DECISION No. 175/1998/QD/BNN/KHCN
PROMULGATING THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE TECHNICAL PROCEDURES ON NATURAL FOREST REGENERATION AND ADDITIONAL PLANTING
(QPN 21-98)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT


2. Pursuant to the regulations on standardization promulgated along with the Decree 41/HDBT dated 24th August 1998 of the former Council of Ministers which is now called the Government.

3. At the proposal of the Director of the Department for Science Technology and Product Quality and the Director of the Department for Forestry Development.

DECIDES

Article 1. To promulgate the General Outline of Technical Procedures on Natural Forest Regeneration and Additional planting attached to this decision (QPN 21-98).

Article 2. This General Outline is applied for all forestry production units and takes effect 15 days after its signing. The earlier regulations, technical guidance in relation to this field which are contrary to this General Outline are annulled.
Article 3. The Chief Administrator, Directors of Departments, Institutes, Schools, Colleges, Boards directly under management of the Ministry, Directors of Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in provinces, of Forest Business and Production Enterprises and Units shall have to implement this Decision.

FOR THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
VICE MINISTER

Nguyen Van Dang (signed)

General outline of technical procedures on forest restoration by promoting natural regeneration combined with additional planting

(Issued together with Decision No 175/1998/QD/BNN/KHCN date 4th November 1998 by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Chapter I
GENERAL

Article 1: This document regulates the targets of the technical intervention measures for forest restoration through promoting natural regeneration and the organisational arrangements for the implementation.

Article 2: Forest restoration through promoting natural regeneration in this document is interpreted as a measure which makes the full use of the regeneration potential and the natural development of the forest for restoration through protection, simple silvicultural measures and additional planting where is necessary.

Article 3: This Technical Outline is applied for three types of forest production, protection, and special use forest.

Article 4: This Technical Outline is a legal text for reference for formulating any technical procedures, economic - technical norms and management of the forest restoration process.

Article 5: Restoration is applied only in places where:

- Land use planning for forest establishment approved by the competent state body is available.
- Forest land has real owner (organisations, collective bodies households and individuals).

Chapter II
TARGETS FOR FOREST RESTORATION - TIME FRAME - CRITERIA FOR RESTORED FORESTS

Article 6: Restoration through protection and natural regeneration and additional planting shall be applied to non-forested areas where natural restoration processes and natural conditions can help establishing vegetation formation that can meet the social - economic and environmental conditions in a certain period. In particular it shall be applied to the following:
1. Forest stands after exhausted exploitation.

2. Forest fallow after swidden cultivation.

3. Areas overed by shrubs or woody Savannah where soil depth more than 30 cm.

These three categories should have 1 of the following conditions:

a. Having regenerated young trees with at least 300 trees/ha with a height of more than 50 cm.

b. Having mother stem possibly supply 150 coppices/ha equally distributed.

c. Having mother trees providing seeds with a density of 25 trees/ha equally distributed; or from neighbouring forests.

4. Bamboo forest stands after shifting cultivation with a coverage of more than 20% the total area, equally distributed.

5. Particularly for the protection forest, in the crucial and very crucial protection areas, remote areas where afforestation is not possible in next 10 years, besides the above mentioned targets, the areas potentially regenerated into a vegetation formation with shrub or grass higher than 1 m will also be put into restoration, additional planting the industry crops, fruit trees, non wood species which have canopy as forest trees will be encouraged.

Article 7: Time frame restoration and criteria for restored forests.

1. For protection and special-use forests

   The time frame will be from 4 - 6 years.

   For criteria No. 1, 2, 3 above - mentioned in article 6 forest canopy after restoration should be 0.6 with shrub vegetation at the ground.

   For No 4 in article 6 the restored forest should have a vegetation of more than 80%

   For No 5 and 6 in article 6 the restored forest should have a shrub vegetation of more than 80% with a height of more than 1m.

