

No: 419/QĐ -TTg

Hanoi, 5 April 2017

DECISION

On Approval of the National Action Programme on the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions through the reduction of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Sustainable Management of Forest Resources, and Conservation and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks (REDD+) by 2030

THE PRIME MINISTER

Pursuant to the Government Organization Law, June 19th, 2015;

In accordance with Decree No. 99/2010/ND-CP September 24, 2010 of the Government's policy on payment for environmental forest services; and Decree No. 147/2016/ND-CP on amending a number of articles of the Decree No. 99/2010/ND-CP of September 24, 2010, on the policy on payment for forest environmental services

Pursuant to Clause 4, Section IV of Decision No. 2139/QĐ-TTg December 5, 2011 of the Prime Minister on approving the National Strategy on Climate Change;

Pursuant to Clause 5, Section III, Article 1 of Decision No. 1393/QĐ-TTg dated 25 September 2012 by the Prime Minister on approving the national strategy on green growth;

In compliance with Decision No. 01/COP16; and Decisions No. 9,10,11,12,13, 4,15/COP19 of UNFCCC's COP;

Pursuant to Decision No. 2053/QĐ-TTg dated 28 October 2016 of the Prime Minister on issuing implementation plan of the Paris Agreement on climate change

In consideration of the proposal proposed by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development,

DECIDES:

Article 1. Issue the Decision of the National Action Programme on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable management of forest resources, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (hereinafter referred to as the REDD+ Programme) for the period up to 2030 with the following main contents:

1. Principle

1.1. The REDD+ Programme contributes to the implementation of sustainable forest development, national strategies on responding to climate change, national strategies on green growth, linking to sustainable development, ensuring national environmental security and poverty reduction;

1.2. The REDD+ Programme is designed in compliance with policies and laws of Vietnam, and consistent with international treaties and agreements that Vietnam has participated or signed;

1.3. Ensuring the consistency of the State in steering, management and coordination; optimizing the participation and monitoring of socio-political, professional associations, non-governmental organizations and communities, utilizing mechanisms for effective international cooperation in the development and implementation of the REDD+ Programme;

1.4. The REDD+ activities address, inter alia, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, forest governance issues, gender considerations and REDD+ safeguards, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia indigenous peoples and woman in local communities; REDD+ activities need to be implemented in accordance with the specific context of Vietnam as well as UNFCCC regulations, taking into consideration socio-economic conditions and associated risks;

1.5. The REDD+ Programme contributes to progressively shifting priority to improving the quality of natural forest and plantations and reducing forest loss in order to maximize social, economic and environmental benefits; extracting more value from the environmental services from forests, and mobilizing financial resources for the protection and sustainable development of forests.

2. Overall goal and specific objectives

2.1. Overall goal

Contribute to protecting and improving the quality of the existing natural forests, expanding the forest area and improving the quality of plantation forests; linking with the implementation of national goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, forest protection and development, green growth; mobilizing international support, getting access to carbon markets; and improving people's lives and the country's sustainable development.

2.2. Specific objectives

2.2.1. For the period 2017 – 2020

- a) Contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through REDD+ activities; expand the forest cover to 42% and reach 14.4 million hectares of forest by 2020;
- b) Meet the requirements of REDD+ readiness, ensuring there is capacity to access financial resources for results-based payments as per international requirements;
- c) Improve the quality of natural forests and planted forests to increase carbon stock and environmental forest services; replicate effective models of forest plantation; sustainable management, protection and conservation of natural forests;
- d) Contribute to improve forest governance, create jobs, improve the living conditions of the people associated with the New Rural Programme and ensure security and national defense.

2.2.2. For the period 2021-2030

- a) Stabilize the natural forest area by 2030 at, at least, the same level as 2020, and increase forest cover up to 45% of national territory, contributing to realize the national target of reducing total greenhouse gas emissions by 8% by 2030 compared with business as usual (BAU) scenario as committed in the Paris Agreement on climate change. This contribution may increase to 25% if receiving international support;
- b) Replicate highly effective models on REDD+ and sustainable forest management, integrate fully REDD+ into sustainable forestry development programmes;
- c) Complete policies, laws and action framework of the REDD+ programme and access financial resources for results-based payments in accordance with international requirements.

