	<i>LC, SL, TH, NA</i>					<i>Five (5) CFM plans are finalized and approved</i>	<i>2</i>
							<i>LC: Completed SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started</i>	<i>LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Behind</i>
							<i>LC: The Sustainable Forest Management Plan has been confirmed by the Commune People's Committee SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund NA: Not yet implemented</i>	<i>LC: Support the implementation of sustainable management plan after approval</i>
<b>I.2.6</b>	<b>Implement forest sustainable management interventions to improve community forest management</b>	<b>LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</b>					<b>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)</b>	

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	22	LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Behind QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	LC: The Community Forest Management Board has been established and the forest protection team has been strengthened SL: Strengthened 02 CFM boards and patrolling teams at two villages. NA, QT: Not yet implemented QN: Established 03 CFM Boards of 03 communities	LC: Enhance the capacity of the Management Board and community forest protection teams
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	41	LC: Completed SL: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QN: Completed	LC: Ontrack SL: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	LC: The convention has been approved by the Commune People's Committee SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund NA: Implementation on track QN: 03 protocols on forest development & protection/management for 03 communities were issued by Cady People's Committee and disseminated to community	
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	31	LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	LC: The community's forest protection patrol team has been instructed in forest patrol skills SL: Trained on the forest paroling and protection skills for 03 CFM board/monitoring unit and patrolling team members at 03 villages. NA: Implementation on track QT: Prepared documents and forms to support forest patrol groups QN: Forest protection teams implemented the patrolling activities at the contracted forest areas monthly	LC: Continue to support forest protection patrol groups to improve their capacity SL: Train on the forest paroling and protection skills for the 03 CFM board/monitoring unit and patrolling team members of rest 03 villages. QT: Continue to prepare documents and forms to support forest patrol groups and print copy to provide for patrol groups when fund available
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: Ontrack SL: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Behind QN: Ontrack	SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund NA: Not yet implemented	
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 QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	NA: Conducted survey, collected basic information to prepare an implementation plan	
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 QN: Not started	SL: Ontrack QN: Ontrack		



<p><b>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)</b></p>	<p><b>LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</b></p>		<p><b>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)</b></p>					
<p><i>I.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</i></p>	<p><i>LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</i></p>		<p><i>Establish/agree upon the coordination mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of contracted CFM for villages/communities</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>LC: Not started HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Not started QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing</i></p>	<p><i>LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack</i></p>	<p><i>TH: Consulted with 4 communities in Quan Son district to unify a coordination mechanism to increase the effectiveness of forest protection management for community and household groups. QT: -The consultation meeting with Huong Hiep CPC, FPD in Dakrong district and Khe Ha community has been carried out to agree the coordination mechanism for managing and protecting forests assigned to households in Khe Ha village, Huong Hiep commune . - The same consultation meeting with Huong Son CPC, FPD Huong Hoa district was organized but not organized in Khe Ho village and this meeting expected to be implemented after May 2024 when available funding QN: Discussed with People Committee of Thanh My town and 08 communities to implement the coordination mechanism to improve capacity on forest protection. As a result, the relevant partners agreed to involve.</i></p>	<p><i>NA: Meetings with communes to identify and confirm communities participating in 2024 project activities in Que Phong district QT: - Working with relevant parties (Huong Hiep Commune People's Committee, Gia Gia Village Leadership Board, Forest Management Board and Gia Gia Village Community Forest Protection Patrol Group) to consult and update additional forest areas approved by the Huong Hiep CPC assigned the Gia Gia community to protect (by the end of 2023) in the Sustainable Forest Management Plan which is supported by the Project to develop in 2022. - Organize a community meeting of Ho village's household group to agree on the development of a forest management plan and collect relevant information to develop this plan (This activity will be carried out after May when funding is available)</i></p>

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	33	LC: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	<p>LC: Consulted and supported 01 community to develop a forest protection plan</p> <p>TH: Develop a forest protection plan for one (01) Nang Cat community, Tri Nang commune, Lang Chanh district</p> <p>NA: Completed the development of forest protection plans for 08 communities of Yen Hoa commune, Tuong Duong district with an area of 3,319 hectares</p> <p>QT: -Worked with Khe Hien household group in Khe Ha village, Huong Hiep from January 24-25 to discuss and develop a draft forest management plan with 41 participants (including 16 women). - On March 21 and 28, organized meetings at Khe Hien, Khe Ha village to present and agree on the forest management plan with 64 participants (in which 29 female; 60 ethnic minority people). Completed the development forest protection patrol plan at Khe Hien, Khe Ha village, Huong Hiep commune</p> <p>QN: 02 Plans on forest protection and management were developed and completed as well as disseminated to 02 communities in Muc and Dung (Thanh My town, Nam Giang district)</p>	<p>LC: Continue to support the completion of the Forest Protection Plan based on consultation results</p> <p>QT: Organize a meeting of the village leadership board, forest management board and Gia Gia village community forest protection group to collect information related to the forest area assigned to be protected by the People's Committee in 2023 to update additional forest areas and forest patrol routes into the sustainable forest management plan.</p> <p>- Organize community meetings for household groups in Ho village, Huong Son commune to develop a forest management and protection plan for the household group community (Will be implemented when funds are available)</p>
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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	17	LC: Not started HB: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	HB: The second village meeting was held to establish an organizational apparatus and develop institutional documents for community forest management and protection. Communication to raise people's awareness of the right to enjoy forests and forest land (establishment of 7 Community Forest Management Boards; 07 Community Protection Center groups; 07 Community Protection Center and Forest Protection Plans; 807 people (519 women, 801 ethnic minorities were propagated to raise awareness Educate people about their rights to enjoy forests and forest land NA: Ongoing implementation in 08 communities that have built sustainable forest management systems in Yen Hoa commune, Tuong Duong district QT: Activities are being implemented through integration in the process of developing the Forest Protection Management Plan. Currently, the Forest Management Board and Forest Protection Patrol Team at Khe Hien household group community, Khe Ha village are in the process of being established. QN: Supported 02 Forest Protection teams to implement the patrolling, and reporting activities	HB: Continue to support Community Management Committees and Community Protection Centers to implement Community Protection Centers and Prevention plans. QT: Continue to complete the establishment of the Forest Management Board and the Forest Protection Patrol Group of Khe Hien household group in Khe Ha village to submit to the People's Committee of Huong Hiep commune for approval (Activities are integrated in the forest protection and management plan)
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	7	LC: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Behind QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	HB: Conducted instruction and training on field skills for patrolling and protecting community forests Guided and trained on-site community forest protection patrol skills for members of 05 Community Forest Protection Centers NA, QT: Not started QN: Supported the Forest Protection teams to implement the patrolling, and reporting activities	HB: Support communities/household groups for better forest management and protection (equipment support, technical training, monitoring and supervision) QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Behind	NA: Drafted SOW for STTA	
1.2.7.6	Support strengthening community-based forest management, sustainable forest management and forest certificates	QN					10	QN: Ongoing	QN: Behind	QN: Drafted the SOW	

