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**DIEN BIEN PROVINCIAL
PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE**

**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence – Freedom – Happiness**

No.: 379/QĐ-UBND

Dien Bien, 26 May 2014

DECISION

**on the approval of Provincial REDD+ Action Plan of Dien Bien Province
for the period 2013-2020**

DIEN BIEN PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Law on Organizing People's Council and People's Committee dated 10 December 2003;

Pursuant to Law on Forest Protection and Development issued in 2004;

Pursuant to Decision No. 799/QĐ-TTg dated 27 June 2012 by Prime Minister on the approval of National Action Program on "Reduction of Green-house Gas Emissions through Efforts to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management, and Conservation and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks" for the period 2011 - 2020;

Pursuant to Decision No. 2117/QĐ-UBND dated 2 December 2009 by Dien Bien Provincial People's Committee on the approval of the Dien Bien provincial plan for forest protection and development for the period 2009-2020;

Pursuant to Decision No. 1764/QĐ-BNN-HTQT dated 27 June 2012 by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the approval of REDD+ Pilot Project in Dien Bien province;

Considering the recommendation by the Director of Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development,

DECIDES:

Article 1: Approval of Dien Bien Provincial REDD+ Action Plan for 2013-2020 (with the Plan attached) with the following details:

1. Goals

1.1. General goals

Contribute to the reduction of greenhouse emissions; contribute to the achievement of forest protection and development goals, increase of forest cover, conservation of biodiversity and improvement of villagers' life for sustainable forest management.

1.2. Specific goals

1.2.1. Period 2013-2015

- Annual net carbon stock increase of 40,641 ton of CO₂.

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- Increase of forest cover to 45% in 2015.
- Establishment of 6,555 ha of forests in two communes of Muong Phang and Muong Muon eligible for REDD+ implementation.
- Conservation of existing species of flora and fauna; prevention of biodiversity degradation in two REDD+ pilot communes.
- Organization of 13 trainings and study tours.

1.2.2. Period 2016-2020

- Annual net carbon stock increase of 376,650 ton of CO₂.
- Increase of forest cover to 50% in 2020.
- Establishment of 264,000 ha of forests eligible for REDD+ implementation.
- Conservation of existing species of flora and fauna; prevention of biodiversity degradation in the province.
- Organization of 420 trainings and study tours.

2. Task

2.1. Period 2013-2015

Undertake REDD+ implementation in 2 pilot communes: Muong Phang in Dien Bien District and Muong Muon in Muong Cha District and following tasks under PRAP:

- Structural arrangement, policies and safeguards
- Structural arrangement and strengthening for policy framework.
- Implementation of safeguard-related activities under PRAP
- Strengthening of forest protection, forest regeneration and afforestation activities.
- Strengthening of forest monitoring system.
- Formulation of financial management mechanisms applicable to REDD+ implementation.
- Organization of trainings for capacity building.

2.2. Period 2016-2020: Continue to undertake tasks for the period 2013-2015 (in view of results in REDD+ implementation obtained during 2013-2015), and replicate the REDD+ implementation to the whole province.

3. Solutions

3.1. Solutions for policies, implementation structure and safeguards

- Check and operate relevant policies for REDD+ implementation.
- Arrange the implementation structure for REDD+ implementation at different levels.
- Assess the implementation of safeguard-related activities under PRAP on the basis of 7 criteria specified in Cancun Agreement.

