

No: 25/QĐ-HĐQTCSVN

*Ho Chi Minh City, 19 February 2021*

**DECISION**

**Issuing the Regulation on Prohibiting the Exploitation of Forest  
Fauna and Flora; Forest Fire Fighting and Prevention in the Areas of  
Rubber Development Projects of Viet Nam Rubber Group**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
VIET NAM RUBBER GROUP - JOINT STOCK COMPANY**

*Pursuant to the Enterprise Law;*

*Pursuant to the Charter of Organization and Operation of Viet Nam Rubber  
Group – Joint Stock Company;*

*Pursuant to the Resolution No. 16/NQ-HĐQTCSVN dated 18 October 2018 of the  
Board of Directors of Viet Nam Rubber Group - Joint Stock Company on Sustainable  
Development Enterprise;*

*Pursuant to the Decision No.82/QĐ-HĐQTCSVN dated 16 April 2019 of the  
Board of Directors of Viet Nam Rubber Group - Joint Stock Company on the issuance of  
Sustainable Development Program for the period of 2019 – 2024;*

*Considering the Proposal Letter No.325/TTr-CSVN dated 18 February 2021 of  
the Director General of Viet Nam Rubber Group – Joint Stock Company on the issuance  
of the Regulation on Prohibiting the Exploitation of Forest Fauna and Flora and Forest  
Fire Fighting and Prevention in the Areas of Rubber Development Projects of Viet Nam  
Rubber Group – Joint Stock Company.*

**HEREBY DECIDES:**

**Article 1.** Issuing with this Decision the Regulation on Prohibiting the  
Exploitation of Forest Fauna and Flora and Forest Fire Fighting and Prevention in the  
Areas of Rubber Development Projects of Viet Nam Rubber Group – Joint Stock  
Company (hereafter referred to as Viet Nam Rubber Group or VRG)

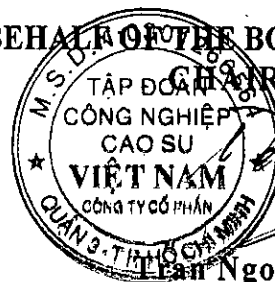
**Article 2.** This Decision is effective from the date of signing.

**Article 3.** Board of Directors, Executive Management Board, Office Manager at  
VRG, Steering Committee for Sustainable Development at VRG, Steering Committee  
for rubber development in Laos and Cambodia, project investors, VRG's Representative  
Offices in Laos and Cambodia, VRG's departments and VRG's members are responsible  
for implementing this Decision from the date of signing./.

**Recipients:**

- As in Article 3;
- VRG Supervisory Board;
- Stored at VRG Administration  
Department, Steering Committee  
for Sustainable Development.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**Trần Ngọc Thuận**



*Ho Chi Minh City, 19 February 2021*

## REGULATION

**On Prohibiting the Exploitation of Forest Fauna and Flora; Forest Fire Fighting and Prevention in the Areas of Rubber Development Projects of Viet Nam Rubber Group**  
*(Issued enclosed to the Decision No. 25/QĐ-HDQTCSVN dated 19 February 2021)*

### CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Article 1. Scope of Governance and Subjects of Application

1. Scope of Governance: This Regulation is to prohibit the exploitation of forest fauna and flora and regulates forest fire fighting and prevention in the areas of rubber development projects of Viet Nam Rubber Group.

2. Subjects of Application: VRG's members, investors, organizations, households of workers, and individuals working in project areas whereby exists activities related to rubber development projects of Viet Nam Rubber Group.

#### Article 2. Definition

1. 'Forest fauna and flora' means forest plant and animal species of economic, scientific and environmental value which are on the lists of forest fauna and flora prescribed by the State and Government of the host country where VRG's rubber development projects are located.

2. 'Forest' means an ecological system consisting of the populations of forest fauna and flora, fungi, forest microorganisms, forest land and other environmental factors.

3. 'Natural forest' means a forest that exists in nature or is restored by natural regeneration or regeneration with additional afforestation.

4. 'Planted forest' means a forest that is newly planted on non-forested land or replanted by human or regenerated after harvesting of planted forest.

5. 'Holy forest' is a forest that is associated with beliefs or customs of local residential community.

6. 'Forest owner' is an organization, household, individual or residential community that is allocated or leased out a forest by the local State; allocated or leased out land for afforestation, forest regeneration or development; receives transfer of the forest, receives the forest as a gift or inherits the forest according to the local laws.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**

#### **Article 3. Protection of forest fauna and flora**

1. Organizations, households and individuals working in the project areas, when carrying out production activities, construction works, and other activities in the project areas containing forest fauna and flora, must implement the regulations of competent local authorities and local legislations on forest protection and development and environmental protection.

