



Capacity Building Needs Assessment of Forest Sector Grassroots Stakeholders for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD)

REPORT OF FINDINGS

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NGUYEN DUC TAM, Training Coordinator - RECOFTC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Assessment has been conducted within the framework of the NORAD-funded “Training and Capacity Building of Forest Sector Grassroots Stakeholders for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Asia Pacific” Project (NORAD-REDD) in cooperation with the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme and valuable supports from RECOFTC, DOF/MARD, DARD, DONRE, CEMA, mass organisations, People's Committees of districts and communes and people living in and around forests at the project implementation provinces of Lam Dong, Bac Kan and Ca Mau

They are all sincerely acknowledged

Nguyen Duc Tam
Training Coordinator – RECOFTC
National Coordinator of NORAD-REDD Project

ABSTRACT

The Assessment has been conducted within the framework of the NORAD-funded "Training and Capacity Building of Forest Sector Grassroots Stakeholders for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Asia Pacific" Project (NORAD-REDD) in cooperation with the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme

The Assessment uses the 6-step method described in the Capacity Building Guidelines of RECOFTC, 2010. Data for the Assessment were collected through desk review, semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions and direct observation, from Feb. 21 to March 28, 2011 in 4 districts, 8 communes, 16 villages of three provinces (Lam Dong, Ca Mau and Bac Kan). Total number of people joining the interviews and group discussions is 308, of which is 51 females (occupied 17.8%). They are categorised into four groups, i.e government forestry agencies, state forestry enterprises, mass organisations and households living in and around forests, that occupied 33.4%, 9.7%, 13.6% and 43.2% respectively.

Before assessing the current capacity of the stakeholders, a set of competency standards for REDD+ and climate change has been developed. According to it, the required knowledge and skills for REDD+ and climate change have been divided into 5 clusters, i.e Climate change, REDD+ in the climate change context, REDD in the context of community forestry, Forest carbon market and trade and Benefit sharing from forest carbon trade. In each cluster, the knowledge and skills are separated into 5 levels, which are suitable for each of the stakeholders groups. Level 1 is required for the group of community and households. Similarly, level 2 is for communal authority, technical staff and mass organisations at commune and district, state forestry enterprises; level 3 is for district authority, provincial technical staff and mass organisations; level 4 is for leaders of provincial departments and committees (policy level); and level 5 is for leaders of relevant national agencies.

The findings of the Assessment have revealed significant gaps at all the groups. Particularly, in the cluster of climate change knowledge, the current capacity of the provincial government forestry agency group is at level 2, the district is level 1, the state forestry enterprises, mass organisations and community and households are not enough for level 1. In the cluster of REDD in the context of CC, the current capacity of the provincial government forestry agency group is at level 1 and of the remaining groups are not enough for level 1. In the cluster of REDD in the context of CF, the current capacity of the provincial government forestry agency group is at level 1 and of the remaining groups are not enough for level 1. In the clusters of Forest carbon market and trade and Benefit sharing from forest carbon trade, the current capacity of all four groups are not enough for level 1.

A proposal of basic knowledge has been made to build up capacity for forest sector grassroots stakeholders for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Vietnam. This basic knowledge has included 6 modules (5 technical and one cross-cutting subjects). They may be used in the following stage to develop a Capacity Building Programme for Forest Sector Grassroots Stakeholders for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) under the framework of the NORAD-REDD Project.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------|--|
| APF | Action Plan Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change of the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Period 2008 – 2010 |
| CBNA | Capacity building needs assessment |
| CC | Climate change |
| CEMA | Committee for ethnics and mountain affaires |
| CF | Community forestry |
| DARD | Department of agriculture and rural development |
| DOF | Directorate of Forestry |
| DONRE | Department of natural resources and environment |
| DPI | Department of planning and investment |
| EU | European Union |
| EVN | Electricity of Vietnam |
| FCPFC | World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility |
| FIPI | Forest institute for planning and inventory |
| FPD | Forest protection department |
| FPIC | Free, Prior, Informed and Consensus |
| FSSP | Forestry sector support partnership |
| GHG | Greenhouse gases |
| MARD | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development |
| MOF | Ministry of Finance |
| MOLISA | Ministry of Labour, invalids and social affaires |
| MONRE | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment |
| MPI | Ministry of Planning and Investment |
| NORAD | Norwegian Agency for Development |
| NTP-RCC | National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change |
| PB | Policy Board |
| PFES | Payments for Forestry Ecological Services |
| RECOFTC | Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific |
| REDD | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation |
| R-PP | Readiness Preparation Proposal |
| TNA | Training Needs Assessment |
| TOR | Term of reference |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| USD | United stated dollar |
| WB | World Bank |

1. Background

In 2009, Norad (Norwegian Agency for Development) provided funding support to RECOFTC under Climate and Forest Initiative 2009-Civil Society Support to implement a project on “Training and Capacity Building of Forest Sector Grassroots Stakeholders for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Asia Pacific” or NORAD-REDD Project for short. In the phase 1 (Aug. 2009 – July 2010), the Project was implemented in three countries: Indonesia, Laos and Nepal. In the phase II (Aug. 2010 – July 2013) the Project was implemented in four countries: Indonesia, Laos, Nepal and Vietnam

The goal of the project is that the “Grassroots forest sector stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region actively contribute to the success of REDD plus mechanism and take full advantage of the resultant benefits for local socio-economic development”.

The purpose of the project is that “Key gaps in knowledge among grassroots forest stakeholders are addressed, enabling them to participate to their full potential in the planning and implementation of REDD plus related programs and activities in target countries”.

These stakeholders include local forest managers and governments and other forestry officials, NGOs and civil society groups concerned with forest management, and above all the forest dependent households, especially highly vulnerable people (e.g., indigenous people, women and children). These local groups are termed as ‘grassroots forest stakeholder’.

Project Outputs and Activities

The second phase of the project will run for three years, starting from August 2010. During this phase, project has targeted a total of four major outputs with number of activities as follows:

OUTPUT 1: A training and capacity building package intended for introducing REDD plus to the forest sectors grassroots stakeholders is developed, implemented and iteratively revised and updated to fit country-specific conditions and the evolving development of REDD plus mechanism in respective target country

OUTPUT 2: Grassroots forest stakeholders’ awareness for REDD plus is raised through participatory and interactive training and capacity building program, focusing on the relevance and implications of REDD plus in the local context, especially for sustainable forest management, mitigating impacts of climate change, livelihoods security and rural development and roles and responsibilities of grassroots stakeholders in the same

OUTPUT 3: Feedback received on the capacity building training delivery and other relevant internal and external processes are analyzed, allowing for the continuous improvement and refinement of capacity building programs

OUTPUT 4: Capacity building materials developed by the project are used in the context of REDD plus activities throughout the Asia Pacific region to develop national REDD readiness programs and strategies and decide grassroots stakeholders' priorities

(See Annex 1: Logframe of NORAD-REDD Project)

In Vietnam, the Project has been implemented in four provinces representing different eco-forest areas. The provinces are Bac Kan, Ha Tinh, Lam Dong and Ca Mau (see Figure 2)

Capacity Building Needs Assessment (CBNA)

As the title of the Project describes, the main content of the Project is to build up capacity for grassroots forest sector stakeholders for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD). Therefore, the Capacity building programme developed by the Project should right address the stakeholders' needs. This Assessment is under the Activity 1.1 (See Annex 1 – Logframe of NORAD-REDD) and led by NORAD-REDD Project in collaboration with UN-REDD Vietnam Programme and the project provinces. Data collection for the Assessment was conducted in a period of Feb. 21 to March 28, 2011. The key findings of the Assessment is presented in this Report.

2. Methodology

2.1. Objectives and Expected Results of the Assessment

The Assessment objectives are to provide the NORAD-REDD Project with a foundation to develop a Capacity building programme addressing its stakeholders' needs and reflecting the context and evolution of REDD+ mechanism in Vietnam through identifying knowledge gaps related to REDD+ and making recommendations accordingly.

