

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SOCIAL REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**  
**Independence – Freedom – Happiness**

No: 5179 /GM-BNN-HTQT

*Hanoi, 1 August 2023*

Re: implementing the Action  
Framework to comply with EU  
Deforestation Regulation

**To: Chairmen of the People's Committee of provinces/cities**

On May 16, 2023, the European Commission (EC) passed the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). EUDR is the EU's latest regulation related to sustainable development, which specifically regulates agricultural products that are deforestation-free. This is an evitable trend in global green consumption, not just in the EU.

EUDR prohibits the importation of agricultural products produced on land that has been sourced from deforested or forest-degrading areas since the cut-off date of December 31, 2020, including livestock farming, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soybeans, and wood, as well as products raised or produced using those products such as leather, chocolate, printing paper, furniture, charcoal, and some derivatives of palm oil. Coffee, rubber, wood, and wood products are the main industries in Vietnam affected by this regulation.

Since the draft regulation was proposed by the EC, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has had many in-depth discussions at both technical and leadership levels with the EC. At the same time, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has directed specialized agencies to prepare an Action Framework in compliance with EUDR, proposing specific tasks/solutions and assigning specialized agencies of the Ministry to implement them. On June 29, 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development of five provinces in the Central Highlands (Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Lam Dong), industry associations, and related international organizations to cooperate and develop the deforestation and degradation-free production areas, as well as to promote sustainable production in harmonization with natural resources protection and social inclusion at the local areas.

As the EU has set the deadline for the enforcement of EUDR in December 2024 (June 2025 for small and micro-enterprises), we need to take immediate action to adapt to this regulation, avoiding any impact on the export of coffee, wood, and wood products, rubber to the EU market in particular, and the global market in general.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development proposes that the People's Committees of provinces/cities directly under the jurisdiction of the Central

Government support and contribute to their local adaptation plans to comply with EUDR, with a focus on the following:

1. Strictly monitor high-risk areas (intercropping with forest areas) for sectors affected by EUDR, especially coffee; strengthen patrols/community monitoring to protect forests.
2. Assign relevant specialized agencies to coordinate with agencies of the Ministry, industry associations, businesses, and international organizations (including the EU Delegation to Vietnam, IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative, 4C Organization, etc.) to:
  - Develop and approve a national database on natural forests and cultivated areas;
  - Review and unify ground maps;
  - Share, update, and digitalize cadastral map data of plantations and conduct additional surveys for those not yet on cadastral maps;
  - Based on data on forests and cultivated areas, identify areas with high, medium, and low deforestation risks, thereby determining appropriate solutions for monitoring, protecting and restoring forests, establishing traceability systems, supporting sustainable livelihoods, and sustainable production;
  - Develop and implement the feedback and information sharing mechanisms with importers into the EU, as required by the EC;
  - Disseminate EUDR provisions and technical guidance documents to management agencies at all levels and stakeholders in the value chains of affected sectors;
  - Develop and implement supply chain traceability to the area, linked to the location of specific farm for sectors affected by EUDR;
  - Scale up landscape approaches to promote sustainable production, natural resources protection and social inclusion; apply sustainable certification to coffee, rubber, and wood sectors.
  - Support the transformation and improvement of livelihoods for farmers, especially ethnic minorities in areas with intercropping between forests and crops, to comply with EUDR.
3. Establish or consolidate the provincial-level Public-Private working group; implement public-private partnership activities; carry out activities and share information as well as provincial-level databases for sectors affected by EUDR; coordinate with the general working groups and sectoral working groups at the national level; develop programs and projects to call for public and private investment and international funding to implement the above mentioned activities.
4. Allocate resources from local budgets to support the value chains of coffee, rubber, wood, and wood products to comply with EUDR.

*(Attached is the Action Framework for adapting to the EU Forest-Free Regulation and an unofficial translation of the EUDR regulation from the EC).*

Your collaboration is greatly appreciated./.

***Recipients:***

- As mentioned above;
- Vice Minister Nguyen Quoc Tri
- Vice Minister Hoang Trung
- Departments: LN, KL, TT, CN, CLCB&PTTT
- TT: CDS&TKNN, KNQG
- DARDs
- Document: VT, HTQT

**MINISTER**

*<Signed>*

**LE MINH HOAN**

**APPENDIX:****LIST OF PROVINCES WITH FORESTS**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Province/ City</b>
Northern Midlands and Mountains	Ha Giang
	Cao Bang
	Lang Son
	Bac Giang
	Phu Tho
	Taiyuan
	Bac Kan
	Tuyen Quang
	Lao Cai
	Yen Bai
	Lai Chau
	Son La
	Dien Bien
	Peace
	Hanoi City
	Hai Phong City
	Hai Duong
	Hung Yen
	Vinh Phuc
	Bac Ninh
	Thai Binh
Nam Dinh	
Ha nam	
Ninh Binh	
Quang Ninh	
North Central Region and Central Coast	Thanh Hoa
	Nghe An
	Ha Tinh
	Quang Binh
	Quang Tri
	Thua Thien Hue
	Da Nang City
	Quang Nam
	Quang Ngai
	Binh Dinh
	Phu Yen
	Khanh Hoa
	Ninh Thuan
Binh Thuan	
Central Highlands Region	Kon Tum
	Gia Lai

	Dak Lak
	Dak Nong
	Lam Dong
Southeast Region	Ho Chi Minh City
	Dong Nai
	Ba Ria-Vung Tau
	Binh Duong
	Binh Phuoc
	Tay Ninh
Mekong Delta	Can Tho City
	Long An
	Tien Giang
	Ben Tre
	Tra Vinh
	Vinh Long
	An Giang
	Dong Thap
	Kien Giang
	Hau Giang
	Soc Trang
	Bac Lieu
	Ca Mau