

TUYÊN QUANG Tuyên Quang province has implemented robust mechanisms and policies to effectively harness the potential of its forests. These initiatives have garnered strong support from the local community, leading to improved forest management, protection and development.

As a result, forest growers' livelihoods have been enhanced, and their bond with the forests strengthened. This integration of forestry development with other economic sectors has bolstered the province's socio-economic progress.

With 448,000ha of forestry land, constituting 76 per cent of it Tuyên Quang ranks third nationally in forest coverage, at over strategies such as forest allocation, the adoption of technology and heightened awareness campaigns against illegal logging instrumental in promoting sustainable forest management.

Effectiveness of forest allocation



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decree which links forest protection and development with sustainable poverty reduction policies.

From 2016 to 2020, over 85,000ha of natural and protective forests were allocated to 4,104 households of ethnic minorities, with a total support fund exceeding VNĐ132 billion (US\$5.2 million). This policy has curbed forest violations, raised awareness and responsibility on forest protection, and provided additional income for locals.

Some success stories linked to this decree include Đặng Hữu ethnic group in Chạp village, Trung Sơn Commune, Yên Sơn [

Minh has actively participated in forest protection allocation. He and his fellow allocated households have formed patrols in the forest. Minh patrols the forest two to three times per week using his knowledge of the area to navigate and assess its condition.

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abundant valuable plant species like agarwood, rattan and Dalbergia ('orifer).

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Hoàng also added that forest protection efforts have ensured secure water sources for local activities and agricultural production, replacing the need for pumping water from the river.

According to Châu Xuân Chức, Chief of Kim Quan Forest Ranger Station of Yên Sơn Forest Ranger Unit, his station manages over 5,250ha of forest in Trung Sơn and Kim Quan Communes, Yên Sơn District, as well as overseeing 914ha of allocated forest protection areas involving 251 households. They heightened local responsibility, turning residents into vital information collaborators with forest ranger forces, leading to effective prevention of forest fires or illegal logging incidents recorded in recent years.



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Forest protection in the new era

To improve management efficiency and effectively monitor forest resources, Tuyên Quang Province's forest ranger forces have embraced information technology

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Triệu Đăng Khoa, Deputy Chief of the Provincial Forest Protection Department, explained that forest ranger units are utilising software like Locus Map and remote sensing technology for forest management and protection. These applications, integrated into tablets and smartphones, offer features like measurement, field inspection support, and forest status updates, aiding officials in detecting abnormal changes and updating forest resource data accurately.

The Cham Chu Special-Use Forest, spanning nearly 15,000ha across 83 hamlets and villages in five communes, is difficult to continually monitor due to its vast size. According to Nông Giang Nam, Deputy Chief of the Forest Resource Department, although his unit has 26 forest rangers and officials, it is not enough.

Since 2013, the adoption of Locus Map software has greatly improved the monitoring of forest changes for the unit. This application offers features like recording user positions, sub-compartment boundaries, and coordinates for photography and filming, essentially transforming phones into GPS devices. It continuously updates specific information, such as location, forest type and contact details of



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