1.2.8	<b>Build capacities for communities which successfully developed and implemented SFM plans in CFM models</b>	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				<b>At least 3,885 people will be trained and have increased capacity to better manage forest areas</b>				
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	
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)	1	LC: Not started SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	NA: Implementation on track QT: Not started QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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)	-	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	NA: Implementation on track QT: Not started QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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	
1.2.8.5	Conduct trainings on sustainable and effective use of NTFPs (medicinal plants, bamboo shoots, bamboo, Loi bamboo, Lung bamboo)	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)	5	SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Not started QN: Not started	SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	NA: Implementation on track QT: Not started QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability



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)	2	LC: Not started SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack	NA: Implementation on track
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	SL, TH, NA, QN				Awareness-raising communication events are conducted, contributing to raising awareness for at least 1,900 people at CFM sites	8	SL: Not started TH: Ongoing NA: Not started QN: Ongoing	SL: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TH: Conduct communication on forest and forest land tenure rights for 600 people in 11 communities NA: Not yet implemented QN: 02 awareness raising events were organized at Dung and Muc community with the participation of 96 persons (this was combined with the activity on the dissemination of forest protection and management Plan)
1.2.9.2	Conduct experiential learning tours on CFM focusing on forest patrolling/monitoring, and ecotourism linked with forest protection	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN				Nine (09) tours are conducted with 225 participants	-	LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: 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: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Behind QN: Ontrack	HB: Final assessment of people's awareness of forest and forest land tenure rights in Mai Chau district (assess the change in people's awareness of forest and forest land tenure rights after being exposed to the media); 202 people were interviewed

**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 1 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		
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					
2.2.2.2	Strengthen capacity for bamboo production and processing cooperatives/enterprises; provide tools and equipment for cooperatives/enterprises	SL, HB, TH, NA, QN						Increased capacity of 9 entities; 2500 ha with better management	24	SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	SL: The Project supported Son La Green Bamboo Cooperative to build a website. HB: The Project supported Bui Village Cooperative to build a website. TH: Collect information and build a website for Ban Thai Bamboo Cooperative for RBL groups in Yen Thang, Tam Lu, Son Dien, Son Lu. NA: Support Ban Diem Cooperative & Duc Phong Co., Ltd. to build website QN: Prepared training plan on establishing the rattan nursery garden for Luc Dong Company; discussed with Dong Giang Forest Management Board about the method to investigate the rattan material area; Collected the information of Dat Quang Green Areca cooperative and Quang Nam Rattan - Bamboo Union to build the web site for these units;	SL: Continue to support Son La Green Bamboo Cooperative to complete and publish the website. HB: Continue to support Bui Village Cooperative to complete and publish the website. TH: Continue to support CFEs to complete and publish the website NA: Coordinate with Viectcraft, PPMU, CFEs identifies priority issues to develop a support plan QN: Continue to investigate the rattan material area in Dong Giang. Continue to support CFEs to complete and publish the website

<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>26</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: The Project facilitated market linkages between Son La Bamboo Company and Ngoc Dong Ha Nam Handicrafts Export CO., LTD in Ha Nam province, to sign a contract for two containers of May Loi bamboo poles for export to the U.S. market HB: The Project supported representatives of the Mai Hich Economic Collaborative Group to participate in the Inclusive Climate Actions Workshop in Chiang Mai, Thailand in Feb, 2024. TH: Instructed and worked with RBL groups in Yen Thang, Tam Lu, Son Dien, Son Lu to build a bamboo space and display products for the International Day of Forests forum in Yen Thang, Lang Chanh QN: Supported information and made a market linkage for Luc Dong Company to attend at the Ambiente trade fair in Germany (26-30/11)</p>	<p>SL: Continue to support Son La bamboo company to produce signed orders. HB: Continue to support CFSs in designing new products and signing new orders TH: Digitalization for products for RBL groups in Yen Thang, Tam Lu, Son Dien, Son Lu. NA: Coordinate with Vietcraft, PPMU, CFEs identifies priority issues to develop a support plan QN: Develop Areca leave material storage plan for the Dat Quang Green Areca Cooperative</p>
<p>2.2.2.5 Organize oversea study tours for experiences regarding the development of market-oriented RBL value chains</p>	<p>HB, TH, NA, QN</p>			<p>Representatives from provinces</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>HB: Cancelled TH: Cancelled NA: Not started QN: Cancelled</p>	<p>HB: Cancelled TH: Cancelled NA: Cancelled QN: Cancelled</p>	<p>NA: to be cancelled</p>	
<p>2.2.2.6 Technical support for OCOP center of Dong Giang district</p>	<p>QN</p>			<p>OCOP center was built</p>	<p>40</p>	<p>QN: Ongoing</p>	<p>QN: Ontrack</p>	<p>QN: The Project has supported finding investors and establishing cooperatives to manage and operate the OCOP center.</p>	<p>QN: Start build the OCOP Place in Dong Giang District</p>
<p>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.)</p>	<p>LC, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</p>			<p>Increase capacity of 14 CFEs; 690 people trained; Improve livelihoods of 2,600 people; mobilize \$460,000 USD</p>	<p>-</p>				

