

**FOREST MONITORING, PAYMENT  
FOR FOREST ENVIRONMENT  
SERVICES AND REDD+ IN ĐIỆN BIÊN  
PROVINCE**

**Seminar on Climate Change and Forests –  
Conservation of Tropical Forest towards  
the Green Economy**

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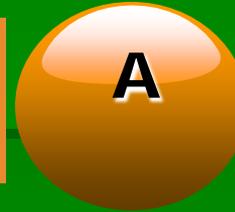
# I. NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING IN VIETNAM

## 1. General about national forest monitoring

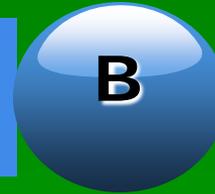
- The national forest inventory, assessment and monitoring programme has been implementing since 1991 in a 5-year cycle to provide a national data system on forest resources. Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI) is the implementing agency for conducting this programme. The last inventory was conducted in 2006-2010
- The annual forest monitoring programme (conducted by Forest Protection Department) has been implementing since 2002 to provide annual updates on forest resources
- In order to meet IPCC requirements, annual forest monitoring reports are needed. However, current annual reports do not reach the necessary accuracy level

# I. NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING IN VIETNAM

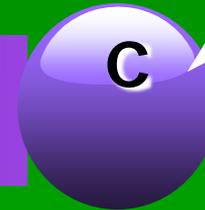
Forest cover maps at the village and commune levels do not have the necessary accuracy level to be updated annually



Each province updates forest cover data differently depends on province requirements and budget



Updates at provincial level are often not integrated into national forest cover data because these updates have not been verified



The forest protection sub-department only updates area data for reporting without updating the forest cover maps. In addition, there is a lack of budget for national forest assessment so the quality of the result is not high



**2.  
Constraints  
and  
challenges**

# II. FOREST MONITORING IN DIEN BIEN PROVINCE

## 1. Existing data:

- Forest Cover Map year 2006
- Forest Cover Map year 2009
- Hard-copy/digital maps at Forestry Sub-department and Forest Protection Sub-department

## 2. Annual updates of forest changes

- Deforestation due to agriculture, forest fires, changing of forest use purposes to industrial trees, transportation system, forest concession – for production forest).
- Afforestation, reforestation, regeneration

## 3. The reporting flow

- Commune forest rangers -> District forest rangers -> Provincial Forest Protection sub-department -> Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

## II. FOREST MONITORING IN DIEN BIEN PROVINCE

A

There are lack of full forest cover maps for local forest rangers. The changes (increasing, decreasing) on forest area, stock do not reflect on hard-copy and/or digital maps (only statistical data are available)

### 4. Constrains and Challenges

B

Forest owners do not have capacity to monitor annual changes. The capacity of forest rangers forces is limited. Their skills on using maps and GPS are not high. There are lack of maps and GPS.

