Presentation at The 1ˢᵗ Global Conference on the International Partnership for the
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"Working together for the societies in harmony with nature: The first step"

Management and conservation of forest resources by modifying land use planning and forest land allocation in Bac Lang Commune, Dinh Lap District, Lang Son Province, Vietnam

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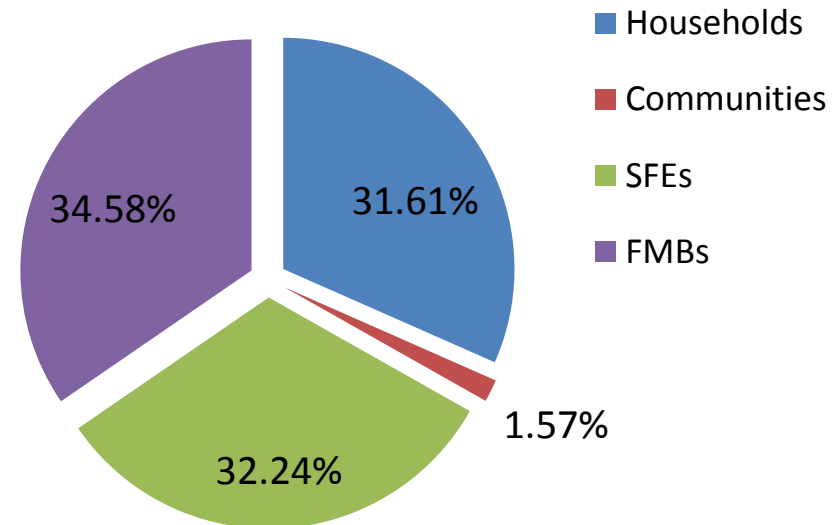**Culture Identity and Resources Use Management (CIRUM)**

National forest and forestland allocation status

Policies environment:

- Land Law 2003;
- Law on Forest Protection and Development 2004;
- Decree No. 02/1994/ND-CP;
- Decree No. 01/1995/ND-CP;
- Decree No.163/1999/ND-CP;
- Decision No. 178/2001/QĐ-TTg

Forest and Forestland allocation status

- Households
- Communities
- SFEs
- FMBs

34.58%
31.61%
1.57%
32.24%

Bac Lang Commune

- Bac Lang commune is a upland community in northeast Vietnam.

- Total land area: 5,780 ha (100%) of which forestry land is 3,578 ha (61.9%)

- There were 264 households with around 1,333 persons in Bac Lang

- There are two main ethnic groups in the commune, namely Dzao people (132 households) and Tay people (98 households)

- There are 11 villages in the commune. In six of these villages the Dzao people were dominant.

The Dzao people are traditional forest- dwellers.

Problems in Bac Lang

- Poverty problems surrounding forest area
- Problems with inappropriate land use planning-social conflicts
- Overuse of natural resources
- Illegal logging

Community-based participatory forestland allocation approach

Objectives:

- to facilitate local awareness among Dzao and Tay peoples about the Forest Land allocation processes and other related government policies

- to resolve land conflicts and to facilitate actual forestland allocation in an egalitarian manner.

Approach steps:

1. Action research /PRA on **land right issues** and **conflicts**
2. Work with local authorities to get approval for forestland (re)allocation and lobby process
3. Strengthen **awareness over land right** to villagers
4. Working with all local stakeholders to **discuss problems and negotiate solutions**
5. Involve media in time
6. Implement forestland allocation with facilitative assistance (CIRUM)
7. Establish CBOs on Natural Resources Management, promoting , participatory in formulation of forest protection regulation
8. Maintain and safeguard local forestland stewardship partly by sustainable forestland use

Results

- An equal and complete forestland use planning in Bac Lang commune with:

- 261/264 households (98.87%) and 11/11 communities (100%) got Forestland use certificate (Red Book)

- Forest Protection regulation developed at village level as pilot model

- 01 traditional Healers Society established and networking

- Youth Union, Women Union and Healers have equal right in use and management of their forest

Key discussion issues

- *Object of policy process*: not only "people-forest" but also "people-people" relationship

- *Key Actor*: Multiple actors; state and non-state;

- *Implementation approach*: Decentralized/bottom-up;

- *Conflict resolution mechanism*: to combine the state law and community traditions about fairness and justice; integrating state law and customary law

- *Perspective:* completion the formalities forestland use certificate and follow up support (CBOs establishment, nursery techniques, indigenous knowledge promotion, ect),

Recommendation

- Further and more detailed research about the processes and outcomes of the state-community-NGO dispute settlement mechanism, that are between poor and influential people

- a research for the expected dynamic and changing gender relations within households and communities after the forestland re-allocation process concluded through the CIRUM project

- Further and more services assistance on Biodiversity conservation as well as research on Customary law of Dao and Tay people on use and management of natural resources in Bac Lang

Thank you for your attention !