

**THE GOVERNMENT OF
VIETNAM**

No. 183/2025/ND-CP

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence – Freedom – Happiness

Hanoi, July 01, 2025

DECREE

**AMENDMENTS TO SOME ARTICLES OF GOVERNMENT’S DECREE NO.
156/2018/ND-CP DATED NOVEMBER 16, 2018 ON ELABORATION OF
ENFORCEMENT OF A NUMBER OF ARTICLES OF THE LAW ON FORESTRY**

Pursuant to the Law on Government Organization dated February 18, 2025;

Pursuant to the Law on Forestry dated November 15, 2017;

Pursuant to the Land Law dated January 18, 2024;

At the request of the Minister of Agriculture and Environment.

*The Government hereby promulgates Decree on amendments to some articles of
Government’s Decree No. 156/2018/ND-CP dated November 16, 2018 on elaboration of
enforcement of a number of articles of the Law on Forestry.*

Article 1. Amendments to some articles of Government’s Decree No. 156/2018/ND-CP dated November 16, 2018 on elaboration of enforcement of a number of articles of the Law on Forestry

1. Clauses 12 and 13 shall be added after clause 11 Article 3 as follows:

“12. Medicinal plants in the forest refer to plants and fungi that grow and develop in the forest. Such medicinal plants are used as medicinal materials and have other functions for care of human health.

13. Harvest of medicinal plants refers to the process of exploiting all or part of medicinal plants planted and developed in the forest.”

2. Section 4a shall be added after Section 4 Chapter II as follows:

“Section 4a

**PLANTING, DEVELOPMENT AND HARVEST OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN
RESERVE FORESTS, PROTECTION FORESTS AND PRODUCTION FORESTS**

Article 32a. Principles of planting, developing and harvesting medicinal plants in forests

1. Medicinal plants must be planted, developed and harvested in such a way to maintain forest area, forest quality, natural succession and use purposes; not to lose the State's ownership of forests and natural resources above ground and underground and comply with regulations of this Decree.
2. Medicinal plants planted and developed in forests must have ecological characteristics suitable to geographical conditions and must be included in the list of medicinal plants with high medical and economic value issued by the Minister of Health or other medicinal plants with high medical and economic value in provinces as decided by Chairpersons of provincial People's Committees.
3. It is prohibited from taking advantage of planting and development of medicinal plants to harvest natural medicinal plants in forests; medicinal plant products after the harvest must be transported out of forests and they must not be soaked, incubated, dried, preserved or processed.
4. Management of exploitation and fulfillment of conditions by, and issuance of codes to nurseries of medicinal plants that are endangered, precious, and rare species in forests shall comply with regulations of the law on management of endangered, precious and rare forest flora and fauna and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
5. In case the production forest is a planted forest invested by the forest owner, the forest owner shall decide the planting, development and harvesting of medicinal plants but is not allowed to repurpose the forest.

Article 32b. Forms of planting, developing and harvesting medicinal plants in forests

1. Regarding reserve/protection forests:
 - a) Forest owners that are organizations may plant, develop, and harvest themselves or cooperate/associate with or lease out forest environment to organizations and individuals to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants according to regulations of this Decree and other relevant laws in accordance with plans to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants approved by competent authorities and consistent with sustainable forest management plans.
 - b) Forest owners that are residential community, households and individuals may plant, develop, and harvest themselves or cooperate/associate with organizations and individuals to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants according to regulations of this Decree and other relevant laws in accordance with plans to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants approved by competent state authorities;

c) Medicinal plants are prohibited from being planted, developed or harvested in strictly protected sub-zones, ecological restoration sub-zones of national parks, nature reserves, species and habitat reserves; headwater protection forests of slope of more than 30 degrees; eroded coasts within protection forests for wind/sand shielding, protection forests for tire shielding or sea encroachment prevention. In case of planting, development or harvest of medicinal plants in headwater protection forests of slope of more than 30 degrees, Directors of Departments of Agriculture and Environment or Chairpersons of commune-level People's Committees shall prepare written reports containing specific assessment of locations and places where medicinal plants can be planted and developed while still ensuring safety and protection capacity of forests (in terms of prevention of erosion/landslides/floods, protection of water sources and agricultural production) and submit such reports to Chairpersons of provincial People's Committees to consider approving them before the approval of plans to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants according to regulations in point dd, clause 3, Article 32dd and point dd, clause 3, Article 32e of this Decree.

