Project “Support for the REDD+ readiness preparation in Vietnam - phase 2” (FCPF-2) was granted US$5 million US dollar by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility through the World Bank to continue REDD+ readiness preparation activities in six provinces in the North Central Coast region (Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue) from December 2016 until December 2019. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development’s Management Board for Forestry Projects is the project owner.

**PROJECT’S ACTIVITIES**

- **Consultation workshops on social and environmental safeguards in SFCs, SUF and PFMBs in the Emission Reduction Program (ER Program) accounting region:**

  The project CPMU organized four consultation workshops on social and environmental safeguards for SFCs, SUF and PFMBs (on 1 and 16 Nov 2017) and for related provincial departments, agencies and CSOs (on 30 Nov and 7 Dec 2017) to exchange experiences and support capacity building to carry out safeguards measures according to Government’s regulations and FCPF’s guidelines to get ready for the implementation of the ER-P in the North Central Coast region (NCC). Results from these workshops will be inputs for further consultation workshops on safeguards for communities in the ER-P region.
Updating Provincial REDD+ Action Plans (PRAP):

In collaboration with SNV and the project Sustainable Natural Resources Management (SNRM), the project FCPF-2 supported the NCC provinces in updating their PRAPs for period 2017-2020 with vision to 2030 in accordance with Decision 419/QĐ-TTg dated 05 April 2017 of the Prime Minister on approving the National REDD+ Action Program. Currently, stakeholder consultation is being carried out in Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Binh, and Quang Tri Provinces. PRAP’s intervention activities are being reviewed and adjusted to each province’s situations. PRAPs of the above-mentioned provinces are expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2018.

Ha Tinh and Thua Thien Hue Provinces are going to update their PRAPs in 2018 according to their annual workplan.

Training workshop on using mobile tablets in forest land and resources monitoring:

335 tablets was distributed for the six NCC provinces during training workshop on using FRMS Mobile software integrated in mobile tablets to monitor changes of forest lands and resources. These workshops were organized in collaboration with the SNRM Project by JICA. FRMS Mobile allows users to investigate and collect data on field sites to provide inputs for the Forest Resources Management System based on data of the National Forest Inventory. This application of tablets in forest land monitoring will efficiently assist in monitoring efforts on emission reduction and forest carbon removals in the NCC and in REDD+ implementation.

Until now, there have been 36 training workshops held and more than 400 forestry officers trained on using FRMS mobile software, in which, there are 10 workshops focusing on training of trainers and 26 extended training workshops. Training-of-trainers workshops are for provincial and district forestry officers, who have experiences in monitoring forest land and resources and knowledge in mapping and computer technology. Extended workshops are for local forestry officers and rangers, who directly update changes of forest land and resources. The contents of these workshops were both theoretical and practical to ensure that participants can use the software efficiently on field sites and they can give guidance to other officers and people.
Technical trainings on techniques for high-yielding and large-timber plantations and natural forest rehabilitation:

The aim of these trainings is to improve economic efficiency of plantations, especially to develop large timber plantations to provide supply for wood processing for export, to rehabilitate degraded natural forests, to contribute in implementing forestry reform scheme and to achieve objectives of PRAPs and ER-Program.

In 2017, this activity was carried out at the central level and in Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue Provinces. There were 7 training workshops held with a total of 327 participants who are technical officers of PFMBs, SUFMBs, SFCs, Forest Protection Departments, Forestry Departments, Provincial Extension Centers; officers of forestry cooperatives, forest owners association and forest rangers from NCC districts. During the training workshops, participants learned theories and visited typical models. As a result, most of the participants have mastered the process and techniques on commercial large-timber plantation, conversion of short-rotation timber plantations to large-timber plantations for some main tree species (Acacia, Eucalyptus…) and techniques for natural forest rehabilitation and enrichment.
Survey and assessment on sustainable forest management and forest certification:

In December 2017, FCPF-2 carried out a survey in some SFCs, PFMBs to develop a plan supporting them building sustainable forest management plans as well as achieving and maintaining forest certification. The preliminary results showed that most SFCs who manage plantations are capable of maintaining forest certification issued in 2014, 2015, 2016 until now. On the contrary, SFCs who manage mostly natural forests have many difficulties in implementing and maintaining sustainable forest management and forest certification due to natural forest closure policy.

Collaboration with other organizations and agencies:

- Collaborating with VNFOREST to organize a workshop on the implementation of Target Program on Sustainable Forestry Development and National REDD+ Action Program (NRAP); 02 consultation workshops with companies involved in wood harvesting, transportation, processing and trading on criteria for company classifications. The results from these workshops are important inputs for developing a Decree guiding the implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement VPA/FLEGT.

- Collaborating with and supporting Department of Entrepreneur Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to develop a Circular on financial regulations for forestry companies and one-member limited liability companies with 100% State-owned charter capital.

- Collaborating with Vietnam REDD+ Office to carry out activities on capacity building for members of Provincial REDD+ Steering Committees in the six NCC provinces.
Meeting of the Central Project Steering Committee:

On 10 January 2018, the Standing Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development cum Chairman of Steering Committee - Dr. Ha Cong Tuan chaired the Central Project Steering Committee meeting to evaluate the results of project implementation in 2017 and direct the tasks in 2018.

On the implementation results of the 2017 workplan: The Steering Committee highly appreciated the results achieved, the project direction and implementation of the CPMU and PPMUs. Although the project was not officially launched until the second quarter of 2017, some important results have been achieved and are the groundwork for the activities of the coming years.

On the proposed 2018 workplan: The plan should be open, flexible and in line with practical situations and special requirements in the field of REDD+. In order to finalize the 2018 work plan, the project CPMU should:

- Focus on supporting policy finalization after the new Forestry Law comes into effect. REDD+ activities should be closely linked to targets in the Target Program for Sustainable Forestry Development. The project should support legal document development for policies stipulated in the new Forestry Law as well as develop a Decree on REDD+ implementation. The project should also advise MARD on the issuance of carbon rights/emission reduction rights.

- In the 06 provinces, it is necessary to focus on supporting the establishment of pilots for forestry companies and forest management boards in localities to implement sustainable forest management linked to forest certification and timber traceability.

- Develop a plan for communications activities, linking REDD+ information dissemination with forest protection and sustainable management activities on TV stations, REDD+ campaigns; standardized documents (brochures, documentaries) on REDD+.
Finalization and presenting the Emission Reduction Program Document (ER-PD) of the North Central Coast Region

After receiving comments from TAP on the draft ER-PD version dated 02 October 2017, Vietnam revised and officially submitted it to the FMT of the World Bank on 11 November 2017. TAP highly appreciated the quality of the ER-PD based on the criteria in FCPF Methodological Framework.

At the 17th Carbon Fund Meeting (CF17) held in Paris from 30 January to 01 February 2018, the Vietnam delegation, led by the Standing Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Dr. Ha Cong Tuan, has successfully presented the ER-PD. Vietnam’s ER-PD was approved at Resolution CFM/17/2018/2.