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3.2. *Solutions for formulation of forest protection, forest regeneration and afforestation models*

a) *Prioritized selection of communes for REDD+ implementation*

Communes with higher potential for REDD+ will be prioritized, from which obtained experience will be used as a basis for wider replication to other potential communes.

b) *Strengthening of forest protection, forest regeneration and afforestation*

- Continue to formulate and replicate forest sustainable management and development models in the province; simultaneously enhance legal education to raise awareness and sense of responsibility amongst government offices, forest owners, villagers and communities in forest protection and development.
- Select appropriate forests and forest lands for the design and application of well-developed silviculture activities.
- Strengthen the provision of training and technical guidance under each activity so that villagers and forest owners are able to understand and undertake the implementation as required.

c) *Land and forest allocation*

- Land and forest allocation has a decisive role to play in the release of PFES payment and clearance of forest ownership, which are critical for REDD+ implementation.
- Strengthen the guidance from and coordination between offices and consultants; strengthen capacity for government officers at district and commune levels in order for the land and forest allocation work to be carried out as the schedule in Plan 388/KH-UBND by Dien Bien PPC.

d) *Strengthened management of forest protection and management activities*

- Establish one Management Board for Forest Management and Livelihood Development in each participating village, specifying functions, responsibilities and the number of management board members. For villages, where there is an organization who in charge of forest management, give supplementary functions and members to the organization.
- Formulate a village-level charter for forest management for management and monitoring of forest protection and development.
- Formulate and implement the village-level forest management plan which includes direct participation of villagers and guidance by technical staff.

3.3. *Solutions for livelihood development support*

- Evaluate and select livelihood development activities which are appropriate with natural, social and economic conditions, villagers' interest and market demand; undertake risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis in activity selection.
- Integrate funding sources from different programs, project to make use of supported funding, create a momentum for economic development activities by villagers; simultaneously encourage villagers to take advantage of available resources in their local residence.
- Strengthen trainings, technical guidance for villagers in potential livelihood development activities; assess and learn lessons from the implementation.

3.4. *Strengthened management of special-use forests*

- Identify boundary and buffer zone of special use forests in the field, undertake benchmarking; implement supporting policies for buffer zone area.
- Enhance coordination between [SUF] management boards and commune authority, villages and local mass organizations; undertake propaganda to raise awareness of villagers who live close to SUF area.
- Train and foster to build management and technical capacity for [SUF] management board members to meet practical requirements.

3.5. *Encouragement of investment from enterprises*

- Speed up land and forest allocation/ leasing; encourage investors within or outside the province to invest in forestry development business, including afforestation activity for CO₂ absorption.
- Encourage, support investors to build forest products processing factories.
- Create favourable conditions for enterprises regarding funding, techniques and cooperation with villagers for afforestation projects for supplying materials.

3.6. *Operation of the forest monitoring system*

- Improve the existing forest monitoring system in the province in a way that accurate information on forest and forest land will be collected and be in line with the national forest monitoring system; identify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.
- Inventory, monitor forest resources change combined with land inventory; formulate a software-based standard database, frequently update the database for management of forest resources and apply advanced technology to enhance the quality of data.
- Strengthen training on forest monitoring for relevant people, including forest owners, so that they can provide data as required; purchase necessary equipment for forest monitoring.
- Assess the outcomes of forest monitoring, in terms of area and carbon stocks; frequently update, adjust and upgrade the provincial forest monitoring system to meet actual requirements and fit the national forest monitoring system.

3.7. *Solutions for funding sources*

- Integrate funding sources from relevant programs and projects to implement the Plan: Project for forest protection and development in districts, payment for environmental services, land and forest allocation, new rural development, poverty reduction program in northern mountainous provinces – phase II.
- Encourage investment from enterprises within and outside the province to plant tree for supplying materials.
- Attract support funding from other nations, international organization, foreign non-governmental organizations, foreign companies or individuals, organizations and individuals in and out of the province; establish REDD+ fund to receive funding and pay for REDD+ activities; formulate a transparent REDD+ benefit distribution system.

3.8. Training

- Undertake surveys, assessment to identify current capacity and training needs.
- Formulate training plan and organize training and capacity building on REDD+ for officers at provincial, district, commune and village levels, which aims to create a group of trainers who will subsequently train other officers and villagers.
- Formulation and implementation of the training plan should be suitable with available resources, time; training needs must be linked to REDD+ activities.