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;	85	QT: Ongoing	QT: Ontrack	QT: Conducted a survey on medicinal herb in Cat village, Huong Son The Project worked on the MoUs with DARD, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Information and Tourism on January 5 to find the difficulties, challenges to advise how to implement MoUs; Worked with the medicinal herbs club and Mai Thi Thuy, a medicinal CFE for restructure the company. Provided training course for CEOs of medicinal CFEs on business development/strategy, discussed the Draft Plan to implement the medicinal master plan to 2025 vision to 2030. Supported Nhien Thao Enterprise to restructure its business.	QT: Continue to support the completion of the Master Plan for herbal development in Quang Tri province (Provincial medicinal herbs master plan) for the period 2024-2026 with a vision to 2030 and support the restructuring of provincial medicinal enterprises
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	4	LC: Not started HB: Not started TH: Ongoing NA: Not started QT: Ongoing QN: Not started	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	This activity was planned to be implemented in Q3	LC, TH, NA, QT, QN: Supports to improve organizational and business performance will be done based on fund availability HB: Support CFEs to follow GACP -WHO traceability and production of IMO (indigenous microorganism). This will be implemented based on the fund 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)	18	LC: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	LC, TH: There is no budget for this activity in FY24 HB, NA: This activity was planned to be implemented on Q3 QT: Supported Truong Son Cooperative and An Xuan Company to note down cultivation and collection diary following GACP-WHO QN: Supported Tra My Minh Phuc Cooperative to note down cultivation and collection diary following GACP-WHO	LC, TH: There is no budget for this activity in FY24 HB, NA, QN: This will be implemented based on the fund availability. QT: Support Truong Son Cooperative to update information on digital platform named Facefarm
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	This activity was not planned to implement in this quarter	This will be implemented based on the fund 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	24	LC: Not started HB: Ongoing TH: Not started QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	LC, TH: There is no budget for this activity in FY24 QT: Completed to support Truong Son Cooperative to pilot baby herbal bath soap to the market QN: Dong Tra Cooperative has accessed 550 million from the Government's chain value source to support seedling of ginseng Paris polyphylla Smith for farmers.	LC, TH: There is no budget for this activity in FY24 HB, QT, QN: This will be implemented based on the fund availability.
2.2.4	<b>Support the development of cinnamon value chain</b>	<b>LC, TH</b>				<b>Increased capacity of 4 CFEs; 240 people trained; Improved livelihoods of 960 people; 555,7ha improved</b>					
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		LC: Supports to improve organizational and business performance will be done based on fund availability TH: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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)	55	LC: Ongoing TH: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack TH: Ontrack	LC: Conducted training on pre-processing and preservation for organic cinnamon farmer group (30 members) in Van Ban district TH: Six cinnamon farmers are applying trained technical knowledge to start household-scale nurseries.	LC: Conduct training on pre-processing and preservation for 2 organic cinnamon farmer groups (100 members) in Van Ban district (based on fund availability) TH: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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: There were no activities in the province this quarter	TH: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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	40	LC: Not started	LC: Ontrack	LC: CFEs co-delivered the training on pre-processing and sign purchasing contracts with farmers group	LC: CFEs co-delivered the training on pre-processing and sign purchasing contracts with farmers group
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: Procurement and handover will be implemented based on fund availability
2.2.5	<b>Support the implementation and development of betel nut tree value chain</b>	<b>QN</b>				<b>Provide support to 3 cooperatives; 95 people trained, 380 people with improved livelihood</b>					

2.2.5.2	Training on cultivation, care, and post-harvest processing techniques for producers	QN				At least 70 people trained (70% women)	10	QN: Ongoing	QN: Ontrack	QN: The SOW drafted and completed for consultant recruitment	QN: Prepare the Consultant recruitment procedure to develop VietGap certification on Areca nut.
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: Ontrack		
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	-	QN: Not started	QN: Ontrack		
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		
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	80	QN: Ongoing	QN: Ontrack	QN: The Project has supported the development of 02 Biz-profiles for Quang Nam Green Areca Cooperative and Quang Nam Agricultural and Art Cooperative.	QN: Complete 02 Biz-profiles for Quang Nam Green Areca Cooperative and Quang Nam Agricultural and Art Cooperative.
<b>2.2.6</b>	<b>Support the development of Tung oil tree (Vernicia montana) value chain</b>	<b>QT</b>									
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	QT: This activity was not planned to implement in this quarter	QT: Prepare to implement activities on the field (depending on budget availability).
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	QT: This activity was not planned to implement in this quarter	QT: Prepare to implement activities on the field (depending on budget availability).
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		QT: Prepare to implement activities on the field (depending on budget availability).
<b>2.2.7</b>	<b>Support the development of the Arabica coffee value chain</b>	<b>QT</b>									
2.2.7.1	Strengthen institutional capacity of coffee cooperatives	QT				Increased capacity of 2 cooperatives	-	QT: Not started	QT: Ontrack	QT: This activity was not planned to implement in this quarter	QT: Prepare to implement activities on the field (depending on budget availability).
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	QT: This activity was not planned to implement in this quarter	QT: Prepare to implement activities on the field (depending on budget availability).