The expected results of the Assessment include:

1. A profile of REDD+ in Vietnam.
2. Grassroots stakeholders in the forest sector for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Vietnam identified.
3. Standard capacity of grassroots stakeholders in the forest sector for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Vietnam developed
4. The current capacity of grassroots stakeholders in the forest sector for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Vietnam identified.

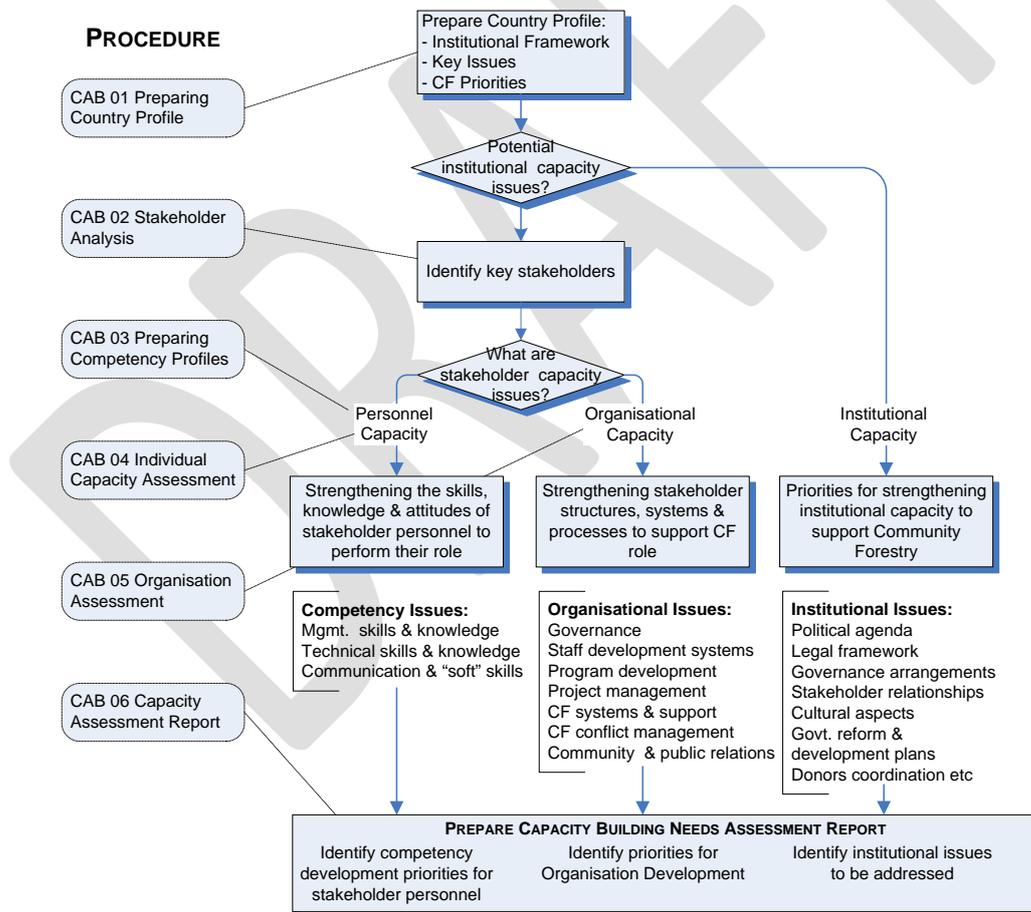
- The capacity needs of capacity of grassroots stakeholders in the forest sector for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Vietnam identified.

2.2. Approach and methods

The approach used in the Assessment is pro-poor participatory approach.

As the same in other three countries (Laos, Indonesia and Nepal), the method of assessment is the 6-step one which is described in the Capacity Building Guidelines, RECOFTC – 2010 (See Figure below)

Figure 1: Summary of 6-steps of CBNA



(Source: Capacity Building Guidelines, RECOFTC, 2010)

To be consistent with the CBNA which had been conducted before in Laos, Indonesia and Nepal, the methods to collect and analyse data for the CBNA in Vietnam are also include:

Desk study
Focus group discussion
Semi-structured interview
Direct observation

As mentioned above, the NORAD-REDD Project is implemented in four countries: Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia and Nepal. Within the framework of the Project, the CBNA is implemented in all these four countries. Therefore the consistency in assessment and data collection and analysis methods is very important. It allows the results received in each country can be exchanged, shared and synthesized into an overall capacity building programme of the Project. Of course, each country has its own characteristics, so the application of the same methods should be flexible in a certain extent. Too focusing on the consistency may lead to inflexibility. On the contrary, too focusing on the own characteristics may change the CBNA in four countries into for separate projects

The biggest challenge in this Assessment is the questions for interviews. The questions were compiled by the NORAD-REDD office in Bangkok late 2010 and revised by the end of Jan. 2011. The use of the questions in the field has revealed some remarks as follows:

- The questions have been closely based on RECOFTC instructions on capacity standards and levels relating to CC and REDD+ (i.e 5 clusters and 5 levels of knowledges), therefore they have met the Assessment objectives to identify the knowledge gaps of the grassroots forest sector stakeholders for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and recommend a capacity building programme addressing the gaps and reflecting the context and evolution of REDD+ mechanism in Vietnam
- Some questions are difficult to understand due to technical terms. REDD+ is a new concept. It is still discussed internationally. In Vietnam, the Government has not had any official legal papers on it. A lot of concept relating to REDD+ is total new (e.g forest carbon). The equivalent terms in Vietnamese language are usually difficult to understand, for example FPIC is translated into “*Đồng thuận, Tự do, Được thông báo đầy đủ và Trước*” (meaning “Free, Prior, Informed and Consensus”) or something like “*Tham vấn cộng đồng*” (meaning “Community consultation”). To tackle these difficulties, some training was offered to the Data collection team before they went to the field. The team was requested to conduct semi-structured interview, use of local languages and explanation as much as possible, separate some questions into smaller and simpler ones depending on the specific context and interviewees. For example, when interview farmers, the term of “forest degradation” may be changed into “worse forests”, etc. In the field this seems to be effective. The consultant supporting data collection in Di Linh district, Lam Dong province when conducted interviews on Benefit sharing from

forest carbon trade, said “if use academic terms to assess understanding of some target groups on benefit sharing mechanism from forest carbon trade, 100% of them cannot answer, However, if we explain and use smaller and simpler questions, they all can answer that there were community participation in the decision making process about benefit sharing. There is also equity in benefit sharing and livelihood support to households in difficulty. And they understand the importance of cultural and economic social values in the sustainable forestry principle” (UN-REDD, Field survey report at Di Linh district, Lam Dong, 2011, p. 4)

(See Annex 2: Data collection tools)

