



IFD Photo

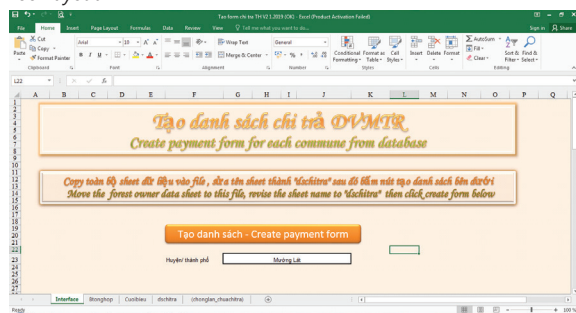
## DATA EDITING TOOL SIMPLIFYING LIFE FOR PFES MANAGERS

One of the biggest challenges for payment for forest environmental services (PFES) managers is processing the massive amounts of data generated at the time of PFES payment on forest owners' names, forest area, forest cover change, and payment rates. Staff must manually review thousands of records, identify any errors, and validate situations where one forest owner appears to own multiple plots in different locations. USAID's Vietnam Forests and Deltas (VFD) Program worked with the Son La provincial Forest Protection and Development Fund (FPDF) to develop a "Data Editing Tool" that helps to consolidate forest owner information automatically and validate the results by checking information such as name and identity card to quickly confirm an accurate PFES payment list.

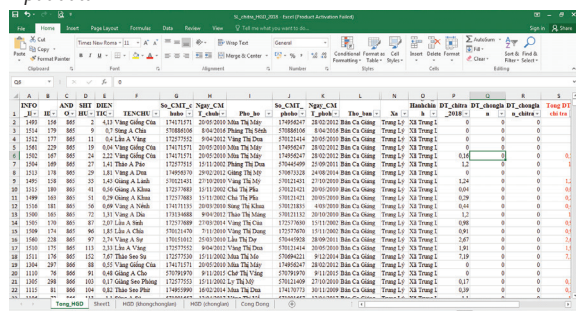
Almost immediately, Son La FPDF staff started seeing positive results like better data management, improved data quality, and reduced data preparation time. They were able to reduce their workload, increase productivity, and meet the requirements of PFES supervisors and forest owners.

## DATA EDITING TOOL

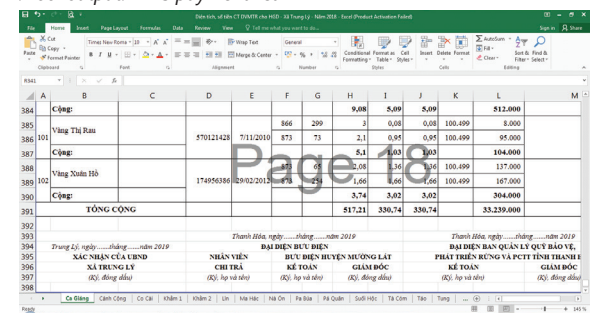
### Tool layout



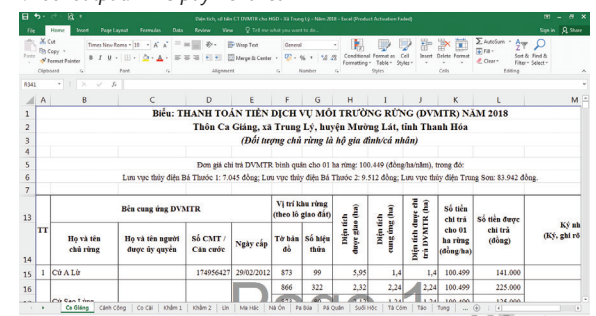
### Input data



### i. Tool output: PFES payment list



### ii. Tool output: PFES payment list



The USAID-funded Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program is implemented by Winrock International in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

## IMPROVING THE ACCURACY OF FOREST COVER DATA

Story of Ms. *Lường Thị Phiêng* – Officer of Thuan Chau-Quynh Nhai branch, Son La FPDF

**"It's very stressful when local people gather and raise a lot of questions to me. I always have to try my best to explain to them about their forest area that is eligible for receiving PFES payment."**

With almost 10 years of experience working in the Thuan Chau-Quynh Nhai District under Son La FPDF, Ms. Phieng's daily work is to visit to each forest plot and meet with forest owners to identify the forest area eligible for receiving PFES payments. Even with many years of experience, she still often struggles to explain to local people how their PFES forest area is calculated. Some forest owners do not know the basic information of where their forest is located or how it has changed over time.

Since the introduction of the new data editing tool for PFES, Ms. Phieng has applied the tool to identify and calculate the forest area. She quickly found that it is easier, quicker and more accurate than the old way of manually checking and summarizing forest owners' information from thousands of records. With the higher accuracy dataset, Phieng feels more confident to explain to forest owners how the forest area is calculated and answer their questions. The data editing tool also helps to identify the precise forest area eligible for receiving PFES, which increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the payment process to local people.



Son La staff monitoring forest area

## REDUCING THE TIMING FOR DATA AGGREGATION AND EXPORT

Story of Ms. *Ngô Thị Trung Thanh* – Team Leader of Moc Chau-Van Ho branch, Son La FPDF

**"With our old large workload, we would be asked to synthesize a payment list from thousands of data records...usually this would take a whole month, but sometimes we would be asked to complete it in one week. We could not complete our tasks. It was really hopeless before the new tool."**



Ms. Thanh attending PFES payment event

Unlike Ms. Phieng, Ms. Thanh is the leader in Moc Chau – Van Ho district working team. She has a different concern as her team is in charge of 29 towns and communes with more than 3,000 forest owners. Each year, she only has two weeks to review report templates and the summary list of 3,000 payments. She always feel stressed and anxious ahead of these tight deadlines.

Thanh has always wished that she had a tool or a method that can help manage the huge PFES database. Thanks to the support from VFD, the new data editing tool helps users to manage, edit and export data automatically. There is no more manual work to split and merge data such as commune boundaries and then calculate payment. From now on, all the steps are automated, and instead of taking months to update and correct data, now it only takes her one day to review and generate the report. Now all the difficulties are gone, replaced by the smiles and confidence from Thanh's team of local officers.

Quote from Thanh: "We want to convey our sincere thanks for the support from VFD in helping us to develop a tool that is very helpful, and reduces time and effort in preparing payment data. Hopefully in the future, we will continue to receive the support from VFD to further reduce the time-consuming tasks so we can be more focused on capacity building"

### Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program

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