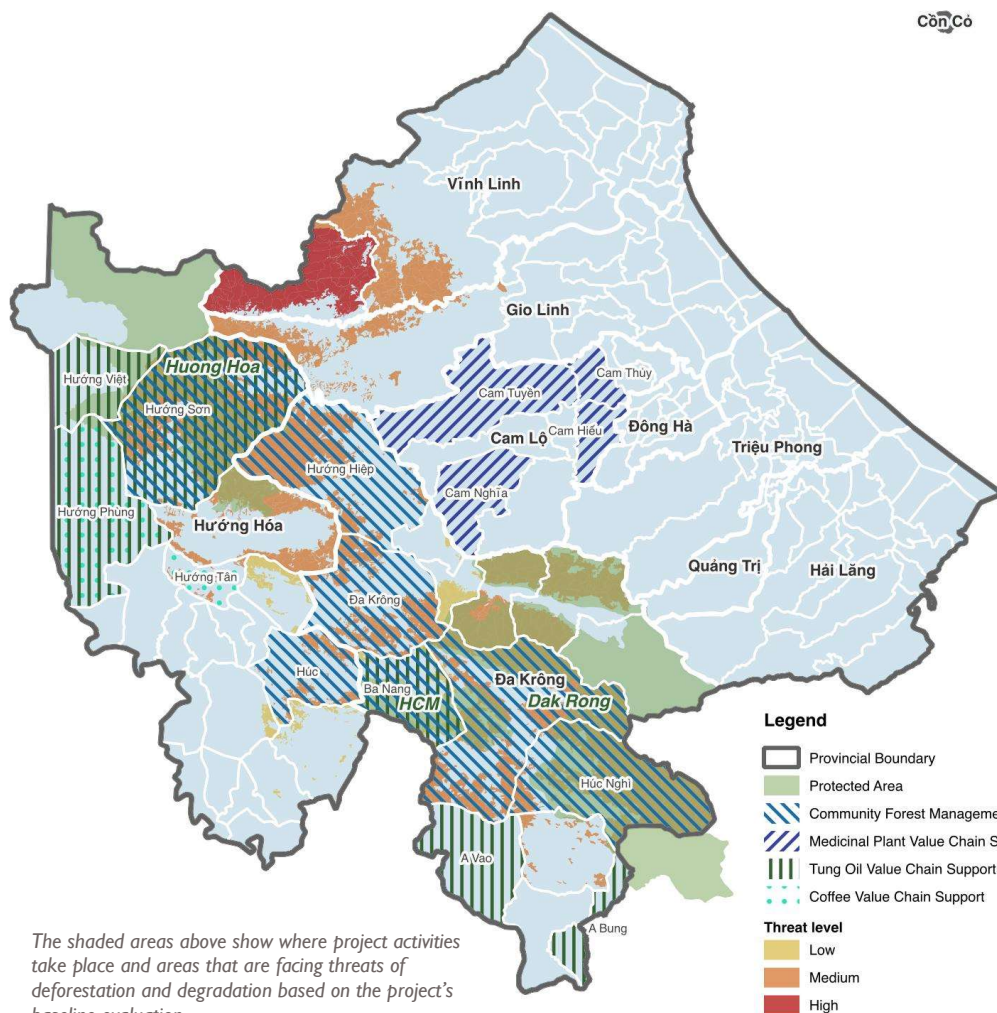


2023 PROVINCIAL PROFILE: QUANG TRI



Key provincial facts

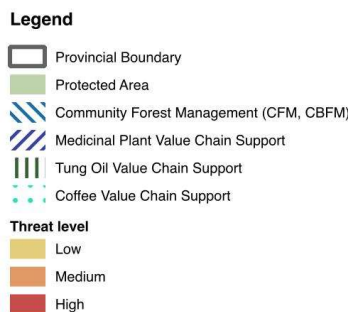
Total population: 649,708 people, including the following ethnic minorities: Van Kieu and Paco.

Total forest area: 248,122 ha, of which 126,692 ha is natural forest and 121,429 ha is plantation forest.

Forest coverage: 49.9 percent

Value chains the Project supports: medicinal plants, arabica coffee, and Tung oil.

The shaded areas above show where project activities take place and areas that are facing threats of deforestation and degradation based on the project's baseline evaluation.



Summary of Progress to Date in the Province

The numbers below represent verified accomplishments through FY 23.