2. Regarding production forests that are natural forests and planted forests whose ownership is represented by the State.

a) Forest owners that are organizations may plant, develop, and harvest themselves or cooperate/conduct joint venture/associate with or lease out forest environment to organizations and individuals to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants according to regulations of this Decree and other relevant laws in accordance with plans to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants approved by competent state authorities and consistent with sustainable forest management plans.

b) Forest owners that are residential community, households and individuals may cooperate/ conduct joint venture/associate with organizations and individuals to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants according to regulations of this Decree and other relevant laws in accordance with plans to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants approved by competent state authorities;

c) Forest owners that are residential community, households and individuals and plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants themselves shall decide to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants as per law, Forest owners that are households, individuals, residential community or households and individuals associated and organized as groups are encouraged to make and implement plans to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants.

Article 32c. Methods for planting, developing and harvesting medicinal plants in forests

1. Methods for planting and developing medicinal plants in forests:

a) Regarding reserve forests: plant medicinal plants in a scattered manner or in bushes to make sure that medicinal plants are evenly distributed over a specific forest area and the

total area for planting and development of medicinal plants does not exceed one-third of the area of the specific forest area;

b) Regarding protection/production forests: plant medicinal plants by the combined forestry-agricultural-fishery production method as prescribed in Articles 25 and 30 of this Decree.

2. Methods for harvesting medicinal plants in forests:

a) Forest owners or organizations and individuals that lease forest environments to plant and develop medicinal plants may decide the harvest of medicinal plants planted and developed in forests according to regulations of this Decree;

b) Before harvesting medicinal plants, forest owners or organizations and individuals must send medicinal plant harvest information sheets to local forestry authorities according to Form No. 08 in Appendix IB enclosed with this Decree for management as per law.

Article 32d. Plans to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in forests

1. Contents of a plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest in case the forest owner is an organization.

Contents of the plan shall be consistent with Form No. 02 in the Appendix IB enclosed with this Decree. Main contents include:

a) Assessment of natural, socio-economic conditions in the area; current status of the forest in terms of area, reserves, and quality; current status and potential for planting, development, and harvest of medicinal plants;

b) Determination of objectives, scope and contents of the plan;

c) Determination of location, scale, area, and medicinal plant species expected to be planted, developed, and harvested during the plan implementation period;

d) Determination of methods for planting and developing medicinal plants;

dd) Periodical change to locations for planting and development of medicinal plants without reducing the forest area and quality and affecting the forest regeneration in case of planting, development, and harvest of medicinal plants under the canopy of reserve forest, protection forest or production forest that is natural forest;

e) Determination of forms of planting, development, and harvest of medicinal plants: self-planting, development and harvest or cooperation/joint venture/association or leasing out of forest environment;

g) Determination of management, protection, conservation, development, and restoration of the forest in areas where medicinal plants are planted, developed and harvested;

h) Solutions and implementation of such solutions;

i) Inspection and supervision.

2. Contents of a plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest in case the forest owner is a household, individual or residential community.

Contents of the plan shall be consistent with Form No. 06 in the Appendix IB enclosed with this Decree. Main contents include:

a) Current status of forest resources, medicinal plant species, potential for planting, development, and harvest of medicinal plants;

b) Determination of location, scale, area, and medicinal plant species expected to be planted, developed, and harvested during the plan implementation period;

c) Determination of methods for planting and developing medicinal plants;

dd) Periodical change to locations for planting and development of medicinal plants without reducing the forest area and quality and affecting the forest regeneration in case of planting, development, and harvest of medicinal plants under the canopy of reserve forest, protection forest or production forest that is natural forest;

dd) Determination of forms of planting, development, and harvest of medicinal plants: self- planting, development and harvest or cooperation/joint venture/association;

e) Determination of management, protection, development, and restoration of the forest in areas where medicinal plants are planted and developed;

g) Inspection and supervision.

Article 32dd. Procedures for appraising and approving or adjusting plans to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in forests in case forest owners are organizations

1. Each forest owner shall formulate a plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest according to regulations in clause 1 Article 32d of this Decree.

2. Dossier on plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest includes:

a) Written proposal prepared by the forest owner, according to the Form No. 01 in the Appendix IB enclosed with this Decree (original copy);

b) Plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest according to regulations in clause 1 of this Article (original copy);

c) Types of maps (original copies), including forest status map according to Vietnamese Standard TCVN 11565:2016; map of areas for planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants according to Vietnamese Standard TCVN 11565:2016, showing expected areas and area for planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants.