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	QT				25 people trained, 160 with improved livelihoods, 20000USD mobilized, 1000ha of coffee with better management	70	QT: Ongoing	QT: Ontrack	QT: The germination rate of coffee varieties at 2 nurseries of Khe Sanh and Son Nguyen Cooperative has been tested and accepted: the germination rate is over 90%. Currently, the two gardens are preparing to put seedlings into pots for care at the nursery.	QT: Continue to check the seedling of coffee THAI at nurseries of Son Nguyen and Khe Sanh cooperatives. Visit and select coffee farmers for receiving coffee seedling THAI
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	QT: This activity was not planned to implement in this quarter	QT: To be implemented upon budget availability.
<b>2.2.8</b>	<b>Support the development of fruit trees value chain (mango, longan, banana)</b>	<b>SL</b>				<b>Increase capacity for 2 CFEs; improve livelihood for 240 people</b>					
2.2.8.1	Strengthen institutional capacity of cooperatives/enterprises in fruit production and business	SL				Increase capacity for 2 CFEs	-	SL: Ongoing	SL: Ontrack	SL: This activity was planned to be implemented on Q3	
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	20	SL: Ongoing	SL: Ontrack	SL: Provided trainings on IPHM to prepare for high technology mango plantation.	SL: Continue supporting the CFEs and their farmers to be ready for the PPC's high technology mango plantation.
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)	83	SL: Ongoing	SL: Ontrack	SL: Organized the 02 IPHM training classes number 4 and 5 for members of two cooperatives.	SL: Organize the IPHM training class number 6 for members of 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: This activity will be implemented later depending on fund availability	SL: Procurement and handover will be implemented based on fund availability
<b>2.2.11</b>	<b>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)</b>	<b>TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</b>				<b>59 people trained (40% women, 20% ethnic minority)</b>					
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: This activity was planned to be implemented on Q3	TW: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability

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: This activity was planned to be implemented on Q3	TW: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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	25	HB: Not started TH: Completed NA: Not started QT: Ongoing	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	TH: Organized a training course on Start-up and Improve your Business (SIYB) for 24 women (15 ethnic minorities) QT: The Project's CEO supported Ta Lu Khe Sanh Coffee Co., Ltd. to build association contracts and sign them with household groups.	HB, NA: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability QT: Support Ta Lu Company, a female-owned enterprise, to develop proposals to participate in the contest launched by the Provincial Women's Union.
2.2.14.2	Select potential business models to support their development	HB, TH, NA, QT				8 models selected	13	HB: Not started TH: Ongoing NA: Not started QT: Not started	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	HB, NA, QT: This activity was planned to be implemented on Q3 TH: Select a list of ideas and models associated with forest protection and development to participate in the contest organized by Thanh Hoa Women's Union	HB, NA, QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability TH: Support authors of ideas and models associated with forest protection and development to complete the presentation of ideas (both presentation and presentation method) to participate in the contest organized by Thanh Hoa Women's Union
<b>THP3 Increase Functionality of Law Enforcement Systems for Forest Crimes</b>											
<b>3.1 Support Law Enforcement to Maintain Forest Integrity Through Analysis and Action Planning</b>											
3.1.1	Develop and implement forestry law enforcement action plan in 7 provinces under the Project	LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				Implement 7 Law enforcement action plans					



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;	36	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 QN: Ontrack	NA: Implementation on track QT: Continue to support the planned activities under the provincial Forest Law Enforcement Action Plan	QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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.	48	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: Continued providing support on FVDMS deployment in 7 provinces LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN: Supported FPDs to update and monitor forest violations data	TW: - Continue providing support on FVDMS deployment in 7 provinces LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN: Supported FPDs to update and monitor forest violations data
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	NA: Implementation on track	QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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	20	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	NA: Implementation on track QT: Organized a training course on February 28-29 for 38 forest officers (including 3 women) on Investigation of violations in the forestry sector	SL, HB, TH, NA, QN: Conduct trainings on LE topics based on the needs of FPD QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
3.1.4	Conduct social behavior change communications, awareness raising and environmental education for relevant stakeholders in	TW, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				150 people trained					

<b>forest protection and development</b>										
3.1.4.4	Conduct GESI-integrated SBCC/BCC, awareness raising, environmental education events	SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN			150 people trained	20	SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	SL: Behind HB: Behind TH: Behind NA: Behind QT: Behind QN: Behind	Prepared materials using for communication and awareness raising events	Finalize materials using for communication and awareness raising events; Conduct TOT trainings;
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: Behind	TW: Not yet started	TW: Not yet started
3.1.5	<b>Cross-cutting - Communication: Dissemination of the Project's results</b>	<b>TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</b>			<b>70 network members trained</b>					
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	TW: Elaborate success stories, champion profiles, photo stories and disseminate through the digital platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, website...)	TW: Continue elaborating success stories, champion profiles, photo stories and disseminating through the digital platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, website...)
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	TW: Not yet started	TW: Not yet started
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: 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: Not yet started	TW: Not yet started
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: Continue integrating into the field trips and USAID visits to collect images, information, quotes and other materials for development of stories, photo book...	TW: Continue integrating into the field trips and USAID visits to collect images, information, quotes and other materials for development of stories, photo book...

