



**Vietnam National Forest Programme Process
EVALUATION REPORT
(2nd DRAFT)**



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFP	Asia Forestry Partnership
APFC	Asia Pacific Forestry Commission
ASEAN	ASEAN.
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity Conservation.
CEMMA	Committee of Ethnic Minority Affairs.
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COFO	FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FOMIS	Forestry Monitoring Information System.
FSSP	Forest Sector Support Partnership.
GSO	General Statistics Organization.
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization.
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs.
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
PES	Paid Environmental Service
PROFOR	Profor
REDD	Reduction of Emission from Deforestation and Degradation
UNCCD	Convention on Combating against Desertification
UNFF	United Nations Forestry Forum)
UN-REDD	UN-REDD Project
VFDS	Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy
VIFORES	Vietnam Timber and Forest products Association
WB	World Bank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Foreword

During recent decade forest protection and development is always in high agenda of Vietnamese Government which, together with strong support from international institutions and NGOs as well as domestic institutions and NGOs, in terms of political; technical and financial aspects, Vietnam developed two national forestry development programmes including National Forestry Development Strategy 2001-2010 and National Forestry Development Strategy 2006-2020.

This short study, under support of FAO, is to undertake an assessment for Vietnam national forestry programme process, in this case, the NFDS 2006-2020 process, focusing on the analysis; formulation; implementation; monitoring and evaluation of NFDS 2006-2020 to aim at providing an understanding of how Vietnam national forestry programme process is evolving, which elements are developed and to what extent, which elements still have room for improvements and therefore could require further attention.

2. Assessment method

2.1. National forestry program in this study is Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy 2006-2020. Therefore this includes a paragraph mentioning about 5 programmes of VFDS, their achievements and opportunities for improvement in order to provide certain background information for assessment of the VFDS process.

2.2. Use FAO assessment matrix (table 01) to evaluate four phases of Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy process including analysis (1), policy formulation (2), implementation (3) and monitoring and evaluation (4). On top of that, each phase then is assessed in three aspects consisting of country leadership (1), inter and intra linkages (2) and partnership (3). Each indicator is rated by following principle in box 1 below.

Box 1

0 = if the indicator has not been developed / if it is absent from the country National forestry programme process
1 = if the indicator exists but is incipient / just starting / plenty of room to develop it further
2 = if the indicator is developed / is progressing well within the country nfp process
3 = if the indicator is completed to the country's full satisfaction / can serve as a model

The rating given to each indicator is justified, by justification in blue letters, below the content of the indicator.

2.3. Study and compare the role of MARD; relationships within and outside MARD; involvement and inputs of different stakeholders and parties during analysis, programme formulation, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as activities undertaken and achievements against the matrix with 67 indicators, in details: 12 indicators for analysis, 19 indicators for policy formulation, 23 indicators for implementation, 13 indicators for monitoring and evaluation, 24 indicators for country leadership, 19 indicators for inter/intra linkages and 24 indicators for partnership (please, see table 01).

Table 01: Summary of indicators for assessment

		Cluster			Total
		Country Leadership	Inter/intra linkages	Partnership and participation	
Phase	Analysis	3 indicators	6 indicators	3 indicators	12 indicators
	Policy formulation	7 indicators	4 indicators	8 indicators	19 indicators
	Implementation	8 indicators	6 indicators	9 indicators	23 indicators
	Monitoring and evaluation	6 indicators	3 indicators	4 indicators	13 indicators
Total		24 indicators	19 indicators	24 indicators	67 indicators

Source: FAO

3. Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy

The Vietnam NFDS 2006-2020, was promulgated by Prime Minister's decision No. 18/2007/QĐ-TTg, dated 5 February 2007 consists of five programmes including sustainable forest management and development program (1), Program on forest protection, biodiversity conservation and environmental services development (2), forest products processing and trade program (3), program on research, education, training and forestry extension (4), program on renovating the forest sector institutions, policy, planning and monitoring (5).

3.1. Sustainable forest management and development program

Achievements

- The forest sector has completely synthesized and consolidated results in reviewing the planning of three forest categories pursuant to the Directive 38/2006/CT-TTg of the Prime Minister. It has also completed the set of 3 forest categories planning maps on the national reference system of VN-2000 which creates strong base for management, protection and development of forest (chart 01).
- Socialization in forestry implemented; forest and forest land, in large scale, allocated to management owners, especially households.
- Forest area, from 2002 to 2008, increased 11%, including 5% of natural forest and 44% of plantation forest that brings Vietnam among countries having considerable plantation area.
- Volume of harvested timber reached 4 million m³ in 2009.

Opportunities for improvement

- Relevant policies to increase efficiency of forest and forest land allocated to different management owners, especially households to be issued.
- Management owners for forest and forest land that, temporarily, under people committees to be identified.
- Production capacity and quality of plantation forest to be increased to provide timber with diameter big enough for furniture production.
- Domestic source of timber for wood processing industry to be established.

3.2. Program on forest protection, biodiversity conservation and environmental services development.

Achievements

- Forest cover increased from 34.3% in 2000 up to 38.7% in 2008.
- Area of forest lost by fire, in 2008, decreased by 24% compared with that of 2003.
- Area of forest lost by illegal logging, in 2008, decreased by 62% compared with that of 2003.
- Implemented Decision 380/QĐ-TTg dated 10/4/2008, Vietnam is the first country in South-East Asia pilots paid environment service.

Opportunities for improvement

- Sufficient policies and actions to control violations on Law on Forest protection and Development to be issued and taken.
- National system for PES to be developed.

3.3. Forest products processing and trade program

Achievements

- In 2007 Vietnam is one among top ten global furniture exporters.
- Vietnam furniture export value increased 8 times from 2000 to 2009.
- Furniture belongs to Vietnam's top five leading export commodities.

Opportunities for improvement

- To get efficient, clean, transparent timber supply chain with increasing number of chain of custody (CoC) certificates.
- Wood processing industry and trade to be compliant with market changes caused by FLEGT, Lacey Act, public procurement policies, and policies of furniture importers to EU and US market.

3.4. Program on Research, Education, Training and Forestry Extension (RETE)

Achievements

- 20 sectorial standards have been upgraded to Vietnam standards.
- Comprehensive research program for agriculture and forestry has been formed.
- 2 facilities for pos-graduate education, 13 one for professional education at bachelor and technician levels (8 universities, 3 colleges, 2 technical high schools) providing 4,000 educated annually.
- Improved planning and implementation of forestry extension.

Opportunities for improvement

- The quantity of key and senior forestry staff is too little now, most retired while the younger generations have inadequate capacity and conditions for replacement.

3.5. Program on renovating the forest sector institutions, policy, planning and monitoring

Achievements

- From January 2006, 135 legal documents relating to forestry have been developed and issued or submitted to competent authorities for issuance.
- The proposal on establishment of General Department of Forestry was approved by the Prime Minister,
- The Government's priority investment was allocated to the forest sector while development investment funding from Central budgetary source for forest protection and development has been improved substantially.
- Viet Nam forestry sector has actively expanded multi-dimensional cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral sides with other countries, in which priority is given to development of relationships with neighboring and regional ones.
- Forest Sector Support Partnership (FSSP) continued to perform in deep and effective manner, contributing to enhance policy dialogue, information sharing and mobilize resources, especially ODA in order to implement priorities in the Viet Nam Forestry Development Strategy (VFDS) in the period of 2006-2020.

Opportunities for improvement

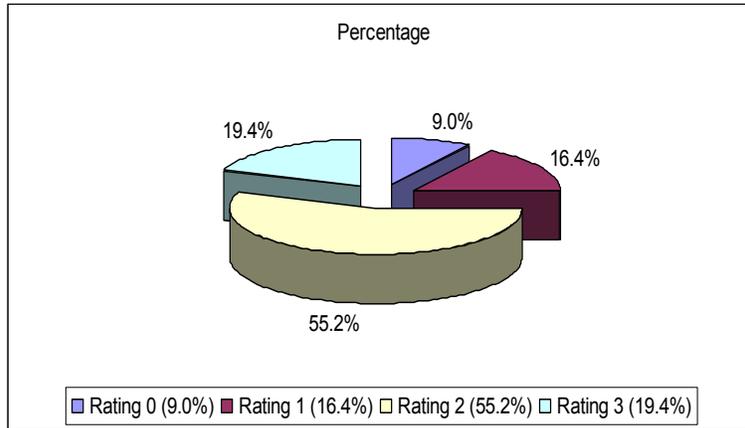
- Legal document development progress was still slow because of high dependency on relevant agencies and feedbacks from provinces.
- Legal dissemination and education to raise awareness for different levels, sectors, forest owners, farmers and the whole society, which is still low due to inadequate attention was paid together with shortage of funding.
- Due to impacts of the global financial and economic crisis the process has been slowed down.

4. Evaluation of Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy 2006-2020 process.

4.1. Overall rating

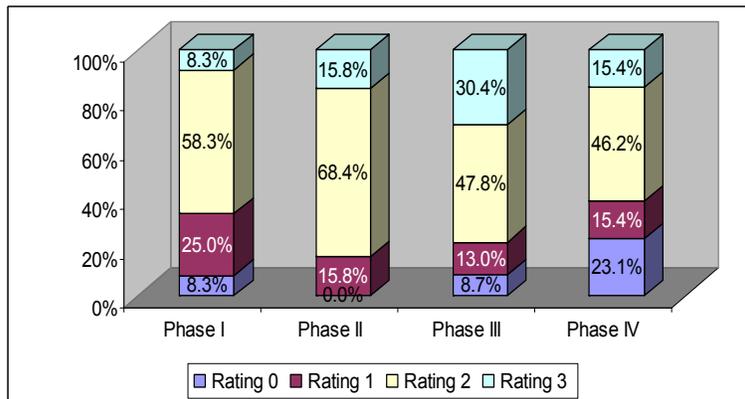
Chart 16 shows rating for the whole process where the indicators rated at 3 count for 19.4%, at 2 for 55.2% therefore all indicators rated at 2 up count for 74.6%. Indicators from rate 1 down count for 25.4 % including indicators rated 0 at 9% which clearly show that basically the process of NFDS is good. However attention should be paid to indicators rated at 1 and especially indicators at 0.

Chart 16: Overall rating



Indicators rated at 2 up are 66.7%, 84.2%, 78.3% and 61.5% for phases: analysis, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation respectively (chart 17) which means that rating of the four phases, from the best down, is: formulation (1), implementation (2), analysis (3), monitoring and evaluation (4). The forest sector therefore has the highest number of opportunities for improvement in monitoring and evaluation phase, especially where its indicators rated at 0 or 1.

Chart 17: Rating of 4 phases



4.2. Phase I - Analysis

8.3% of the indicators of phase I – analysis rated at 3, while the indicators rated at 2 count for 58.3%, and at 1 and 0 are 25.0% and 8.3% respectively (chart 18). Opportunities for improvements therefore are focused first of all on the indicators rated at 0 and 1. They are:

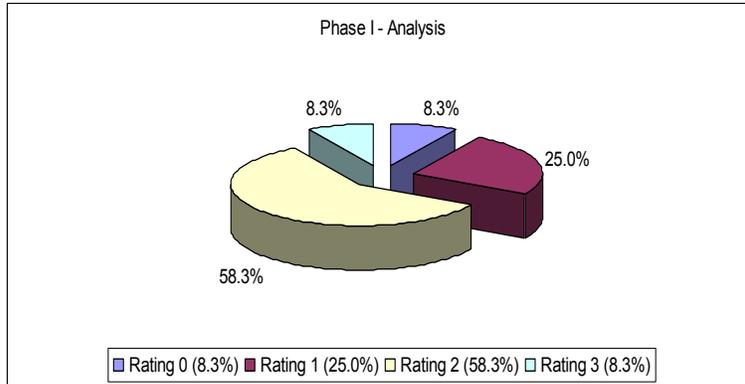
One indicator at 0:

- a) Compilation and analysis of policies, laws, regulations and strategic plans of other sectors that influence forestry.

Three indicators at 1:

- b) Analysis of the consistency of laws and legal prescriptions related to forestry.
- c) Assessment of impact of other sectors on forestry sector development.
- d) Stakeholder analysis: identification of stakeholders, their importance/influence.

Chart 18: Analysis rating

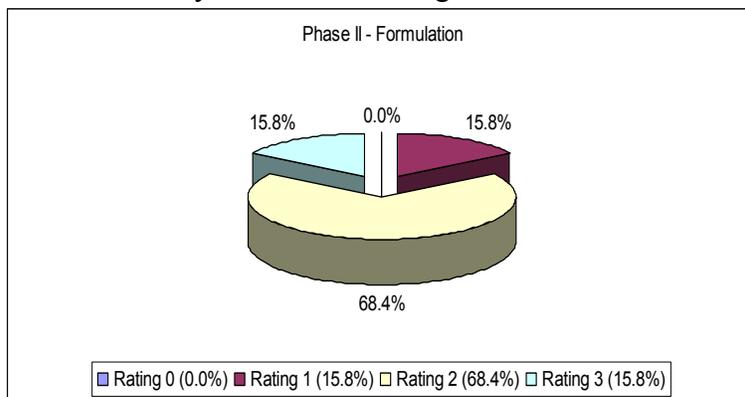


4.3. Phase II – Policy formulation

Policy formulation has 84.2% of indicators rated at 2 up, none of indicators rated at 0 and 15.8% rated at 1 (chart 19) which show all opportunities for improvement:

- Inconsistencies in the forest related policy and legal framework have been addressed.
- The mechanism of the participatory process is well-known by all relevant stakeholder groups.
- Stakeholders informed and engaged in the commitments of the country participation in UNFF and other international and regional forest related meetings

Chart 19: Policy formulation rating



4.4. Phase III – Implementation

The implementation indicators rated at 2 up count for 78.2% (chart 20). Opportunities for improvement for this phase focus on following areas:

Rating at 0:

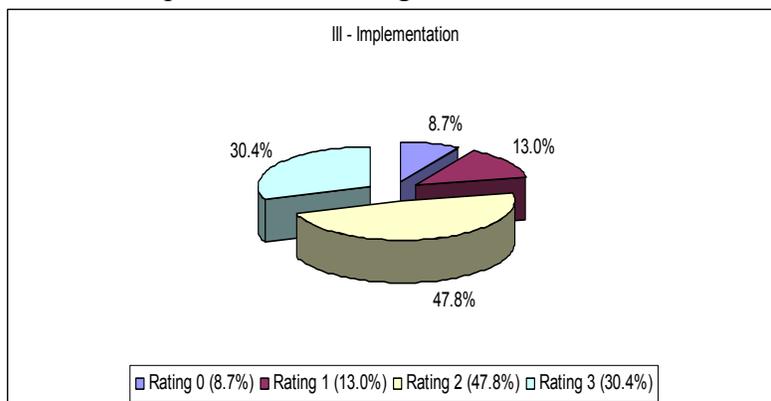
- Joint forest stakeholder activities (e.g. private-public partnerships).
- Training in conflict management provided to stakeholders.

Rating at 1:

- Joint meetings with other sectors to promote integrated natural resources management (e.g. soil conservation / watershed management).

- d) Existence of mechanisms for dialogue and joint decision making among forestry sector stakeholders.
- e) Capacity building of stakeholders in technical and managerial aspects.

Chart 20: Implementation rating



4.5. Phase IV – Monitoring and evaluation

Indicators rated at 2 up are 61.6 % (chart 21). Opportunities for improvement of this phase should be:

Rating at 0:

- a) Country implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action regularly appraised.
- b) Coordination of nfp monitoring mechanisms with other monitoring mechanisms of poverty reduction and similar development strategies
- c) Evaluation of stakeholder participation and satisfaction with the nfp process.

Rating at 1:

- d) Harmonization of revised nfp documents with strategic planning of other sectors.
- e) Awareness of nfp achievements by general public, including information dissemination and adoption of knowledge.

Chart 21: Monitoring and evaluation rating

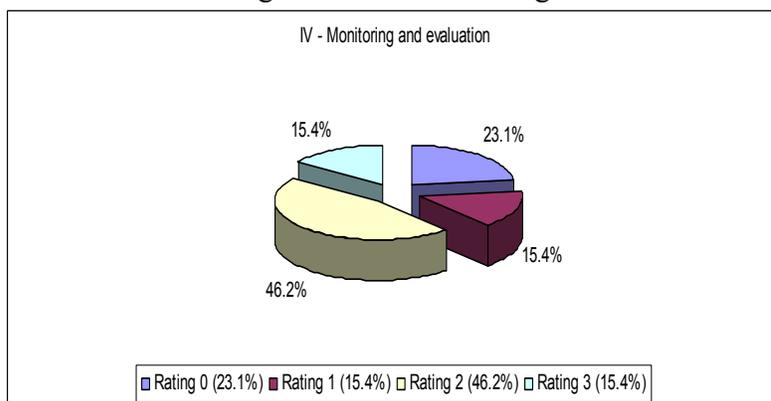
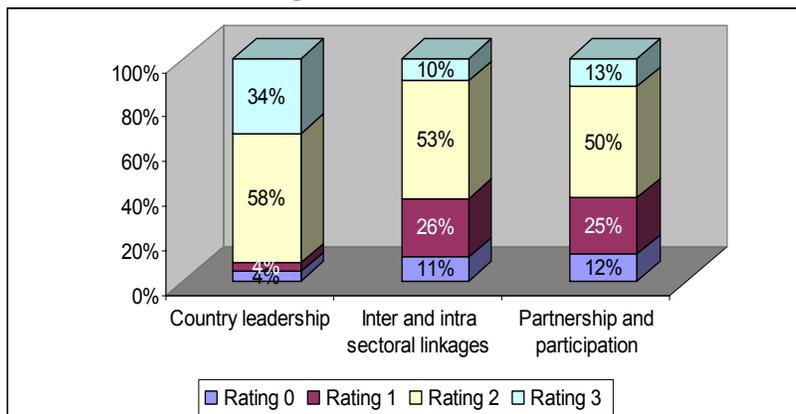


Chart 22 explains ratings of three areas including country leadership with 95.8% of indicators rated at 2 up; and that of the inter and intra sectorial linkages and the partnership and participation is 63.2% and 62.5% respectively.

Chart 22: Overall rating for three areas



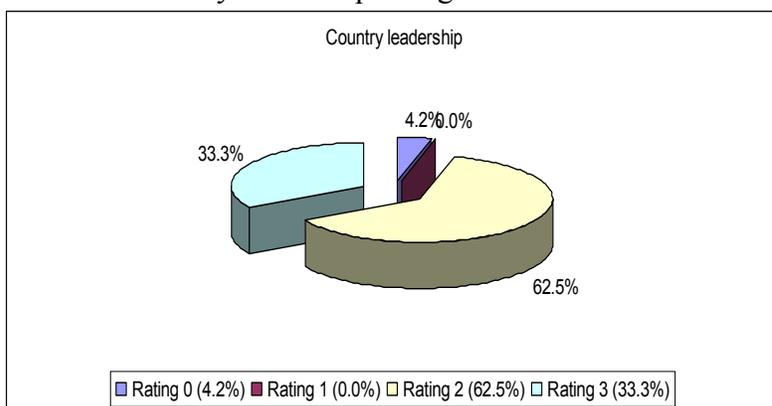
4.6. Country leadership

The country leadership indicators rated at 2 up count for 95.8% including 33.3% rated at 3, which shows that there is a good country leadership in place. Opportunities here should be:

Rating at 0:

- a) Country implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action regularly appraised (phase IV).

Chart 23: Country leadership rating



4.7. Inter and intra sectorial linkages

The inter and intra sectorial linkages indicators rated at 0 and 1 count for 36.8% which also shows opportunities for improvement of this phase.

Rating at 0:

- a) Compilation and analysis of policies, laws, regulations and strategic plans of other sectors that influence forestry (phase I).
- b) Coordination of nfp monitoring mechanisms with other monitoring mechanisms of poverty reduction and similar development strategies (phase IV).

Rating at 1:

c) Analysis of the consistency of laws and legal prescriptions related to forestry (phase I)
Phân tích tính nhất quán của luật và các quy định pháp luật liên quan đến lâm nghiệp

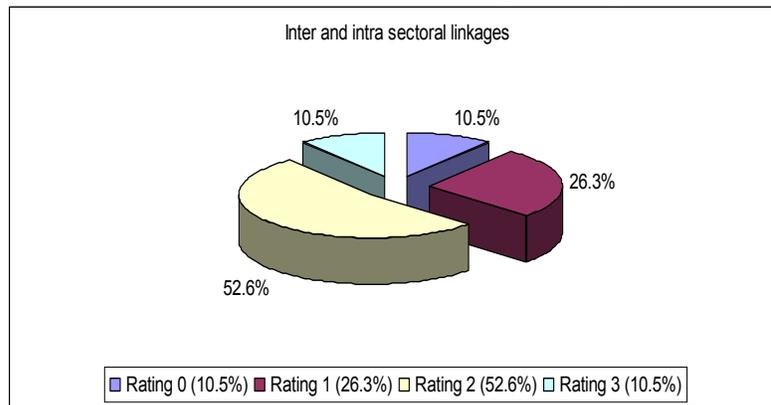
d) Assessment of impact of other sectors on forestry sector development (phase I).

e) Inconsistencies in the forest related policy and legal framework have been addressed (phase II).

f) Joint meetings with other sectors to promote integrated natural resources management (e.g. soil conservation / watershed management) (phase III).

g) Harmonization of revised nfp documents with strategic planning of other sectors (phase IV).

Chart 24: Inter and intra sectorial linkages rating



4.8. Partnership and participation

The partnership and participation indicators rated at 2 up count for 62.5% including 12.5% at 3. Potential opportunities for improvements are as follows:

Rating at 0:

a) Joint forest stakeholder activities (e.g. private-public partnerships) (phase III).

Các hoạt động chung về rừng của các bên liên quan (vd, hợp tác giữa Nhà nước và khu vực tư nhân).

b) Training in conflict management provided to stakeholders (phase III).

c) Evaluation of stakeholder participation and satisfaction with the nfp process (phase IV).

Rating at 1:

d) Stakeholder analysis: identification of stakeholders, their importance/influence (phase I).

e) The mechanism of the participatory process is well-known by all relevant stakeholder groups (phase II).

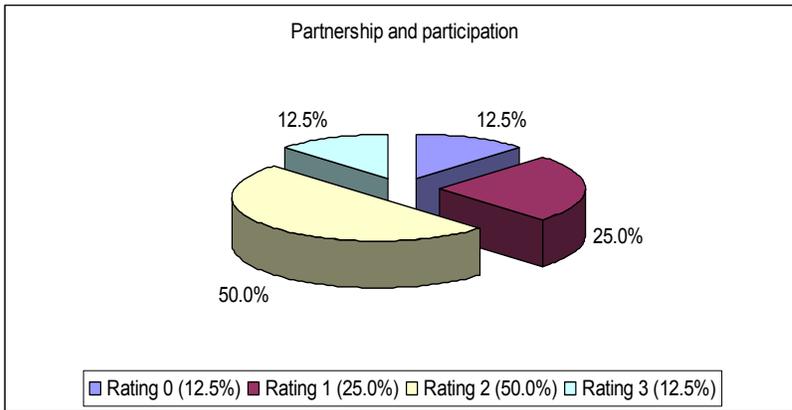
f) Stakeholders informed and engaged in the commitments of the country participation in UNFF and other international and regional forest related meetings (phase II).

g) Existence of mechanisms for dialogue and joint decision making among forestry sector stakeholders (phase III).

h) Capacity building of stakeholders in technical and managerial aspects (phase III).

i) Awareness of nfp achievements by general public, including information dissemination and adoption of knowledge (phase IV).

Chart 25: Partnership and participation



1. INTRODUCTION

During recent decade forest protection and development is always in high agenda of Vietnamese Government which, together with strong support from international institutions and NGOs as well as domestic institutions and NGOs, in terms of political; technical and financial aspects, Vietnam developed two national forestry development programmes including National Forestry Development Strategy 2001-2010 and National Forestry Development Strategy 2006-2020.

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2. ASSESSMENT METHOD

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The score given to each indicator is justified, by justification in blue letters, below the content of the indicator.

2.3. Study and compare the role of MARD; relationships within and outside MARD; involvement and inputs of different stakeholders and parties during analysis, programme formulation, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as activities undertaken and achievements against indicator matrix with 67 indicators, in details: 12 indicators for analysis, 19 indicators for policy formulation, 23 indicators for implementation, 13 indicators for monitoring and evaluation, 24 indicators for leadership, 19 indicators for inter/intra linkages and 24 indicators for partnership (please, see table 01).

Table 01: Summary of indicators for assessment

		Cluster			Total
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Total		24 indicators	19 indicators	24 indicators	67 indicators

Source: FAO

3. VIETNAM NATIONAL FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2006-2020

The Vietnam NFDS 2006-2020, was promulgated by Prime Minister's decision No. 18/2007/QĐ-TTg, dated 5 February 2007 consists of five programmes including sustainable forest management and development program (1), Program on forest protection, biodiversity conservation and environmental services development (2), forest products processing and trade program (3), program on research, education, training and forestry extension (4), program on renovating the forest sector institutions, policy, planning and monitoring (5).

3.1. Sustainable forest management and development program

Objectives

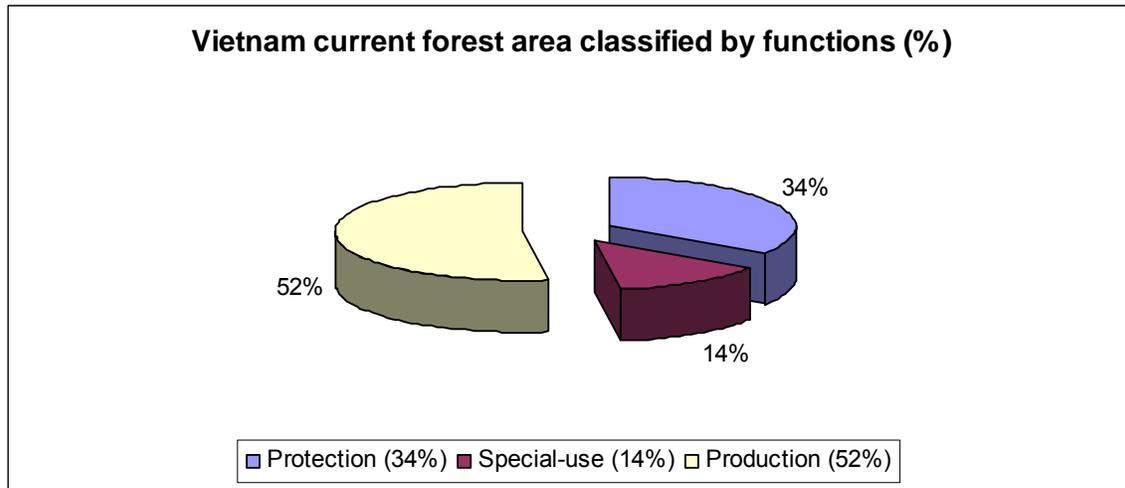
To manage, develop and use forest sustainably and effectively to meet the basic demands for forest products for domestic consumption and export, to contribute to national economic growth, stabilization of society, particularly for mountainous ethnic minorities areas, while ensuring the protection functions, biodiversity conservation and providing environmental services contributing to sustainable national development (VFDS 2006-2020).

Main achievements and opportunities for improvement

Forest function classification completed

The forest sector has completely synthesized and consolidated results in reviewing the planning of three forest categories pursuant to the Directive 38/2006/CT-TTg of the Prime Minister. It has also completed the set of 3 forest categories planning maps on the national reference system of VN-2000 which creates strong condition for management, protection and development of forest (chart 01).

Chart 01: Vietnam current forest area classified by functions

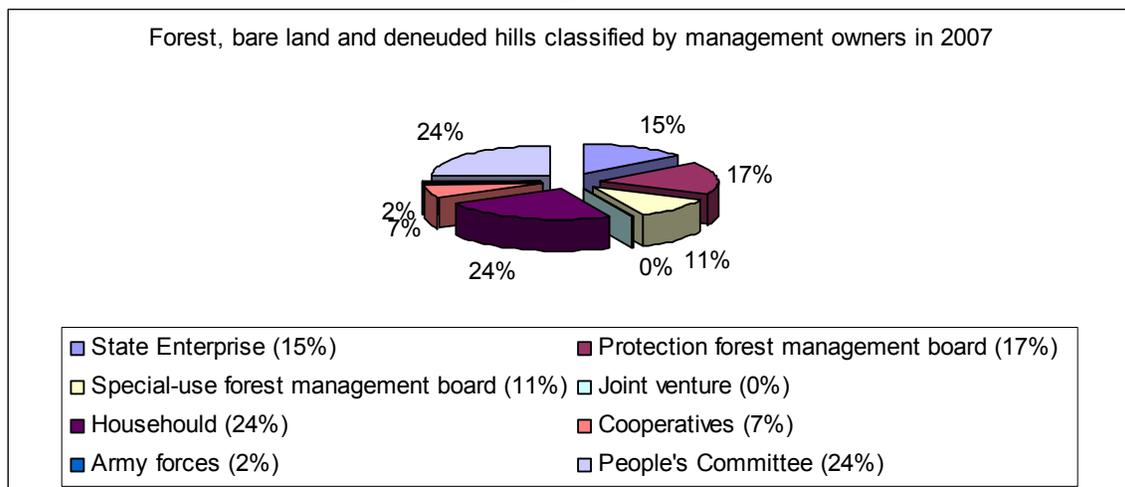


Source: MARD

Forest allocation

In recent years, the strong decentralization and socialization process resulted in the fact that forest and forest land, mainly under state forest enterprises, was re-located to different management owners, especially households having about one fourth of the total national forest area (chart 02).

Chart 02: forest allocation to different management owners



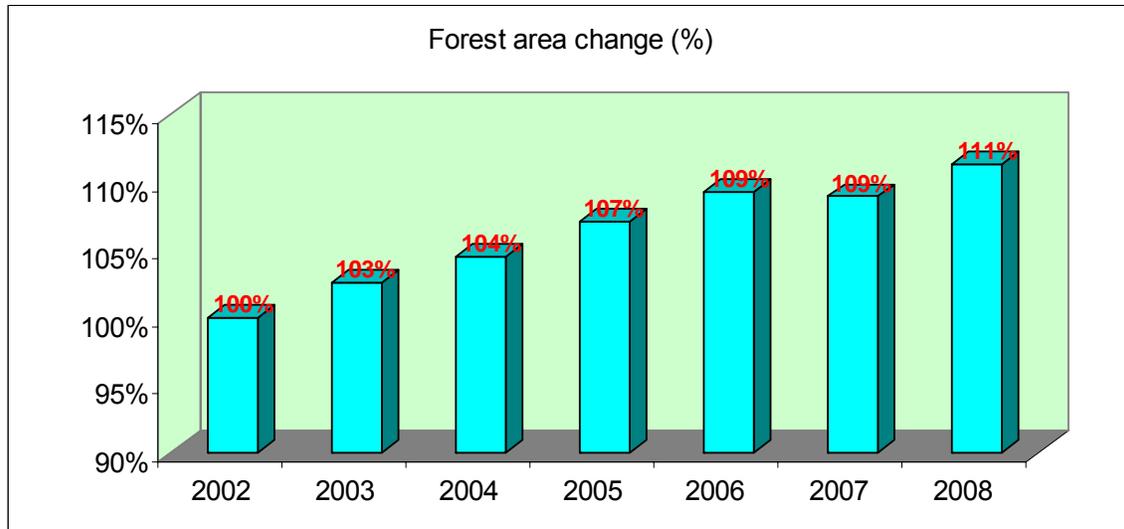
Source: MARD

However, relevant policies should be issued to utilize forest and forest land allocated to households and organizations more efficiently. And forest and forest land, temporarily under people committees' management, should be allocated to real management owners.

Forest area change

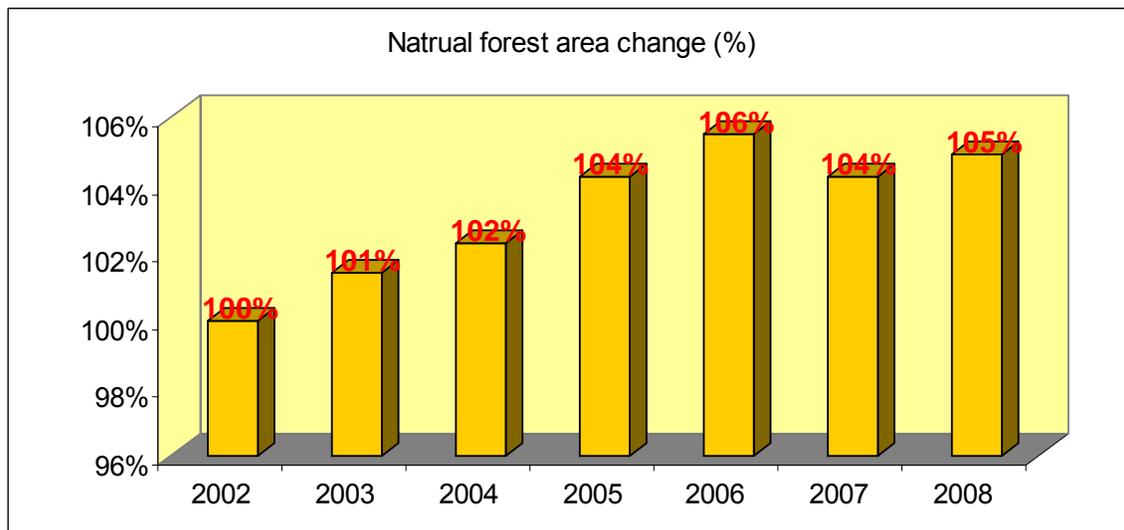
Thanks to implementation of VFDS and national forest programmes, from 2002 to 2008, total forest area increased by 11% (chart 03), in which natural forest area increased by 5% (chart 04) and plantation forest area increased by 44% (chart 05) that made Vietnam ranked within countries having high percentage of plantation forest.

Chart 03: Total forest area change from 2002 to 2008



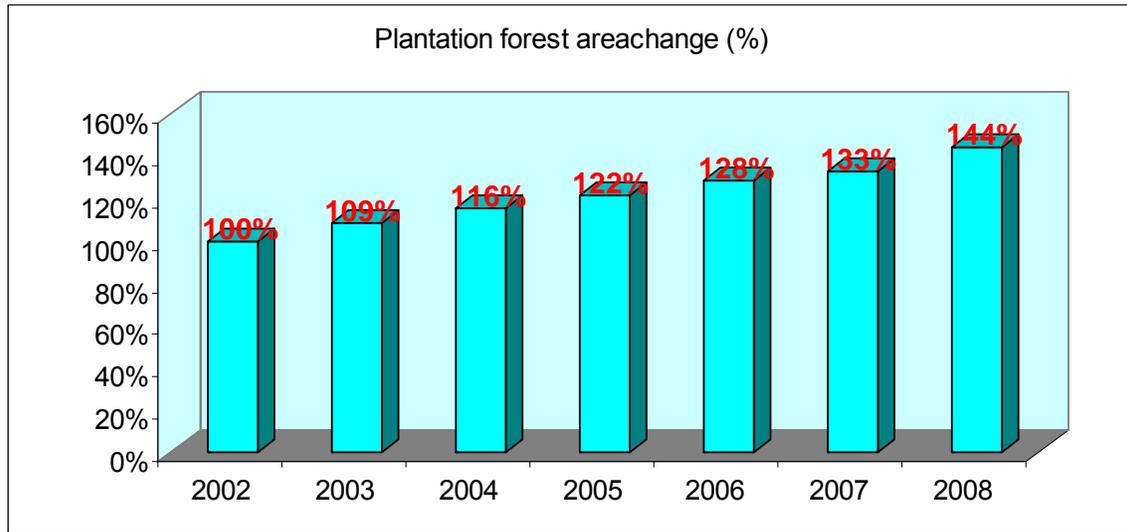
Source: MARD

Chart 04: Natural forest area change from 2002 to 2008



Source: MARD

Chart 05: Plantation forest area change from 2002 to 2008



Source: MARD

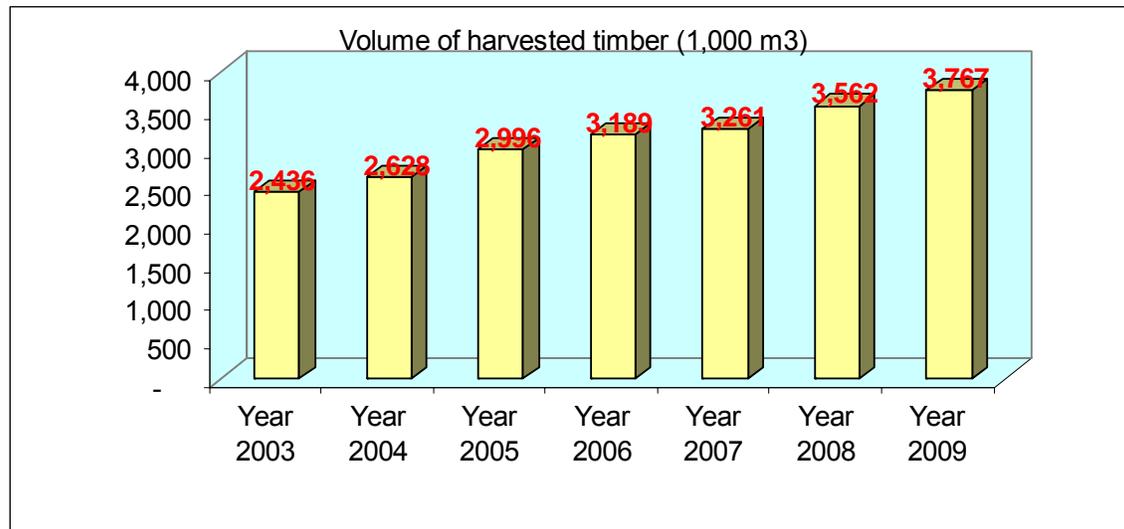
However, there is a few of opportunities for Vietnam to improve production capacity, quality of plantation forest as well as timber with diameter large enough for furniture making.

Harvested timber

In the past years, to protect natural forest, the government quota is applied with allowed harvet volume of about 150,000 m³ per annum. In addition with about 100,000 to 120,000 m³ annually were harvested from natural forest with change of use purpose, the total volume of timber harvested from natural forest is around 250,000 to 280,000 m³ per year. According to MARD's data, volume of timber harvested from plantation forest counts for more than 3 million m³ per year. The total volume of timber harvested from both natural and plantation forest, from 2003 to 2008, is summarized in chart 06. However, volume of timber harvested from plantation forest can be more than due to the timber harvested from small houholds, sometime, was not counted and reported relevantly which means that total volume of timber really harvested can be more than the figures of the chart 06.

Currently domesticly harvested timber can cover 20% of material needed for export-furniture production which eams that the programmes one should take more actions to rapidly increase domestic timber material for this industry.

Chart 06: Volume of harvested timber from 2003 to 2008



Source: MARD

3.2. Program on forest protection, biodiversity conservation and environmental services development.

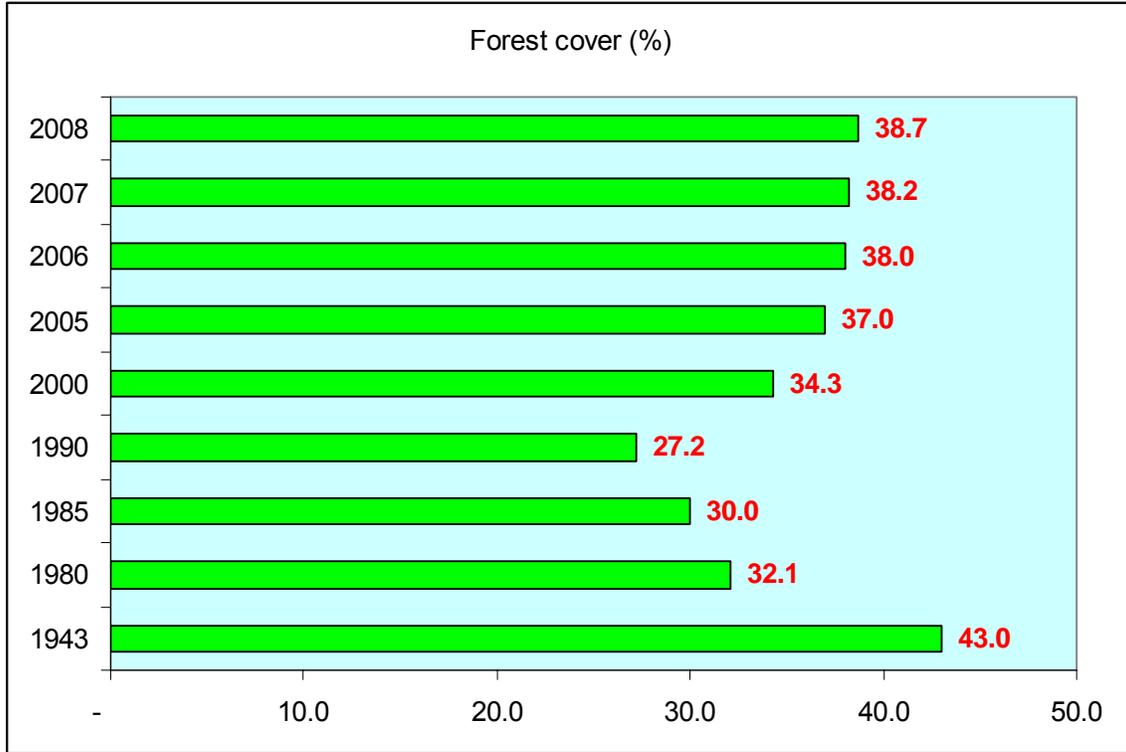
Objectives

Protect forests and conserve biodiversity in an effective manner with active participation of local community people and enhance the contribution of environmental services from forests (VFDS 2006-2020).

Main achievements and opportunities for improvement

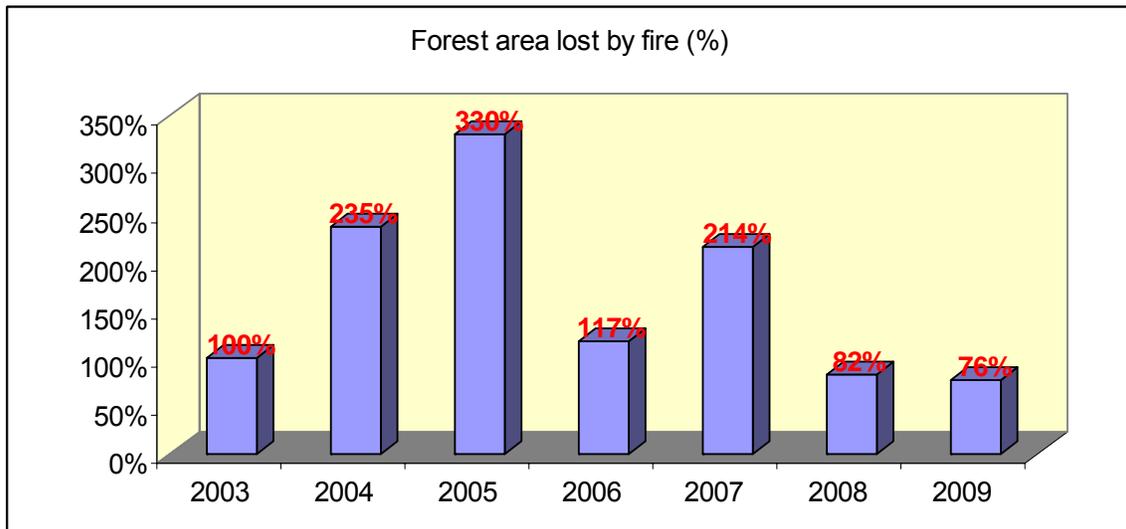
Substantial attention has been paid to forest management, protection, and biodiversity conservation from the Government, ministries and governments at different levels, in which many priority and support policies for people working with forestry occupation in general and ethnic minorities living in and near forests. Relevant agencies of the ministries and sectors from central to local levels, especially forest protection forces and forest owners, who were interested and active in forest management and protection, nature conservation, thus positively contributing to increase of forest cover từ 34.3% in 2000 to 38.7% in 2008 (chart 07); decrease of forest area lost by fire by 24% in 2008 in comparison with that of 2003 (chart 08); and decrease of forest area lost by illegal logging by 62% in 2008 compared with 2003 (chart 09).

Chart 07: Change in forest cover from 1943 to 2008



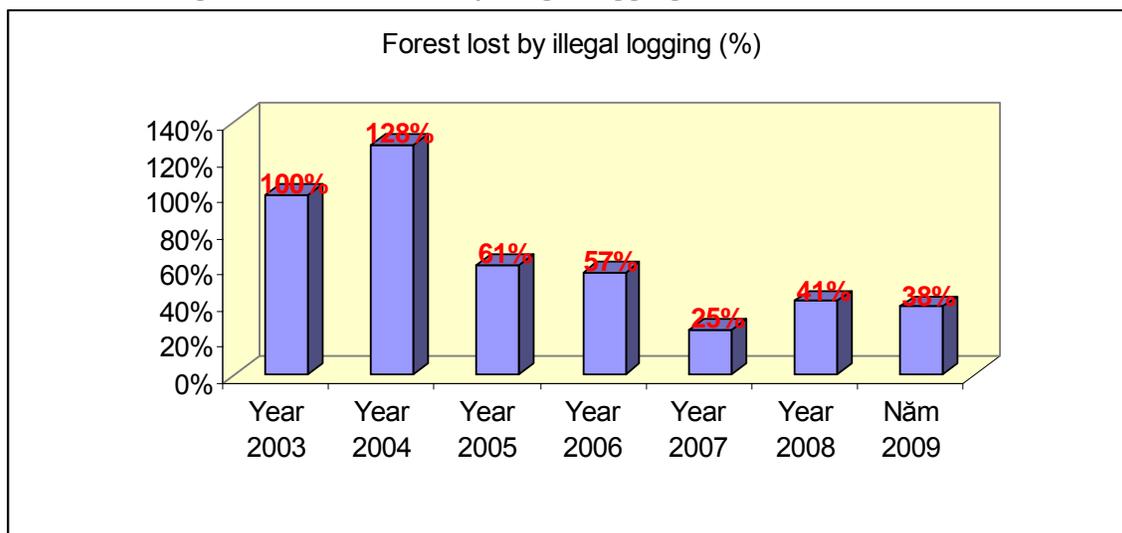
Source: MARD

Chart 08: Change in forest area lost by fire



Source: MARD

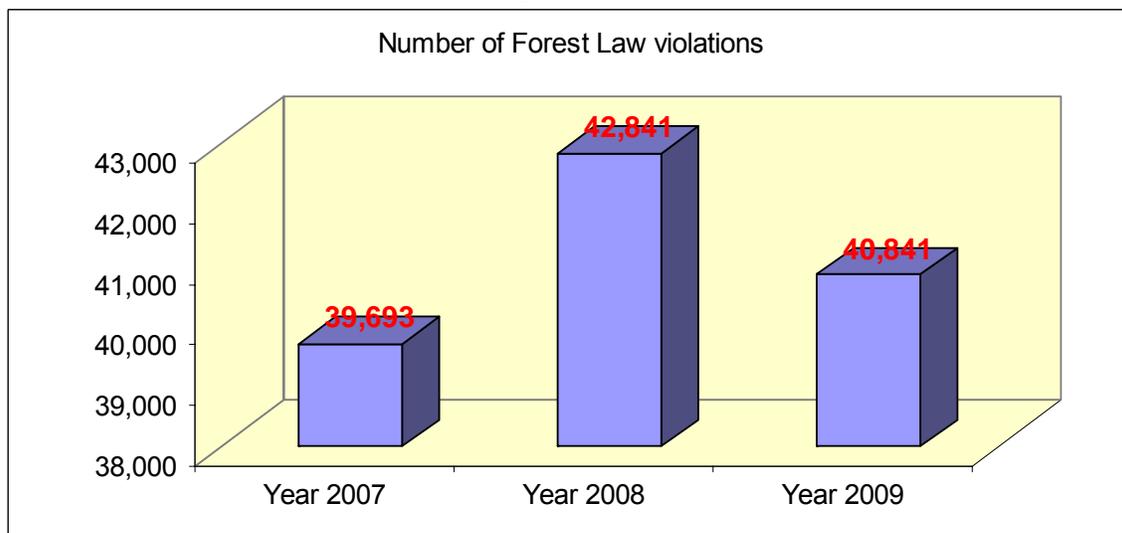
Chart 09: Change in forest area lost by illegal logging.



Source: MARD

However, violations of legal regulations on forest protection and development, and nature conservation happened regularly and in some regions it was even getting worse in sometime (chart 10) which requires relevant actions and policies to address this situation.

Chart 10: Number of Forest Laws and regulations violations



Source: MARD

Viet Nam is the first country in Southeast region implementing pilot payment for environmental services in the spirits of Decision 380/QĐ-TTg, dated 10 April 2008, issuing pilot policy on payments for environmental services, which is considered as a breakthrough policy contributing to forest protection and development enhancement and socialization, gradually establishing stable economic situation for improvement of

livelihoods and awareness of people, to be used as the basis for forest protection and development, environment and eco-system protection, especially for ensuring water sources for irrigation and electricity production.

3.3. Forest products processing and trade program

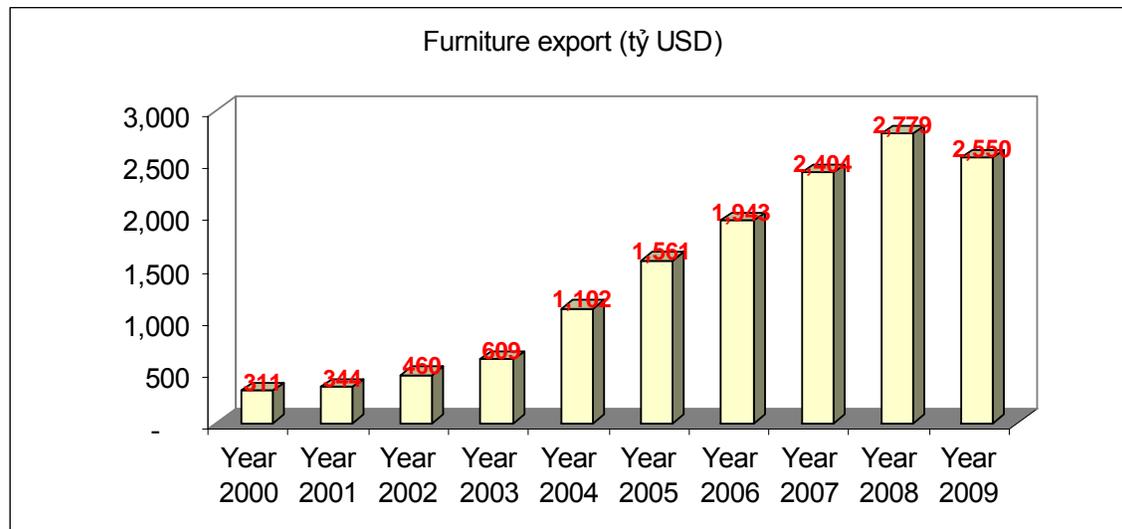
Objectives

Produce internationally-competitive products mainly on the basis of sustainable domestic sources for wood and NTFPs; apply advanced and environmentally-friendly technologies to meet the basic demands for domestic consumption and for export; and develop the forest product processing industry to become a key economic factor of the forestry sector (VFDS 2006-2020).

Main achievements and opportunities for improvement

Furniture export, especially out-door one, within the past decade increased rapidly, which in 2007 made Vietnam present in top ten of furniture exporting countries (FAO). The furniture export value increased from USD 311 million in 2000 up to USD 2,779 million in 2008 and in 2009 in spite of the global financial and economic crisis it reached USD 2,550 million (chart 11), counting for 8 times compared with 2000 (chart 12). And from 2007 furniture is the list of 5 commodities of Vietnam having biggest export value (chart 13).

Chart 11: Furniture export form 2000 to 2009



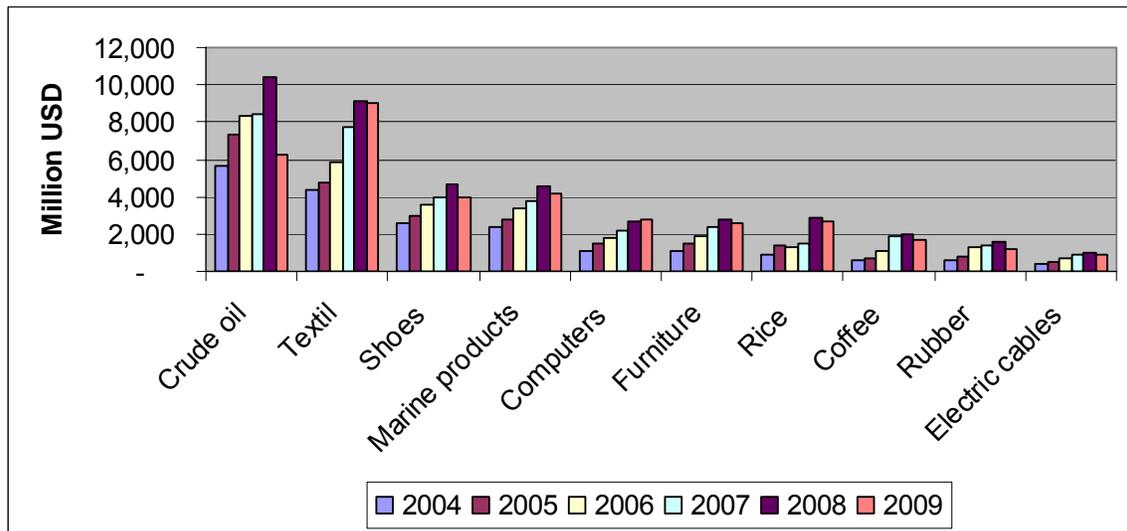
Source: GSO

Chart 12: Furniture export change from 2000 to 2009



Source: GSO

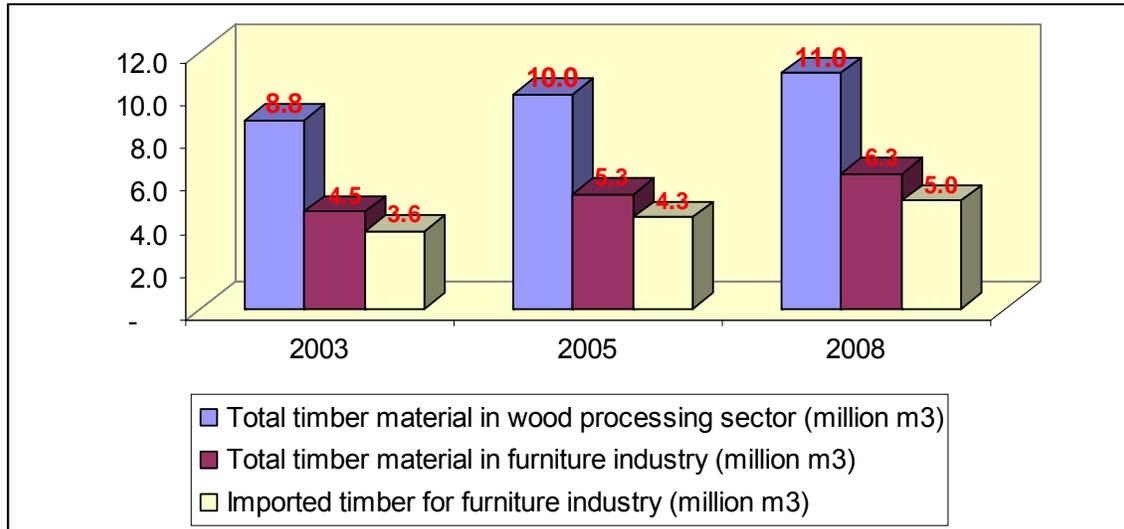
Chart 13: Vietnam top ten exports from 2004 to 2009



Source: GSO

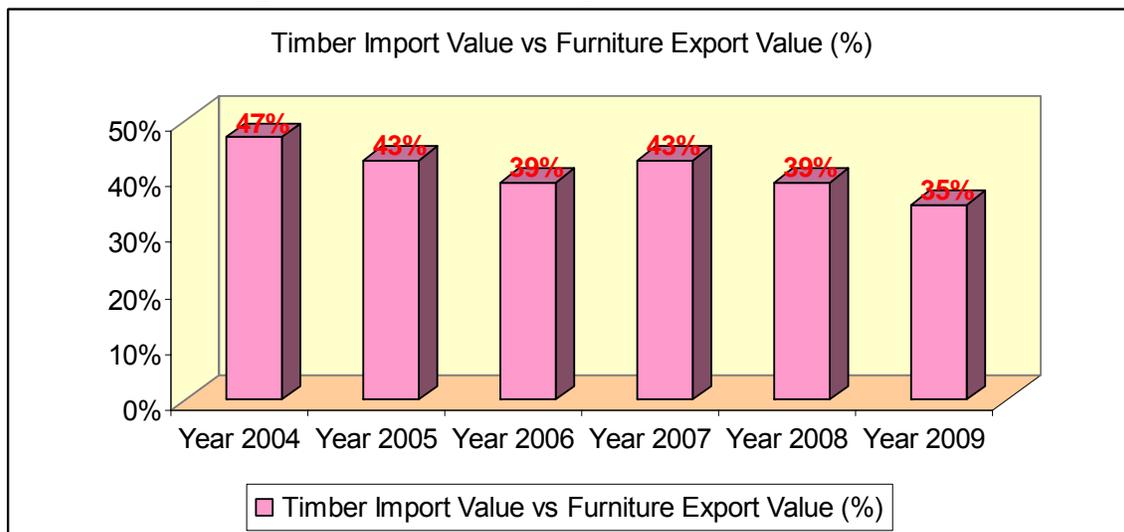
However high dependence on imported timber material source (chart 14) of Vietnam timber processing industry creates considerable challenges in low added value, high production cost, high risk in business sustainability, and threat in legality of imported timber. In addition, Vietnam wood processing industry also is not ready to response the market changes caused by FLEGT Due Dilegence Regulation of EU, Lacey Act of US and changes in purchasing policy of, to EU and US markets, importing companies as well as public procurement policies of governments. Vietnam therefore should take relevant actions and issue appropriate policy to address those issues.

Chart 14: Timber material status



Source: VIFORES

Chart 15: Timber import value vs furniture export value



Source: GSO

3.4. Program on Research, Education, Training and Forestry Extension (RETE)

Objectives

Improve the quality and effectiveness of RETE activities to develop high-quality human resources for the forestry sector. Science and technology are the basis for sector development. Research and training are linked with production and markets to increase the contribution to economic growth of the forestry sector, to protect the environment and to improve the livelihoods of people working in forestry activities (VFDS 2006-2020).

Main achievements and opportunities for improvement

Research, science and technology

Development of national technical standards and procedures was Strengthened. 20 sectoral standards have been revised and developed to be Viet Nam's standards in line with Decision 3938/QĐ-BNN-KHCN, dated December 15, 2008 of MARD Minister.

The research programs of the whole agriculture and forestry sector have been formed quite clearly, Five Million Hectares Reforestation Project, inter-sector research programs through the Ministry of Science and Technology, research program under programs and projects, and other international organizations. However, research work still focused on plantations and funding for research of natural forests accounted for only 10% - 30% of total expenditure.

Education and training

There are 2 agencies allowed to provide postgraduate training service and 13 facilities involving in training of forestry technicians, including 8 universities, 3 colleges of Agriculture and Forestry College 2 intermediate level agencies of School. Total forestry staff trained from such agencies is about 4000 each year. However, the quantity of key and senior forestry staff is too little now, most retired while the younger generations have inadequate capacity and conditions for replacement. In the forestry sector, only one professor is still working from 2007 to present.

Forestry extension

Positive changes in forestry extension were marked by fact that allocation of planned activities and forestry extension contract signing was implemented early in early December previous year therefore technical progress is transferred to farmers in the beginning of year prior to plantation season. However, limited number and poor quality of commune extensionists and technicians are still a major obstacle in this field.

3.5. Program on renovating the forest sector institutions, policy, planning and monitoring

Objectives

Create a favorable legal environment for forestry activities according to the market orientation and international integration, with a broad participation of households,

communities and private sector. Strengthen the organizational system while planning work and monitoring in the forestry sector are renovated (VFDS 2006-2020).

Main achievements and opportunities for improvement

development of forestry legal documents

From January 2006, 135 legal documents relating to forestry have been developed and issued or submitted to competent authorities for issuance.

Though remarkable efforts were made, legal document development progress was still slow because of high dependency on relevant agencies and feedbacks from provinces. Legal dissemination and education to raise awareness for different levels, sectors, forest owners, farmers and the whole society, which is still low due to inadequate attention was paid together with shortage of funding.

Forest sector management organization

The proposal on establishment of General Department of Forestry was approved by the Prime Minister, following that, General Department of Forestry will be an agency under MARD, working out state administration functions on forestry and implementing forestry – related public services in accordance with legal regulations.

Investment in forestry

The Government's priority investment was allocated to the forest sector while development investment funding from Central budgetary source for forest protection and development has been improved substantially. However due to impacts of the global financial and economic crisis the process has been slowed down a bit.

International cooperation and implementation of international agreements on forestry

Viet Nam forestry sector has actively expanded multi-dimensional cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral sides with other countries, in which priority is given to development of relationships with neighboring and regional ones. In the meantime, Viet Nam has signed and participated in 12 multilateral agreements related to forestry, including important ones like United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), ASEAN agreement on transborder haze pollution. Viet Nam has participated extensively and effectively in international forestry institutions such as United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) as well as regional forestry organizations like ASEAN Forestry agency, Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) and actively in negotiation process in order to be membership of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) soon.

Forest Sector Support Partnership (FSSP) continued to perform in deep and effective manner, contributing to enhance policy dialogue, information sharing and mobilize

resources, especially ODA in order to implement priorities in the Viet Nam Forestry Development Strategy (VFDS) in the period of 2006-2020. FSSP is known as the mechanism of flexible and efficient collaboration, especially for the issues in which cooperation among several sectors, partners and donors is needed. In 2009, FSSP assisted in establishing two working groups of REDD and FLEGT to support MARD and donors to develop UN-REDD project and regional project on FLEGT sponsored by PROFOR/WB.

4. EVALUATION OF VIETNAM FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2006-2020 PROCESS

4.1. Phase 1: Analysis

4.1.1. Country leadership

Phase I – Analysis: Country leadership indicators	Rating
Forest sector review <i>Internal within ministry: 6 months; Annual review with stakeholders (donors, NGOs, private sector)</i>	2
Forest information (in website and other depositories) freely available and accessible to all stakeholders <i>Websites: MARD, DOF, FPD, FSSP. Update should be improved. Other: FORMIS</i>	2
Forestry outlook study <i>Vietnam Forestry Outlook is being done by FSIV with support from APFC, FAO</i>	2

4.1.2. Inter/intra sectoral linkages

Phase I – Analysis: Inter/intra sectoral linkages	Rating
Analysis of the consistency of laws and legal prescriptions related to forestry <i>Laws on Forest protection and Development (2004), Land Laws (2003), Laws on Biodiversity (2008); PES policy; Policy on Sustainable Forest Mangement; Investment policy, Tax; policy for community forestry. However there is analysis of the consistency of the laws and legal regulations mentioned.</i>	1
Identification of traditional forest-related knowledge <i>Commity base forestry (permanent shifting cultivation, terrase upland cultivation)</i>	2
Compilation and analysis of policies, laws, regulations and strategic plans of other sectors that influence forestry <i>None (road map for red book is not relevant to the forest land)</i>	0
Assessment of the role of forests in the national economy (including valuation of its contributions) and the linkages with central issues in other sector strategies	2

Forest value identification, contributions of forestry to national economy, Forest Monitoring Information System in place (FORMIS), PES, Valuation of economic and environmental value of the forest	
Assessment of impact of other sectors on forestry sector development Irrigation, hydropower stations, rubber plantation, raising fish and shrimp?	1
Identification of approaches for intra and inter-sectoral dialogue (working with Ministry of Local Government on Rural Development Project, others are Ministry of Food and Agriculture on Integrated Forest Plantations, etc.) All sectors mentioned above belong to MARD therefore the approaches are set up to follow. And with other sectors outside MARD dialogue/cooperation also is in place. For instance, National programs (5 million ha forest) is managed by the national steering committee including MOLISA, CEMA-Committee of Ethnic Minority Affairs, Forestry sector is within MARD.	2

4.1.3. Partnership and participation

Phase I – Analysis: Partnership and participation	Rating
Stakeholder analysis: identification of stakeholders, their importance/influence Partners of FSSP including donors, NGOs, Gos, Socialization Forum	1
Training in use of participatory tools to promote stakeholder participation FAO training, GTZ, WWF, VIFORES.	2
Existence of qualified staff to conduct participatory processes Lot of qualified staff trained and worked in development projects during recent 15 years, who are experienced enough to conduct participatory projects (PRA, etc)	3

4.2. Phase 2: Policy formulation

4.2.1. Country leadership

Phase II – Policy formulation: Country leadership	Rating
Existence of an officially adopted and broadly accepted Forest Policy Statement National Forestry Strategy 2006-2020 approved by Prime Minister and relevant legal documents related to Forestry	3

Nfp coordination mechanism established 5 Sub-coordination committees for 5 programmes under NFS; National NFP Steering Committee established and Country Focal Point assigned to FSSP	2
Mechanisms for decentralised policy debate and feed back are in place Forestry Regional Network (policy brief every 6 months); Thematic Regional Workshops, On-line Meetings/conference every 6 months	2
Existence of national and sub-national forest development action plans 5 national programs of the National Forestry Strategy, 5 million ha, etc	3
Existence of a financial strategy for sustainable forestry development Existence of a financial strategy for sustainable forestry development	2
Existence of subject-specific strategies, e.g. to promote plantations, to combat illegal logging, to control forest fires, etc. Decision 147/2007AD-TTg on a number of policies for development of production forests in the 2007-2015 period; Policy of Forest Protection (Decree No 159/2007/QD-CP on sanctioning administrative violations in the domain of forest management, forest protection and forest product mangement); Decision No 100/2007/QD-TTg amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decision No 661/QD-TTg of July 29, 1998, on the targets, tasks, policies and organization of implementation of the project on planting 5 million ha of forest	2
Country participation in UNFF and other international or regional forest related meetings UNFF (United Nations Forestry Forum), Asia Pacific Forestry Commision (APFC); Committee on Forestry (COFO); Asian Forestry Partnership (APF); SOM; ASOF of ASIEN countries: AUFRO, WFC, APFNet, CITES, Convension on Biodeversity Conservation, UNCCD (UN Convention on Combating against Desertification)	3

4.2.2. Inter/intra sectoral linkages

Phase II – Policy formulation: Inter/intra sectoral linkages	Rating
Inconsistencies in the forest related policy and legal framework have been addressed Inconsistencies raised but not addreseed (land allocation,	1

land use planning)	
Harmonization of forest policy with other sector policies and development plans Forest policy harmnoized with other sector policies and development plans (Agriculture sector, industry sector, MOLISA and CEMA for 61 poor districs, Export, Customs, etc)	2
Participation of the forest sector in other sectors' strategic planning exercises Positive participation in other sectors strategic planning (hydropower stations, Dyke building, Agriculture, poverty reduction and rural development)	2
Thematic working groups for policy related discussions Climate Change and REDD, FLEG, FLEGT, PES, Community Forestry, UNCCD (UN Convention on Combating against Desertification)	2

4.2.3. Partnership and participation

Phase II – Policy formulation: Partnership and participation	Rating
Mechanisms for stakeholder consultation and participation are established and functional FSSP forum and mechanism; Forestry sectorial forums; Forestry sectorial forums, Consultation workshops;	2
The mechanism of the participatory process is well-known by all relevant stakeholder groups The mechanism is established but it doesn't make all stakeholders active	1
Stakeholders are sufficiently organized to participate in the nfp process. Stakeholders organized and apticipate	2
Evidence of participation of non-government stakeholders in the policy formulation process. Associations, NGOs, Local civil societies, private sector, international organizations, local communties are invited to give inputs; draft policy is public for society to comment for 60 days before official issuing.	2
Stakeholder consultation/meetings or fora to discuss forest policy objerities Every policy draft must be discussed to get comments, contributions before official issuing.	2
Evidence of stakeholder' initiative to participate in the nfp process Sustainable forest management: GTZ, WWF., RECOFTC; Biodiversity Conservation: IUCN, WWF, FFI; Processing	2

and Trading: GTZ, WWF, EC/FLEGT; Policy: GTZ, WWF, IUCN; Livelihoods: CIFOR	
High percentage of stakeholders have access to relevant information High percentage for decision makers and stakeholders, but medium for local society and private sector	2
Stakeholders informed and engaged in the commitments of the country participation in UNFF and other international and regional forest related meetings Information at central level, but not to lower level and private sector	1

4.3. Phase 3: Implementation

4.3.1. Country leadership

Phase III– Implementation: Country leadership	Rating
Recent review or reformulation of forest legislation Review of 3-year implementation of NFS (2009); of 5-million ha forests (2007); Laws on Forest Protection and Development (2004); From 2006 135 legal regulations issued.	3
Capacity building of stakeholders to implement nfp related activities (training programmes of FD, NGOs, private sector representatives, etc) Training is one of the 5 programmes of VFDS, and a lot of training courses within projects/programs run by stakeholders.	2
Level of domestic (public and private) funding for national forestry programme related activities to promote sustainable forest management. 800 billion VND for 5 million ha, investment of private sector in forest planting about 2,000 billion VND, and wood processing industry about 50,000 billion VND.	2
Donor coordination mechanisms under the leadership of a national institution are in place. Coordination mechanism and national institution in place (FSSP 2001) and effectively operates	3
Recent institutional reform and/or modernization of forest related institutions and services General Department of Forestry established by Decision No 04/2010/QĐ-TTg dated 25 January 2010.	3
Efforts to improve law compliance, governance and transparency in the sector Forest protection strengthened (inter-ministerial working group: Justice, Police, FPD); National working group on FLEG/FLEGT; Information is public on website.	2

Participation in networks, regional and international initiatives to promote sustainable forest management APFNet; GFTN VN; AIAN Initiatives, REDD+ (REDD+Biodiversity); GMS (Greater Mekong Sub-region);	2
Evidence of contributions to the regional and international forest debate Host country for the first asian-pacific forestry week (2008); side events in the World Forestry Congress (Ahentina, 2009); COP 15 climate change; Chairman APFC -Asean pacific Forestry Commision 2008-2010, Board of trusty for RECOFTC.	3

4.3.2. Inter/intra sectoral linkages

Phase III– Implementation: Inter/intra sectoral linkages	Rating
Recognition of customary laws and traditional rights related to forestry Recognition and respectation of customary laws of local community reflected in the laws and promotion of community forestry	3
Assessment of contributions of the forest sector to the economy, taking into account the multiple benefits of forest products and services Decision No 380/QD-TTg on the pilot policy on forest environment service change payment; Annual report of forestry sector on contributions to the GDP;	2
Integration of forestry in national poverty reduction strategies and strategies Forestry has been integrated in national poverty reduction phase 2 (135 program, 62 poorest districts)	3
Joint meetings with other sectors to promote integrated natural resources management (e.g. soil conservation / watershed management) Joint meeting with MONRE in water conservation	1
Inter-ministerial or inter-institutional mechanisms to support nfp implementation are in place Inter-ministerial committee for 5 million ha programme	2
Coordination with country units/focal points responsible for implementation of international Conventions (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CITES, etc) FPD and DoF cooperate with country units/focal points responsible for implementation of international Conventions (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CITES, etc)	2

4.3.3. Partnership and participation

Phase III– Implementation: Partnership and participation	Rating
Clarification and definition of roles and responsibilities of forest administration and other stakeholders Clear responsibilities of all forest administration and other stakeholders	3
Existence of mechanisms for dialogue and joint decision making among forestry sector stakeholders Dialogue and contributions/inputs but not joint decision	1
Joint forest stakeholder activities (e.g. private-public partnerships) Not yet	0
Capacity building of stakeholders in technical and managerial aspects Trainings	1
Training in conflict management provided to stakeholders Not yet	0
Gender equity issues addressed Gender equity issues addressed (red book with name of wife and husband)	2
Public awareness campaigns and information initiatives are being developed. A lot campaigns, events in mass media, contests, contests(photo, films, let's go green, essay)	2
Government supports active participation and institutionalization of non-government stakeholders in national forestry program Strong support from government	2
Existence of multi-sectoral development committees at local level Multi-sectorial Steering committee at provincial level for 5 million ha programme	2

4.4. Phase 4: Monitoring and evaluation

4.4.1. Country leadership

Phase IV– Monitoring and evaluation: Country leadership	Rating
Regular data collection and assessment/review of forest development action plans Regular data collection and annual review.	2
National forest program evaluation reports Annual review report; mid-term review (2009); 5 million ha	3

programme	
Evidence that lessons learned are used to adjust/improve the process Adjust of 5 million ha; Adjust of annual plan and 5-year plan; strengthen forestry extension; more investment in forest protection and planting; benefitaring	2
Regularly updated forest information available to support strategic planning of government and others FORMIS update annually	2
Revised policies, nfp documents and action plan Decree 40 being revised. REvised: Decree 100 for 5 million ha, land allocation Decres 05, Decree180 on benefitaring, 5 programmes of the VFDS.	2
Country implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action regularly appraised NA	0

4.4.2. Inter/intra sectoral linkages

Phase IV– Monitoring and evaluation: Inter/intra sectoral linkages	Rating
Coordination of nfp monitoring mechanisms with other monitoring mechanisms of poverty reduction and similar development strategies Not yet	0
Revision of nfp progress with all relevant stakeholders from within and outside the forest sector Yes. E.g. revision of 5 million ha with all relevant stakeholders within and outside forest sector	2
Harmonization of revised nfp documents with strategic planning of other sectors Started/poor	1

4.4.3. Partnership and participation

Phase IV– Monitoring and evaluation: Partnership and participation	Rating
Sharing of information on progress in nfp implementation among forestry stakeholders Regualar sharing	3
Procedures for stakeholder feedback instituted, e.g. stakeholder forum to discuss lessons learned and to review/adjust the nfp process Forums to discuss lessons learnt	2
Evaluation of stakeholder participation and satisfaction with the nfp process	0

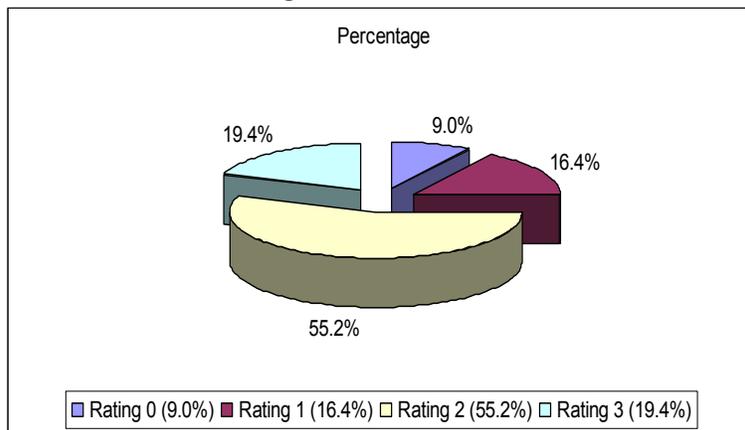
Not yet	
Awareness of nfp achievements by general public, including information dissemination and adoption of knowledge	1
Started	

4.5. Summary

4.5.1. Overall rating

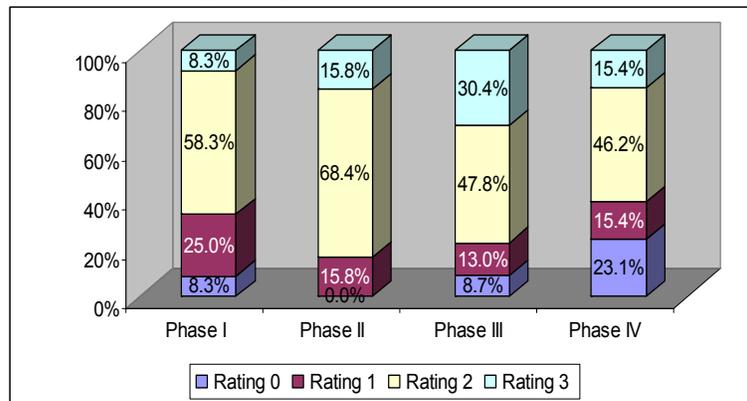
Chart 16 shows rating for the whole process where the indicators rated at 3 count for 19.4%, at 2 for 55.2% therefore all indicators rated at 2 up count for 74.6%. Indicators from rate 1 down count for 25.4 % including indicators rated 0 at 9% which clearly show that basically the process of NFDS is good. However attention should be paid to indicators rated at 1 and especially indicators at 0.

Chart 16: Overall rating



Indicators rated at 2 up are 66.7%, 84.2%, 78.3% and 61.5% for phases: analysis, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation respectively (chart 17) which means that rating of the four phases, from the best down, is: formulation (1), implementation (2), analysis (3), monitoring and evaluation (4). The forest sector, therefore has the highest number of opportunities for improvement in monitoring and evaluation phase, especially where its indicators rated at 0 or 1.

Chart 17: Rating of 4 phases



4.5.2. Phase I - Analysis

8.3% of the indicators of phase I – analysis rated at 3, while the indicators rated at 2 count for 58.3%, and at 1 and 0 are 25.0% and 8.3% respectively (chart 18). Opportunities for improvements, therefore, are focused first of all on the indicators rated at 0 and 1. They are:

One indicator at 0:

a) Compilation and analysis of policies, laws, regulations and strategic plans of other sectors that influence forestry.

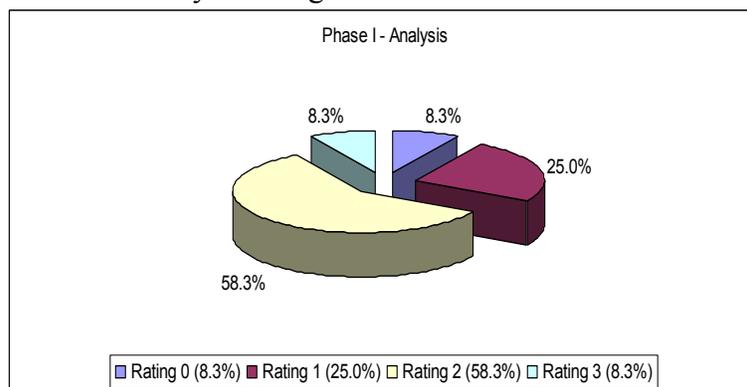
Three indicators at 1:

b) Analysis of the consistency of laws and legal prescriptions related to forestry.

c) Assessment of impact of other sectors on forestry sector development.

d) Stakeholder analysis: identification of stakeholders, their importance/influence.

Chart 18: Analysis rating



4.5.3. Phase II – Policy formulation

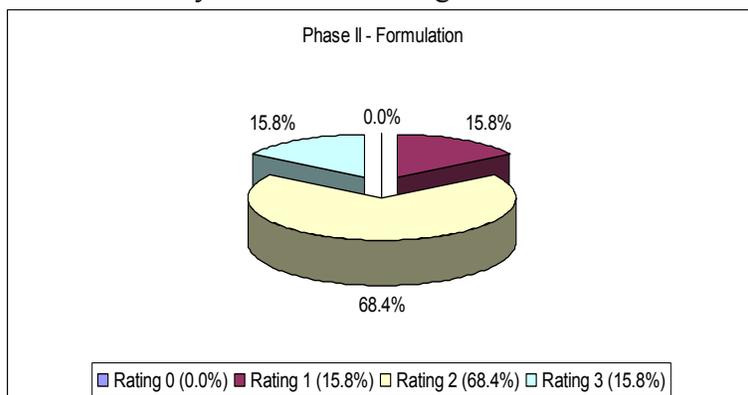
Policy formulation has 84.2% of indicators rated at 2 up, none of indicators rated at 0 and 15.8% rated at 1 (chart 19) which show all opportunities for improvement:

a) Inconsistencies in the forest related policy and legal framework have been addressed.

b) The mechanism of the participatory process is well-known by all relevant stakeholder groups.

c) Stakeholders informed and engaged in the commitments of the country participation in UNFF and other international and regional forest related meetings

Chart 19: Policy formulation rating



4.5.4. Phase III – Implementation

The implementation indicators rated at 2 up count for 78.2% (chart 20). Opportunities for improvement for this phase focus on following areas:

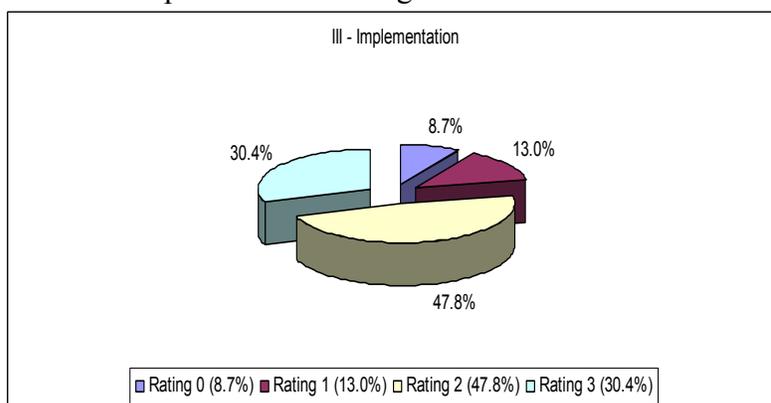
Rating at 0:

- a) Joint forest stakeholder activities (e.g. private-public partnerships).
- b) Training in conflict management provided to stakeholders.

Rating at 1:

- c) Joint meetings with other sectors to promote integrated natural resources management (e.g. soil conservation / watershed management).
- d) Existence of mechanisms for dialogue and joint decision making among forestry sector stakeholders.
- e) Capacity building of stakeholders in technical and managerial aspects.

Chart 20: Implementation rating



4.5.5. Phase IV – Monitoring and evaluation

Indicators rated at 2 up are 61.6 % (chart 21). Opportunities for improvement of this phase should be:

Rating at 0:

- a) Country implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action regularly appraised.
 - b) Coordination of nfp monitoring mechanisms with other monitoring mechanisms of poverty reduction and similar development strategies
 - c) Evaluation of stakeholder participation and satisfaction with the nfp process.
- Rating at 1:
- d) Harmonization of revised nfp documents with strategic planning of other sectors.
 - e) Awareness of nfp achievements by general public, including information dissemination and adoption of knowledge.

Chart 21: Monitoring and evaluation rating

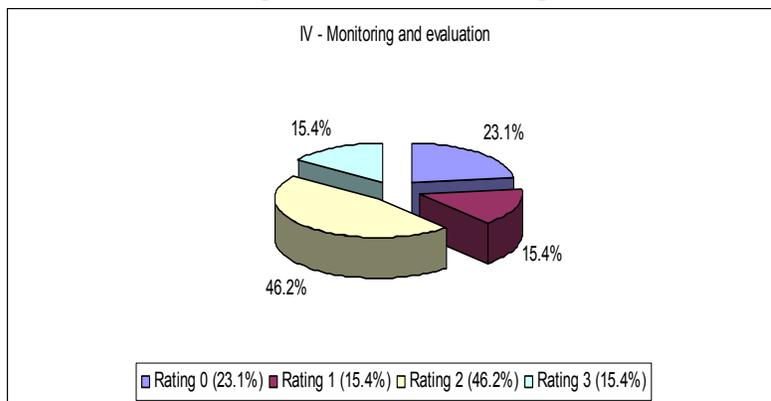
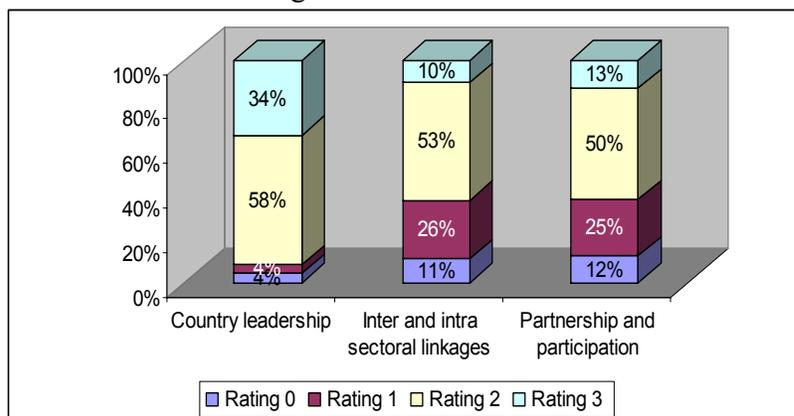


Chart 22 explains ratings of three areas including country leadership with 95.8% of indicators rated at 2 up; and that of the inter and intra sectoral linkages and the partnership and participation is 63.2% and 62.5% respectively.

Chart 22: Overall rating for three areas



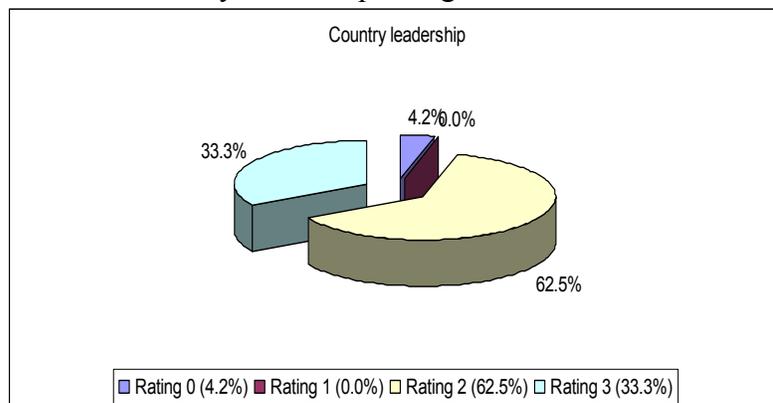
4.5.6. Country leadership

The country leadership indicators rated at 2 up count for 95.8% including 33.3% rated at 3, which shows that there is a good country leadership in place. Opportunities here should be:

Rating at 0:

- a) Country implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action regularly appraised (phase IV).

Chart 23: Country leadership rating



4.5.7. Inter and intra sectorial linkages

The inter and intra sectorial linkages indicators rated at 0 and 1 count for 36.8% which also show opportunities for improvement of this phase.

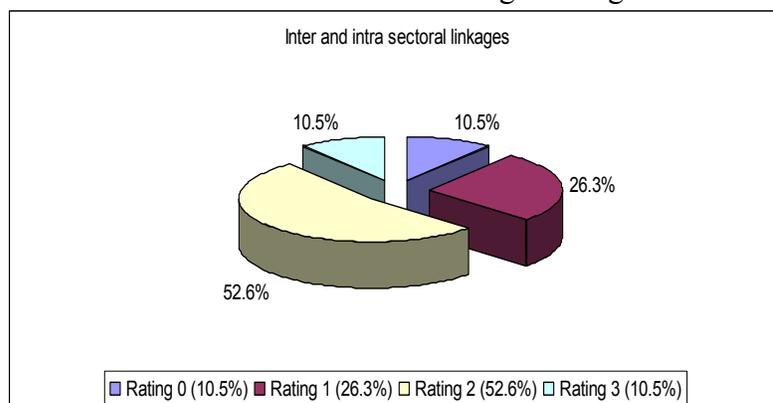
Rating at 0:

- a) Compilation and analysis of policies, laws, regulations and strategic plans of other sectors that influence forestry (phase I).
- b) Coordination of nfp monitoring mechanisms with other monitoring mechanisms of poverty reduction and similar development strategies (phase IV).

Rating at 1:

- c) Analysis of the consistency of laws and legal prescriptions related to forestry (phase I)
- d) Phân tích tính nhất quán của luật và các quy định pháp luật liên quan đến lâm nghiệp
- e) Assessment of impact of other sectors on forestry sector development (phase I).
- f) Inconsistencies in the forest related policy and legal framework have been addressed (phase II).
- g) Joint meetings with other sectors to promote integrated natural resources management (e.g. soil conservation / watershed management) (phase III).
- h) Harmonization of revised nfp documents with strategic planning of other sectors (phase IV).

Chart 24: Inter and intra sectorial linkages rating



4.5.8. Partnership and participation

The partnership and participation indicators rated at 2 up count for 62.5% including 12.5% at 3. Potential opportunities for improvements are as follows:

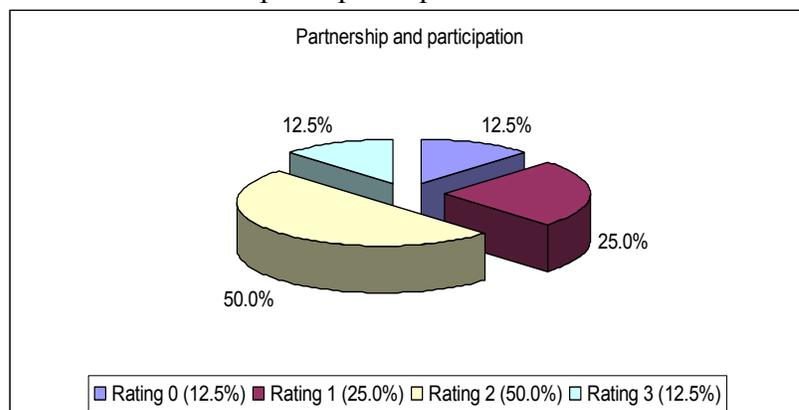
Rating at 0:

- a) Joint forest stakeholder activities (e.g. private-public partnerships) (phase III).
Các hoạt động chung về rừng của các bên liên quan (vd, hợp tác giữa Nhà nước và khu vực tư nhân).
- b) Training in conflict management provided to stakeholders (phase III).
- c) Evaluation of stakeholder participation and satisfaction with the nfp process (phase IV).

Rating at 1:

- d) Stakeholder analysis: identification of stakeholders, their importance/influence (phase I).
- e) The mechanism of the participatory process is well-known by all relevant stakeholder groups (phase II).
- f) Stakeholders informed and engaged in the commitments of the country participation in UNFF and other international and regional forest related meetings (phase II).
- g) Existence of mechanisms for dialogue and joint decision making among forestry sector stakeholders (phase III).
- h) Capacity building of stakeholders in technical and managerial aspects (phase III).
- i) Awareness of nfp achievements by general public, including information dissemination and adoption of knowledge (phase IV).

Chart 25: Partnership and participation



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- 3) Reports and presentation of the VFDS annual review meeting 02 February 2010
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