

## Scope of DOF Group Certification in 2016

### Brief History of the DOF Group Certification

The DOF Group of Forest Management Units (FMU) started as two provincial groups, namely: the Khammouane Provincial Group, which obtained its Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate in December 2004, and the Savannakhet Provincial Group, which obtained its FSC certificate in January 2005. The Rainforest Alliance was the FSC certifier of the two provincial groups.

The two provincial group certificates were combined into the DOF Group Certificate in 2007 taking over the remaining period of the FSC certificates, i.e. until 2010. The DOF Group Certificate included 4 FMUs in Dong Sithouane Production Forest Area (PFA) located in Thapangthong District of Savannakhet Province and one FMU in Dong Phousoy PFA located in Xebangfai District of Khammouane Province. The total area covered in the scope of FSC certification was 50,788 ha.

As the DOF Group Certificate was expiring in 2010, the DOF Group of FMUs was re-assessed by the Rainforest Alliance resulting in extension of its FSC certificate for another five-year period (2010-2015). During the certification period, in addition to the original FMUs in Savannakhet and Khammouane Provinces, an FMU in Nakathing PFA located in Mahaxay District of Khammouane Province was added to the scope of the FSC certificate, as well as six Village Forestry FMUs located in Bolikhan and Khamkeut Districts of Bolikhamxay Province. The total area covered was 132,162 ha.

### Re-assessment of the FSC Certificate for the Third Five-Year Period (2016-2021)

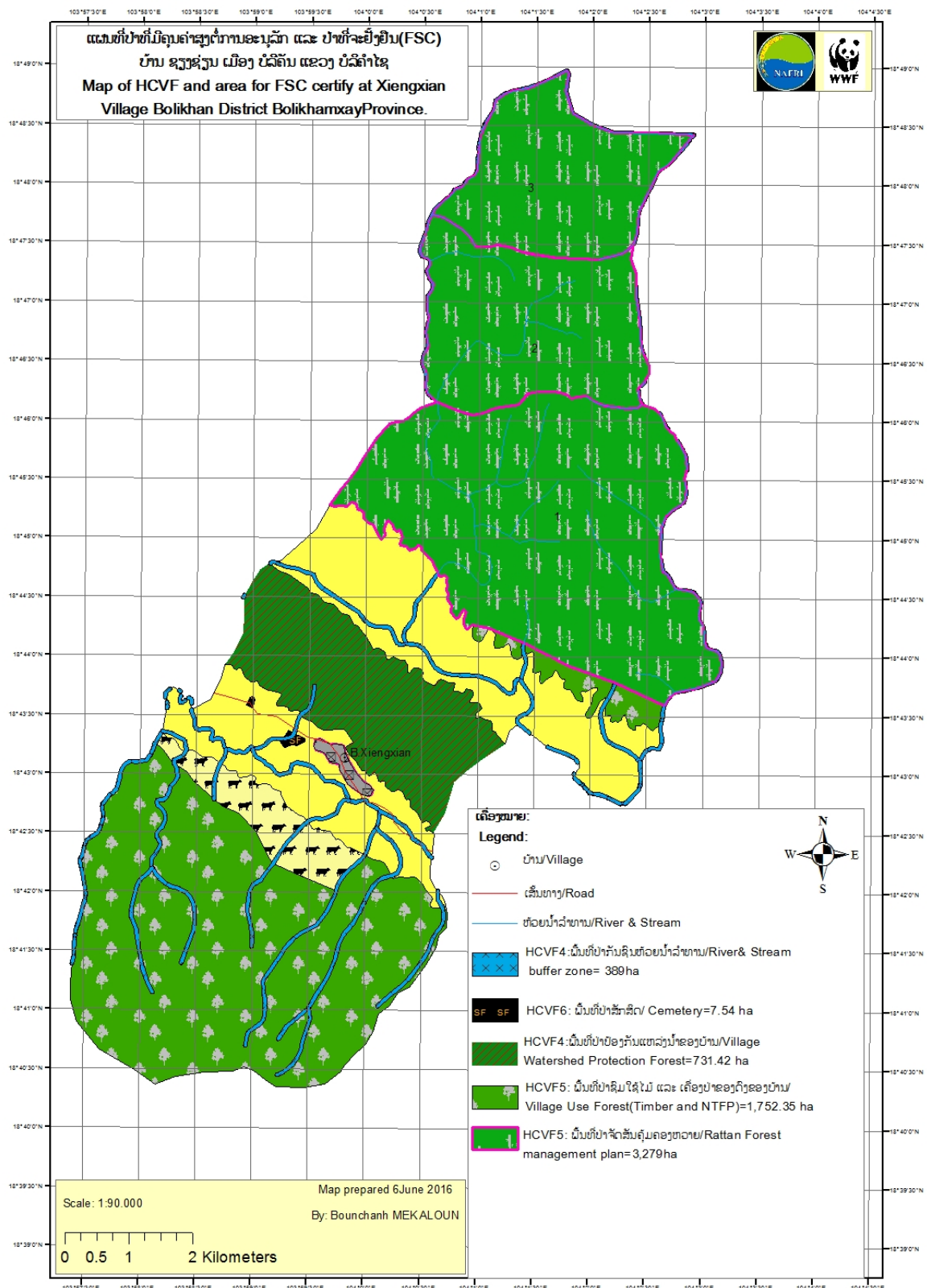
The DOF Group Certificate expired at the end of 2015. Re-assessment of the DOF Group of FMUs was conducted by the Rainforest Alliance in May 2016. In view of the on-going logging ban in PFAs and the granting of rattan quota only to Bolikhan District, this time the scope of the certificate was limited to two Village Forestry FMUs in Bolikhan District. The plan is that after the logging ban is lifted and the DOF Group Certification is extended for the 2016-2021 period, the scope of FSC certification will be scaled up to cover FMUs in selected PFAs with total area of about 150,000 hectares, as well as additional Village Forestry FMUs in Khamkeut District of Bolikhamxay Province and possibly also in Nakai District of Khammouane Province.

### Scope of the DOF Group Certification in 2016

The following table summarizes the scope of FSC certification that was assessed by the Rainforest Alliance in May 2016.

Area, hectares	Xiengxien Village FMU	Xiengleu Village FMU
<b>Total area of the village</b>	<b>7,577.0</b>	<b>5,618.0</b>
<b>Area included in the scope of FSC certification assessment</b>	<b>6,159.2</b>	<b>4,789.7</b>
Of which: (a) Rattan area C1 (HCVF5)	3,279.0	1,306.0
(b) Rattan area C2 (HCVF5)	1,752.4	2,776.5
(c) Other HCVF: Protection forest C3 (HCVF4)	731.4	383.6
(d) Other HCVF: Riparian buffer C4 (HCVF4)	389.0	314.0
(e) Other HCVF: Sacred forest C5 (HCVF6)	7.4	9.6
<b>Area not included in the scope of FSC certification assessment</b>	<b>1,417.8</b>	<b>828.3</b>

**Map 1: Xiengxien Village Forestry FMU**



Map 2: Xiengleu Village Forestry FMU