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 QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TW: Not yet started	TW: Not yet started
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: 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: Not yet started	TW: Not yet started
3.1.5.9	Diseminate the SFM technical knowledge materials to nationwide	TW				Information about project activities are advertised	30	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Continue elaborating 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 elaborating the bullets, stories, briefs, social media posts about the Project's activities, results and share on the USAID's website and social media channels
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	TW: Not yet started	TW: Not yet started
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	TW: Not yet started	TW: Not yet started
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: Behind HB: Behind TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TW: Continue working with teach team to select the reports, materials, manuals to design according to USAID's communication guideline. Worked with USAID about the Landlinks website for the Project's posts NA: Implementation on track QT: Continued collect and revise the technical documents	TW: Continue working with teach team to select the reports, materials, manuals to design according to USAID's communication guideline. Work with USAID about the Landlinks website for the Project's posts QT: Continued 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: Behind	HB: This activity was planned to be implemented on Q3 TH: This activity was integrated in Start-up and Improve your Business Training in collaboration with TH Women Union	HB: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability TH: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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: This activity was planned to be implemented on Q3	TW: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
3.1.7	<b>Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)</b>	<b>TW</b>									
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	70	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: In the process of upgrading the MEL Information System to better and more promptly meet the reporting and data management requirements. Several functions that have been newly developed or upgraded include integration of all indicator database and indicator quarterly reports into the system, generation of provincial progress consolidation tables; and automation of the indicator projection dashboard. 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 upgrading functions on data visualization of the SFM MEL information system, which include: development of specific dashboard for each indicator, and generation of provincial infographic.
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	40	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Conducted survey on land tenure right perception in Hoa Binh. Worked with technical staff to complete baseline performance scoring and develop organizational capacity development plans for organizations/ institutions planned to support during this year.	TW: Continue conducting survey on land tenure right perception in other provinces. Survey on the application of trained techniques on cinnamon caring and processing in Lao Cai.
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	50	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Conducted monthly data review and verification and provided timely feedbacks to technical staff for data quality improvement. Worked with technical staff to review achievement progress in quarter 1, and updated upcoming activity plan based on actual implementation.	TW: Continue reviewing and verifying monthly data. Organize quarterly meetings with Project staff to review achievement progress in quarter 2, 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	80	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Updated the MEL plan (data collection process, indicator definitions and targets) in quarter 1. The updated version has been approved by USAID in early quarter 2 and already been translated into Vietnamese to enable more accessibility for technical staff and field staff. Updated the MEL guideline (both EN and VN version) based on adjustments in the MEL plan to share with Project staff.	TW: Develop/ update data collection tools (as necessary) and provide relevant guidance for 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 quarter 3 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	100	TW: Completed	TW: Ontrack	TW: Updated the EMMP to align with the FY24 annual workplan. The updated version has been approved by USAID.	TW: Monitor the implementation of the EMMP.
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	3	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Collected input information to develop the assessment plan	TW: Prepare and conduct the assessment
3.1.8	<b>Activities that support project management</b>	<b>TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</b>									
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	TW: Due to the budget constraints, the purchasing has not been started. The project keeps working on SOW, specifications and market survey until further notice of funding allocation from USAID LC: Due to the budget constraints, the purchasing has not been started. The project keeps working on SOW, specifications and market survey until further notice of funding allocation from USAID QT: Developed SOW, and market survey. Starting the purchase once the fund resumed.	TW: The Project will start the purchasing once the fund allocated
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	26	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	NA: Implementation on track QT: Continued supports upon request	QT: Continued supports upon request

									QN: Ontrack	
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 revised PIM has been approved by MARD in January 2024. Due to the fund limitation, the Project kept unchanged per diem rates until further notice. The Project Document is under reviewing by several Departments under MARD.
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.	13	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: The office equipment is maintained and operated well.  TW: Due to the budget constraints and based on the stop work order issued by USAID in April. The project will not implement any activity. Thus, there will be no cost of office operations accrued.
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	34	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	NA: implementation on track QT: Implementing  QT: Online meetings upon request
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				

<p>3.2.1.3 Identify and support development of other needed policies and practices</p>	<p>TW, SL, HB, TH, NA, QN</p>					<p>07 policies to be submitted; of which there are 2 national policies and 5 provincial policies</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>TW: Not started SL: Ongoing HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QN: Ongoing</p>	<p>TW: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack</p>	<p>TW: Discussed with DOF and FPD to identify policies to support and supporting plan. SL: Supported province to conduct a conference on signing commitments on strengthening the state management responsibility for forest management, protection and development, forest fire prevention and fighting. NA: Ongoing (A survey has been organized to collect field information to develop a draft Technical Guidelines on planting and caring the local native species)</p>	<p>TW: Discuss with DOF and FPD to identify policies to support and supporting plan. SL: Support province to organize a conference on signing the commitment between small hydropower plant companies with local authorities on SFM&amp;D NA: Organize 1 provincial-level consultation workshop to collect comments on the Draft Technical Guidelines that have been developed; Implementing Support activities Preliminary assessment of the results of implementing Directive No. 10-CT/TU dated October 5, 2021 of the Standing Committee of Nghe An Provincial Party Committee on "promoting the development of material areas for intensive afforestation High quality associated with certification of sustainable forest management and forest product processing industry in the period 2021-2025"</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>TW</p>					<p>Report: assessment of Forestry Law; recommendations for revision, supplement of the Law and related bylaws</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>TW: Not started</p>	<p>TW: Ontrack</p>	<p>TW: No activities during this quarter</p>	
<p>3.2.1.6 Support the review of legal documents that regulate the tasks and authorities of forest protection forces</p>	<p>TW</p>					<p>Report on policy review; Draft revised Decree 01/2019/NĐ-CP</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>TW: Not started</p>	<p>TW: Ontrack</p>	<p>TW: No activities during this quarter</p>	