2.3. Scope of data collection

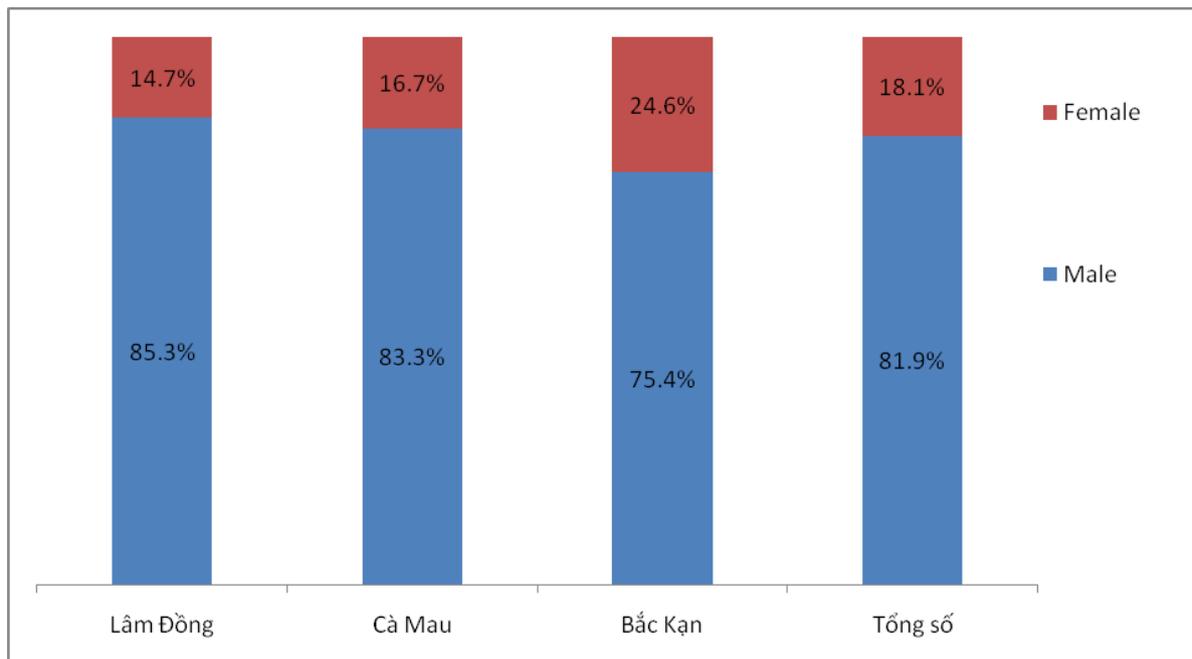
The Data collection team had worked with leaders, management staff, technical officers of government forestry agencies at the levels of province (including DARD, DONRE, CEMA), district (People’s committees, Forest protection stations) and commune (People’s committees), mass organisations from province down to commune (including Women, Youth, Farmer’s, Veteran’s Associations, Union of scientific and technological associations), state entrepreneurs, some research organisations (Wetland research centre under Vietnam Forestry Institute) and households whose livelihood relates to forests in three provinces (Bac Kan, Lam Dong and Ca Mau) out of the four project provinces (See Figure below) during a period of Feb. 21 to March 28, 2011 (See Annex 3: Data collection schedule)

Figure 2: Provinces of NORAD-REDD Project



The total number of informants in this Assessment is 308, of which 56 are females (occupied 18.1%). The female percentage in the informants varies from province to province (See Figure below)

Figure 3: Male and female percentage in the informants



In general, the female percentage in the total informants is quite low. This result is in line with the gender data in Vietnam. According to MOLISA, 2011, although women occupy 51.48% of the population in Vietnam and 48% of the labour force, the female percentage working in the state sector is only 9.11%. The percentage of women being leaders of state agencies is still lower. For example, only 1.6% of chairperson of People's committees of Province-District-Commune are women (Nguyễn Quốc Tuấn – Nguyễn Hải Hà, National Public Administration Institute, 2011).

In this Assessment, when making interviews at the policy group relating to forestry, the number of women among the leaders of relevant agencies is very low (See Table below)

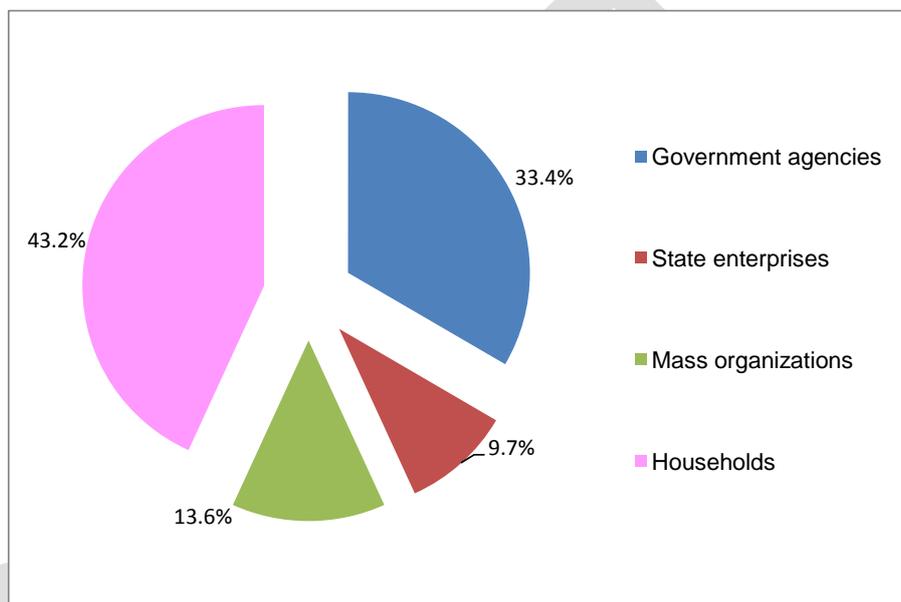
| | Total | Women |
|---|-------|-------|
| Director, Deputy Director in charge of forestry of DARD, DONRE | 5 | 0 |
| Head/Deputy Head of CEMA | 3 | 0 |
| Director/Deputy Director of Forest Protection, Forestry, Extension Centre | 9 | 0 |
| Chairperson/Vice Chairperson in charge of agro-forestry of District People's Committees, Head/Deputy Head of Forest Protection Stations | 8 | 1 |
| Chairperson/Vice Chairperson in charge of agro-forestry of Commune People's Committees, | 7 | 1 |

All the 8 village heads met during the Assessment are men, no women.

Due to low female percentage in the Assessment there has been no comparison of perception, remarks, etc between male and female groups.

The informants in this Assessment are categorised into four main groups: government forestry agencies, state enterpreneurs, mass organisations and households. The percentage of each group is presented below

Figure 4: Categories of the informants



As mentioned above, the NORAD-REDD Project is implemented in four countries: Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia and Nepal. Within the framework of the Project, the CBNA is implemented in all these four countries. The table below presents comparison of the scope of data collection of the CBNA in different countries

Table 1: Scope of data collection for CBNA in some countries

| Assessment | Number of provinces engaged | Number of informants |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| CBNA for REDD+ in Laos | 3 | 73 |
| CBNA for REDD+ in Nepal | - | 74 |
| CBNA for CF+ in Vietnam | 1 | 55 |
| CBNA for REDD+ in Vietnam (this Assessment) | 3 | 281 |

(See Annex 4: List of people met)

2.4. Data collection team

The Capacity building needs assessment of grassroots forest sector stakeholders for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Vietnam was implemented by the Training Coordinator/National Coordinator of the NORAD-REDD Project in Vietnam including planning and budgeting, data collection and analysis and writing the report. The Regional Coordinator of the NORAD-REDD Project and RECOFTC technical consultants were in charge of compilation and revision of the interview questions

In addition when collecting data in the field the Training Coordinator had support from a national consultant contracted by the NORAD-REDD Project and the UN-REDD Programme (in Lam Dong and Bac Kan provinces), consultants and officers from the UN-REDD Programme Vietnam (in Lam Dong), a RECOFTC technical consultant (Ca Mau) and officers from DARDs of Lam Dong, Bac Kan and Ca Mau and an officer from CSDM (Bac Kan)

(See Annex 5: List of Data collection team)

2.5. Limitations of the Assessment

There is no perfect survey/research. This Assessment is not outside that principle. The Assessment has some main limitations as follows:

- The Assessment mainly focuses to identify training needs rather than capacity building ones. Therefore such topics as organisational capacity and institutional capacity assessment are less concentrated. When identifying the training needs, the Assessment also pays more concentration to gaps of knowledge and understanding and less on ones of skills and attitudes. It is possible to say that the Assessment looks like a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) instead of a Capacity Building Needs Assessment (CBNA). The reason of this limitation comes from the point that the Assessment serves directly the Purpose of the NORAD-REDD Project as “*gaps in knowledge among grassroots forest stakeholders are addressed*”.
- As mentioned above, the Assessment is to identify knowledge gaps, therefore the survey content and formats of interview questions are more academic and focus on testing of existing knowledge of the interviewees and comparing with the standards of knowledge. REDD+ as the tested topic itself is quite new and has a lot of technical

terms. These terms are single, e.g. green house effect, emission, etc (so there is no options) or non-existing in Vietnamese, e.g. FPIC. This limitation had been discussed in the item 2.2 (Approach and Methods).

