

No. 57/QĐ-TTg

*Ha Noi, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012*

**DECISION**

**On approval of the Forest Protection and Development Plan for the period  
2011-2020**

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**PRIME MINISTER OF THE GOVERNMENT**

Pursuant to the Law on Governmental organization on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2011;

Pursuant to the Forest Protection and Development Law on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004;

Pursuant to the Resolution No. 18/2011/QH13 on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011 of the National Assembly XIII, 2<sup>nd</sup> session on the completion of the Resolution No. 08/1997/QH10 and the Resolution No. 73/2006/QH11 regarding the Five Million Hectares Reforestation Project;

At the proposal of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development,

**DECIDES:**

**Article 1.** Approve the Forest Protection and Development Plan for the period 2011-2020, including the following provisions:

**I. OBJECTIVES, TASKS**

**1. OBJECTIVES**

a) To well manage the available forests; use forest resources and land availability planned for forestry in an effective and sustainable manner.

b) To increase the forest cover to 42 - 43% by 2015 and 44 - 45% by 2020 respectively; increase the productivity, quality and values of forests; restructure

the sector towards increasing added values; basically meeting with demands for timber and forest products for domestic consumption and export.

c) To generate more jobs, improve incomes for forest-dependent residents, contributing to hunger elimination and poverty reduction, ensuring security and national defense.

## 2. Tasks

### a) Forest protection

- Protect and develop sustainably 13,388,000 ha of existing forests (as of 31st December 2010) and 750,000 ha of regenerated forests; 1,250,000 ha of new plantations in the period 2011-2014; increase forest area to around 14,270,000 ha and 15,100,000 ha by 2015 and 2020 respectively;

- Basically reduce the violations against forest protection and development legislation; better improve the forests' functions on eco-environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, contributing to the nation's sustainably socio-economic development.

### b) Forest development

- For the period 2011-2020:

+ Afforestation: 2,600,000 ha, including 250,000 ha for new protection and special use forests (25,000 ha/year on average); 1,000,000 ha for new production forests (100,000 ha/year on average) and 1,350,000 ha for post-harvesting replantation (135,000 ha/year on average);

+ Zoning for regeneration: 750,000 ha (mainly protection and special use forests), including 350,000 ha for continuous regeneration and 400,000 ha for new regeneration;

+ Rehabilitation of critically poor natural forests: 350,000 ha (35,000 ha/year on average);

+ Plantation of scattered trees: 500 million trees (50 million trees/year on average);

+ Improve quality of natural forests, productivity of plantation forests by 25% in 2020 compared with that in 2011.

- For the period 2011-2015:

+ Afforestation: 1,250,000 ha, including 150,000 ha for plantation of protection and special-use forests (30,000 ha/year on average); 500,000 ha for planting production forests (100,000 ha/year on average) and 600,000 ha for post-harvesting replantation (120,000 ha/year on average);

+ Zoning for regeneration: 550,000 ha, including 350,000 ha for continuous regeneration; 200,000 ha for new regeneration;

+ Rehabilitation of critically poor natural forests: 150,000 ha (30,000 ha/year on average)

+ Plantation of scattered trees: 250 million trees (50 million trees/year on average);

+ Improve quality of natural forests, productivity of plantation forests by 10% in 2015 compared with that in 2011.

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION SOLUTIONS**

### **1. Strengthen communication and awareness raising**

a) Organize regular communication and dissemination activities via mass media about forests' values on socio-economy, environment and national defense.

b) Strengthen legal education in forest protection and development for people, improve their awareness on forest protection; advocate households living in and surround forests to sign forest protection commitments; develop and execute village's forest protection conventions; change awareness and forestry-related practices from extensive into intensive cultivation in combination with production of small and large timber.

### **2. Management of planning and forest land**

a) Review the planning for 16,245,000 ha forests and forest land (including 2,271,000 ha of special use forests, 5,842,000 ha of protection forests, and 8,132,000 ha of production forests). The planning shall be managed consistently on the basis of establishing permanent national forest estate in line with the system of compartments, blocks and plots in the map and boundary demarcation among the three types of forests in the field.

b) Strictly manage and timely amend inappropriate issues in the planning of three forest types; strengthen long term forest allocation to organizations, individuals and households; State organizations manage around 50% of total forest areas directly which includes the entire areas of special use forests; 65% of total protection forest areas and 30% of total production forest areas.

c) Do planning for development of forest product processing and trade industry in connection with the centralized industrial material afforestation areas. Attention shall be paid to develop handicraft and forest product production and processing villages as well as forestry farms. Do no planning for building up processing facilities, sawmills inside or near special use and protection forests.

d) Ensure sufficient state budget for general forest inventory.