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: No activities during this quarter
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: No activities during this quarter
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: No activities during this quarter
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	QT: Not started  QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
<b>3.3 Build Capacity of the Environmental Judicial System to Prosecute Environmental crimes</b>										
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	5	LC: Ongoing SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Behind SL: Behind HB: Behind TH: Behind NA: Behind QT: Behind QN: Behind	This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability	
<b>THP4 Improve Production Forest Management Practices Activities</b>											
<b>4.1 Promote sustainable timber production by small-scale forest owner</b>											
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)	26	TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	QT: Organized 01 training course on 14 Mar 2024 for 12 nursery owners and technical staffs (with 4 female) of 07 nurseries that have been supported with original seedlings QN: Surveyed to select 04 new nurseries for cooperation. the training activities for these partners have not yet implemented.	This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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;	17	LC: Not started HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Completed QT: Ongoing QN: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Behind QN: Ontrack	LC: Due to the budget constraints, the purchasing has not been started. The project keeps working on SOW, specifications and market survey until further notice of funding allocation from USAID HB: Supervised the production and distribution of seedlings at nurseries: 15 nurseries distributed 2,868,126 seedlings for 472 customers, equivalent to 1,434 hectares of established plantation: Prepared a list of nurseries to register to receive 120 kg of seeds for planting in the year 2024; Planned to purchase 120 kg of Acacia mangium seeds TH: Conduct survey on the demand for Acacia mangium seeds and Acacia hybrid original germplasm to provide for nurseries cooperating with the project. Survey nurseries that selected for cooperating with the project in 2024. QT: Supporting 07 nurseries that have been	LC, TH, NA: The Project will start the purchasing once the fund allocated HB: Supervise the supply of seedlings from nurseries Purchase and supply 120 kg of Acacia mangium seeds to registered nurseries QT: - Continue to support 07 nurseries that have been supported with original seedlings to complete procedures for recognition of seed sources for first-line seed gardens - To be implemented upon budget available.

									supported with original seedlings to complete procedures for recognition of seed sources for first-line seed gardens QN: Hand overed 20.000 acacia original seedlings for 02 nurseries (Minh Hoang and 9 Vui)		
4.1.4.3	Provide technical training on high quality planting materials	NA, QN				24 people trained (30% women)	-	NA: Ongoing QN: Not started	NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	NA: Not yet implemented QN: Not started	NA: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability QN: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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 (scaling seeds); 8,500 ha of cinnamon forest was established using seeds from the transformed seed forest	20	LC: Ongoing	LC: Ontrack	LC: Prepared thinning proposal, thinning Agreement	LC: Sign thinning Agreement with cinnamon mother-tree forest owners; support/payment on thinning activity
4.1.5	<b>Improve practices on sustainable forest management (SFM)</b>	<b>TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</b>				<b>4180 people trained; 14 organization improved capacity; 4 million USD mobilized; 16220 people benefit; 63687 ha improved management; 2 enterprise support</b>					
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	17	LC: Ongoing 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: Ontrack	LC: Support the establishment of 2 organic cinnamon farmer groups (102 members) in Bao Yen district SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund; and waiting for Thuan Chau PC to approve the bamboo forest management & development plan. QN: 02 FSC forest plantation groups were strengthened with the additional participation of 30 members and 01 training course was organized for 50 people to attend.	LC: Support training on silviculture for 2 organic cinnamon farmer groups in Bao Yen district (102 members) SL: Implement after Thuân Châu CPD will approve the sustainable bamboo management plan QT: Work with relevant parties to cooperate in expanding the area participating in forest certification in Quang Tri province
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)	20	HB: Ongoing TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	NA: Completed supporting 6 out of 7 seedling nurseries to be certified by the Forest Protection Department of NA province as approved original orchards. QN: 01 training on group management organized with the participation of 12 persons (05 female)	NA, QT: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability

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)	17	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: Ontrack	SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund; and waiting for Thuan Chau PC to approve the bamboo forest management & development plan. QT: Coordinated with the Quang Tri Forest certification Association and relevant parties to organize seminars and guide households to replanting forest by non-burning vegetation methods in the districts: - The Consultation workshop on the Plan to carry out non-burning vegetation treatment carried out by the certification Association and FPD on January 25; Workshop in Gio Linh district on February 29; Workshop in Hai Lang district on March 1; Workshop in Vinh Linh district on March 7; Workshop at Trieu Phong on March 8; Workshop in Cam Lo on the afternoon of March 5. In total, there were 5 workshops in the districts with 105 delegates (13 female) participating. QN: 01 training on group management organized with the participation of 50 persons	SL: Implement after Thuân Châu CPD will approve the sustainable bamboo management plan QT: - Coordinate with the Quang Tri CCR Association to continue supporting and promoting people to replant forests after logging by using non-burning vegetation treatment methods. - Preparing the plan to survey, select models and collect data to compare afforestation using non-burning vegetation treatment and burning methods.
4.1.5.5	Organize trainings on SFM planning and implementation for forest owners (organization and integrate with GESI training)	SL, HB				40 people trained (12 women)	-	SL: Not started HB: Not started	SL: Behind HB: Behind	SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund; and waiting for Thuan Chau PC to approve the bamboo forest management & development plan.	SL: Implement after Thuân Châu CPD will approve the sustainable bamboo management plan
4.1.5.6	Demonstrate sustainable plantation management models for large dimension timber plantation (new plantings or transformation to long term plantations)	HB, TH, NA, QN				120 people benefited; 90 ha forests are better managed	10	HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QN: Not started	HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TH: Survey, collected, and conducted techniques in thinning plantation for households NA: Conducted a survey and collected growth data of thinning and forest care models in 5 forest plots with 13 Samplings in Anh Son and Thanh Chuong districts.	TH, NA, QN: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
4.1.5.7	Provide support of high quality planting materials to groups members	SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN				1244 ha of newly planted forest; 2322 people benefited;	9	SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Ongoing QT: Ongoing QN: Not started	SL: Behind HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	SL: There were no activities in the province this quarter due to limited fund; and waiting for Thuan Chau PC to approve the bamboo forest management & development plan. NA: Conducted a survey and collected growth data of reforestation plots using project supported seedlings in Anh Son and Thanh Chuong districts. QT: Continue to discuss with stakeholders for new FY24 planting plan	SL: Implement after Thuân Châu CPD will approve the the sustainable bamboo management plan HB: Reviewing the area of households registered to receive seedlings, combined with reviewing the forest area undergoing thinning and converting large timber plantation in Lac Son and Yen Thuy districts NA, QT, QN: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability

4.1.5.9	Produce a video clip on SFM/FSC certification	NA, QN				3 Video produced and handed over to users	50	NA: Not started QN: Completed	NA: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	NA: Not yet implemented QN: 01 video on SFM was completed	NA: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
4.1.5.10	Organize study tours for representatives of plantation owners to visit the successful models/sites of large timber /other trees plantation	HB, NA, QT, QN				130 visitors participated;	-	HB: Not started NA: Cancelled QT: Not started QN: Not started	HB: Ontrack NA: Cancelled QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	NA: Cancelled QT: not started QN: Not started	QT: To be implemented upon budget available. QN: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
4.1.5.12	Support piloting plantation insurance for forest owners	QN				01 plantation insurance model has been researched and piloted	100	QN: Completed	QN: Ontrack	QN: The contract on forest insurance signed by the SFM and Bao Minh. Hiep Thuan is the beneficiary to represent for 40 forest owners with the insured forest areas of 154.46 ha	
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	28	SL: Ongoing HB: Ongoing TH: Ongoing NA: Ongoing QT: Not started QN: Ongoing	SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	SL: Waiting for Thuan Chau PC to approve the sustainable bamboo management plan. HB: 10 people were trained (2 women, 8 men; 1 ethnic minority) on GIS application in management and monitoring of plantation (Hoa Binh Forestry Company) Supported Hoa Binh BVN Company to review thematic reports to develop SFM and certification plan for Tan Lac district household group (5,365 hectares of forest; 3,583 households) TH: - Supported Thach Thanh Protection Forest Management Board to deploy the GIS system for forest management and monitoring. - Supported Forest Protection Stations under Thuong Xuan Protection Management Board using QField to record and update the forest changes/status in the field. - Supported Biomass Fuel Nghi Son company to conduct the internal audit of FSC certification for forest certification groups in Nhu Thanh and Nhu Xuan districts. NA: Implementation is on progress QN: SFM plan for FSC groups of Hiep Thuan cooperative was updated for annual assessment.	SL: Promote Thuan Chau District People's Committee to consider and approve the sustainable bamboo management plan. HB: Continue to support Hoa Binh Forestry Company to deploy GIS applications in plantation management TH: - Online support for Protection Forest Management Boards Nhu Thanh, Lang Chanh, Thuong Xuan, and Thach Thanh in applying/using software to record, monitor, and manage forests. - Online support for Nghi Son Biomass Fuel Company to close FSC NCs after official assessment (if needed). QT: To be implemented upon budget available.
4.1.5.14	Provide support forest owners in plantation tending	TH, QT				170 ha of planted forests are taken care of; 220 beneficiaries	25	TH: Ongoing QT: Ongoing	TH: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	TH: - Support forest tending (pruning branches and trunks) for 32.2 hectares of under-2-year-old plantation in Thuong Ninh commune, Nhu Xuan district QT: Conducted survey and support households in tending plantation	QT: This activity will be accepted verified 100 hectares in tending plantation if there is an available budget.



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: Not started SL: Not started 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: No activities during this quarter	TW: Draft plan for collecting database to develop nursery management system
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: Revised SOW	TW: Revise and finalize SOW
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	10	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Revised/updated technical proposal	TW: Finalize technical proposal, and develop plan for implementation
<b>4.2 Support and promote increased demand from processing factories for certified timber</b>											
4.2.2	<b>Develop promotion and information material about certification and CoC certification</b>	<b>TW</b>				<b>Textbook on SFM/CoC developed, print 300 books</b>					
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	70	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Revised/updated reports on SFM case study; Revised outline SFM - FMC textbook	TW: Finalize reports on the SFM case study, and outline SFM - FMC textbook
<b>4.3 Build market linkages between forest owners and wood processing enterprises</b>											
4.3.2	<b>Build market linkages between forest owners and wood processing enterprises</b>	<b>TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</b>				<b>60 participants in the market connection forum; 205 attendees at the SFM Conference</b>					
4.3.2.1	Organize the 1st "SFM and FSC Dialogue/Forum" between representatives of plantation owners, Wood processing companies, FDI wood companies, VIFOREST, VNFOREST and local authorities	TW				Two workshops held; Wood processing businesses and forest owners are connected. (100 participants)	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack	TW: No activities during this quarter	TW: Draft plan for the forum

