



Workshop on Land Management and Utilisation in Ethnic Minority Communities of the Upland Vietnam

1st November 2012

Introduction

Vietnam has an area of 33,095 million ha, ranks 58/200 countries in terms of area, but the average area per capita is 159/200 which is counted for only 1/6 of the world average. By 2010, Vietnam has been used more than 10.1 million hectares in agricultural production, 15.4 million hectares for the forestry purposes and 2.6 million hectares of unused hills (bare land) which have potential for forestry development¹. Forest land and forest resources are distributed mainly in mountainous watersheds of many river systems, remote and border areas where is the home to nearly 25 million people, of which about 13 million ethnic minorities (14% of the total national population). So, Vietnam's forests and forest land play a particularly important role in the socio-economic development, environmental protection and ecological security.

Forests and forest land are vital space of the existence which closely associates with traditional socio-cultural aspects, and important natural resources for maintaining the livelihoods of upland ethnic communities in Vietnam. History of Vietnam development has shown that, ensuring the livelihoods for mountainous ethnic minorities has an especially important role for social stability, economic development, national security as well as protection of the ecological environment. Upland ethnic communities are always foundation for the national liberation. Therefore, the State always views the agricultural production, mountainous countryside and ethnic issues are the priority especially in the socio-economic development policies. Many policies in economic and social development i.e. poverty alleviation programs have been implemented through the stages of country development. Of which, the most importance is the policy on land for ethnic minorities in upland areas.

Although the great potential of land, notably forestland, the upland areas are currently facing a lot of pressures on deficiency of land to allocate to poor ethnic minority households. In fact, the implementation of socio-economic development policies in ethnic minority and mountainous areas have been exposed many pressing issues in forest land management and use, especially shortage of land for production of ethnic minorities. This issue is becoming a barrier in the process of ensuring livelihood and social stability in ethnic minority areas in upland Vietnam.

Given the above context, the monitoring program in 2012, the Standing Committee of Vietnam National Assembly set up a Monitoring Team on *"The implementation of laws and policies on residential and productive land for ethnic minorities"* under Decree 438/2012/NQ-UBTVQH13. Report of the Monitoring Team will be submitted to the Standing Committee of Vietnam National to review and issue a resolution in September 2012. These report and resolutions will be debated in the Fourth Session of the Vietnam National Assembly in October 2012. Land for mountainous ethnic minorities is also a primary content in the process of amendment of the 2013 Law, which will be debated at the above agenda and adopted at the Fifth Session of the Vietnam National Assembly in May 2013.

¹ Decision No. 2282/QĐ-BTNMT dated 8/12/2011 on approving and issuing the results of statistical land by 1/1/2011.

For the purpose of having positive feedbacks to the legislative process, on the basis of achievements of the empirical research in ethnic minority areas, the Social Policy Ecology Research Institute (SPERI), Consultancy on Development Institute (CODE) and Culture Identity and Resources Use Management (CIRUM) co-organize a workshop on *'Land Management and Utilisation in Ethnic Minority Communities of the Upland Vietnam'*. The workshop is an opportunity for local communities, forestland users, CBOs, CSOs, researchers, STOs, legislative making and implementation agencies at all levels and media to meet and share best experiences and lessons on forestland issues. Then, the workshop looks forward to have recommendations regarding forestland land policies to ethnic minorities toward sustainable use of natural resources, security of livelihood and environment in mountainous areas.

Objetives

1. Exchange, provide information on the status of management and utilisation of land, and deficiencies of productive land in ethnic minority communities in upland Vietnam;
2. Share best practices in resolving problems related to agricultural and forestry land of ethnic minority communities in upland Vietnam;
3. Propose policy recommendations and solutions related to the effective management and use of land and forest resources in order to ensure the livelihoods of ethnic minority communities in upland Vietnam.

Themes

1. Practical inadequacies, shortcomings and challenges in management and utilisation of agricultural and forestry land in mountainous areas, and how roles of ethnic minorities in this process;
2. Best practices in resolving problems in management and utilisation of agricultural and forest land, land shortages in mountainous ethnic minority areas;
3. Recommendations to adjust the policy, as well as alternatives of policy implementations to resolve problems related to forest land in ethnic minority communities towards sustainable development in upland Vietnam.