2. For the production forest

   The time frame is from 5-8 years.

   For 1, 2, 3 in the Article 6, the restored forest shot have at least 500 target trees/ha, relatively equally distributed with an average height of 4m and the minimum forest canopy of 0.5 ha.

   For No 4 in the Article 6 the restored forest should have bamboo forest coverage at least 80% which of 25% bamboo stands can be harvested.

Article 8: After checking, these criteria in Article 7, are met, the forest will be managed, followed the provisions of the technical procedures on management protection forests in watershed areas No 134/QD/KT dated 4th April 1991 QPN 13-91 and General outline of Technical procedures in use in silvicultural operations for the production of wood timber and bamboo goods issued with Decision No 200/QDDK dated 31st March 1992 (QPN 14 - 92), Regulation on management of special-use forest No.1171 dated 30 December 1986 by the former Ministry of Forestry now is Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Chapter III

DESIGNING WORK

Article 9: Preparation
- Maps and necessary design tools
- Documents related to land-use planning at communal level
- Other concerning social-economic information.

**Article 10: Field work**

- Collect relevant data on soil, vegetation and regeneration potential of mother trees and a number of regenerating trees of various tree species.
- Identify the targets are taken place as defined in Article 6
- Identify area and plot boundaries, make sight in the filed

**Article 11: Office work**

- Designing map: 1/5.000 or 1/10.000 with local name, area, and technical measures.
- Determination of silvicultural measures and management & protection measures.
- Determination of proper duration of technical intervention
- Estimation of cost for 1 ha and 1 plot

**Article 12: Profile establishment**

The profile comprises:

- Justification document with activities mentioned in Article 11
- Designing map and relevant tables and figures
- Approved documents according to prevailing legislation

**Chapter IV**

**TECHNICAL MEASURES AND SILVICUTURAL OPERATIONS**

**Article 13: Low level of technical intervention:** Protection is the main activity including:

- Free cattle grazing is not allowed in protected areas.
- For the tire sensible forest, forest fire-control measures should be taken according to the Technical Procedures on forest fire control for pines and other sensible forest species issued with Decision No 801 QD dated 26th September 1996 (QPN 8-86).
- Cutting the regenerating target trees is forbidden.
- The cutting of non-desirable trees and non forest Products is allowed under technical guidelines of the local forestry technicians.
- Planting the industry crops, fruit trees, non-wood species which have canopy as forestry species by local fart are possible, if farmers have funds or credits.

**Article 14: High level of technical intervention.**

Besides the technical measures mentioned in Article 13 and depending on the types of forest and the social economic situations, the following measures can be applied.

1. Removal of lianas, shrubs, and treat the soil to facilitate the development of the target trees over the influence of higher shrub and grass.
2. Pilling up soil by trips or parcel for keeping seeds and facilitating the germination of the seeds (not applied to the areas where 500 of regenerating trees/ha are available.

3. Adjusting the density of the target species trees by thinning or planting.

4. Additionally sowing seeds or planting of target tree species in large open areas over 1000 m² which have no mother trees in surrounding areas.

5. Trimming the stumps and tendering coppices: Depending on the species the height of stumps are different it is necessary to trim the stumps, to make their ace smooth and slightly sloping for easier run off water. For the production forest, removal is done with bad stems, varying according to trees species, maximally 3 coppice are kept.

6. Pilling up soil around stumps on which the promising copping stems are growing and newly planting trees can be come 1-2 times per year for 2-3rd years.

7. Removing poor, diseased stems and non-target trees. For too density stands thinning should be done.

8. For bamboo forests:
   - Collecting bamboo shoots within restoration period is not allowed.
   - Cut and make use of all the diseased, broken, topless bamboo trees.

**Article 15:** Application of technical measures at different levels.

Depending on forest functions and production conditions, technical measures at different levels are applied as follows:

1. **Protection forest**

Very crucial and crucial protection forest: Article 13 is applied. In special areas having resources can apply selected measures in Article 14.