3. The scope, subject and implementation duration

3.1. Programme scope: This programme is to be implemented across the country, with priority given to hot spots of deforestation and forest degradation, and regions affected by climate change, as well as areas having the greatest potential for forest carbon stock enhancement.

3.2. Programme subjects:

Agencies, organizations, households, individuals and village communities involved in the forest management, protection and development; Agencies, organizations and individuals involved in implementation and operation of the REDD+ Programme.

3.3. Implementation duration: from 2017 to the end of 2030

4. Main contents of the Programme

4.1. Policies and measures to reduce deforestation and forest degradation

4.1.1. Continue the review and adjust the land use master plan and land use plans to ensure the target of 16,24 million hectares of forest land is achieved by 2020.

4.1.2. Promote sustainable and deforestation-free agriculture and aquaculture.

4.1.3. Improve forest governance and livelihoods for people living near and in the forest.

4.1.4 Strengthen law enforcement.

4.2. Policies and Measures to conserve and enhance forest carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests

4.2.1. Evaluate and replicate enhanced forest production and long-term rotation timber plantation business models.

4.2.2. Pilot, evaluate and replicate sustainable models for natural forests enhancement, protection and conservation.

4.2.3. Enhance the economic and financial enabling environment for forests.

4.3. Achieve full REDD+ readiness and engage in step-wise improvement

4.3.1. Finalize and upgrade the core REDD+ instruments, in accordance with step-wise principle, and in compliance with UNFCCC's provisions.

4.3.2. Set up and implement financial management mechanisms for REDD+.

4.3.3. Strengthen international and regional cooperation to promote REDD+ and mitigate risks of displacement.

4.3.4. Effectively coordinate, backstop, communicate, build capacities and monitor NRAP implementation.

The detailed contents of the Programme are shown in the Appendix to this Decision.

5. Measures for the Programme implementation

5.1. Continue to improve the legal framework to facilitate REDD+ implementation.

a) Review, amend, supplement and improve legal documents on land, forestry, finance, environment protection, safeguards of REDD+ implementation and other relevant legal documents in accordance to Vietnam's law and international regulations and practice.

b) Develop a mechanism to promote and monitor the inter-agency cooperation at all levels, strengthen the linkages between the private and the public sectors including public-private partnership models; encourage the participation of socio-political, professional associations, non-governmental organizations and village communities in planning, implementation and monitoring of the REDD+ Programme.

c) Provide guidance on the mobilization, coordination and monitoring of financial resources for REDD+ programme implementation.

d) Formulate a national standard for forest certification; norms and standards for silvicultural measures, sustainable forest management, timber and non-timber forest products harvesting; regulations on forest carbon inventory, carbon removal and sink; methodologies on verification of forest related GHG emission reductions.

e) Formulate a monitoring and evaluation framework for the REDD+ Programme implementation; institutionalize the mechanisms for ethnic minorities, forest-dependent communities and women to exercise their right to participation throughout the REDD+ process, from preparation to implementation.

5.2. Financial resource mobilization

a) Domestic resource

- State budget allocated for the target programme on sustainable forest development; target programme to respond to climate change and green growth; target programme of education, vocational training and occupational safety; target programme of agricultural economic restructuring and natural disasters prevention and mitigation, residential life stability and other national programmes and projects in the period 2016-2020.

- Investments made by enterprises and other types of economic actors through various market mechanisms; Proceeds from offset forest plantation policies and contributions from people and from other related programs and projects.

- Loans and credits (including commercial loans and investment for development).

b) International resource contributions, development assistance and trust funds of other countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, businesses and individuals and other financial institutions; revenues received from REDD+ performance, including revenues from forest carbon credit trading schemes.

c) Other legal sources

5.3. Conduct investigation and monitor changes in forests and forest inventory periodically; improve and modernize the information system of the forestry sector to strengthen the transparency, data sharing and contribution of the parties implementing the REDD+ Programme.

5.4. Integrate the REDD+ Programme and apply REDD+ standards and best practices into forest master planning processes; mobilize the participation of farmers, local communities, and organizations in planning, implementing, and monitoring the implementation of REDD+ programme.

5.5. Apply advanced science and technology. Simultaneously, promote application of traditional knowledge and experience in resource management, protection, development, exploitation, and use in an environmentally friendly and efficient manner.

5.6. Enhance international cooperation to diversify financial resources for Programme implementation and contribute to achieving the REDD+ objectives of neighbor countries.

