

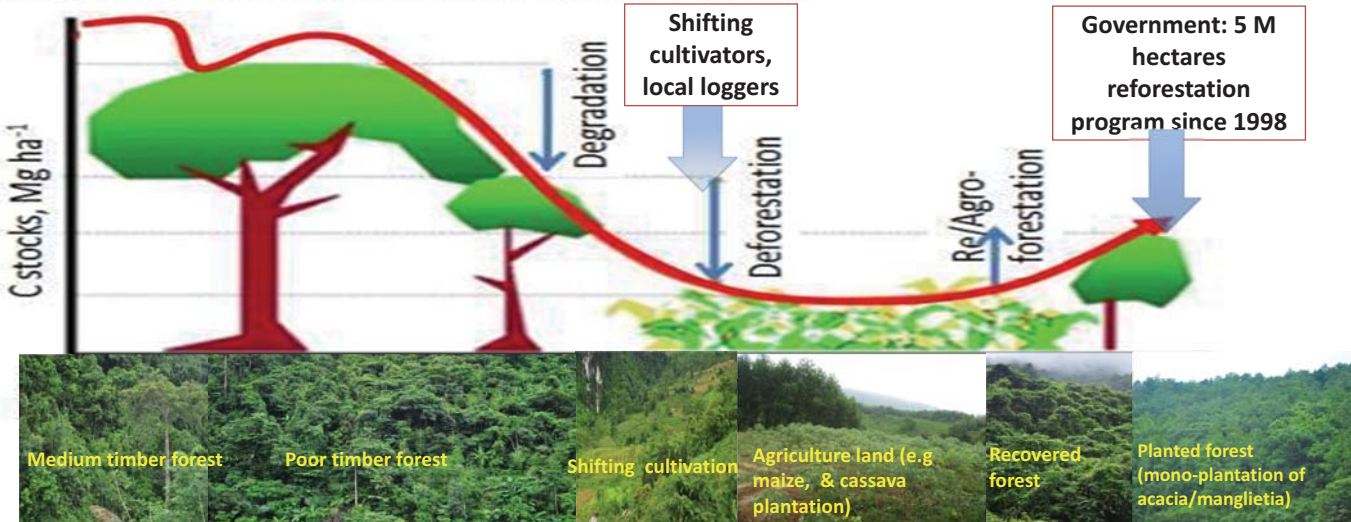


Who is planting or removing trees?



Landscape features	Bac Kan	Vietnam
Total land area (ha)	~ 486,000	~ 33,000,000
Population density (people /sq. km)	61	280
Forest cover (%)	56.6	39.1
Poverty rate (% of households)	37.0	13.4
Ethnicity (% of ethnic minorities)	86.7	13
Contr. of Agric & Forest. to GDP (%)	41.08	21.60

Forest & tree cover transition



ISSUES

- Conflict between local livelihoods and top-down forest conservation
- Unsustainable land use practices such as shifting cultivation
- Unclear forest land tenure

Land tenure status



- Since early 1990s, forest tenure reforms have progressed towards devolution of forest management and tenure allocation
- Today, about 60% of forest land has been allocated to households. However, forest law enforcement was weak → forest degradation
- Nearly 30% of forest has no "no user/owner", since the National forest plantation program stopped in 2010

Land use/tenant	Challenges
Forest land allocated to individual households (60% of forest land area)	The lands are fragmented into small species (average size forest land area managed by individual households is between 1 to 2 ha, where the limitation set by Government regulations is 30ha/household).
Forest land managed by State actors (PAMBs, PFMBs, SFEs): 2.4% of forest land area	The State actors are less effective in forest protection and management. Challenges to REDD+/REALU incentives will be: (1) renovation of forest management modalities of such actors (e.g. engagement of local communities into forest management), and (2) prevention of rent-seeking of such actors in the BDS system (e.g. REALU payment creates an adverse incentive to slow forest allocation to local communities)
Forest land managed by the community (in community forestry) (0.2% of forest land area)	Village communities can receive forest land under the Forest Protection and Development Law issued in 2004, but they are not recognized as legal entities under the Civil Code issued in 2005. This lack of legal recognition constraints the ability of communities to hold bank accounts and to or engage in contractual arrangements with non-state actors.
Forest land without tenant (28.5% of total forest land)	This land area is mostly regenerated forest and has a large potential for generating carbon credits. However, being under "non-ownership" status prevents it from being covered by REDD+/REALU incentives.
Permanent shifting cultivation plots (about 17,000 inside forest area), unclear tenant	In reality, tenure over the shifting cultivation land plots is unclear and perceived differently by different stakeholder groups. Farmers tend to see these patches as their agriculture land and want recognition. Local authorities tend to see them as forests (usually State forests), but also have had to accept these as de facto, and in many places, giving up exercising forest management measures on these lands. As a consequence, this type of land use practice caused conflicts between its legal users and people exercising shifting cultivation.

