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VRA: Publishing the Handbook "Guideline for sustainable management of rubber plantations in accordance with international forest certification standards"

26/07/2018

In the framework of a cooperation program among the World Wildlife Fund in Viet Nam (WWF-VN), the Vietnam Rubber Association (VRA) and the Viet Nam Rubber Group – Joint Stock Company (VRG), the Handbook "Guideline for sustainable management of rubber plantations in accordance with international forest certification standards" (Vietnamese version) has been completed by the end of June 2018 and published in early July 2018.

This is one of the series of activities of the Vietnam Rubber Association along with its members, including the Vietnam Rubber Group, which represents the efforts to deploy an action plan towards sustainable development of Viet Nam rubber industry, contributing actively to the growth of Viet Nam economy, improving the economic, social and environmental conditions in the rubber plantation areas.

Thanks to the collective efforts of the above three initiators and the active participation of enterprises, organizations and experts throughout the consultation, the Guideline Handbook has been issued timely for rubber plantation owners.

The objective of this Handbook is to provide the basic knowledge about managing sustainable rubber plantations in accordance with international forest certification standards for rubber plantation owners – including enterprises, organizations, households, individuals and communities having the land use right for planting rubber trees – wish to be certified in accordance with international standards.

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In particular, the Handbook provides 10 principles of practical requirements for sufficient evidences to rubber plantation owners such as: Complying with Viet Nam Laws, international conventions signed by Viet Nam Government and registered by forest certification standards; Rights and responsibilities of land and forest use for long term; Committing to manage rubber plantations in accordance with the registered forest certification standards; Ensuring that not any activities cause negative impacts on the environment and environmental improvement plan is prepared; Assessing and maintaining biodiversity as well as High Conservation Values forest in the project area; Ensuring that all rights of workers are statutory and in accordance with the registered forest certification standards; Respecting the legal and customary rights of the community, actively contributing to the community in the rubber project area; Conducting the Forest Management Plan, with a set of objectives for at least one business cycle, to ensure the sustainable management of rubber plantations in terms of economy, society and environment; Consulting with stakeholders on rubber plantation management of the owners; Carrying out the monitoring and evaluation of rubber plantation management activities in accordance with the objectives and plan for economic, social and environmental aspects.

The evidences for each requirement are detailedly described in the Handbook to support rubber plantation owners can implement self-assessment for the potential and other indicators to become sustainable rubber plantation owners and would be certified upon registration.

Enterprises, organizations and individuals may quote, reproduce this Guideline for educational or non-commercial purposes without obtaining permission from the publication agency. However, the source of quotation must be properly stated as instructed in the Handbook.

The English version of this Guideline Handbook is in the process of translation and will be published soon.

For further information, please contact the Vietnam Rubber Association.

The Vietnam Rubber Association

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