#### **Article 4. Prohibited acts**

1. Illegal felling, deforesting, exploiting, encroaching forests;
2. Infringement of 'holy forest' which is forest associated with beliefs or customs of local residential communities;
3. Discharging sewage or bringing toxic chemicals, explosives, flammable substances, tools and means into forests in contravention of local law provisions;
4. Breeding, grazing and releasing cattle and livestock into the forest in contravention of local law provisions;
5. Illegal hunting, shooting, catching, caging, slaughtering, stockpiling, transporting, trading, using forest animals; collecting specimens of forest flora and fauna in contravention of local law provisions;
6. Destroying forest resources, forest ecosystems, forest protection and development works;
7. Violating regulations on forest fire fighting and prevention;
8. Violating regulations on prevention and elimination of harmful organisms to forests; management of harmful invasive alien species;
9. Stockpiling, buying, selling, transporting, processing, using, advertising, displaying, exporting, importing, temporarily importing, re-exporting, temporarily exporting, re-importing or transiting forest products in contravention of local law provisions and international treaties to which Viet Nam and the host countries in the project areas are members;
10. Exploiting natural resources, mineral resources, forest environment in contravention of local law provisions;
11. Building, digging, damming, stopping natural flow and other activities against local law provisions that alter the natural landscape structure of the forest ecosystem;
12. Illegal exploiting and transporting forest products against the local law provisions;
13. Using materials in forest product processing against local law provisions.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **FOREST PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITY**

#### **Article 5. Forest protection responsibility**

1. Organizations, households of workers and individuals working in the project areas take responsibility in forest protection as follows:

- Strictly complying with regulations on forest protection in accordance with regulations and legislation on fire fighting and prevention.
- Strictly complying with regulations on forest protection in accordance with regulations and legislation on plant protection and quarantine.
- Strictly complying with regulations on forest protection in accordance with veterinary regulations and laws.
- Strictly complying with regulations on forest protection in accordance with relevant local laws.

2. Organizations, households of workers and individuals working in the project areas take responsibility in:

- Complying with regulations on forest protection;
- Promptly notifying competent local state agency or the forest owner of forest fire;
- Promptly notifying competent local state agency or the forest owner of harmful organisms to the forest;
- Promptly notifying competent local state agency or the forest owner of any violations of the regulations on forest management and protection;
- Abiding by the mobilization of manpower and means as required by competent local state agency in the event of forest fires.

#### **Article 6. Forest protection responsibility at all levels**

1. Steering Committee for Sustainable Development at VRG takes responsibility in:

- a) Issuing documents under its authority on forest management, forest protection/prohibition on the exploitation of forest fauna and flora within VRG;
- b) The propagation, dissemination and education of forest protection and development legislation.

2. Technical Management Department at VRG takes responsibility in:

- a) Organizing, directing the implementation of forest fire fighting and prevention, prevention of harmful organisms to forests in the local site; directing the implementation and inspection of natural forest and production forest protection;

b) Providing guidance on forest fire protection and fighting; remediation solutions after forest fire.

3. VRG members take responsibility in:

a) Guiding and directing the implementation of laws, policies and regimes of the local State on forest management, protection and forest exploitation within the project areas;

b) Directing and organizing the propagation, dissemination and education of forest protection and development legislation;

c) Directing VRG members and affiliates in taking forest protection measures in compliance with relevant laws and VRG's guidelines;

d) Coordinating when mobilized to prevent acts causing damages to forest, taking part in forest fire fighting and prevention, preventing harmful organisms to forests;

e) Inspecting compliance with the laws, policies and regimes on forest management and protection of organizations, households, workers and individuals within the project areas.

## **CHAPTER IV FOREST FIRE FIGHTING AND PREVENTION**

### **Article 7. General provisions in forest fire fighting and prevention (FFFP)**

1. VRG members, investors of rubber development projects of Viet Nam Rubber Group must develop plans for forest fire fighting and prevention in the dry season in accordance with the characteristics, circumstances, capabilities, and resources for effective forest fire fighting and prevention and implement forest fire fighting and prevention plan; abide by the guidance and inspection of the competent local state agencies.

2. In all cases of being permitted to build a fire in rubber forests, or close to planted forests to clear off hills or fields to prepare land for afforestation, or to build a fire before the dry season or to use flames in other purposes; persons using fire must implement fire safety measures.

3. Organizations, households of workers, and individuals working in the project areas, conducting activities, performing construction works in the project areas must abide by the competent local state agencies' regulations on fire prevention and fighting; strictly implement forest fire fighting and prevention measures at the request of rubber development project investors.

4. When a forest fire occurs, discoverers and investors of rubber development projects must promptly organize forest fire fighting and immediately notify local state agencies, concerned organizations and individuals to cooperate in extinguishing forest fires promptly.