- REED+ is a large subject relating to a lot of sectors such as agriculture, forestry, natural resources environment, planning, investment, labour, invalids, social affairs, etc and different levels (central, provincial, grassroots). The Assessment has made a survey with a limited number of grassroots stakeholders of forestry and natural resources and environment. The data collection with central stakeholders has been cancelled due to delayed progress. The number of informants is higher compared to other similar assessments, however it cannot represent for the whole sector or a province. The interviewees of the Assessment were selected randomly. The staffs of government agencies usually exchanged and promoted, So as a matter of fact, the interviews of the Assessment was made with newly appointed staff, who cannot reflect accurately the understanding on the topics which are explored. The Assessment was implemented in three provinces, in each province only one district was selected (except Lam Dong with two districts), in each district one commune was selected randomly, in each commune one village was selected. In such case it cannot say that the representation of the Assessment is high. The main reason of it is limited resources for the Assessment including time allocation. According to the Project official documents, the Assessment should have been started in August 2010 and had 6 month implementation. Actually the Assessment started only in the second half of January 2011, just two weeks before long public holidays in Vietnam (New Lunar Year in late Jan. and early Feb. 2011). The data collection started on 21 Feb. (two weeks after the New Luna Year) and completed on 28 March. 2011. The first Draft Report was available on 15 April. So the time pressure on the Assessment completion is very high.
- Normally an assessment on capacity building needs for REDD+ needs at least two experts, one of them specializes on capacity building (training) and the other is subject specialist on forestry. Both are responsible for the whole process from A to Z meaning from the assessment design to the assessment final report. Due to limited resources, the NORAD Project has allocated only one training expert who is responsible for the whole Assessment. As a matter of fact, the Project has provided the Assessment with 10-day consultancy contracted from outside to support implementation of the interviews and facilitation of group discussions during the field work. The Assessment has also had supports from provincial staff in making contacts and arranging and conducting the interviews and discussions. These supports are valuable but not enough to fill the technical gap on forestry of the expert conducting the Assessment. It has significantly affected to the Assessment results.

3. Findings and discussion

3.1. Profile of REDD in Vietnam

Current status of forests in Vietnam

Vietnam locates in South East Asia with a total area of 331,212 km² (equivalent to 33,038 millions ha), total land border line of 4,639km (1,281km with China in the North, 2,130 km with Laos and 1,228km with Cambodia in the West), total coastal line of 3,260km (excluding islands).

Vietnam is the third population in South East Asia (behind Indonesia and Philippines). Vietnam's population up to April 1, 2009, is 85,789,573, of which 29.6% living in urban areas and 70.4% in the rural one (equivalent to 60.4 million people). The population density is 252 people/km². Vietnam has 54 ethnic groups, of which Kinh occupies 86%; the remaining 53 groups occupy some 14% of the population

Most of the areas in Vietnam are mountains and hills. Land eligible for agricultural purposes is less than 20%. Forests in Vietnam are categorised into three types: protection forests (such as watershed forest, sea wave protection forests, etc), forest of special uses (such as national parks, bio reserves, biodiversity reserves, etc) and production forests (for commercial purposes). The total areas of forested land in Vietnam up to December 31, 2009 is 13,258,843 ha categorised as follows

Table 2: Areas of different types of forests in Vietnam

(Unit ha)

| Type of forested land | Up to 31/12/2009 | Three types of forests | | | Others |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | | Special forests | Protection forests | Production forests | |
| Forested land | 13,258,843 | 1,999,915 | 4,832,962 | 6,288,246 | 137,720 |
| A. Natural forests | 10,339,305 | 1,921,944 | 4,241,384 | 4,147,005 | 28,972 |
| B. Planted forests | 2,919,538 | 77,971 | 591,578 | 2,141,241 | 108,748 |

(Source: MARD, 9/2010)

Nowadays, there are 7 actors managing forest natural resources as follows:

- Management units of protection forests and forests of special uses

- State forestry enterprises
- Households
- Communities
- Commune People's Committees
- Private forestry companies, joint venture and 100% foreign investment
- State defense forces

According to official statistics from MARD Decision 2140 /QĐ-BNN-TCLN dated 9/8/2010, the forest areas managed by the different actors as follows:

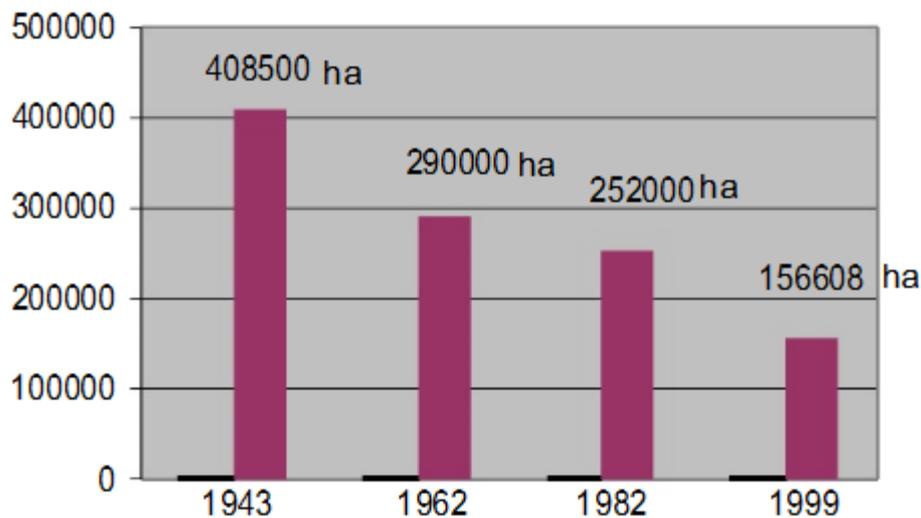
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Table 3: Forested land and forests managed by different actors

| Type of forested land | Total area | Forest management units | State enterprises | Other economic units | Military forces | Households | Community | Other organization | Commune People's Committees | Percentage % |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Forested land | 13,258,843 | 4,318,492 | 2,044,252 | 91,537 | 243,689 | 3,287,070 | 191,383 | 659,935 | 2,422,485 | 24.8% |
| A. Natural forest | 10,339,305 | 3,818,718 | 1,551,473 | 27,219 | 196,027 | 1,961,517 | 171,395 | 575,378 | 2,037,578 | 19.0% |
| 1. Wood forest | 8,235,838 | 3,111,666 | 1,271,342 | 18,220 | 144,944 | 1,416,918 | 152,660 | 421,326 | 1,698,761 | 17.2% |
| 2. Bamboo forest | 621,454 | 147,486 | 121,616 | 3,497 | 10,839 | 168,587 | 6,029 | 36,653 | 126,748 | 27.1% |
| 3. Mix forest | 685,631 | 248,996 | 139,455 | 5,264 | 37,128 | 123,032 | 5,549 | 18,902 | 107,305 | 17.9% |
| 4. Mangrove forest | 60,603 | 35,080 | 4,911 | - | 310 | 3,527 | 499 | 3,733 | 12,544 | 5.8% |
| 5. Rocky mountain forest | 735,779 | 275,490 | 14,149 | 238 | 2,806 | 249,452 | 6,658 | 94,765 | 92,220 | 33.9% |
| B. Plantation forest | 2,919,538 | 499,774 | 492,779 | 64,318 | 47,661 | 1,325,553 | 19,989 | 84,556 | 384,907 | 45.4% |
| 1. With reserves | 1,464,330 | 306,763 | 267,548 | 30,374 | 31,096 | 564,374 | 12,869 | 7,126 | 204,180 | 38.5% |
| 2. No reserves | 1,124,930 | 155,151 | 200,763 | 29,556 | 14,576 | 557,321 | 7,114 | 32,112 | 128,338 | 49.5% |
| 3. Bamboo | 87,829 | 1,792 | 3,506 | 1,269 | 90 | 76,084 | - | 854 | 4,234 | 86.6% |
| 4. Specialty | 206,730 | 32,203 | 20,591 | 3,120 | 603 | 110,406 | 5 | 4,123 | 35,678 | 53.4% |
| 5. Mangrove, alkaline forest | 35,719 | 3,865 | 370 | - | 1,296 | 17,369 | - | 342 | 12,478 | 48.6% |