Time: 1st November 2012

Location: La Thanh hotel, 218 Doi Can Street, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi-Vietnam

Participants: The workshop expects 100 participants, including:

1. Central Government: Office of the Central Communist Party (OCCP), Office of the National Assembly (ONA), the National Council of the National Assembly (NCNA), the Government Office, The Department of Ethnic Minority Affair of the National Assembly, the National Assembly's Economic Committee, the Central Propaganda, the National Assembly's Committee for Science and Technology, Committee of Ethnic Minority Affair (CEMA), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Department of Economic Cooperation & Development, Innovation and enterprise management Board / Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Board Policy forest management institutions / General Department of Forestry_MARD, Institute of Strategic Development, Forest Protection Department, Institute of Strategic Development, Policy & Legislation - The General Department of Land Management Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoRE), the strategy and policy department of MoNRE, the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF), Central Department of Forestry, Vietnam Forest Inventory and Planning, Land Institute of the General Department of Land Management.

2. Provincial/ district/communal governments:

2.1. Lao Cai province: Department of Forestry, Fund of Forest Protection and Development,

Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Simacai district People's Committee, Simacai district Office of Natural Resources and Environment, Simacai district Office of Forest Protection, Lung Sui Communal People's Committee.

2.2. Lang Son province: Huu Lung district People's Committee, Huu Lung office of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dong Thang Communal People's Committee.

2.3. Nghe An province: Department of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Que Phong District People's Committee, Que Phong District Office of Natural Resources and Environment, Que Son and Ngoc, Hanh Dich and Ban Ve Communal People's Committees.

2.4. Ha Tinh province: Truong Son Forestry Collective in Huong Son district.

2.5. Quang Binh: Center for Indigenous Knowledge Research and Development (CIRD), RDRD, Cao Quang and Truong Son Communal People's Committees.

2.5. Kon Tum Province: Ho Moong Communal People's Committee.

3. Scientific Technology Organizations (STOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), researchers and experts.

4. Forest and land users (state and economic entities): The Vietnam General Rubber Corporation, Vietnam General Mill Corporation, Vietnam General Forestry Corporation, etc.

5. International organizations: NPA, ICCO, Bread for the World, CCFD, Care, Dutch Embassy, etc.

6. Media: VTV, VTC, E-magazine of the Central Communist Party, Government Inspection Report, Hochiminh Youth News, TTXVN, VOV.VN, State and Law News, the People News, VnEconomy, www.chinhphu.vn, New Hanoi Magazine, Thiennhien.net, Vn news, Tien Phong News, Rural Economic News, Financial Times, People's Army Newspaper, Saigon Economic Times, Law News, Literature on Weekly, etc.

Resources presentations / papers

- CODE: Overview of government policy on forestland and tenure dispute resolutions in ethnic minority communities in upland Vietnam.
- SPERI: Case study_Results of forestland review and forestland re-allocation to H'mong community in Lung San village, Lung Sui commune, Si Ma Cai district, Lao Cai Province
- SPERI: Case study_Results of forestland review and forestland re-allocation to Black Thai community in Hanh Dich commune (Black Thai), Que Phong district, Nghe An province.
- CIRD: Case study _ Resolving forestland conflict between local community and state forestry enterprise: Grassroots Collective Forestry in Cao Quang Commune, Tuyen Hoa district, Quang Binh province.
- Lao Cai Provincial Department of Forestry: Experiences of forestland allocation to local communities in Lao Cai province
- Ho Mong Communal People's Committee: Local response to deficiency of productive land: Case study in Ho Moong commune - resettled area of Pleikrong hydroelectric power plant, Sa Thay district, Kon Tum province.
- Ngoc Lam Communal People's Committee: Local Reaction to the shortage of productive land: Case _ Black Thai community of Ngoc Lam commune (resettled area of the Ban Ve hydropower plant), Thanh Chuong district, Nghe An province.

- RPRD: Local response to the shortage of productive land: Case_ Reallocation of forestland from state forestry enterprise to Van Kieu community in Truong Son commune, Quang Ninh District, Quang Binh province.
- Department of Forest Protection: Policy and practices of forestland allocation for ethnic minorities in upland Vietnam.
- CIRUM: Forestland management and utilisation in Ho Muoi village, Minh Son commune, Huu Lung district, Lang Son province.
- The Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front: The implementation of policies on land for ethnic minorities in upland Vietnam.

Further contact

Co-organizer: SPERI/CODE/CIRUM

Mr. Dam Trong Tuan

Email: dtuan@speri.org

Phone: +84-4-37715690 or +84-1235868202

Mrs. Nguyen Minh Phuong

Email: nmpuong@codeinter.org

Phone: +84-4-37711173 or +84-985713430

Mrs. Tran Thi Hoa

Email: tthoa@cirum.org

Phone: +84-983181288