

PSFM
Promotion of sustainable management of production forests
by forest companies in Vietnam

c/o Forest Science Centre of North of Central Vietnam (FSNC)
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TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

for

National Expert for forest management planning in Truong Son State Forest Company (TS-SFE), Quang Binh province, Vietnam

Name of Expert:	National Consultant:	
Job Title:	National Consultant for Forest Management Planning	
Project/Program:	PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PRODUCTION FORESTS OF FOREST COMPANIES IN VIETNAM (PSFM)	
Duty Station:	<i>Truong Son SFE (Quang Binh province), Dong Ha city (Quang Tri province)</i>	
Expected Start Date of Assignment:	Begin: Mid September, 2017	Duration: National expert: 20 days
Report to:	Name: Reinhold Glauner	Title: International Team Leader
Assigned direct counterparts	Forest Science Centre for Nord-Central Vietnam (FSNC)	Truong Son State Forest Enterprise (TS-SFE)
Selected future trainer(s) to participate		

I. Background and Rationale

I.1 PSFM project background and Rationale:

Since 2010, the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) has been supporting projects aimed at achieving sustainable forest utilization and management worldwide. In August 2015, the International Sustainable Forest Management (INW) Programme was launched by the BMEL. On January 19, 2015, the German Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture and the Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development confirmed the mutual interest in forestry sector cooperation at the official meeting at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA). Consequently, both parties, BMEL and MARD, signed a General Agreement on November 25, 2015 on future bilateral cooperation of the government departments for the promotion of sustainable management of forests by means of building implementation capacities.

The project "Promotion of Sustainable Management of Production Forests of State Forest Companies in Vietnam" (PSFM) with co-funding from the German Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL) was officially approved by MARD by the Decision No. 1901/QD-BNN-HTQT dated on 19 May 2017 (project document in Vietnamese attached). The project will be jointly implemented by both German consultant firms and Vietnamese organizations. On the German side,



Deutsche Forst Service (DFS) and HessenForst (HF), were selected by GfA Consulting Group GmbH as the Consultant Consortium per contract dated 15th April 2017 to implement this project. On the Vietnamese side, the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science (VAFS) was selected as project owner. The two implementing organizations for this project are: (1) the Forest Science Centre for North of Central Vietnam (FSNC) under VAFS; and (2) the Truong Son State Forest Enterprise (TS-SFE) under the Long Dai Single-Member Limited Liability Company (LDH). Furthermore, it was decided that the project implementation duration is three years (from 2017 – 2019) with the overall project objective is to promote sustainable management of production forest of the forest companies in Vietnam inline with the forest development strategy from 2006 to 2020. The specific objectives of the project are:

- i) to promote of sustainable management of production forests in one model of state forest companies, which has been already endorsed by a sustainable forest management certification system according to international standards;
- ii) to set-up a competence and training centre for sustainable forest management and certification; and
- iii) to extent capacity to other (state) forest companies and organization in the whole country, through providing training courses on sustainable forest management and certification.

The main project outputs are:

- 1) The position of Truong Son SFE representing a certified model FMU (forest management unit) is further improved and stabilized;
- 2) The competence centre at the Forest Science Centre for Northern Central Vietnam (FSNC) for sustainable forest management and certification is operational and contributes to capacity development in forestry.
- 3) Experiences from Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and certification are disseminated/upscaled to other state forest companies.

I.2 Forest Management Planning in TS-SFC

Within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Program between the Vietnam S.R. and the Federal Republic of Germany, in 2010, Truong Son SFE under Long Dai Long Company has developed, and piloted the model of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) under the project called "Promotion of sustainable management of natural forest and marketing of important forest products" technically supported by GIZ through the findings of the German Government. The SFM pilot model was successfully implemented with the compliance of Vietnamese laws as well as international FSC standards, the results of the period of 2010-2015 basically met the requirements and targets set out by project, the TS-SFC was assessed and certified FSC FM/CoC in January 2014. The last management plan review was done in 2016. The next annual FSC audit is due in November 2017.