- a) Positively, proactively engage with international organizations, programmes and initiatives toward REDD+, climate change, green growth and sustainable development objectives to attract financial and technical support for promotion and implementation of the REDD+ Programme;
- b) Actively share experiences and information, promote regional and international cooperation, deepen and further implement the bilateral agreements with neighboring countries and international agreements on environment and forest protection that Vietnam has signed.

5.7. Monitoring and Evaluation

a) The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development presides and coordinates with relevant agencies, ministries, organizations and units to monitor and assess the REDD+ programme on an annual basis.

b) Monitoring and Evaluation System

- By the end of 2017, a monitoring and evaluation system should be established to support data collection, and outputs and impact analysis related to finance, management and implementation of the REDD+ programme.
- A timely monitoring and assessment schedule must be established and implemented for REDD+ Programme policies and measures at the provincial and national level by related agencies and Ministries.
- Transparency of financial resources and organizations for the implementation of REDD+ programme must be assured to enable the participation of related stakeholders including government bodies, socio-political organizations, non-governmental organizations and international parties as relevant.
- The system of indicators, monitoring and evaluation framework of the REDD+ implementation should be prescribed by the competent authority.

6. Implementation

6.1. Programme operation and management

a) The State Steering Committee on Forest Protection and Development established according to the decision No-57/QĐ-TTg dated 9th January 2012 by the Prime Minister on approving the Forest Protection and Development Plan (for the period 2011-2020) shall act as the steering body for the implementation of REDD+ programme.

b) The Vietnam REDD+ Office located under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) fulfils the following functions: assists the Committee in linking and coordinating activities among the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the REDD+ Programme; helps the Committee in negotiating, receiving, distributing resources to support REDD+ implementation mobilized from domestic and foreign organizations; guides localities in the development and implementation of the REDD+ Programme in provinces; provides technical assistance, information management of the REDD+ Programme; and performs other tasks assigned by the Committee.

6.2. Responsibility of related Ministries

2.1. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- a) Takes the lead and coordinates with the relevant Ministries, People's Committees of provinces and Cities under the direct control of the central Government in organizing the implementation of the Programme as prescribed;
- b) Formulates the mid-term and annual implementation plans and submits to competent authorities for approval;
- c) Establishes Viet Nam's National REDD+ Fund; issues regulations on the organization and operation of the Fund in accordance with Viet Nam's laws and international regulations and practices;
- d) Takes the lead and coordinates with relevant Ministries on amending, supplementing and building policies, to ensure the implementation of the Programme objectives and submit to competent authorities for issuance;
- e) Presides over the establishment of a number of advisory units to assist in monitoring the implementation of the National REDD+ Programme when needed
- f) Coordinates the implementation of the REDD+ Programme, providing technical assistance, collecting and consolidating data from all the implementing agencies; including the means of implementation, progress and results; carries out assessment and analysis of performance;
- g) Annually coordinates with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and relevant Ministries to consolidate and review the request for budget allocation and the list of REDD+ projects to integrate into implementation plans of the National Target Programme on Climate Change and other related programmes;
- h) Leads on formulating and guiding the application of the monitoring and evaluation process, publicizes and informs on the results of the REDD+ implementation to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment focal point to coordinate and capture information.

i) Mobilizes international resources to implement the REDD+ Programme; and is authorized by the Government to negotiate and sign financial support agreements with international sponsors who are committed to make contributions to the Vietnam REDD+ Fund in compliance with the law;

k) Advises the Prime Minister to assign specific duties, direct and enhance the coordination among the Ministries and promote the role of socio-political associations in implementation of this Programme; and

l) Reviews and evaluates the Programme implementation results for the period 2016 - 2020 and proposes to the Prime Minister for amendment and adjustment for the period 2021-2030.

6.2.2. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

a) Takes the lead and coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to integrate data on progress and results of REDD+ implementation into the National Communications and Biannual Update Reports and submit to UNFCCC Secretariat;

b) Coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to develop the system of MRV, FRELs/FRLs, and evaluate the results in terms of emissions reductions by the Programme;

c) Leads on land-use planning and land management, including the forest land, and on integrating REDD+ into land-use planning practice at all levels;

d) Leads and coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to direct and guide Provincial People Committees to review and accomplish the land allocation in association with forest leasing and issuing land-use right certificates; issuing, within its jurisdiction, or submitting to competent authorities for the issuance of mechanisms and policies on forest land allocation or leasing relevant to the implementation of the Programme; providing data available from the national inventory on greenhouse gas emissions in Vietnam.

e) Performs other tasks assigned by the Committee.