5,816 ha. of forest areas under improved management



215,042 tons of CO₂ emissions reduced



\$10,220,665 committed towards conservation-friendly enterprises



8 conservation-friendly enterprises supported



1,034 people supported to adapt to climate change



1,765 people who receive livelihood benefits



10 institutions with improved capacity



8 laws, policies, plans, regulations, or standards developed



837 people using climate information or are implementing risk-reducing actions to adapt to climate change

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN QUANG TRI

Quang Tri province is a coastal province in the North Central region of Vietnam—a significant part of the East-West Economic Corridor connecting Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar via the ‘Lao Bao’ international border gate to ports in the central region. Quang Tri was one of the provinces most impacted by war destruction and has suffered from slash-and-burn cultivation for many years, especially in forests already degraded by chemical toxins. Therefore, the natural forest ecosystem is degraded, the area of natural forest reserve has been reduced, and forest quality is poor. Effective measures are needed to strengthen forest management and protection, and to restore natural forests. In 2023, the USAID Sustainable Forest Management Project (the Project) made progress on its 85 sustainable forestry activities in Quang Tri. The Project’s biggest achievements in the province were: developing a Community Forest Management (CFM) Plan for 212 households of Gia Gia village that jointly manage 1,614 hectares (ha) of natural forest; improving and systematizing cooperative forest protection and forest fire control at community forest management sites between 11 communities (1,234 households) to manage and protect 4,164 ha of natural forest; and lastly, supporting seven conservation friendly enterprises (CFEs) in the medicinal plants, coffee, and acacia value chains to jointly benefit 1,765 people and mobilize nearly USD 10 million towards sustainable forest value chains.

REDUCING EMISSIONS THROUGH MORE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF HARVEST RESIDUE IN ACACIA PLANTATIONS: Quang Tri currently has 121,420 ha of planted forests (nearly 49% of the province’s total forested land area) of which 85,406 ha (70%) is planted production forests. The majority of these planted production forest owners (64%) are individuals and households. Currently, about 7,000 ha of production forests are planted annually in the province, mainly with the use of hybrid acacia planting material. In Vietnam in general, and in Quang Tri particularly, acacia plantation owners traditionally burn harvest residue—such as stumps, leaves, and bark—to prepare the ground for new planting. This causes air pollution, soil fragmentation, biodiversity loss, and CO₂ emissions. It can even lead to nearby forest fires. In Quang Tri, the Project launched a study on forest certification and management of harvest residue for acacia plantations that demonstrated the costs and benefits of different harvest residue approaches. As a result of this targeted intervention, 2,000 ha of acacia plantation in four districts of Quang Tri province will apply non-burning residue practices, which are proven to be more environmentally friendly. Secondary data shows that one hectare of acacia plantation (aged six years) will produce 32.4 tons of dried harvest residue, equivalent to 55.8 tons of CO₂. The Project will contribute to reducing 5.5 -7.8 million tons of CO₂ per year by promoting non-burning practices across 110,000 ha/year in Project areas.

Promoting non-burning practices on acacia plantation for better environmental outcomes

In 2023, the Project supported the Quang Tri Association Smallholder Forest Certification Groups (ASFCG) to help smallholder forest owners participate in more than 500 ha of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification and to apply environmentally friendly practices, such as non-burning after harvesting the acacia forest. With the Project’s support, more than 536 ha of 85 afforestation households were evaluated and granted FSC certification in November 2023. This area will strictly follow the requirements of FSC standards, to ensure sustainable use and forest protection. The Project also provided 150,000 high-quality acacia material plants to 20 households affiliated with the Keo Son Cooperative for use on 75 ha of newly planted acacia. Participating households applied non-burning practices to harvest residue of acacia, which is better for the environment and better for tree and soil health. The Project estimates that, over this area, an estimated 34,000 tons of CO₂ emissions will be reduced, contributing to the Project’s, USAID’s, and Vietnam’s reduced emissions targets.

“The time investment and costs for both burning and non-burning models of harvest residue treatment are the same, but harvesting productivity in non-burn areas is higher, resulting in about 20-30 tons of timber. Keeping or double slashing harvest residue is the most environmentally friendly practice that is considered in forest certification auditing procedures.”

- Mr. Nguyen Van Luc, Head of Thuy Dong Cooperative-Forest Certification Unit of Cam Lo district, Quang Tri province



Non-burning acacia planting area of Mr. Le Hai Binh in Cam Nghia commune, Cam Lo district, Quang Tri. Photo credit: Phong Le