2. **Special use forest**

   a. Strictly protected area: Technical intervention No 1,2,3 mentioned in Article 13 are applied.

   b. Area need to be ecologically restored: Technical intervention No 1,2,3 mentioned in Article 13 and selective measures of Article 14 are applied.

   c. Buffer zone: Article 13 and selective measures of Article 14 are applied.

3. **Production forest and Less crucial protection forest:**

   Article 13 and selective measures of Article 14 are applied (determined by forest owner).

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**Chapter V**

**INVESTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**Article 16:** Capital

1. Forest protection forests and special-use forests the capital is provided from State budget according approved annual plan and or project proposal.

2. For production forests the capital is determined by forest owner.
Article 17: Investment

Investment covers cost for:

- Survey, design and make profile for forest land allocation.
- Labour compensation for protection of restoration forest. (technical intervention at low level)
- Labour compensation and other cost for the implementation of respective technical measures for the restoration forest (technical intervention at high level)
- Monitoring, evaluating and management costs.

The investment should be adjusted to be appropriate to specific areas and forest types.

Article 18: Allocation procedures.

1. For protection and special-use forests
   a. Allocating party: Management boards and project directorates of the protection and special use forest who are capable to implement the forest restoration.
   b. Receiving party: includes requesting organisations, communities, groups of households, households and individuals.
   c. Scope of the allocation: is determined by forest capital, socio-economic conditions of each area.
   d. The minimum area for a restoration area is 5 ha which needs to be concentrate and continues.
   e. When allocating, a full profile of design, map, contract made by both allocating and professional force should be available.

2. For protection forests: allocating procedures are determined by forest owner

Article 19: Responsibilities and benefits

1. Allocating party
   a. Responsibilities:
      - Fully implement the provisions committed in the contract.
      - Fully implement preparation activities mentioned in chapter V.
      - Transfer necessary silvicultural techniques to the receiving party.
      - Regularly conduct monitoring as regulated by the contract.
      - Manage and control harvesting non-timber products from forests during the restoration period and manage, monitor timber, non-timber exploitation from restored forests.

   Benefits
      - The restored forest belong to the allocation party.

2. Receiving party

   Responsibilities
      - Fully implement the provisions committed in the contract.
      - Collect fuel wood, get all products such as industry crops, fruit trees, non-wood products from additional plan during contracting period.
      - Enjoy all the products of thinning and non-timber forest products in case of receiving a contract of restoration combined with additional planting of protection forest

3. Contracting commitment.
Compensation on all the damages caused by violating the contract accordance with current laws is requested for both parties.

**Article 20:** Checking and payment

1. The forest owner organise checking and payment annually according to the State current regulations.

2. Before finishing the contract for forest restoration the forest owner organise final check and complete its transferring procedures to State forest estate according to the current regulations.

Chapter VI

**EXECUTIVE CLAUSES**

**Article 21:** The State management organisations over forestry, production and commercial units including enterprises, collective bodies, households and individuals who are involved in restoration by regeneration shall gave to follow this technical outline.

**Article 22:** Any agencies, enterprises, and individuals breaking the provisions set out in this Outline shall be subjected to legal examination for their acts.

**Article 23:** The local authorities, based upon the provisions set out in this Outline will elaborate specific technical procedures suitable to the objective of their production activities and the local social and economic conditions of the area. The technical procedures thus established should be approved by the immediate higher component authorities, and before issuance should be communicated to the MARD for final approval. After issuance the said technical procedure should be registered in due form at the MARD (The Department of Science & Technology and Product Quality).

**Article 24:** The Department of Science & Technology and Product Quality, the Department for Forestry Development, the Forest Protection Department, MARD shall issues instructions, direct the implementation and carry out audits to make this Outline effective.

FOR THE MINISTER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

VICE MINISTER

Nguyen Van Dang