Most of the forests of Vietnam has lost during the period of time from 1943 to 1995. The forest coverage was reduced from 43.8% in 1943 (Maurand, 1943) to 26% in 1995 (The Central Committee for Forest Inventory 1993, p. 281). Thanks to afforestation initiatives such as the Programme 327, Programme 661, etc the forest coverage has increased to 39.1% (FSSP-2010). However, deforestation and forest degradation is still one of the big problems of the forestry sector in Vietnam. According to official statistics of 2004, more than 2 thirds of natural forests in Vietnam is poor forests or re-planted forests, the primary or rich forests occupies only 4.6%. From 1999 to 2005, the area of rich natural forests have reduced by 10.2%, the medium forests have reduced by 13.4%. The lowland forests have disappeared totally. The mangroves forests have reduced 62%, in the period of 1985-2000, on average there was 15,000ha of mangroves forests lost annually (See Figure 5)

Figure 5: Area of mangroves forests in Vietnam, 1943 – 1999



(Source: Maurand 1943, Rollet 1962, FIPI, 1999)

Regarding quality of forests, before 1945, timber volume was about 200– 300m³/ha, of which valuable timbers such as sindora wood, ironwood, etc were very common. Bamboo forest with baamboos of a diametre of 18 – 20 cm, used to be very comon (Hoang Hoe, 1998). Nowadays, the forest quality has been reduced significantly. Most of forests now is poor forests with low economic values. The timber volume of 1993 was estimated of 525 million cubic mettres (on average of 76 m³/ha). The average growth rate of forests in Vietnam now in general is 1 – 3m³/ha and 5 – 10m³/ha for plantation forest (Castren, 1999).

Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

- Conversion to agriculture (particularly to industrial perennial crops such as coffees, shrimp production. With present price of coffees, a hecta of coffee plantation can offer

120,000,000 VND, which has made contribution to increase the area of coffee plantation at sky rocket speed. According to the State planning, the area of coffee plantation in the whole Central Highlands in 200 is 150,000ha, in reality it has increased from 81,737ha in 1990 to 313,204ha in 1999, nearly double of the planned area (Bùi Quang Binh, 2005). In Dak Lak province, the area of coffee plantation has increased from less than 110,000ha in 2005 to nearly 120,000ha in 2008 and some 140,00ha up to March 2011 (DARD online, March 2011). At the same time, the areas of natural forests in Lam Dong has decreased from 557, 615ha in 2005 down to 545,244ha in 2008 (reduced by 12,371ha) (FPD, Forest Data of 2005 and 2008).

In Ca Mau province, a hecta of shrimp farming may bring a profit of 10 – 15 million VND/year. There is a big difference when to compare this figure with with the fees of 100,000 – 200,000 VND/ha/year to forest protection paid by the Government. Therefore the area of shrimp farming in particular and aquatic farming in general has increased very quickly. From 1991 to 2001, the total area of coastal aquatic farming of Vietnam has double increased. In parallel with it is the missing of mangroves forests of 15,000ha/year (FIPI, 2001).

With the current speed of population growth and free immigration, the demand to convert forested lands into lands for agricultural purposes is increasing. It may cause more and more pressure on forests. In Bac Kan province, 82.6% of informants as farmers expressed their wish to have more land for agricultural production. The village head of Cho Leng, Nam Mau commune, Ba Be district said that now each of household in his village has 2,000m² on average and they wanted to have at least 3,000m² per household for farming.

It can say that in the fighting between forests and coffees, shrimp farming or other types of agricultural production, forests are being led severely

- unsustainable logging, notably illegal logging has been considered one of the most important drivers causing deforestation in Vietnam. According to official data from FPD-MARD, in 2009 there were 48,605m³ of timber of all types confiscated and in 2010 44,850m³. Although the Government has issued a lot of legislation papers, the most significant one of which is the Law of Forest Protection and Development, 2004, the illegal timber transportation and smuggling is still a complicated problem. Very recently, on April 19, 2011 the Court in Ho Chi Minh City had an open trial on a timber smuggling of big scale (with 1.7 million of cubic metres of timbers valued at approximately 1.3 million USD)

Unsustainable logging has been also due to local people livelihood activities. In Ca Mau province, at the point of time for harvesting of natural aquatic resources (such as

breeding crabs, shrimps, etc) there are usually 5,000 – 10,000 people from inside and outside the province come and destroyed a large area of mangrove forests to get timber to construct watch towers, shed, nets, etc to catch crabs, shrimps, etc. Collecting woods for food cooking (in Bac Kan province) or coal production (in Ca Mau) also make contribution to deforestation and forest degradation. In villages of Pac Ngoi (Nam Mau commune) and Cho Leng (Quang Khe commune) of Ba Be district, Bac Kan province local people have to dig to get tree roots for woods, because on the ground there is nothing left. They estimated that in three year time there may not have woods for food cooking any more.

- Infrastructure construction and development, of which road building and dam construction are the most destructive in terms of forest loss. From 1990 to 2002 the road network in Viet Nam had more than doubled, from 96,100km up to 205,782km (WB Report, 2002, p. 33). The road development, particularly for remote mountainous areas is necessary and has made significant contribution to social-economic development and reduction of income gaps between the mountainous and low lands as well as urban and rural areas. However, it also one of the drivers of deforestation. First forests were reduced to give areas for construction of roads, bridges, etc. Second, new roads in turn make travels much better and then facilitate illegal timber smuggling and transportation. This reality has been occurring in the roads of Ho Chi Minh, TransAsia, etc.

To meet energy demands for socio-economic development, the demand for electricity in general and hydroelectricity in particular becomes bigger and bigger. In 1982, hydroelectricity occupied only 21.8% of the total electricity production of the country, The figure of 1992 was 60.4% and 2008 37.9%. In 2010 total number of hydroelectricity factories in operation was 50 with their total capacity of 9,412 MW. It anticipates that in 2025 there may be 80 hydroelectricity factories of large and medium scale being operational with the total capacity is 20,178 MW. (EVN Vietnam, Current status and development plan, 2008)

Similar to the road development mentioned above, the hydroelectricity development plans have also had negative impact on environment in general and forests in particular. Mr. Bui Cach Tuyen, General Director of Environment, MONRE said *“The biggest concern of construction of too many hydroelectricity works in the same water shed of rivers is that their dams may make the eco-currency of the rivers disappear and affect the fauna and flora in the surrounding areas”* The official data has revealed that due to dam construction on Dong Nai river had destroyed more than 15,000ha of natural forests (Youth Newspaper, 25 April 2010). In Phu Yen province, Ms. Nguyen Thanh Thuy, Deputy Director of DPI said *“Most of the hydroelectricity construction*

projects have “crashed” extremely important protection forests. The newer projects have to go further in forests such as Dak Ple, Ken Lut Ha. If the hydroelectricity of Tra Xom with capacity of 20 MW has destroyed 600ha of forests, then the hydroelectricity of A Vuong with capacity 10 times bigger (210 MW) may destroy how large are of forests in the west north of Quang Nam”. The Tra Xom hydroelectricity with capacity of 20 MW has destroyed 633.7 ha of watershed forests in Vinh Thanh district of Phu Yen province.