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	5	SL: Not started QT: Ongoing	SL: Ontrack QT: Ontrack	QT: Conducted an online survey on the current status and demand for wood processing companies in QT. However, until Mar 18, 2024 only 3 units participated in the online survey. This activity will continue to conduct direct surveys when budget is available.	SL: If there is funding, we will work with the Provincial People's Committee to organize a conference to promote forestry investment QT: To be implemented upon budget available.
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)	-	QN: Not started	QN: Ontrack	QN: Not started	QN: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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	-	A: Not started	NA: Ontrack	NA: Not yet implemented	NA: This activity will be implemented depending on fund availability
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 QN: Not started	TW: Ontrack LC: Ontrack SL: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack QN: Ontrack	TW: Revised SOW	TW: Revised and finalize 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: Revised SOW	TW: Revised and finalize 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: Revised SOW	TW: Revised and finalize 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: Revised SOW	TW: Revised and finalize 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: Revised SOW	TW: Revised and finalize SOW
4.3.2.11	Develop/update/compile knowledge products	TW				Documentation/tutorials/procedures developed/updated/edited;	30	TW: Ongoing	TW: Ontrack	TW: Reviewed/updated training material on SFM/silviculture/certification	TW: Review and improve training material on SFM/silviculture/certification

**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			4	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: Behind SL: Ontrack HB: Behind TH: Behind NA: Behind QT: Behind QN: Behind	SL: Recruited consultants ready for signing contracts. However, the activity is required to be delayed until having further funding after Jun HB, LC, TH, NA, QT, QN: Due to limited budget activity is delayed until funding is available	LC: Due to limited budget activity is delayed until funding is available	
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	Due to limited budget activity is delayed until funding is available	Due to limited budget activity is delayed until funding is available	
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	Not started	To be implemented upon budget available.
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	1	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: Start discussing with DOSTIC about first version of the SOW. This activity will be merged with 5.1.5.6 because the carbon standards will include MRV , same consultant group to do the work	TW: Complete the sow and recruit consultants. Consultants start developing domestic carbon standards and submission documents for MARD to approve
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	4	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: Advertised for firm recruitment	TW: 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: Cancelled LC: Cancelled SL: Cancelled HB: Cancelled TH: Cancelled NA: Cancelled QT: Cancelled QN: Cancelled	TW: Cancelled LC: Cancelled SL: Cancelled HB: Ontrack TH: Cancelled NA: Cancelled QT: Cancelled QN: Cancelled	TW: 72a article is taken out from Decree 156 to become one separate decree so it's not going to have a circular guiding for this decree	HB: to be implemented in central level



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.	1	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: Start discussing with DOSTIC about first version of the SOW	TW: Complete the sow and recruit consultants. Consultants start developing domestic carbon standards and submission documents for MARD to approve
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: Behind	Due to 72a (Drafted Decree 156) is not approved together with Decree 156 so this activity will be applied when domestic carbon standards are available.	Due to 72a is not approved together with Decree 156 so this activity will be applied when domestic carbon standards are available.
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: Behind SL: Behind HB: Behind TH: Behind NA: Behind QT: Behind QN: Behind	Due to 72a is not approved together with Decree 156 so this activity will be applied when domestic carbon standards are available.	Due to 72a is not approved together with Decree 156 so this activity will be applied when domestic carbon standards are available.
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 province will have trainers join TOT (160 people) to guide how carry out GHGs inventory for LULUCF in their provinces	-	TW: Not started	TW: Ontrack		
<b>5.2 Build awareness and capacity for CPFES and PFES implementation</b>											
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	-	LC: Not started SL: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started QN: Not started	LC: Behind SL: Behind HB: Behind TH: Behind NA: Behind QT: Behind QN: Behind	Due to limited budget activity is delayed until funding is available	Due to limited budget activity is delayed until funding is available
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: Behind SL: Behind HB: Behind TH: Behind QT: Behind	Due to the limit of funding source	Due to limited budget activity is delayed until funding is available
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	85	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: VNFF issued letter for piloting the platform until Jun before national application. LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN: Guide Forest Provincial Fund to entry data on M&E software	TW: Guide the data entry process into the PFES M&E platform LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN: Guide Forest Provincial Fund to entry data on M&E software
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.	100	TW: Completed	TW: Ontrack	TW: Completed update 15 /28 indicators ready for data entry. This is tasked to be done in FY 2023	TW: Develop SOW to continue update 13/28 indicators of PFES M&E platform and integrate visual PFES maps of provinces into the platform.

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	-	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	
5.2.2.6	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	TW: VNFF issued letter request all provincial funds to use the tool
5.2.4	<b>Trainings on PFES &amp; CPFES for relevant stakeholders via training programs agreed with provinces and develop training documents</b>	<b>TW, LC, SL, HB, TH, NA, QT, QN</b>				<b>Provincial fund officers, forest owners, CPCs, and communities trained (793 people), increased capacity for 7 provincial funds and VNFF.</b>				
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	-	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	QT: To be implemented upon budget available.
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	-	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	QT: To be implemented upon budget available.
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	3 TW: Ongoing TW: Ontrack TW: VNFF sent technical request and the project is reviewing to develop SOW however activity is requested to be delayed due to limited funding until after jun. This will be challenge for VNFF as the Vice Minister and director of VNFF has directed for the activity must start in April and finish by August TW: Depending on USAID's endorsement
5.2.7	Equipment/tools for PFES M&E	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, HB, TH, NA, QT					The fund's equipment for PFES M&E activities is handed over	- TW: Not started HB: Not started TH: Not started NA: Not started QT: Not started TW: Ontrack HB: Ontrack TH: Ontrack NA: Ontrack QT: Ontrack TW: Depending on USAID's funding