

Vietnam National Policies in forest management and future direction

Regional Dialog

Bangkok, 11-12 November 2010



Introduction

- **Forests and forestland:** 16.2 million ha (49%) were covered by various forest ecosystems with high biodiversity: tropical rain forest, sub-tropical forest, mangrove forest, Melaleuca forests
- Forests are home to some 20 million people
- Forests contribute significantly to environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, socio-economic development and poverty alleviation in rural forested areas;



Introduction

- Vietnam is identified as one of the most severely affected by negative impact of climate change in the world;
- GoV has strongly engaged in the international efforts to respond to climate change;
- National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change is issued on 2nd Dec. 2008;
- Vietnam is selected to be a pilot country of both the QuickStart Initiative of the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF;

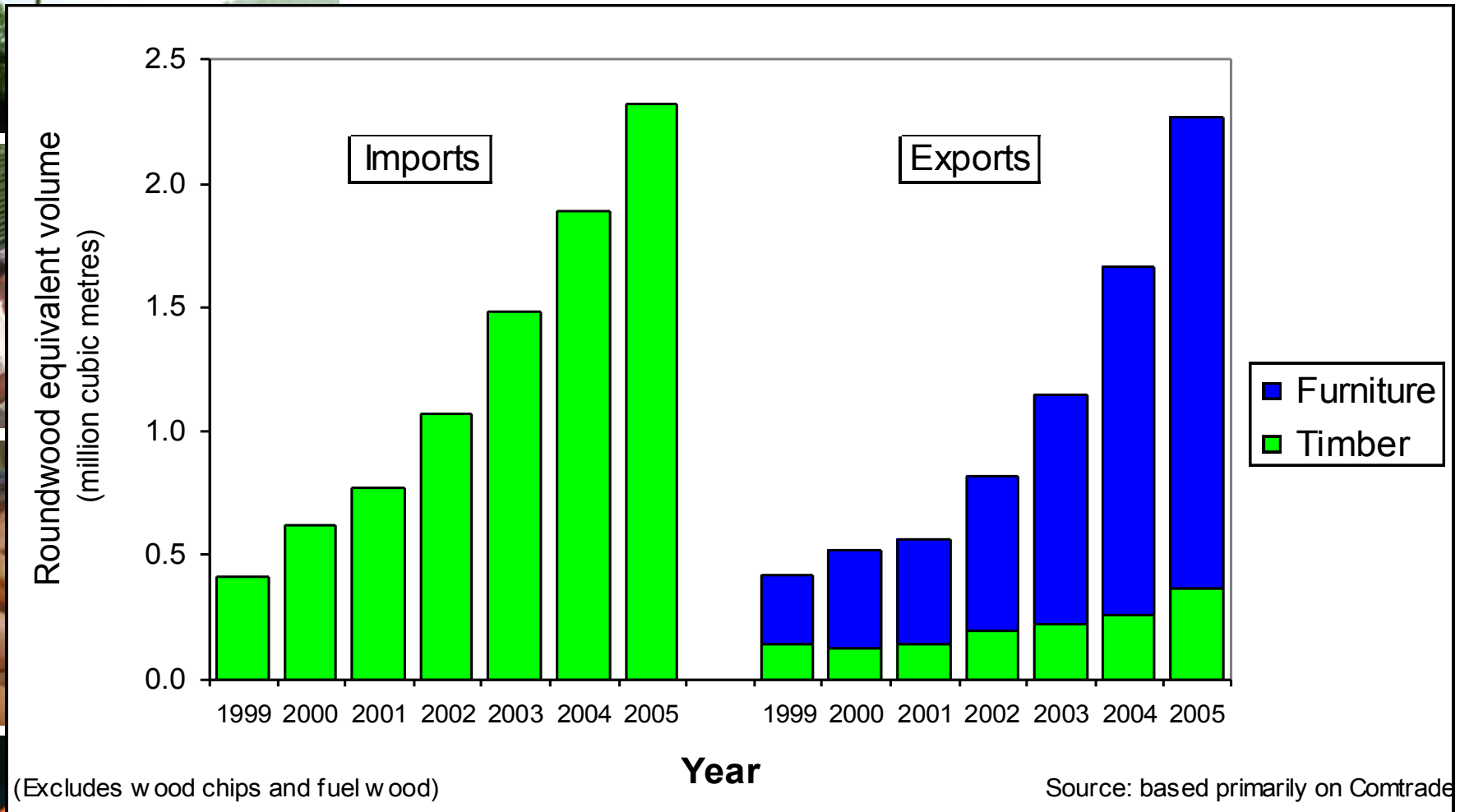


Wood processing Industry

- A strong development in the industry and significant growth in the export turnover (the 5th after crude oil, garment, shoes and fishery);
- export to more than 120 countries worldwide. In 2009, the 4 largest markets are the U.S. (\$ 1.1 bill.), EU (\$700 mill.) , Japan (\$ 371.7 mil.) and China (\$ 197.9 mill.) ;
- Change in revenue: \$0.6 bill. (2003) –\$2.6 bill. (2009) and about \$4 bill. (2011). Target \$7 bill. (2020);
- Shortage of raw material: 70-80% are imported (about 4-5 mill m3 per year);