Truong Son State Forest Enterprise (TS-SFC), under the Long Dai Single-Member Limited Liability Company (LDH), TS-SFC was established on 12/5/1987 at Decision No. 380/TCCB by Ministry of Forestry (currently named MARD) the decision did split the TS-SFC from Ba Ren SFE (formally under the Long Dai Industry Forestry Union (recently named Long Dai Company). Its headquarter is located in Truong Son commune – Quang Ninh district (Quang Binh province). At the beginning, the SFC was allocated with 28,114 ha of forest and forestland for management by MARD. After transformation and restructuring process, changes in area occur:

- In 2002, according to Decision No 202/QĐ- UB dated 30/01/2002 by PPC Quang Binh, in which Truong Son SFE has an area of 40,156 ha including 29 sub-areas and the rocky mountain area.



- In 2004 and 2005, according to Decree No.200/2004/NĐ-CP on re-structuring and renovation SFEs and Decision No 342/2005/QĐ-TTg dated 26/12/2005 by Prime Minister on approval of re-structuring, renovation and development of SFEs in Quang Binh province. After reviewing and splitting land for communes and the protection forest management board, Truong Son SFE under Long Dai Company has a total area of 35,536 ha situated in 39 sub-areas according to Decisions for forest land distribution by Quang Binh PPC.
- In 2009, according to two new decisions¹, the total area of forests and forest land has been allocated to Long Dai Company in Truong Son SFE is 32,123 ha.

Since 2005, the Long Dai Company has approached and cooperated with SFMPs implemented in Truong Son SFE, moreover, since 2006, GTZ-Forestry Program in Quang Binh also selected TS-SFC to pilot their SFM model. The company committed to collaborate with the Project to promote FSC obtainment for TS-SFC to replicate to other SFCs, as the TS-SFC was one of five forest units selected institutions by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) for piloting the development of sustainable forest management plan with support from German–Vietnamese Technical Cooperation Programme.

In recent years, to develop the forest management pilot model, TS-SFC and LDH in collaboration with international consultants, forestry experts from MARD, DoF, FIPI, Sub-FIPI in Central Highlands, Xuan Mai University and Quang Binh DARD have conducted forest inventories in order to collect required information on environment, biodiversity, and socio-economy. The forest management plan with specific objectives and goals is designed to manage and utilize sustainability all natural resources. It also aims to ensure the continuous production of products and services while maintain the biodiversity values and potential productivity of the forest. The FMP addresses the three pillars of sustainability, i.e. economic, environmental and social factors.

II. Assignment

In 2014, a single harvesting quota of 5,500 cbm² of natural forest timber was approved by the Government for LDH. LDH decided to harvest this amount in TS-SFC. In 2016 LHD requested to extend that Quota, as only 772 cbm were harvested up to December 2015. It was planned to harvest the remaining amount in 2016 and 2017. According to verbal communication, the quota can be finished in 2017.

Based on the Vietnamese Government's policy on closure of natural forest, the People's Committee of Quang Binh province also directed its order to strictly stop licensing permits on logging timber from natural forest for all organizations and individuals. Accordingly, the provincial governmental institutional departments (Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) instructed Provincial Forest Protection Sub-department (Provincial Forest Rangers) to strengthen the inspection and supervision of units and localities in the implementation of forest closure. For the natural timber harvesting quota of LDH in 2016, the Provincial People's Committee requested the company to promptly complete the harvesting activity in accordance with the current regulations and transport the logs, and strictly follow the policy of closure of natural forest.

Besides 26,490 ha of natural forest, the TS-SFC also manages 2,208 ha of planted forest, harvesting activity planted forest, processing and trade of planted forest products increasingly grow.

¹ Decision No 2017/QĐ-UBND August 6, 2009 on the allocation of forestland to Long Dai Company for the management, protection, regeneration and afforestation, and Decision No 3032/QĐ-UBND dated 23/10/2009 on revoking forest land and distributing to Long Dai Company for rental with purpose of forest production.

² AAC is also set at 5,500 cbm/yr



At present TS-SFC has already available a forest management plan (FMP), which was revised in 2016. However, due to the new policy of natural forest timber logging ban, the plan becomes partly obsolete. Therefore, based on the planning matrix of PSFM to revise and update the existing FMP, these new circumstances can be considered. Additionally, a gap³ between Approved Forest Management Plan and actual implementation was identified. The aim of this consultancy is also to narrow this gap and develop a workable Forest Management Plan for TS-SFC.