3. Procedures for appraising and approving the plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest shall be followed as follows:

a) The forest owner shall submit, in person or by post or electronically 01 dossier as prescribed in clause 2 of this Article to an assigned specialized authority affiliated to the ministry or central authority in case the forest owner is an organization under its management or to the Department of Agriculture and Environment in case the forest owner is an organization under the management of the Department.

In case the dossier is invalid, within 03 working days from the date of receipt of the dossier, the dossier-receiving authority must notify the forest owner in writing to complete it and clearly state the reason.

b) Within 05 working days from the date of receipt of the valid dossier, the dossier-receiving authority specified in point a of this clause shall organize appraisal by sending documents to seek opinions from relevant agencies, organizations and individuals on the dossier and contents of the plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest as prescribed in clauses 2 and 4 of this Article.

c) Within 07 days from the date of receipt of such documents, agencies, organizations and individuals shall send their written opinions to the dossier-receiving authority specified in point a of this clause.

d) Within 07 days from the date of receipt of written opinions from agencies, organizations and individuals, the dossier-receiving authority specified in point a of this clause shall be responsible for completing the appraisal. In case the appraisal result shows dissatisfaction, the dossier-receiving authority specified in point a of this clause must notify the forest owner in writing and clearly state the reason.

dd) In case the appraisal result shows satisfaction, within 07 days from the date of receipt of the complete dossier, the assigned specialized authority affiliated to the ministry or central authority (in case the forest owner is managed by the ministry or central authority) or the Director of the Department of Agriculture and Environment (in case the forest owner is managed by the Department) shall decide to approve the plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest according to Form No. 03 in Appendix IB enclosed with this Decree. Dossier submitted for approval includes a proposal prepared by the dossier-receiving department; consolidated opinions of relevant agencies,

organizations and individuals; appraisal results and the dossier as prescribed in clause 2 of this Article.

4. Relevant agencies, organizations and individuals shall give their opinions about contents of the plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants, including:

- a) Suitability with planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants mentioned in the sustainable forest management plan approved by the competent authority;
- b) Suitability of location, scale, and percentage of used area under the forest canopy; medicinal plant species expected to be planted, developed, and harvested; methods of planting, developing, and harvesting medicinal plants; duration of change to locations for planting and development of medicinal plants and expected harvest yield according to regulations of Article 32a and Article 32b of this Decree;
- c) Duration and methods for implementation;
- d) Solutions to forest protection, forest development, forest restoration, nature conservation, biodiversity, environmental protection and capital raising and mobilization of investment resources;
- dd) Other contents (if any).

5. The authority that decides to approve the plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants is the authority that has the jurisdiction to approve adjustments to the plan. Application and procedures for adjusting the plan shall comply with regulations in clause 2 and clause 3 of this Article.

Article 32e. Procedures for appraising and approving or adjusting plans to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in forests in case forest owners are households, individuals and residential community

1. Each forest owner shall formulate a plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in forest according to clause 2 Article 32d of this Decree.

2. Dossier on plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in forest includes:

- a) Written request made by the forest owner according to Form No. 04 in the Appendix IB enclosed with this Decree (original copy);
- b) Table of the consolidated list of households and individuals in case households and individuals associated and organized as groups formulate the plan according to Form No. 05 in Appendix IB attached to this Decree (original copy);
- c) Plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in forest according to clause 1 of this Decree (original copy);

d) Types of maps (original copies), including forest status map according to Vietnamese Standard TCVN 11565:2016; map of areas for planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants according to Vietnamese Standard TCVN 11565:2016, showing expected areas and area for planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants in case the forest owner cooperates, conducts joint venture, or associates with organizations or individuals to plant, develop, and harvest medicinal plants, or a diagram of areas for planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants; expected area for planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants in case where the forest owner plants, develops and harvests medicinal plants in the forest.

3. Procedures for appraising and approving the plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest shall be followed as follows:

a) The forest owner shall submit, in person or by post or electronically 01 dossier as prescribed in clause 2 of this Article to an assigned specialized authority affiliated to the commune-level People's Committee;

In case the dossier is invalid, within 03 working days from the date of receipt of the dossier, the dossier-receiving authority must notify the forest owner in writing and clearly state the reason.

b) Within 03 working days from the date of receipt of the valid dossier, the dossier-receiving authority specified in point a of this clause shall organize appraisal by sending documents to seek opinions from relevant agencies, organizations and individuals on the dossier and contents of the plan as prescribed in clauses 2 and 4 of this Article.

c) Within 07 days from the date of receipt of such documents, agencies, organizations and individuals shall send their written opinions to the dossier-receiving authority specified in point a of this clause.