Deforestation is not only due to infrastructure development such as construction of roads and hydroelectricity factories but also by something ridiculous, for example to destroy natural forests to build facilities for eco-tourism

- **Forest fires** According to PFD data, from 1992 to 2010, each year Vietnam lost 6,000ha of forests due to fires on average. From 2004 to 2008 only there were reported 3,659 cases of fires destroying 15,479ha of forests (equivalent to lossing of 3,096ha of forests per year on average). The status of forest fires is present in the following table

Table 4: Data on forest fires of the period of 2004 – 2010

(Unit: ha)

| Year | Area of fired forests |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 2004 | 4.294 |
| 2005 | 7.350 |
| 2006 | 2.028 |
| 2007 | 4.746 |
| 2008 | 2.549 |
| 2009 | 1.550 |
| 2010 | 5.668 |
| Total | 28.185 |

(Source: FPD – MARD. 2010)

The causes of forest fires include

- Slash and burn practice: 60.8%
- Hunting, honey, wood collecting 18%
- Unintentional or careless actions 5%
- Others 11,2%

(Source: MARD Report to WB, Aug. 2010)

Responses to CC and REDD+

Having been aware of affects of deforestation and forest degradation to climate change, the Governement of Vietnam has actively participated the Initiatives of reducing of emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). On the 2 Dec. 2008, the Prime Minister signed the Decision 158/2008/QĐ-TTg issueing the National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (NTP-RCC). MARD has established a Steering Committe and developed the Action Plan Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change of the Agriculture and Rural Developement Sector Period 2008 – 2010 (APF), in which reducing of emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is one of the important topics. On the 29 May 2009 in Hanoi MARD launched officially the Action Plan Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change of the Agriculture and Rural Developement Sector Period 2008 – 2010

Vietnam has also specified its position in REDD+ Initiatives through submission its proposal to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Vietnam has been one of the first countries joining the UN-REDD Programme. Vietnam also developed a Draft Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and submitted to World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The R-PP is a road map for Vietnam toward to achieving the readiness to implement REDD mechanism. The R-PP also describes neccessary activities and their implementation intrcutions as well as to identify required resources for them

The Draft R-PP of Vietnam was first evaluated on 30 Sep. 2010 by Australian, Denmark, Germany and Norway and second on 14 Jan. 2011 by Australia, Denmark, Germany, EU, Nepal and Norway. All the countries mentioned above have agreed that the Draft R-PP of Vietnam had been of good quality and needed to integrate their recommendations into the final Draft for submission for approval of provision of grant to support its implementation.

On 23-25 March 2011 in Da Lat City, Vietnam, the sixth UN-REDD Policy Board (PB6) and the eighth meeting of the Participants Committee (PC8) of World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) was organised with participation of more than 300 representatives from international and national organisations and social civel organisations. At the PC8, during the R-PP assessment session, the representatives from Cambodia, Peru, Ethiopia and Vietnam gave their presentation on their R-PP for REDD+ and joined the plenary discussion of the meeting. The final Draft R-PP of Vietnam has been approved with a grant of 3.6 million USD to support REDD+ activities in Vietnam.

According to the R-PP, the developement of REDD+ Strategy and Rediness for REDD+ may involve the following agencies:

- MARD implements its mandates in state management in the sector of agriculture, forestry and rural developement.

- MONRE include general departments and departments in charge of state management in the sector of protection and utilization of natural resources, environmental protection and land-related management including forestry lands.
- MPI implement state management in the sector of planning and investment
- MOF implement the functions of management and supervision of financial transactions (such as State Budget, taxes, fees of all types and other sources of the State Budget, and national reserves, financial investment, enterprise finance and financial services)
- In addition there are other agencies such as the Central Committee for Ethnic and Mountain Affairs, forestry companies, etc

REDD+ coordination in Vietnam

The National REDD+ Network and its technical working groups have been organised by the Decision 2614/QĐ-BNN-LN dated 16 Sep. 2009 upon DOF's proposal in the official letter 637/LN-TTr-QLR regarding establishment of National REDD+ Network and its working groups.

The National REDD+ Network is headed by DOF and co-chaired by a representative from the donor community based on voting of donors in every two-year term. At the moment the Norwegian Embassy to Vietnam is take the co-chair responsibility for the first term. The membership of the Network is open including representatives from Forestry Department, Department for International Relations, FSSP Coordination Office, UNCCD National Office, other relevant agencies of the Government of Vietnam, development international organisations and others. The TOR of the Network has been approved. The national REDD+ Network and its working groups are responsible for coordinating relevant agencies and organisations in implementation of REDD+ related activities in line with their mandates and responsibilities. The head of the Network and its working groups allocate tasks to their members on part-time basis.

The National REDD+ Network has meetings at 3-month interval. Up to now they have had three regular meetings focusing on discussion of international REDD+ evolution as well as in Vietnam, update the technical working group activities, UN-REDD Vietnam programme and recommendations on the Network operation.

The technical working groups are divided into 4 sub-groups: (i) REDD+ governance focusing on governance related issues, organisational and institutional capacity building, forestry regulations, being a focal point to link with other government agencies; (ii) Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV); (iii) Financial mechanism and benefit sharing from REDD+ and (iv) REDD+ implementation at district and community levels, alternative livelihood and ethnic minorities.

The technical working groups have its regular meeting at two month interval focusing on sharing and updating information, progress results of REDD+ related projects, providing feedback

and technical assistance to the National REDD+ Network (for example commenting on draft documents of UN-REDD programme [phase II, etc])

On 7 of Jan. 2011, with approval from the Government of Viet Nam Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Cao Duc Phat signed Decision 39/QD-BNN-TCCB on Establishment of the Steering Committee for Implementation of the Initiative on "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity Conservation and Enhancing Forest Carbon Stocks (REDD+) in Viet Nam (or REDD+ Steering Committee for short).

The major tasks of the Vietnam REDD+ Steering Committee include:

- Propose relevant policies on, and solutions to REDD+ issues and carbon credits in Viet Nam's forestry sector to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Steering Committee for NTP-CC
- Assist the Minister of MARD to steer relevant agencies and units under MARD; collaborate with relevant line ministries, localities and organizations on the management and coordination of, and dealing with inter-sector and inter-provincial major issues relating to REDD+ Initiative in Viet Nam
- Direct the formulation and implementation of a Viet Nam REDD+ Programme; development of relevant strategies and plans, and coordination of international cooperation activities to attract financial resources for implementing the REDD+ Initiative
- Implement other REDD+ related tasks as designated by the Minister of MARD.

The Committee had its first meeting to identify the priorities in the REDD+ areas in Vietnam as well its working agenda. At the moment there are some 104 programmes and projects in the sector of responding to climate change in the period of 2010 – 2015, that are proposed for mobilisation of international aid (see Annex 6)

3.2. Matrix of grassroots stakeholder analysis

According to CBNA Guidelines of RECOFTC 2010, a stakeholder is any individual, group, community, association or organization that has a stake in the outcome of CF on RECOFTC's Country Program. By 'having a stake' we mean that they are either directly affected by RECOFTC's Country Program positively or negatively or are in a position to influence the result that the Program may achieve. A key stakeholder is defined as a stakeholder who:

- can significantly influence the outcomes of the Program, or without whose support the Program can not be successful; and
- is directly affected by the activities of the Program, either favourably or negatively.

The key forest sector grassroots stakeholders for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in this Assessment has been categorised into 04 main groups as follows:

Local government agencies:

- DARD
 - Forestry sub-departments
 - Forest protection sub-departments and forest protection district stations
 - Extension system (province and district)
 - Forest management units of protection and special use forests
- DONRE
 - Land management
 - Environment protection sub-department
- Committee for mountainous and ethnic affairs (province and district)
- District people's committee and its Agro-Forestry Division (or Agriculture and rural development Division)
- Commune people's committee
 - Agro-Forestry unit (or Forestry unit)
 - Field forest protection officers

The group of local government agencies can be divided into two sub-groups, that are policy (e.g. Leaders of DARD, DONRE, PC) and technical supporting (including technical staff, office staff and commune management officers)

Mass organisations

- Women union (province, district and commune)
- Youth union (province, district and commune)
- Farmer's association ((province, district and commune)
- Provincial union of scientific and technological associations

State enterprises

This group includes limited companies of 100% of state capital

Communities

- Village heads
- Households whose livelihood relate to forests
- Groups of households having contracts on forest care and protection

The extent of stakeholder's interest/influence are evaluated as follows:

- ++++ Very high interest/influence
- +++ High interest/influence

++ Medium interest/influence

+ Low interest/influence

Besides the grassroots stakeholders mentioned above, there are also another ones such as private forestry companies, army forces, etc. However, the areas of forests managed by these stakeholders are quite low, for example the private forestry companies have managed only 0.7% of the total forest area, the army forces 1.8% respectively. Therefore within the framework of this Assessment, the army forces and private companies have not been included.