6.2.3. Ministry of Finance

a) Leads and coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to establish a mechanism for financial use and management of the REDD+ Fund, and develop mechanisms and policies related to the Programme financial management;

b) Coordinates with the Ministry of Planning and Investment to mobilize and allocate resources for the Programme according to the approved plans;

c) Monitors the relevant stakeholders to comply with the financial management mechanism of the REDD+ Programme;

d) Performs other tasks assigned by the Committee.

6.2.4. Ministry of Planning and Investment

a) Takes the lead and coordinates with the Ministry of Finance to mobilize and allocate counterpart funds for the projects implementing the REDD+ Programme;

b) Mainstreams REDD+ into relevant national target programmes;

c) Coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Finance to formulate mechanisms and policies for managing and implementing the Programme;

d) Takes the lead and coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in guiding oversea investment of Vietnam's enterprises, especially in forest resources sustainable management; and

e) Performs other tasks assigned by the Committee.

6.2.5 Ministry of Industry and Trade

a) Directs and undertakes the review of plans for hydropower development; do not grant investment licenses for hydropower projects which have a considerable negative impact on biodiversity conservation of natural forest ecosystems and national environment security;

b) Strictly controls the implementation of forest offset plantations and/or financial contributions for compensation for damage caused by hydropower plant construction; and

c) Performs other tasks assigned by the Committee.

6.2.6. Ministry of Information and Communications

a) Takes the lead and coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in working with the media on Information, Communication and Training to raise awareness and responsibilities in REDD+ implementation of involved agencies, organizations and people; and

b) Performs other tasks assigned by the Committee.

6.2.7. Ministry of Justice

a) Takes the lead and coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to organize the propaganda and dissemination of, and education about, REDD implementation; and

b) Performs other tasks assigned by the Committee.

6.2.8. Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs

a) Takes the lead and coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to carry out law dissemination, education and communication, awareness raising and capacity building, encouraging ethnic minorities to take active part in REDD+ operations; mainstreaming the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Programme and relevant programs and projects within its State administrative mandate; and integrate REDD+ into related projects and programmes; and

b) Performs other tasks assigned by the Committee.

6.2.9. Other ministries and relevant sectors

In accordance with the functions and tasks within their State administrative mandate, other ministries and sectors shall proactively coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to implement the Programme and guide various units that fall within their administrative mandate to implement the Programme.

6.3. Responsibilities of the provincial People's Committees and Cities under the direct control of the central Government.

a) Organize REDD+ communication campaigns and the promotion of REDD+ activities in their localities;

b) Add functions and duties on REDD+ for the Provincial Forest Protection and Development Steering Committee

c) Develop provincial REDD+ Action Plans to implement the National REDD+ Action Programme locally. Integrate the Provincial REDD+ Action Plans into provincial Forest Protection and Forest Development Plans.

d) Actively mobilize resources; align REDD+ with the payment for forest environmental services; and mainstream REDD+ into related programmes and projects in the local areas to achieve the objectives of the Programme;

e) Coordinate with relevant ministries and agencies to guide and supervise organizations and individuals in implementing the Programme in local areas as specified in this decision; and

e) Provide regular reports on the progress of achieving Programme objectives and performing tasks in provinces and cities as specified in this Decision;

6.4. The socio-political, professional associations, mass organizations, non-governmental organizations and enterprises

Subject to their functions, tasks and capabilities, political, social and professional organizations, mass organizations, non-governmental organizations and business entities are requested to participate in activities relating to the Programme,

particularly in the field of information sharing, education and communication promotion, supporting and mobilizing the involvement of local communities, sharing experiences in implementing REDD+, and monitoring and assessing the implementation of the Programme;

Article 2. This Decision comes into effect from the date of its signing and replaces Decision No. 799/QĐ-TTg dated 27 June 2012 by the Prime Minister on approving the National Action Programme on Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable management of forest resources, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks for the period 2011-2020.

Article 3. The ministers, heads of ministerial-level agencies, heads of governmental agencies, chairmen of people committees of provinces and cities directly controlled by the Central Government shall be liable to implement this Decision.

PRIME MINISTER

Recipient: