



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FORMULATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

(Intended for households, individuals and communities)

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ABBREVIATIONS

FP	Forest Protection
CITES	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CoC	Chain of Custody
FM	Forest Management
HCV	High Conservation Value
HCVF	High Conservation Value Forest
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
NTFPs	Non-timber forest products (NTFPs)
GD	Government Decree
FFP	Forest Fire Prevention
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
RB	Vietnam Red Data Book
TCVN	Vietnam Standard
PC	People's Committee

PREFACE

The Project on Enhancing Sustainable Natural Resource Management Project (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”) aims to strengthen the capacity of the central government, the provincial government, and forest owners to promote Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) to comply with national and international standards. The project consists of 2 components, in which Component 1 supports forestry and biodiversity conservation policy, while Component 2 includes activities related to SFM.

The project selects Hoa Binh, Son La, Lao Cai, and Tuyen Quang provinces as the project locations for the implementation of Component 2. Supporting the four target provinces in developing and implementing the SFM Plan is one of the main contents of the Project, in which the organization of training workshops is designed to enhance the capacity of forest owners and stakeholders on the formulation of the SFM Plan. To implement this content, the Project conducts the development of manuals for the formulation of the SFM Plan for two target groups: 1. Organizations and 2. households, individuals and communities. The guiding document is prepared based on the contents of Circular No. 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT (hereinafter referred to as Circular 28)..

The guidance document for the development of sustainable forest management plans for households, individuals and communities (hereinafter referred to as forest owner group 1) is arranged in three chapters:

- CHAPTER I: THE GENERAL INFORMATION. This chapter provides readers with general information on sustainable forest management and Forest Management Certificate, and an overview of the process of developing a sustainable management plan.

- CHAPTER II: THE DETAILED GUIDELINES FOR FORMULATION A SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY, GROUP OF HOUSEHOLDS. This chapter focuses on guiding the development of each content of the plan according to the instructions in Appendix III of Circular 28.

- CHAPTER III: THE GUIDELINES FOR MAP BUILDING. This chapter provides technical guidance on the construction of maps with sustainable forest management plans in accordance with Circular 28.

CHAPTER I: THE GENERAL INFORMATION

1. THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

1.1. THE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT INTRODUCTION

- What is sustainable forest management?

The concept of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) was developed to deal with the negative impacts (environmental and social) of excessive use of forest resources, the increasing demands of human life on forest products, and require the protection of forest resources for future generations.

Around the world, the following two concepts of Sustainable Forest Management are widely accepted:

- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO, 1992): Sustainable Forest management is the process of managing forests to achieve one or more clearly specified objectives of management with regard to the production of a continuous flow of desired forest products and services without undue reduction of its inherent values and future productivity and without undue undesirable effects on the physical and social environment.

The Helsinki Process (The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE, 1993)) The stewardship and use of forest lands in a way and at a rate that maintains their productivity, biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil now and in the future relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

In Vietnam, the concept of sustainable forest management is specified in Article 2, the Law on Forestry 2017: Sustainable Forest Management is a method of forest governance that ensures the achievement of forest protection and development goals, does not degrade forest values, and enhance forest values, improves livelihoods, protect the environment, contribute to maintaining national defense and security.

So:

- Sustainable forest management has become a principle in forest business management as well as a standard that forest business management needs to achieve.

- Sustainable forest management is therefore not only a need but also an objective global trend for long-term forest management according to international standard forest management systems.

- Why is sustainable forest management?

Features of forest ecosystems and forestry	Legal, social and market requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-valued forest ecosystems (providing, regulating, cultural and supporting). - Complex characteristics of the forest ecosystem (structure, factors that interact and depend on each other, change over time). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement international commitments and conventions that Vietnam participates in (ILO, CBD, CITES, RAMSAR, VPA FLEGT, etc.). - Law on Forestry 2017. - Forest business in the direction of multi-objectives (economic, social,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The forest ecosystem has the ability to regenerate itself to maintain balance through the process of forest regeneration. - Long business cycle. - Forestry is deeply social. - Forest infrastructure is difficult. - Land and forest resources are very vulnerable to degradation. - Desire to manage, protect, develop, and use forests in a long-term, stable manner and increase income from forests. 	<p>environmental).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The market requires standardization towards the following goals: transparency, environmental protection, and social responsibility. <p>(For example, the main consuming countries of Vietnam's wood products such as the US and Europe ban the import of uncertified timber and wood products.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market access and timber selling price.
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1.2. THE FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

Types of regulations/standards on Sustainable Forest Management

Regulatory system of Sustainable Forest Management not linked to the market	Regulatory system of Sustainable Forest Management linked to the market (Certification)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) - MCPPE (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe) - Montreal (The Montreal Process) - Regulations of each country - VPA FLEGT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FSC (Forest Stewardship Council): includes 10 principles, 62 criteria, 179 indicators - PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes): includes 7 principles and 69 criteria

Conceptually: Forest certification can be defined as a voluntary system that is implemented by an independent third party (referred to as a certifier) to evaluate forest management practices by forest owners in the comparison with a defined set of requirements (a set of standards).

In terms of form: A certificate is a document certifying that a forest product/service complies with the requirements of a specific set of forest management standards.

In Vietnam, according to Clause 20, Article 2, the Law on Forestry 2017: A certificate of sustainable forest management is a document that recognizes a certain forest area that meets the criteria for sustainable forest management.

- Why do we need a sustainable forest management certificate?

Nowadays, the whole world is more and more concerned about the reduction of forest area and quality. It affects the living environment and the ability to provide forest products for sustainable development, as well as the daily needs of people.

The problem that needs to be solved is how forest business management must both ensure good economic benefits and bring practical benefits to the communities living in and near the forest, while not causing negative impacts to the environment, that is, to implement sustainable forest management and it is recognized by forest management certificate.

The international community, governments, environmental and social organizations, etc. require forest business owners to demonstrate that their forests are sustainably managed, this is a legal requirement.

Consumers of forest products require proof that products circulating on the market must be harvested from sustainably managed forests, with clear provenance, which is a market requirement and customer's tastes.

- What types of sustainable **forest management certifications** are there?

There are two types of certificates used for the forests meeting the standards of sustainable forest management and the forest products that are processed and formed from the certified wood materials.

The Forest Management Certificate (FM Certificate)	The Chain of Custody Certificate (CoC Certificate)
FM Certificate is a certificate issued to one or defined forests that have fully complied with the requirements related to environmental, economic, and social sustainable forest management standards from the time of planting, management to exploitation stage.	CoC is a certificate issued to organizations that have proven that wood products are traded from certified sources, these products may use the label and the certification mark of the Certification Organization.

II. FORMULATING A PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

2.1. THE ROLE OF FORMULATING A PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Developing a sustainable forest management plan is especially important in forestry, whether for natural or planted forests, as the business cycle is very long.

- The Sustainable Forest Management is a method of forest governance that ensures the achievement of forest protection and development goals, without degrading values, enhancing forest values, improving livelihoods, protecting the environment, and contributing to maintaining national defense and security.

- Developing a sustainable forest management plan is the implementation of activities to organize and arrange in space and time for forest management, protection and development activities of households, groups of households or communities to ensure sustainability.

- The sustainable forest management plan is one of the mandatory conditions to be granted a forest management certificate.

2.2. THE RESPONSIBILITIES IN DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

- The development of a sustainable forest management plan for the forest owner group 1 is completely voluntary, not compulsory;

- The forest owner group 1 will organize the development of a sustainable forest management plan for the forest area they manage.;

- The forest owner group 1 can hire a consultant unit or experts to develop a plan.