II.1 Objective

Objectives of the mission are to assist TS-SFC in revision and updating its existing Forest Management Plan (of 2016) and to develop teaching material for the competence centre.

The FMP shall consider the following:

- TS-SFC is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified;
- TS-SFC cannot harvest natural timber;
- Management of planted forest is becoming increasingly important for economic performance of TS-SFC;
- TS-SFC is the model area for sustainable forest management of the Competence Centre;
- All activities implemented in TS-SFC should follow Best-Management-Practises (BMP) irrespective of any certification requirements.

II.2 Tasks

The national expert shall be working closely with the international expert. Both experts shall put up a plan indicating the share of labour at the beginning of their assignment. The national consultant shall assist the international consultant in implementing the following:

- (1) Review translation of VN Forest Management Plan into EN-Version;
- (2) In cooperation with the international expert, prepare a work-plan including methodology, timing and required support staff for this assignment;
- (3) Work closely with PSFM, the assigned staff from the LDH, TS-SFC, FSNC (and other relevant governmental institutional agencies as well as local communities and scientists) to gain adequate information to assist TS-SFC in revision and update its FMP;
- (4) Jointly with the international expert, appraise the current FMP and identify gaps between planning and the circumstances created by new policies;
- (5) In close cooperation with TS-SFC and assigned trainers of the CC, revise the Forest Management Plan (FMP);
- (6) In cooperation with the international expert, facilitate a consultation and training meeting to discuss the proposed revisions;
- (7) In cooperation with the international expert, propose concept for forest management planning in state forest companies in VN;
- (8) Outline the training of trainers' concept for the Competence Centre for forest management planning;
- (9) Development of Guideline/manual for development of forest management planning (e.g. based on FAO guidelines), which can be recommended for the use in the Competence Centre,

³ refer to FMP update 2016



- (10) Develop the structure of a training manual for the respective topics;
- (11) Review/draft the course content of the curriculum of the competence centre;

II.3 Approach during the assignment

Coaching and participatory approaches are expected approaches for this consultancy assignment. National consultant is expected to provide sufficient guidance and advice to ensure that the team adequately follows legal provisions and legislative framework and obligations. This consultancy is implemented as a joint-mission of an international and a national consultant. The TOR are identical for both.

II.4 Deliverables

- (1) Jointly prepared Work plan for this assignment;
- (2) Revised FMP of TS-SFC;
- (3) Draft copies of
 - a. Outline the training of trainers' concept for forest management planning and review of the course content in the CC's curriculum;
 - b. Guideline/manual for the development of FMPs (e.g. based on FAO <http://www.fao.org/docrep/w8212e/w8212e07.htm>);
- (4) Copy of documented data collected and analysis occurred during the implementation of this consultancy assignment;
- (5) Jointly prepared Mission report (max. 10 pages);

II.5 Duty station

PSFM operates in 2 key sites, which are Dong Ha city (Quang Tri province) at the Forest Science Centre for Nord-central Vietnam (FSNC), address: 273 Le Duan street, Dong Ha city (Quang Tri province, Vietnam). The second working site is forest areas of Long Dai company, which has its headquarter in Dong Son ward, Dong Hoi city while the Station office of TS-SFC is located deep in the forested area with the distance approximately 40 km on the western part of Dong Hoi city (capital city of Quang Binh province). Consultants have to consider the risk of malaria in Truong Son and its surrounding forests.

II.6 Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- (1) Having official University Degree or higher in forestry, economics, natural resource management, or similar;
- (2) Proven experiences in forest management planning at forest companies/enterprises levels (candidate has to submit at least one example of her/his work);
- (3) Proven experiences in teaching at forest training centres/forest schools is an advantage;
- (4) Minimum of 5 years of relevant professional experiences in the field of management planning for forest companies/enterprises. A significant part of experiences should have been gained in international development projects and consulting of institutions of the public sector;
- (5) Willing to work in a team;
- (6) Able to work independently;



- (7) Fluently in speaking and writing in English (International and National) and Vietnamese (National).

III LIST OF ANNEXES

- (1) PSFM project document (English and Vietnamese)
- (2) Long Dai Business Plan
- (3) Business plan of Truong Son SFE (English and Vietnamese)
- (4) Last version of FMP of Truong Son (English and Vietnamese)