As benign analysed above, the Assessment aims at developing a capacity building programme for grassroots stakeholders. Due to limited resources and time, the Assessment has not explored the capacity building needs of central stakeholders such as DOF/MARD, MONRE (General department of land management), Central Committee for Mountains and Ethnic Affairs, institutes and universities, national civil society organisations, etc. Although the NORAD-REDD Project has not assessed the central stakeholder's capacity building needs, it understood well their importance to the success of the Project. So the Project has planned to get their involvement including getting their consultation on the Capacity building programme developed by the Project for grassroots stakeholders, taking part in the project implementation if possible, sharing of information and training materials in order to enhance positive impacts of the Project.

The results of interest/influence analysis for the grassroots stakeholders for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) are presented below.

Table 5: The extents of interest/influence of the grassroots stakeholders for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)

| ID | Stakeholders | Interest | Influence |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|-----------|
| Local government agencies | | | |
| 1 | DARD | ++ | ++++ |
| 2 | Forestry sub-department | ++++ | ++ |
| 3 | Forest protection sub-department | ++++ | ++ |
| 4 | Extension centre | ++++ | ++ |
| 5 | DONRE (Land management, Environment protection) | + | ++ |
| 6 | Committee for mountains and ethnic affairs | + | ++ |
| 7 | District people's committee | +++ | +++ |
| 8 | Management units of protection/special forests | +++ | ++ |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|------|-----|
| 9 | Forest protection stations | +++ | ++ |
| 10 | Agro-forestry divisions | +++ | + |
| 11 | Commune people's committee | +++ | + |
| 12 | Commune forestry units | +++ | + |
| 13 | Field forest protection officers | +++ | + |
| State enterprises | | | |
| 14 | State forestry companies | +++ | ++ |
| Local mass organizations | | | |
| 15 | Women union | +++ | + |
| 16 | Youth union | +++ | + |
| 17 | Farmer's association | +++ | + |
| 18 | Union of scientific and technological associations | ++ | + |
| Community | | | |
| 19 | Village head | ++++ | +++ |
| 20 | Households whose livelihood relating to forests | ++++ | +++ |

The results of interest/influence analysis for the grassroots stakeholders for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) presented above have been used for development of the Participation strategy of the grassroots stakeholders in different stages of the Capacity building programme of the Project. The participation extent of the stakeholders are categorised into four levels as below:

- Information: Stakeholders are provided information related to the Capacity building programme of the Project.
- Consultation: Stakeholders are consulted
- Partnership: Stakeholders join the decision making of issues related to the Capacity building programme of the Project.
- Control: Stakeholders take the total control of the issues related to the Capacity building programme of the Project.

A proposal of participation strategy of the grassroots stakeholders for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) for four stages of the Capacity building

programme (i.e Needs assessment, Programme development, Programme implementation and Programme evaluation) is presented in the following table.

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Table 6: Participation strategy of the grassroots stakeholders

| | Stakeholders | Needs assessment | Programme development | Programme implementation | Programme evaluation |
|---|--|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Local government agencies</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | DARD | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Partnership |
| 2 | Forest protection sub-department | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Partnership |
| 3 | Forestry sub-department | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Partnership |
| 4 | Extension centre | Consultation | Consultation | Partnership | Partnership |
| 5 | Management units of protection and special forests | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Partnership |
| 6 | DONRE (Land management, Environmental protection) | Consultation | Information | Information | Consultation |
| 7 | Committee for mountains and ethnics affairs | Consultation | Information | Information | Consultation |
| 8 | District people's committee | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Partnership |
| 9 | Forest protection station | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Consultation |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 10 | Agro-forestry division | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Consultation |
| 11 | Commune people's committee | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Consultation |
| 12 | Commune forestry units | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Consultation |
| 13 | Field forest protection officer | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Consultation |
| State enterprises | | | | | |
| 14 | Forestry company Ltd. | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Consultation |
| Local mass organizations | | | | | |
| 15 | Women Union | Consultation | Information | Information | Consultation |
| 16 | Youth Union | Consultation | Information | Information | Consultation |
| 17 | Farmer's association | Consultation | Information | Information | Consultation |
| 18 | Union of scientific and technological associations | Consultation | Information | Information | Consultation |
| Communities | | | | | |
| 19 | Village head | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Partnership |
| 20 | Householders whose livelihood relates to | Consultation | Information | Partnership | Partnership |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------|--|--|--|--|
| | forests | | | | |
|--|---------|--|--|--|--|

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3.3. Climate change and REDD competency standards for grassroots forestry stakeholders

According to RECOFTC, Climate change and REDD competency standards are categorised into five clusters as follows:

Table 7: Climate change and REDD competency standards

| Clusters | Topics |
|-----------------|---|
| Cluster 1 | Basic knowledge and skills on CC |
| Cluster 2 | Understanding of REDD in the context of CC |
| Cluster 3 | Integration of REDD into community forestry |
| Cluster 4 | Forest carbon market and trade |
| Cluster 5 | Benefit sharing from forest carbon trade |

In each of the clusters, the competency standards are divided into five different levels: level 1 includes the most basic knowledge and skills and level 5 the most advanced ones. Each grassroots stakeholder may have its specific competency standards depending on its specific function and tasks. These standards specify the required level in each of the clusters. (See Annex 7: Climate change and REDD competency standards)

The CC and REDD specific competency standards of each the grassroots stakeholders for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) are presented briefly in the following table.

Table 8: CC and REDD specific competency standards of the grassroots stakeholders for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)

| | Stakeholders | Cluster 1 | Cluster 2 | Cluster 3 | Cluster 4 | Cluster 5 |
|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Local government agencies</i> | | | | | | |
| 1 | DARD | Level 4 |
| 2 | Forest protection sub-department | Level 3 |
| 3 | Forestry sub-department | Level 3 |
| 4 | Extension centre | Level 3 |
| 5 | Management units of protection and special forests | Level 3 |
| 6 | DONRE (Land management, Environmental protection) | Level 4 |
| 7 | Committee for mountains and ethnics affairs | Level 4 |
| 8 | District people's committee | Level 3 |
| 9 | Forest protection station | Level 3 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 10 | Agro-forestry division | Level 3 |
| 11 | Commune people's committee | Level 2 |
| 12 | Commune forestry units | Level 2 |
| 13 | Field forest protection officer | Level 2 |
| State enterprises | | | | | | |
| 14 | Forestry company Ltd. | Level 2 |
| Local mass organizations | | | | | | |
| 15 | Women Union | Level 2 |
| 16 | Youth Union | Level 2 |
| 17 | Farmer's association | Level 2 |
| 18 | Union of scientific and technological associations | Level 2 |
| Communities | | | | | | |
| 19 | Village head | Level 1 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 20 | Householders whose livelihood relates to forests | Level 1 |
|----|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

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3.4. Current capacity of the grassroots stakeholders for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)

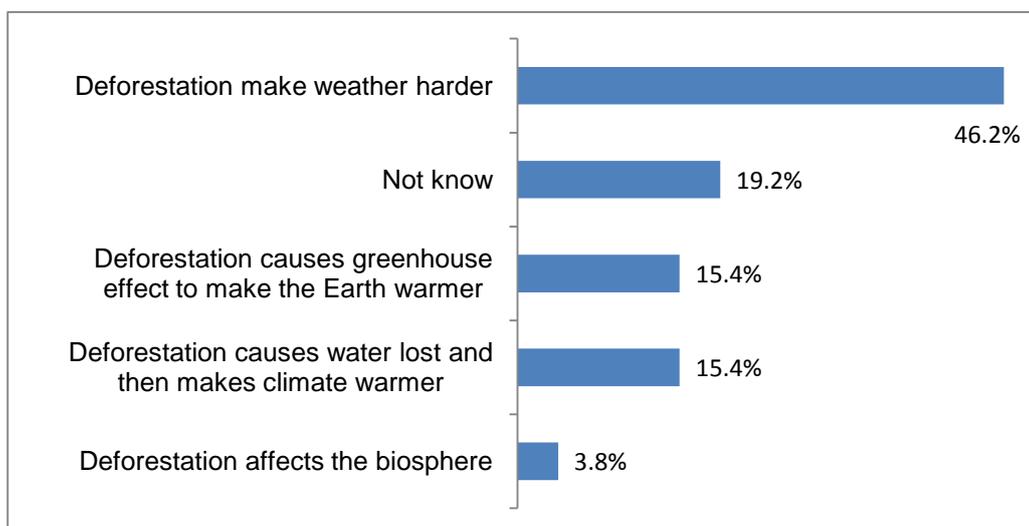
As described above, the knowledge and skills relating directly to REDD has been divided by RECOFTC into 5 clusters (See Table 7).