### 3. Forest protection

a) Continue strengthening forestry socialization in the spirit of protecting forests is the responsibility of all organizations, households, and individuals.

b) Reinforce and establish forest protection forces from the central to the grassroots level and of forest owners; strengthen legal power and responsibilities for forest rangers in forest management, protection and law enforcement.

c) Strengthen monitoring and inspection on law enforcement in forest protection and development; handle legal violations in terms of forest protection and development in a timely and strict manner.

d) Strictly enforce legal regulations on forest protection and development, execute the biodiversity offset mechanism and regulations on afforestation to replace the forest areas converted for other purposes.

### 4. Forest allocation and lease

a) Review, finalize forest protection contracting policies for organizations, households, individuals, village communities; in the areas matching with the planning, contracted ones are allocated forests for a long term to be able to get direct benefits from forests. The State provides assistance for the management and protection of critically poor non - harvesting natural forests in compliance with the regulations under the Decision 60/2010/QĐ-TTg, dated 30th September 2010, by the Prime Minister on promulgating principles, criteria and cost norms

for allocating investments for development from the State budget for the period 2011-2015.

b) People's Committees in provinces and municipalities organize to review, strengthen allocating, leasing forests to organizations, village communities, households, individuals to ensure all forest areas are under specific management. Basically complete forest allocation, leasing and issuance of forest land use certificate in 2015.

State budget ensures funding to formulate and complete the document package on forest allocation, leasing with the average rate of 200,000 dong per ha of forest. Provincial People's Committees specify the rate to be suitable with conditions of each forest in their provinces in compliance with guidelines of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

c) Forest areas currently managed by Communal People's Committees at commune level (over 2,700,000 ha) shall be allocated or leased to village communities, households, organizations, individuals, enterprises. For un-allocation or unleased forest areas shall be allocated to forest rangers to arrange for protection and advise commune authorities to implement State management tasks on forest protection and development.

Management boards of special use and protection forests, State forestry companies work out co-management mechanism with local communities in the principle of sharing responsibilities for forest protection, development and mutually benefiting from forests in accordance with each party's contributions.

## 5. Science, technology and forestry extension

a) Formulate and finalize procedures, technical standards on forest fire prevention, fighting, forest harvesting and utilization, intensive afforestation in the identified areas and ecological areas.

b) Strengthen research in and transfer of science and technology with special attention paid to select new high-yield varieties with good quality and at the same time, research the application of appropriate advanced technology, make use of and further develop traditional experience to improve the effectiveness of resource utility, values of outputs and quality of forest environmental services.

c) Apply harvesting and processing equipment, appropriate advanced technology, linking research with production and diversification of products to increase their added values, reduce environmental pollutions.

d) Reinforce the forestry extension system at the grassroots level, particularly in the communes with large areas of forest and forest land in remote areas.

## 6. International cooperation

a) Actively establish bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation with regional and international forestry organizations. Continue implementing international agreements in forestry to which Viet Nam is a signatory including Convention on International Trade in Endangered Wildlife (CITES), United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Wetland (RAMSAR), REDD+, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

b) Continue implementing activities regarding international economic integration, especially in the ASEAN cooperation framework and forest governance, forest law enforcement and trade. Formulate and implement cooperation agreements with the countries in the Mekong delta sub-region, particularly with Laos and Cambodia.

## 7. Markets

a) Strengthen trade promotion, enlarge markets for forestry products.

b) Reform the management of forest product circulation to ensure their legality, encourage all economic sectors to involve in the market, create a healthy competitive environment and ensure harmonized benefits of producers and consumers; create market drivers, promote domestic forestry production.