d) Within 07 days from the date of receipt of written opinions from agencies, organizations and individuals, the dossier-receiving authority specified in point a of this clause shall be responsible for completing the appraisal. In case the appraisal result shows dissatisfaction, the dossier-receiving authority specified in point a of this clause must notify the forest owner in writing and clearly state the reason.

dd) Within 07 days from the date of receipt of the complete dossier submitted by the dossier-receiving authority specified in point a of this clause, the Chairperson of the commune-level People's Committee shall decide to approve the plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest according to Form No. 07 in Appendix IB enclosed with this Decree. Dossier submitted for approval includes a proposal prepared by the dossier-receiving department; consolidated opinions of relevant agencies, organizations and individuals; appraisal results and the dossier as prescribed in clause 2 of this Article.

4. Relevant agencies, organizations and individuals shall give their opinions about contents of the plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest, including:

a) Suitability of location, scale, and percentage of used area under the forest canopy; medicinal plant species expected to be planted, developed, and harvested; duration of change to locations for planting and development of medicinal plants and expected harvest yield according to regulations of Article 32a and Article 32b of this Decree.

b) Duration and methods for implementation;

c) Solutions to forest protection, forest development, forest restoration, nature conservation, biodiversity, environmental protection and capital raising and mobilization of investment resources;

d) Other contents (if any).

5. The authority that decides to approve the plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants is the authority that has the jurisdiction to approve adjustments to the plan. Application and procedures for adjusting the plan shall comply with regulations in clause 2 and clause 3 of this Article.

Article 32g. Leasing out forest environment to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in forests in case forest owners are organizations

1. Leasing out of forest environment for planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants in the forest must be publicly and widely notified by the forest owner within at least 30 days by way of posting it at the head office; publishing it in the unit's website (if any); publishing it in the web portal/website of the competent authority directly superior to the forest owner; publishing it in one of the bidding newspapers.

2. The following contents must be notified:

a) General information on the forest owner;

b) Location, area and areas expected for leasing out of forest environment for planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants;

c) Brief plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest, approved by the competent state authority;

d) Technical dossier on selection of organizations and individuals that lease forest environment as prescribed in clause 3 of this Article;

dd) Time and address for submission of registration dossiers.

3. The forest owner shall formulate a technical dossier to select organizations and individuals that lease forest environment. The technical dossier must be approved by the forest owner before being publicly notified and include the following basic criteria:

- a) Capacity and experience of each organization/individual that leases forest environment in the field related to planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants;
- b) Business organization plan consistent with the approved plan to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest;
- c) Financial investment plan; expected proceeds and forest environment rent plan;
- d) Property disposal plan after the contract expires;
- dd) Commitment to time of execution of the contract, time of harvest and revenue generation;
- e) Priority given to organizations and individuals that have been delegated to protect the forest and are assessed to have performed well in terms of forest protection and development, nature conservation, and biodiversity;
- g) Professional conditions concerning sustainable forest management and other criteria decided by the forest owner and not contrary to the law.

The criteria included in the technical dossier are converted into scores to serve as a basis for assessment and selection in accordance with regulations on the minimum score to be qualified for each criterion; the total score of the assessment criteria of the technical dossier is 100, in which the minimum total score is stipulated; organizations and individuals are qualified when they achieve the minimum score of all criteria and the minimum total score to be qualified.

4. The organization/individual that wishes to lease forest environment to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants shall prepare a registration dossier as required by the forest owner in accordance with clause 2 of this Article and submit it to the forest owner.

5. Organizations and individuals that lease forest environment shall be assessed and selected as follows:

The forest owner shall, according to the registration dossier submitted by each organization/individual, organize assessment to select organizations/individuals to lease forest environment in accordance with criteria included in the technical dossier and shall be accountable for their selection.

If there is only one qualified organization or individual, the forest owner shall negotiate and sign a forest environment lease contract, ensuring that the forest environment rent is not lower than 5% of the total revenue realized in the year, within the scope of the leased

forest environment area. If there are multiple qualified organizations or individuals, the forest owner shall select the organization or individual that achieves the highest score in the dossier assessment in which, the price is considered a criterion, ensuring that the rent is not lower than 5% of the total revenue realized in the year, within the scope of the leased forest environment area.

6. The forest environment rent mentioned in the registration dossier prepared by the organization or individual shall be calculated based on the percentage of the total revenue and must be converted to an absolute value for the forest owner to conduct assessment, and clearly stated in the forest environment lease contract.