## **Article 8. Forest fire fighting and prevention plan**

### **1. Develop plans for forest fire fighting and prevention:**

- VRG members, investors of rubber development projects of the Viet Nam Rubber Group must establish Forest fire fighting and prevention Steering Committee (FFFPSC) at company level, plantation level and team level in place in accordance with the characteristics, circumstances, capabilities and resources to enhance the effectiveness of forest fire fighting and prevention.

- Being proactive in preparing local resources for fire prevention and fighting activities (human resources, means, equipment, water sources for fire fighting, fire observation towers).

- Review and identify key areas with high risk of forest fires (on maps and in the fields) and identify control capacities of all levels.

### **2. Propaganda and training:**

- Actively organize propaganda, thorough dissemination of FFFP regulations of the local governments to organizations, households of workers and individuals working in the project areas to raise awareness and compliance with these regulations.

- Organize training courses on forest fire fighting and prevention process, reporting, rescue, usage skill of means and fire fighting equipment.

- Set up signs, forest fire forecasting signs to facilitate dissemination of information to community and provide prompt warning of forest fire warning levels.

- Sign regulations to coordinate with local authorities and communities on FFFP rules and measures.

### **3. Warning of forest fire risk:**

- The Standing bodies for FFFP regularly updates forest fire forecast levels on the early warning information system of local authorities in order to advise and assist the Steering Committee at all levels in implementing forest fire fighting measures and in order to make announcement to the media to actively carry out FFFP.

### **4. Apply silvicultural measures to prevent forest fires:**

- Make runways to block fire; carry out the cleaning of the existing runways on the project areas.

- Before burning and processing the vegetation, it is necessary to notify the relevant parties to take proactive measures in forest fire fighting and prevention. There must be guards arranged in the event of burning and processing of vegetation, guards cannot leave until the fire is completely extinguished and make sure the fire does not spread at any scale.

### **5. Responsibility to inspect the safety of forest fire fighting and prevention before and during the dry season:**

- The company-level Steering Committee within its management is responsible for assigning and organizing the safety inspection of fire prevention and fighting according to the periodic and unexpected inspection regimes.

- The plantation-level Steering Committee within its management is responsible for directly organizing the safety inspection of fire prevention and fighting according to periodic and unexpected inspection regimes.

#### **Article 9. Forest fire fighting**

##### **1. Forest fire fighting:**

- People who detect a fire must immediately alert the surrounding people, the nearest forest fire fighting and prevention team, the nearest local fire prevention, fighting and rescue agency, the nearest local authority.

- The forest fire fighting and prevention team, the Steering Committee for FFFP at all levels, upon receiving news about a forest fire happening in the assigned management area, must simultaneously quickly mobilize forces and means to conduct fire fighting and notify other necessary agencies and units to provide aid for fire fighting; In case a forest fire occurs outside the area assigned to FFFP team, upon receiving forest fire news, the team must by all means promptly notify the agencies or units in charge of the locality where the fire occurred for further handling and involvement in forest fire fighting.

- Persons present at the place where a forest fire occurs must find all measures to prevent the fire from spreading and extinguish the fire; People participating in fire fighting must obey the orders of the fire-fighting commanders and ensure safety during fire fighting.

##### **2. Fire fighting measures:**

- Indirect forest fire suppression: Utilizing forces and means to limit the fire by applying white runway, this is applicable to large fires, high intensity fires, fast spreading speed and large remaining forest areas, or fires of large scale and remain inextinguishable by direct measures.

- Direct forest fire suppression: Use all manual and mechanical means, tools, such as: branches, knives, shovels, water pumps, motor vehicles (where water and road system are convenient), chemicals impacting directly on the fire to extinguish it (applicable to fires of small areas, mainly ground fires).

3. Periodic reporting on fire prevention and fighting activities and once-off reporting when there is a fire to local authorities and Viet Nam Rubber Group.

### **Chapter V**

#### **ORGANIZATION OF IMPLEMENTATION**

##### **Article 10. Responsibility for guidance and implementation**

1. VRG's Steering Committee for Sustainable Development is responsible for guiding, organizing, inspecting and reporting to Viet Nam Rubber Group the implementation of regulations on prohibiting the exploitation of forest fauna and flora. Report on an annual basis to VRG on the implementation of regulations on prohibiting the exploitation of forest fauna and flora.

2. VRG's Technical Management Department is responsible for guiding, organizing, inspecting and reporting to VRG on the implementation of forest protection, forest fire fighting and prevention in the areas of VRG's rubber development projects.

3. VRG's members are responsible for the implementation of this regulation.

**Article 11. Effect of implementation**

This Regulation takes effect from the date of its signing.