

Forest Allocation Policy in Vietnam

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Decree No. 02/CP, dated 15 January 1994, of the Government on allocation of forest land to organizations, households and individuals for stable using long-term for forestry purposes. The State allocated forestry land to organizations, households, individuals for stable, long-term use. This Regulation includes: Land with natural forests, land under afforestation; unforested land is planned afforestation, protection of vegetation.

The State allocated forest land to organizations, households and individuals for stable, long-term using the following purpose for each forest type:

- Protective forests, regeneration and vegetation protection zones are used primarily to protect water and the soil, prevent erosion and mitigate natural disasters, climate regulation, contribute to protection of ecological environment;
- SUF is used primarily for nature reserves, standard sample for national forest ecosystems, plant genetic resources, wildlife, scientific research; historic, cultural protection, tourist lodging service;
- Production forests are used primarily for timber production and trading and other forest products, special forest products, wildlife and linking with ecology and environmental protection.

The duration of forest land allocation for stable, long-term use for forestry purposes is specified as follows:

- For other organizations, households and individuals, the duration is 50 years. At the expiry time of this regulation, if the organizations, households and individuals still have the needs and use for the right purpose, the State shall consider to allocate for next period. If they plant forest trees on a 50 year cycle, then after 50 years, the State will allocate until harvesting of product.

Forest land allocation is a major policy of the State, is an important step forward from the State forestry sector to the social forestry sector with the real participation of the entire society, in which the role of the household and community are enhanced and focused. Currently, the forest land and forest allocation remain in form of movement, just on maps and books. Proportion of forest areas managed by state enterprises, People Committees at all levels account for about 50%, while the proportion of forest area allocated to households and individuals is low, which

reduces the social effectiveness of state policy on allocation and leasing of forests and it still has not mobilized substantial resources from people. In some places, forest allocation policy is used to usurp illegally the land use right which is managed by SFE. The implementation of policies and solutions on land and forests management and use in the SFE is slow and inefficient. Land management mechanism of forestry enterprises are too lax, more about nature resource management than asset management.

According to the Statistical Register Bureau, the General Department of Land Management (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment), as of 26 May 2013, over 1.8 million land use right certificates were granted to forest owners, with 9.7 million hectares of forest land have been certified which reaching 83.6% of the total certification required forest land area (12 million ha). The certification is still slowly implemented, it is not paid attention in various localities because forest land areas are in the situation of encroachment and disputes, no funding for measurement to determine the boundary, the certificate cannot be granted. Forest land allocation policies provide resources but there are not enough incentives to promote reforestation and sustainable forest management.

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