## 8. Formulate, develop key projects, proposals

a) Proposal on planting forests for wave-breaking, seadyke and coastal protection.

b) Proposal on planting, protecting watershed forests in the river basins.

c) Proposal on increasing productivity of plantations and enriching natural forests;

d) Proposal on afforestation in border areas in combination with resettlement

dd) Proposal on sustainable forest management certification in line with international standards;

e) Proposal on building the State capacity on forestry management

g) Proposal on establishing, developing a network for forest product processing and trade

h) Proposal on building capacity for forest rangers

i) Construct a national wildlife park in Ninh Binh province.

#### 9. Capital demand and mechanism for mobilization of funding sources

a) Total capital required for the whole period 2011-2020 is 49,317 billion dong, including 14,067 billion dong from State budget, accounting for 29% of total demand with annual average of 1,407 billion; 35,250 billion dong from non-State budget, accounting for 71% of total demand with annual average of 3,500 billion mainly for production plantation and forest protection.

For the period 2011-2015: Total capital required is 24,562 billion dong, including 8,062 billion dong from the state budget (33%) with annual average of 1,612 billion dong; 16,500 billion dong (67%) from loan and other sources for investing in production plantation. State budget allocating to forest development (plantation, tending, sivilcuture infrastructure, etc) makes up of 5,512 billion dong with annual average of 1,102 billion dong; State expenditure for investment (forest contracting and zoning for regeneration) stands at 2,550 billion dong with annual average of 510 billion dong.

In 2011 and 2012 an amount of 1,925 billion dong has been allocated from the State budget (715 billion dong and 1,210 billion dong in 2011 and 2012 respectively). Budget required for 3 years (2013-2015) is 6,137 billion dong with an average of 2,045 billion dong each year.

b) Mechanism for mobilization of funding sources

- Integrate forest protection and development plan into socio-economic development plans, other programs, projects in the same locality to maximize the overall effectiveness in terms of socio-economy, environmental protection, security and national defense;

- State budget for development investment focuses on large scale protection plantation projects, national parks, projects in districts according to following the Resolution No. 30a/2008/NQ0CP, dated 27th December 2008, by the Prime Minister on the rapid and sustainable poverty reduction incentive program for 62 poor districts, North West, Central highland; support the development of production forests; support the construction of forestry roads in the centralized material afforestation areas with inconvenient traffic systems; experimental research projects; investment projects in advanced technology equipment, information technology application in formulating forest mater plan, forest management and protection; invest in research and apply high technology in seed selection, master seed production, intensive afforestation technology. Local State budget is allocated to the remaining projects in accordance with general policies;

- State expenditure for investment ensures the forest contracting, zoning for regeneration, monitoring of forest development and forestry land, other public expenditure in accordance with existing regulations;

- Maximize mobilization of resources from domestic economic entities; advocate the financial support to implement the forest protection and development plan (ODA fund) from international organizations;

- Mobilize other legally financial sources, including incomes from forest environmental service payments, forest resource levy, etc.

### **III. MECHANISM, POLICY, LAW**

1. A several number of current policies to be further implemented

a) Continue applying forest development mechanism, policies in accordance with the Five Million Hectare Reforestation Project. In the period 2011-2015, forest protection and development shall follow regulations of the Decision No. 60/2010/QD-TTg, dated 30th September 2010, by the Prime Minister on promulgating principles, criteria and cost norms for allocating development investment capital from the State budget for the period 2011-2015; the Decisions: No.147/2007/QD-TTg, dated 10th September 2007, on issuing



some policies on production forest development in the period 2007-2015 and No. 66/2011/QD-TTg, dated 9th September 2011, on amending and supplementing some articles of the Decision No. 147/2007/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister.

b) Continue applying the current policies on supporting foodstuff for mountainous people to prevent slash-and-burn cultivation, changing to plant forests in the forest land which was used for cultivation; the Resolution 30a/2008/NQ-CP on 27th December 2008 of Prime Minister on the rapid and sustainable poverty reduction program for 62 poor districts; the Decision No.73/2010/QD-TTg on 15th November 2010 of Prime Minister on issuing the investment regulations in sivilculture; the Decree No.117/2010/ND-CP on 24th December 2010 of the Government on special use forest organization and management.

c) Apply the policies to encourage enterprises to invest in agriculture, rural areas as regulated in the Decree No. 61/2010/ND-CP on 4th June 2010 on the incentive policies for enterprise to invest in agriculture, rural areas of the Government; the credit policy for agricultural and rural development in accordance with the Decree No. 41/2010/ND-CP dated 12th April 2010 of the Government on attracting investments from other economic entities for development and protection objectives.

