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National strategy, programme implementation and lesson learned: Viet nam case

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I. Overview on the forests and forestland in Vietnam

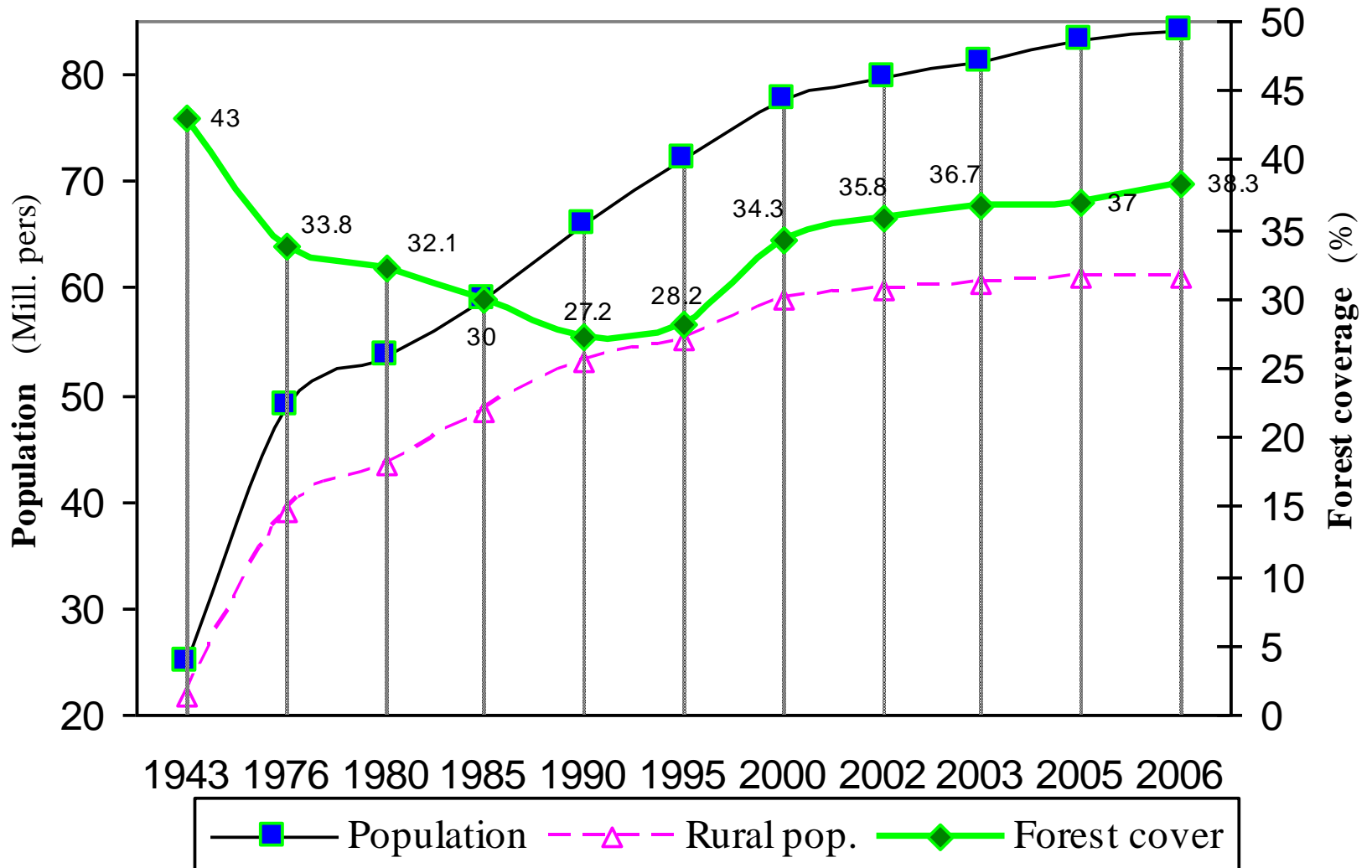
1.1 Brief introduction on forest in Vietnam

- Hilly and mountainous regions account for $\frac{3}{4}$ of Vietnam's total natural land;
- Vietnam has coastal lines of about 3,260 km long;
- Most of the mountainous and coastal wetland areas were formerly covered by a wide range of natural forests: tropical rain forest in most region, sub-tropical forest in the north and at high altitudes, mangrove forest along coastline, forests in peatland in the deltas;
- Forests are home to over 25 million people. Most of the ethnic minority people are living in forest area.