C

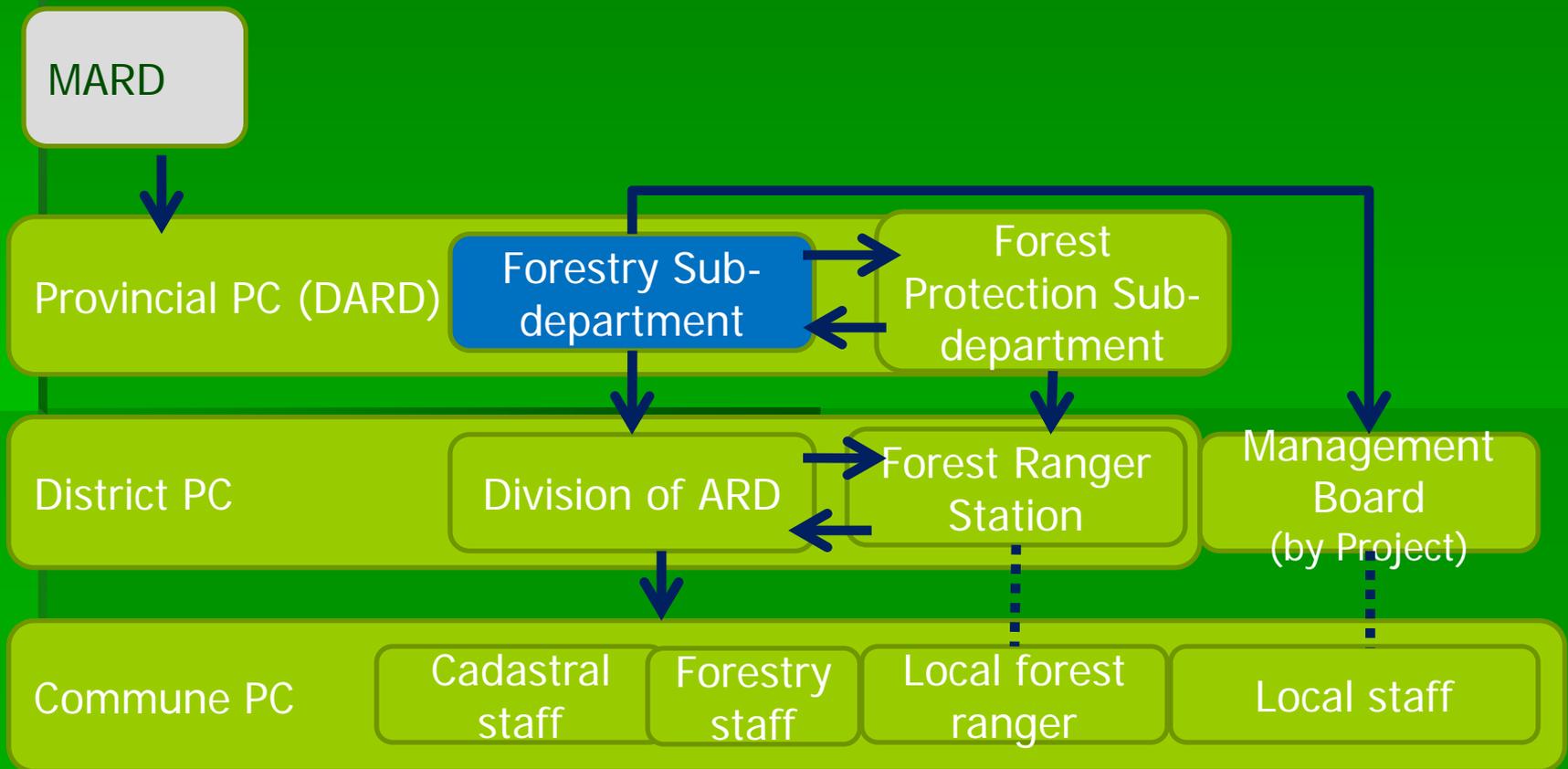
The allowance for local forest rangers and forestry staff is low. Therefore, they are not encouraged to protect the forest

D

The monitoring and assessment work (conducted by district and provincial PCs) is not implemented adequately

## II. FOREST MONITORING IN DIEN BIEN PROVINCE

### 5. Forest monitoring system in Dien Bien province



# III. PAYMENT FOR FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (PFES)

## 1. Concept:

- Value of forest: - storing carbon, protecting water sources, avoiding soil erosion, creating good environment and landscapes. The users of these values (hydro-power plants, water plants, tourist companies) have the responsibility to pay to forest owners who create these values
- The process of implementing the above concept is called payment of forest environmental services.

## 2. Payment method:

- Direct payment: The users pay cash directly to forest owners
- Indirect payment: The users of services authorize a third party (for example, The Forest protection and development fund) to pay the money to forest owners

# III. PAYMENT FOR FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## 3. Constrains and challenges

- This is a new activity, implemented in Dien Bien province the first time.
- Almost all forest area do not have specific owners (currently managed by commune PCs).
- The forest are dispersed, not fully inventoried, interlaced with residential area or agriculture land.
- The total payment for the whole area is quite high but the payment for each forest owner is low (each forest owner has in average 3 ha of forest, receiving about 600.000VNĐ – equivalent to the price of 3 chickens or 10 bamboos).
- Many people want to have forest allocated so the conflicts among them can easily occur.
- The land and forest allocation in the past have many problems and needs to be re-conducted.

### **III. PAYMENT FOR FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

#### **4. Implementation progress in Dien Bien province**

- About 242,000 ha (~2/3 province's forest area) have already received PFES.
- 6/9 districts have already received PFES
- In two years, two hydro-power plants (Hòa Bình and Sơn La) have paid 6 million USD. This amount is equivalent to the annual state budget allocated to the province for forest protection and development.
- The province is negotiating with other small hydro-power plants in the province jurisdiction to increase the amount of money received from PFES.
- About 600,000 USD has been paid to forest owners (~35,000 ha, in which Mường Nhé Natural Conservation Park: 30.000 ha; Mường Lay town: 5.000 ha).
- The province is examining the owners for 205,000 ha of forest in the remaining districts/towns.

# IV. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PFES AND REDD+

## SIMILARITIES

- Have the same objective of forest conservation
- Pay for an area of forest based on forest quality
- Implementing annual forest monitoring as a base for payment

## DIFFERENCES

- PFES pays when someone uses the services
- REDD+ pays for the increment of carbon stock (or the reduction of GHG),
- PFES pays for the forest area in the basin area

## RELATIONSHIP

- The implementation of PFES will provide inputs (forest owners, forest area, forest stock) for the implementation of REDD+.
- When implemented together, REDD+ and PFES will consolidate each other to encourage forest conservation and development activities.
- REDD+ needs to establish a benefit sharing system, which is also a base for implementing PFES

*Thank You !*