Timber import and export trends 1999-2005

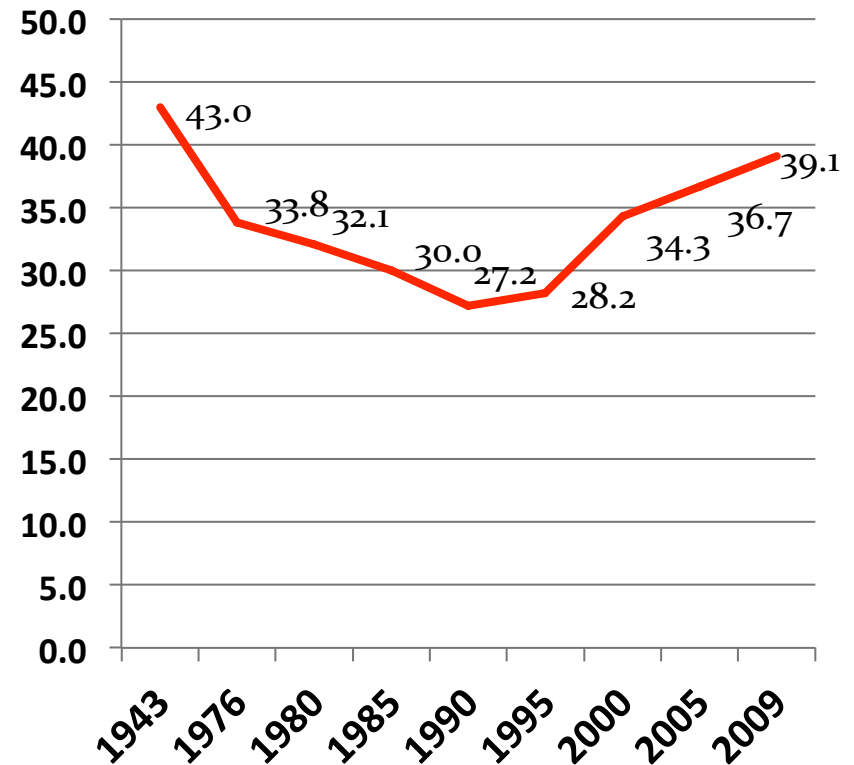


It is estimated that VN wood processing industry will need 10-12 mill m³ of round-wood by 2010, revenue of \$3 billion



Forest Changes in last decades

- Forest cover decreased from 43% (1943) to 27% (1990) BUT increased to 39.1% (2009)
- Forest quality is continuously degraded;
- Deforestation is still severe in the Central Highlands and southern provinces;





Contrast situations in different regions



Conversion of peatland forests to agriculturally cultivated land and shrinking farms causes huge CO₂ emission and soil degradation



Conversion of Mangrove forest to shrimp farms in Ca Mau Peninsular



Major driving forces behind forest changes

- **Major causes of (gross) deforestation**
 - ✓ Conversion of forests into other land uses
 - ✓ Unsustainable logging
 - ✓ Infrastructural development
 - ✓ Insufficient capacity in forest management, lack of law enforcement
- **Major causes of degradation**
 - ✓ Unsustainable logging (either legal and illegal)
- **Reasons of forest expansion**
 - ✓ Restricted timber harvest and raw timber export
 - ✓ Forest allocation, investment of Gov (progs 327, 661, 147) and private entities in reforestation
 - ✓ Increase in agricultural productivity (...)
 - ✓ Poverty alleviation and livelihood alternatives
 - ✓ Market demand



Forest-related Policies

- **Past and current policies:**
 - ✓ Forest land allocation since 1994
 - ✓ Reforestation programs since early 1990s
 - ✓ Harvest quota and a ban on raw timber export
 - ✓ Privatization of SEFs & promotion of wood processing industry
 - ✓ Pilot PES, re-zoning forests and Biodiversity
 - ✓ FLEGT – Lacey Act: WWF, TRAFFIC, GFTN (USAID), EFI (EC), VN-German Forestry Program (GTZ)



Forest-related Policies

- **Policies are issued very soon:**
 - ✓ SFM for forest enterprises & Continuation of reforestation programs aimed to provide 80% raw materials for wood processing industry by 2020;
 - ✓ Nation-wide PES implementation, including forest C sequestration and conservation
 - ✓ New national program on forest management and protection
 - ✓ New cycle of NFI with REDD+ elements (2010-2020)



Forest-related Policies

- **Regional and international cooperation:**
 - ✓ Target of a full VPA on FLEGT with EC by 2012
 - ✓ Public awareness on Lacey Act and FLEGT
 - ✓ SFM agreement with ASEAN
 - ✓ Support for bringing the declaration of the ASEAN on CC at the 16th summit;
 - ✓ Agreement with Lao DPR on cross-border illegal logging control, Climate change
 - ✓ On-going discussion with Cambodia



National Institutional Arrangements

- **Multi-sectoral approach not only forestry sector**
- REDD Strategy supports for REDD+ and Non-REDD activities – SFM (UN-REDD, EC, USAID)
- Current and future arrangement for the implementation of REDD+ : National Steering Committee for REDD+ and chaired by Deputy PM
- Proposal on establishment of National Office for FLEGT



Thank you very much for
your attention!