1.2 Dynamics of Forests in Vietnam

- Forest cover has changed dramatically and dynamically over the time and space, especially from the country reunification in 1975 up to date;
- Forest cover decreased from 43% (1943) to 28% (1995) and increased to 38.7% (2008). However, the changes are not always in progressive and the same in all regions;
- Forest expansion due to afforestation with fast growing species and short rotation, and natural regeneration: few canopy stories, low timber volume;
- Forest quality is continuously degraded: Area of primary forest reduced from 3.84 (1990) – 0.84 mill ha (2005);

Forest cover changes



II. Vietnam's point of view on the REDD implementation

2.1 Relevant policies & Programs

- Vietnam is identified as one of 5 most severe affected by climate change;
- GoV of Vietnam has paid great attention on responding to negative impacts of climate change:
- National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (NTP-RCC) was approved in Dec 2008 (Decision 158/2008/QD-TTg dated 2/12/2008). Estimated costs for the period from 2009-2015: \$1,2 Bill.;
- MARD's Action Plan Framework (APF) to respond to CC (Decision 2730/QD-BNN-KHCHN dated 5/9/2008);
- Decision 380/QD-TTg dated 10/04/2008 of Prime Minister on PES;

2.2 Point of view

- REDD is one of the activities in the NTP-RCC and MARD's APF to respond to CC while creating an innovative financing mechanism to generate additional income for forest activities;
- REDD is one of key sub-programs of the Sustainable Forest Management Program of the NFDS;
- Based on voluntary basis , national circumstances and country ownership;
- REDD implementation supports SFM, biodiversity conservation and enhancement of forest C stock;
- REDD implementation contributes to achievement of the objectives of current environment and socio-economic development strategies, policies;

2.2 Point of view

- REDD implementation should be well-organized in collaborative, coordinated, transparent and effective fashion;
- Maximal utilization of the comparative advantages of the International Development Agencies and experts;
- Promotes a close cooperation with countries in the ASEAN, especially with the countries in the Lower Mekong Basin.

2.3 Constraints and Challenges

- REDD requires new level of forest governance – A need to revise and complete the institutional arrangement and policies;
- Cooperation among government agencies and integration with on-going programs/projects ;
- A lack of technical capacity: in collecting, analyzing, synthesizing and reporting information on forest C, especially at local levels;
- A lack of adequate and predictable financial resources: costs for REDD-readiness ranging from USD 13.7 million – USD 92.0 million for 5 years;
- High opportunity costs and insufficient volume of finance to shift drivers of deforestation and degradation;

III. The UN-REDD Programme in Vietnam

The UN-REDD Prog in Vietnam was officially launched on 16/8/2009;



3.1 Long –term Objectives

- Assist the Government of Viet Nam in developing an effective REDD regime in Viet Nam and to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission and response to CC
- Contribute to the broader goal of ensuring that “By the end of 2012 Viet Nam is REDD-ready and able to contribute to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation nationally and regionally
- Support on-going GoV strategies and programs

3.2 Specific Objectives

Strengthen institutional and technical capacity of Vietnam partners to ensure by the end 2012, Vietnam is ready for REDD implementation

3.3 Outcomes and outputs

- **Outcome 1:** Improved institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD activities in Viet Nam with **5 key outputs:** i) propose a mechanism of MARD and other related Ministries on REDD management; ii) proposal of REDD implementation scenario; iii) REDD action plan establishment to support MARD' Action plan Framework, iv) Draft of Degree for REDD and PES on benefit sharing for forest owners and v) Document publication of REDD and share experience to other countries.

3.3 Outcomes and outputs

- **Outcome 2:** Improved capacity to manage REDD and provide other Payment for Ecological Services at district-level into sustainable development planning and implementation with **4 key outputs:** i) Intergrated the REDD implementation capacity to Land allocation process at District level; ii) monitoring and evaluation method of Cacbon stock base on participatory of forest owner will be establish; iii) A proposal of REDD' payment and benefit sharing mechanism; and iv) improved capacity of the local people on REDD
- **Outcome 3:** Improved knowledge of approaches to reduce regional displacement of leakage with **3 key outputs:** i) Analyze and calculate the displacement of leakage at regional; ii) Proposed a mechanism of information sharing in the regional and; iii) Assessment and proposal mechanism for reduce regional illegal timber trade.

3.4 Budget Allocation (\$m)

Outcome	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
1. Improved capacity at central level	0.62	0.96	0.09	1.67
2. Improved capacity to manage REDD at local levels	0.74	1.29	0.09	2.12
3. Reduce regional displacement of leakage	0.23	0.08		0.31
Sub-Total	1.58	2.34	0.18	4.10
Indirect Costs (7%)	0.11	0.16	0.01	0.29
Total	1.69	2.50	0.19	4.38

3.5 Some highlights

- Vietnam participating in both REDD related initiatives: UN-REDD & FCPF/WB
- Vietnam presented the first results at the COP15's Vietnam Side event, especially on the first results of a study on benefit-distribution scheme, Carbon baseline scenario, Activities of REDD National Network, and draft of outline of National REDD Program.
- If the result of first phase is positive, more support will be needed.

IV. Other Ongoing Activities to complement UN-REDD

4.1 Stakeholders Mechanism

- Existing mechanism: Forestry Sector Support Program and Partnership (FSSP)
- Department of Forestry is going to develop a new forum called “REDD Network”

4.2 Development Study by Japan (JICA)

- Estimation of Reference Emission Levels (REL) integrating existing national data and satellite images
- Proposals on demonstration activities at sub-national level

4.3 The other Donors

- Norway: Digitalization of maps of Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI)
- GTZ: Estimation of emission factors of forests in Vietnam

Thank you for your attention