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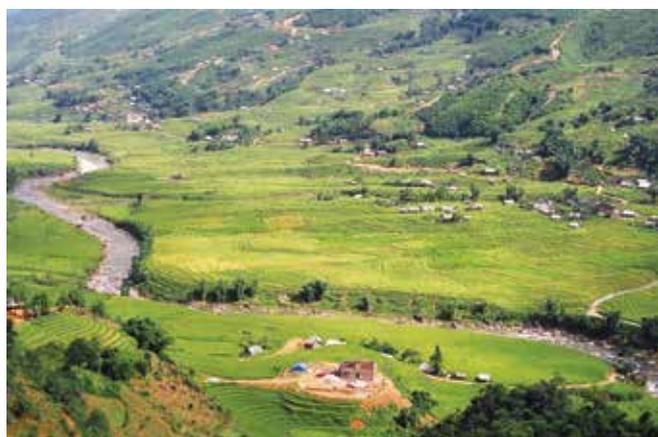


Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Context

Viet Nam is one of the world's ten most significant biodiversity hotspots. The biodiversity and ecosystem services of forests play a vital role in the livelihoods of rural populations in Viet Nam, particularly the approximately 25 million people living in the proximity of forests. In addition, the biodiversity and ecosystem services of forests are the cornerstones for the agricultural, forestry and fishery sectors, and thus underpin national economic development. Nonetheless, the integrity and quality of forests has deteriorated over the last decades, and the forests' biodiversity and ecosystem services are increasingly threatened.

Viet Nam has committed to a number of international forest and biodiversity conservation initiatives, including the Convention on Biological Diversity. Moreover, since the issuance of the Law on Forestry Protection and Development Law (2004) Viet Nam has engaged in a forest sector reform process with the objective to develop a forestry sector that is sustainable in aspects of economy, society and environment. In addition, the issuance of the Biodiversity Law (2008) underpins Viet Nam's efforts to conserve its rich biodiversity.



Certainly Viet Nam has made remarkable progress in transitioning from production-oriented to multi-functional forest management, but it has also struggled to meet the goals of a sustainable forestry sector and to stem the loss of biodiversity.

Project name	Programme on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Viet Nam
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Project region	National level
Implementing agencies	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Other government partners	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)
Duration	2015 – 2018

Objective

Important prerequisites for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems services of forests in Vietnam are created at the national level and contribute to the implementation of the Green Growth Strategy.

Approach

In order to establish the conditions necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity and ecosystem services, the programme is working in three areas:



Training on low-impact logging reduces forest destruction and increases worker safety - ©GIZ

1. **Legal framework.** The programme builds on the experience of past and on-going projects of the German Development Cooperation to provide advisory support to policy makers to draft legal documents, including in the areas of Payment for Environmental Services (PFES), Protected Area Management, and Sustainable Forest Management.
2. **Institutional capacities.** The programme provides targeted capacity development in the areas of Protected Area Management and Sustainable Forest Management. It assists the partner in implementing the National Capacity Development Plan for Protected Area Management and supports the introduction of information management systems in Protected Areas (SMART). It strengthens the capacities of training institutions and service providers to enable them to advise forest owners in sustainable forest management and certification.
3. **Timber legality and international initiatives.** The programme advises the partner within the context of FLEGT negotiations. It will also support the partner in the establishment of a timber legality assurance system and in strengthening the verification capacities of forest rangers.

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Main expected results

- *The legal framework relating to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity and ecosystem services is improved.*
- *The institutional capacities for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services of forests in Vietnam are strengthened.*
- *Important prerequisites for the implementation of the FLEGT/TLAS in Vietnam are reinforced.*



The Project strengthens capacities for the management of protected areas - Photo: FPD