## 2. Policies required to be amended, supplemented

a) Forest protection: Amend, supplement some provisions in the Decree 99/2009/ND-CP on 2nd November 2009 of the Government on punishment of administrative violations in forest management, forest protection and forest product management; the Decree No. 23/2006/ND-CP dated 3rd March 2006 on executing the Forest Protection and Development Law to more strictly manage the conversion of using forests for other purposes in localities.

b) Forest management: Review mechanisms, policies on forest management in accordance with the Decision No.186/2006/QD-TTg dated 14th August 2006 of the Prime Minister on issuing the Forest management regulations, ensure the consistency and appropriateness with legal regulations on land to avoid the overlapping and duplication.

c) Forestry land contracting, leasing: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development takes lead, cooperates with relevant Ministries, sectors to review

the realities, submit to the Government to issue the policy for replacement of the Decree No. 01/CP dated 4th January 1995 on issuing regulations on land contracting for agricultural production, forestry and aquaculture among State enterprises and the Decree No. 135/2005/ND-CP dated 8th November 2005 of the Government on forest and forest land contracting.

d) Credit policy: the State Bank of Viet Nam takes lead, cooperates with relevant Ministries, sectors to develop loan policies for afforestation projects; allows to use forest ownership rights, forest utilization rights to joint venture under forestry projects, forest services and mortgage for loan.

Nominates Ministry of Finance to take lead, submit to the Government to amend, supplement the Decree No. 151/2006/ND-CP dated 20th December 2006 of the Government on the State investment credit and export credit and the Decree No. 106/2008/ND-CP on 19th September 2008 of the Government on amending, supplementing some articles in the Decree No. 151/2006/ND\_CP on the State investment credit and export credit, facilitating planting organizations, individuals to access to and pay the loans according to planting cycles; expanding the targets for loan provision, including small-scale planting households, enterprises; expanding the scope of occupations, sectors eligible for the loan, including projects on planting large material timber and projects on processing MDF, , particle board, laminated board. Research to revise policies on forest resource levy towards the direction that income from forest resources levy shall be mainly used for forest protection, restoration.

### 3. Development of new mechanisms, policies

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development takes lead, cooperates with relevant Ministries, sectors to research, develop the key following policies:

a) Policy on protection forests towards the direction of allowing forest owners of all domestic economic entities to protect, develop and use protection forests to have a sustainable forest-based income source.

b) Policy on timber and forest product harvesting: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development stipulates standards, specific indicators on forest product harvesting, ensure the self-sufficient rights of forest owners in production and trade of forest products in accordance with the approved sustainable forest management measures.

c) Implement the forest co-management mechanism: From now to 2014, pilot the benefit-sharing mechanism in some special use forests by fundamentally transforming from the formality in which the State fully controls the forest protection into various co-management modalities where local communities shared management responsibilities and the gained benefits with the state agencies.

d) Investment supporting policy in infrastructure construction; forestry-related vocational training, particularly for ethnic minorities.

dd) Policy on encouraging investment in plantation timber processing and consumption.

e) Mechanisms, policies on re-structuring State owned forestry companies.

#### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

The Forest Protection and Development Plan for the period 2011-2020 shall be conducted in compliance with the Regulations on national target program implementation management and running.

##### **1. Plan management**

###### **a) At the Central level**

- Establish the National Steering Committee on Forest Protection and Development Plan for the period 2011-2020 on the basis of merging the Steering Committee for urgent issues on forest fire prevention and fighting and the Steering Committee on implementation of Five Million Hectare Reforestation Project. Deputy Prime Minister is the Chairperson while Minister of Agriculture and Rural develop acts as Standing Vice Chairperson together with other leaders representing relevant Ministries, sectors as members;

- Establish an Office to assist the National Steering Committee on the Forest Protection and Development Plan for the period 2011-2020 which is located in Administration of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

###### **b) At local level**

- Establish provincial Steering Committee on the Forest Protection and Development Plan for the period 2011-2020 in the provinces, municipalities on the basis of merging the provincial Steering Committee for urgent issues on forest fire prevention and fighting and the provincial Steering Committee on implementation of the Five Million ha Reforestation Project chaired by either President or Vice President of Provincial People's Committees.