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Article 2: Implementation

1. Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

- Provincial DARD is the standing body with the responsibility of leading and coordinating with other provincial departments and relevant offices in publicizing and implementing REDD+ Action Plan in the province.
- Advise Dien Bien PPC on the addition of REDD+ related functions and responsibilities to Steering Committee on Provincial Forest Protection and Development Plan for 2011-2020 (Provincial Steering Committee on REDD+) for the implementation of PRAP during 2013-2020; advise on the establishment of a task force with representatives from Provincial DARD, DONRE, Department of Planning and Investment, Department of Finance, Department of Science and Technology; advise Dien Bien PPC on the establishment of a provincial REDD+ fund, promulgate a charter for the organization and operation of the REDD+ fund in accordance with Vietnamese laws and regulations.
- Direct the arrangement of policies and administrative mechanisms, formulate guidelines for the implementation of the Plan; submit these guidelines to Dien Bien PPC for approval and promulgation, or promulgate policies or guidelines under DARD's authority;
- Formulate annual implementation plans and organize the implementation of Provincial REDD+ Action Plan; improve and operate the forest monitoring system for REDD+ implementation;
- Lead and coordinate with Provincial DONRE to check and adjust FREL/FRL (if necessary).
- Annually, coordinate with other provincial departments and relevant offices to check and document budget needs to be integrated in the implementation of PRAP;
- Undertake periodical assessment of the PRAP implementation and report the implementation progress to PPC and MARD as regulated; propose suggestions for any issues arising during the implementation.

2. Provincial Department of Planning and Investment

Lead and coordinate with Department of Finance, DARD to balance and allocate state budget and other funding resources to programs/projects/plans of forest protection and development,

socio-economic development related to REDD+, targeting the successful implementation of PRAP; integrate the PRAP implementation with other relevant programs, projects in the province; formulate mechanisms, policies for PRAP management and implementation.

3. Provincial Department of Finance

- Be eligible for monitoring spending for PRAP implementation.
- Coordinate with DARD to formulate financial management mechanisms and policies for PRAP implementation; formulate guidelines for management and use of REDD+ funds at all levels and monitor stakeholders to ensure their compliance to guidelines for management of REDD+ funds.

4. Provincial Department of Natural Resources and Environment

- Lead and coordinate with Provincial DARD to advise Dien Bien PPC on directing People's Committee at district, town and municipal levels to check and finalize procedures for land and forest allocation and issuance of forest land rights use certificates in accordance with Plan 388/KH-UBND dated 20 February 2013 by Dien Bien PPC; integrate REDD+ implementation in land use planning at different levels.
- Coordinate with Provincial DARD to check and adjust forest reference emission levels (FRELs) and forest reference levels (FRLs); assess the reduction in emission level following the PRAP implementation.

5. Provincial departments, offices and mass organizations

Depending on functions, responsibilities of each organization, and tasks under PRAP, undertake propaganda and other relevant REDD+ activities in the province.

6. People's Committee at district, town and city levels

- Undertake propaganda and other relevant REDD+ activities under PRAP; direct, guide and check the development and implementation of commune-level REDD+ Action Plan under the general guidance of Provincial DARD.
- Proactively mobilize other resources to be integrated with other programs, projects in the province to ensure that goals under PRAP will be achieved.
- Ensure the compliance to monitoring and assessment principles as stipulated in PRAP.
- Undertake periodical assessment of the PRAP implementation and report the implementation progress to Provincial DARD.

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Article 3. The Decision comes into effect since the date of signature; Chief of Dien Bien PPC Secretariat, Directors of Provincial Departments, offices and mass organizations; Chairmen of People's Committees at district, town and municipal levels and leaders or relevant offices take the responsibility to implement this Decision./.

<p>Recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- As in Article 3;- MARD (reporting);- Provincial Standing Committee (reporting);- Provincial Standing People's Council;- Leaders of Dien Bien PPC;- Leaders of offices;- File.	<p>ON BEHALF OF DIEN BIEN PPC</p> <p>FOR CHAIRMAN</p> <p>VICE CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Lo Van Tien</p> <p>(signed and sealed)</p>
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