If, after contract conclusion, the percentage of the total revenue converted to an absolute value is lower than the absolute value stated in the signed contract, the amount of money paid by the organization or individual that leases the forest environment to the forest owner must be at least equal to the amount stated in the contract.

Organizations and individuals leasing the forest environment to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants are not required to pay for forest environmental service charges for the leased area in accordance with herewith. The forest environment rent is revenue earned by the forest owner and used for management, protection, development of the forest and improvement of the forest owner's life.

7. The lease term is based on the crop cycle but shall not exceed 10 years. At the end of the lease term, if the lessee properly executes the contract and wishes to extend it, the forest owner shall consider extending the lease term up to no more than two-thirds of the initial lease term.

8. After selecting organizations/individuals to lease the forest environment, the forest owner shall sign forest environment lease contracts according to Form No. 09 in Appendix IB attached to this Decree and report results to the direct superior management agency for direction, monitoring and supervision.

9. Before signing forest environment lease contracts, the forest owner must conduct an inventory and statistics of the forest status of the leased area as grounds for handover of boundary markers, status, and management, supervision, and assessment of the contract execution.

10. If organizations and individuals selected and having signed contracts to lease forest environment for ecotourism, hospitality and entertainment before the effective date of this Decree wish to carry out additional activities of planting, developing and harvesting medicinal plants on the leased forest environment area, they shall prepare registration dossiers and send them to the forest owner for consideration and assessment. If they meet the prescribed conditions, the parties shall adjust and supplement planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants and the forest environment rent in the signed contracts according to regulations of this Article; the lease term shall comply with regulations in this Article.

11. In case the forest owner leases out the forest environment to organizations or individuals to simultaneously conduct ecotourism, hospitality, entertainment business and plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in the forest, the selection of such organizations or individuals must comply with regulations in this Article and those on selection of organizations or individuals leasing the environment for ecotourism, resort and entertainment as prescribed in Articles 14, 23 and 32 of this Decree.”

Article 2. Responsibilities for organization of implementation

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Environment shall:

- a) Provide guidance on, and inspect planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants in forests according to regulations of this Decree;
- b) Give guidance on planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants; disseminate techniques for planting of medicinal plants, prevention and elimination of organisms harmful to forests as per law.
- c) Monitor and consolidate difficulties and recommendations from local authorities and people, and propose amendments to the Decree if necessary.

2. Ministry of Health shall:

- a) Issue, update and add the list of medicinal plants with high medical and economic value suitable to practical conditions;
- b) Preside over and cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment in directing the development of areas where medicinal plants are planted and developed with a focus on medicinal plants with high medical and economic value.

3. Ministries, ministerial agencies, Governmental agencies and relevant agencies, within the scope of their tasks and powers, shall fulfill their responsibilities as prescribed in this Decree.

4. Provincial People's Committees shall:

- a) Perform forestry-related state management within their provinces; review, provide guidance and inspect planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants in forests within their provinces in accordance with regulations of this Decree;
- b) Direct issuance of lists of medicinal plants with high medical and economic value other than the list promulgated by the Ministry of Health, in accordance with local conditions and other relevant laws;

c) Give guidance on planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants; disseminate techniques for planting of medicinal plants, prevention and elimination of organisms harmful to forests as per law;

d) Direct approval of plans to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in forests; instruct forest owners to formulate and organize implementation of such plans according to regulations in this Decree;

dd) Direct specialized authorities to establish geographical indications; provide guidance and inspect forest owners' planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants in forests according to regulations of this Decree.

e) Fully implement applicable policies on development of medicinal plants; policies on investment, investment support, investment incentives in planting, development, and harvest of medicinal plants in forests.

5. Forest owners shall

a) Formulate and submit plans to plant, develop and harvest medicinal plants in forests to competent authorities for approval as prescribed in this Decree;

b) Provide guidance on, inspect and supervise organizations and individuals' leasing of forest environment or cooperation, joint venture, association, planting, development and harvest of medicinal plants in forests in accordance with regulations of law and this Decree. After 12 months from the date of signature of the cooperation, joint venture, association or forest environment lease contract, if the organization or individual fails to execute the contract, the forest owner shall consider terminating the contract, except for natural disasters, epidemics, objective obstacles during implementation of legal procedures and other force majeure cases agreed upon by the two parties.

Article 3. Implementation clauses

This Decree comes into force from August 15, 2025.

**ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF VIETNAM
PP. PRIME MINISTER
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Tran Hong Ha

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