- Department of Agriculture and Rural development assists Provincial People's Committees in provinces, municipalities to implement plan and manages projects under the Forest Protection and Development Plan for the period 2011-2020 in the area.

c. Mechanism on plan allocation

Investment plans for development of protection, special use, and production forests with support from the State budget are allocated with a stable three-year term on the volume and project portfolio to Project Management Boards for implementation.

2. Responsibilities of Ministries, sectors and localities

a) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development

- Take lead in management and organization of the plan implementation;
- Develop and submit annual, three-year and five-year Forest Protection and Development Plans to Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance for consolidation and further submission to Prime Minister for review and approval;
- Take lead in supervision and monitoring of the plan implementation;
- Take lead and cooperate with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to develop organizational structure improvement options on forest protection to submit for the Government's approval;
- Take lead in and cooperate with relevant Ministries, sectors in policy amendment, supplementation, and development of new policies towards the direction as mentioned in the Section III clauses 2 and 3 of this Decision to submit for the Government's approval, so as to ensure implementation of the tasks under the Forest Protection and Development Plan for the period 2011-2020.

- Annually report to the Government on the plan implementation situation; regularly organize the preliminary and final evaluation of the Forest Protection and Development Plan implementation results.

b) Ministry of Planning and Investment

- Collect and consolidate annual, three-year, five-year plans of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, arrange State budget to submit for the Prime Minister's approval;

- Collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to supervise and monitor the implementation results.

c) Ministry of Finance

Cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to appraise annual State budget allocation plan, arrange budget for forestry; provide guidelines to organizations, individuals to comply with the current financial regulations.

d) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

- Provide localities with guidelines on identification of land area boundaries planned for forestry development to manage, which underpins the implementation of the Plan;

- Cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to instruct localities to link land allocation with forest allocation to organizations, individuals, households in accordance with the approved forest protection and development planning.

dd) Other relevant Ministries, sectors

- Cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to work out implementation arrangements of the Plan;

- Involve in supervising monitoring and enhancing implementation of the Plan.

e) People's Committees of provinces, cities managed by the Central

- Take lead in implementation arrangements of the plan in local areas;

- Review, propose the list of activities, formulate, and appraise; manage, evaluate, check before acceptance project implementation results in local areas in accordance with the state regulations;

- Develop the plan, annual budget needs to submit to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment for consolidation and further submission to the Government;

- Periodically report to the Government, relevant Ministries, and sectors on the plan implementation progress in their areas; organize preliminary and final evaluation on the plan implementation in accordance with the guideline provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

### 3. Call for the involvement of mass organizations

Request Central Committee of Viet Nam Fatherland Front and its member organizations to actively participate in implementation of the plan in the direction that forest protection and development serving as the responsibility and obligation of all organizations, individuals, and households.

**Article 2.** The Decision comes into effect since its signing date.

**Article 3.** Ministers, Heads of Ministerial agencies, Head of Governmental agencies, Presidents of People's Committees of provinces, municipalities under the Central Government shall take the responsibility to execute this Decision./.

**PRIME MINISTER**

**To:**

- Secretariat of Central Party;
- Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers;
  
- Ministries, Ministerial-level agencies, Governmental agencies
- Office of the Central Steering Committee on anti-corruption
- People's Committees, People's Councils in the provinces, municipalities
- Central office and Party's Committees
- Office of the State President;
- National Assembly's Ethnic Council and Committees
- Office of the National Assembly;
- People's Supreme Court;
- People's Supreme Procuracy;
- State Audit agency
- National Financial Monitoring Committee
- Bank for Social Policies

*(Signed and sealed)*

**Nguyễn Tấn Dũng**

- Bank for Development of Viet Nam
- Central Committee of Viet Nam Fatherland Front
- Central agencies of mass organizations;
- Government office:, Vice Chairpersons, Electrical Portal Gate, Departments, agencies under the Government office, Official gazette;
- For archive (5 copies).