The results of the survey on the relevant knowledge and skills of 20 grassroots forestry stakeholders in four groups (i.e government agencies, mass organisations, state enterprises and communities) have revealed that the current capacity of all the groups was lower than the required capacity (See Annex 7: Current capacity of the grassroots forestry stakeholders).

Knowledge on CC and REDD in the context of CC is limited

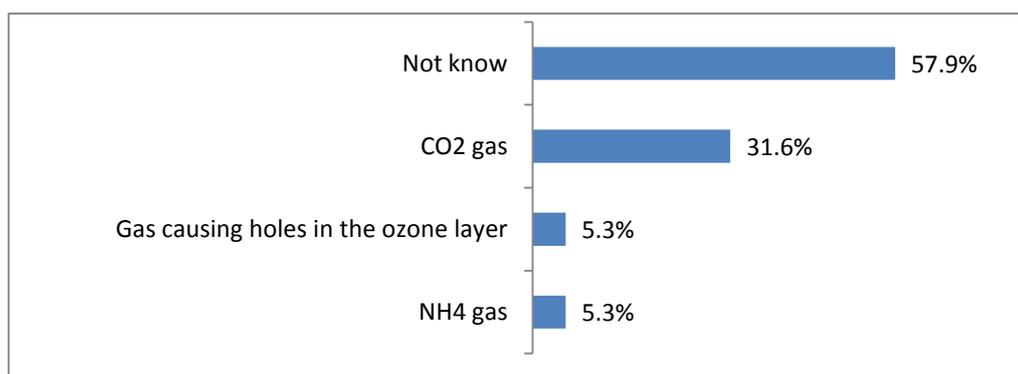
All the surveyed groups have had basic knowledge on CC. For example they can describe climate changes occurring in their locations including sea water increase, coastal land slides, salty water invasion (in Ca Mau province), unpredictable and severe drought and flooding (Lam Dong province) and unusual and long lasting low temperature in winter, flooding and land slides (Bac Kan province). They also can recommend some solutions to mitigate CC effects on agricultural production as well as on people lives such as changing farming seasons, consolidation of dykes of shrimp farming areas, etc. However, their understanding on CC science is been limited. For example, when the technical staff were asked about linkage between CC and forestry in general and deforestation in particular, 84.6% of them did not know or gave generic answers, only 15.6% mentioned the greenhouse effect (See Figure below).

Figure 6: Technical staff perception on the linkages between CC and deforestation



Although the technical staff mentioned the greenhouse effect, only 31.6% of them gave CO2 as an example of greenhouse gases, the remaining 68.4% did not know it or gave incorrect answers (See Figure below)

Figure 7: Examples of greenhouse gases given by technical staff



In addition, when mentioned CO2 as a greenhouse gas most of them did not understand how the greenhouse gases contributing to global warming. A deputy director of a district forest protection station said that CO2 was a “hot gas” (!). Another director of district forest protection believed that CO2 “makes holes in the ozone layer”. Even a chairman of a commune people’s committee admitted that when he heard of greenhouse effect “it seems to be foreign language to him” (meaning he did not understand at all). There is only one respondent (Head of a district division for natural resources and environment) who can explain the heat reflection hindering of CO2.

To the groups of state enterprises, mass organisations and householders, the understanding on CC is still lower due to lack of information and materials as well as opportunities to exchange their understanding. A staff of district women union believed that greenhouse gases were “harmful, poisonous bringing disease agents to human and animals such as Food and mouth disease, blue ears diseases, etc”. A chairman of a farmer’s association agreed that “they (GHG) are harmful to domestic animals”. Due to lack of basic knowledge on CC, the awareness activities are usually general and less persuasive and consequently less effective

The overall assessment has revealed that the current capacity on CC of provincial government agencies was level 2, of state enterprises and mass organisation and householders lower than level 1; the current capacity on REDD in the context of CC of district government agencies was level 1, the state enterprises and mass organisations and householders did not have real capacity in this cluster. Particularly in Lam Dong province, the current capacity of all groups are significantly higher, for example in the CC cluster, the current capacity of provincial government agencies is level 3, of state enterprises and mass organisation and householders is level 1; in the cluster of REDD in the context of CC, the current capacity of provincial government agencies is level 2, of state enterprises and mass organisation and householders is level 1. This result is understandable because the UN-REDD Programme has been implementing in Lam Dong for nearly two years with a lot of activities on capacity building and awareness raising. They have had positive impacts on the staff and farmer’s understanding and awareness

Limited knowledge of integration of REDD into community forestry

According to the Law of forest protection and development, 2004, “*village residence community is all householders and individuals living in the same viallge, ward, etc or equivalent unit*” (item 12, Article 13) and forests allocated to communities “*cannot be devided among community members*” (meaning householders or individuals in the community) (item 2d, Article 30). The Law of forest protection and development, 2004 has also clearly regulated that “*forests which have been allocated to communities cannot be handed over organisations or householders or individuals*” (item 2, Article 29)

Therefore community forestry in general and community forest management in particular are not included management of forests which had been allocated to householders (having certificates of forest land use rights – Red booklet) and also not included contracts of forest caring and protection signed by householders. In Vietnam community forestry in general and community forest management in particular are understood as ones relating to forests which has been allocated to residential communities living in a village.

According to RECOFTC the concept of community includes “*all aspects, initiatives, sciences, policies institutions, and processes that are intended to increase the role of local people in governing and managing forest resources. It consists of informal, customary and indigenous, and formal or government-led initiatives. Community forestry covers social, economic, and conservation dimensions in a range of activities including indigenous management of sacred sites of cultural importance, small-scale forest-based enterprises, forestry outgrower schemes, company-community partnerships, and decentralized and devolved forest management*” (RECOFTC Strategic Plan 2008-2013, p. 3).

So according to RECOFTC the concept of community forestry is broader and more inclusive. Within the framework of this Assessment, even with a limit as mentioned in the Law of forest protection and development, 2004, it is easy to realise that understanding on REDD in the context of community forestry was not a high interest. In reality the forest areas allocated to communities are very low. According to official data from DOF/MARD, up to 31 Dec. 2009, the areas of forests allocated to community management are as follows:

Table 9: Areas of forests allocated to community management, up to 31/12/2009

(Unit: ha)

| Type of forested land | Total areas | Community management | Percentage |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|
| Forested land | 13.258.843 | 191.383 | 1.4% |
| A. Natural forest | 10.339.305 | 171.395 | 1.7% |
| 1. Wood forest | 8.235.838 | 152.660 | 1.9% |
| 2. Bamboo forest | 621.454 | 6.029 | 1.0% |
| 3. Mix forest | 685.631 | 5.549 | 0.8% |
| 4. Mangrove forest | 60.603 | 499 | 0.8% |
| 5. Rocky mountain forest | 735.779 | 6.658 | 0.9% |
| B. Plantation forest | 2.919.538 | 19.989 | 0.7% |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------|------|
| 1. With reserves | 1.464.330 | 12.869 | 0.9% |
| 2. No reserves | 1.124.930 | 7.114 | 0.6% |
| 3. Bamboo | 87.829 | - | |
| 4. Specialty | 206.730 | 5 | 0.0% |
| 5. Mangrove, alkaline forest | 35.719 | - | |

(Source: DOF/MARD, 2010)

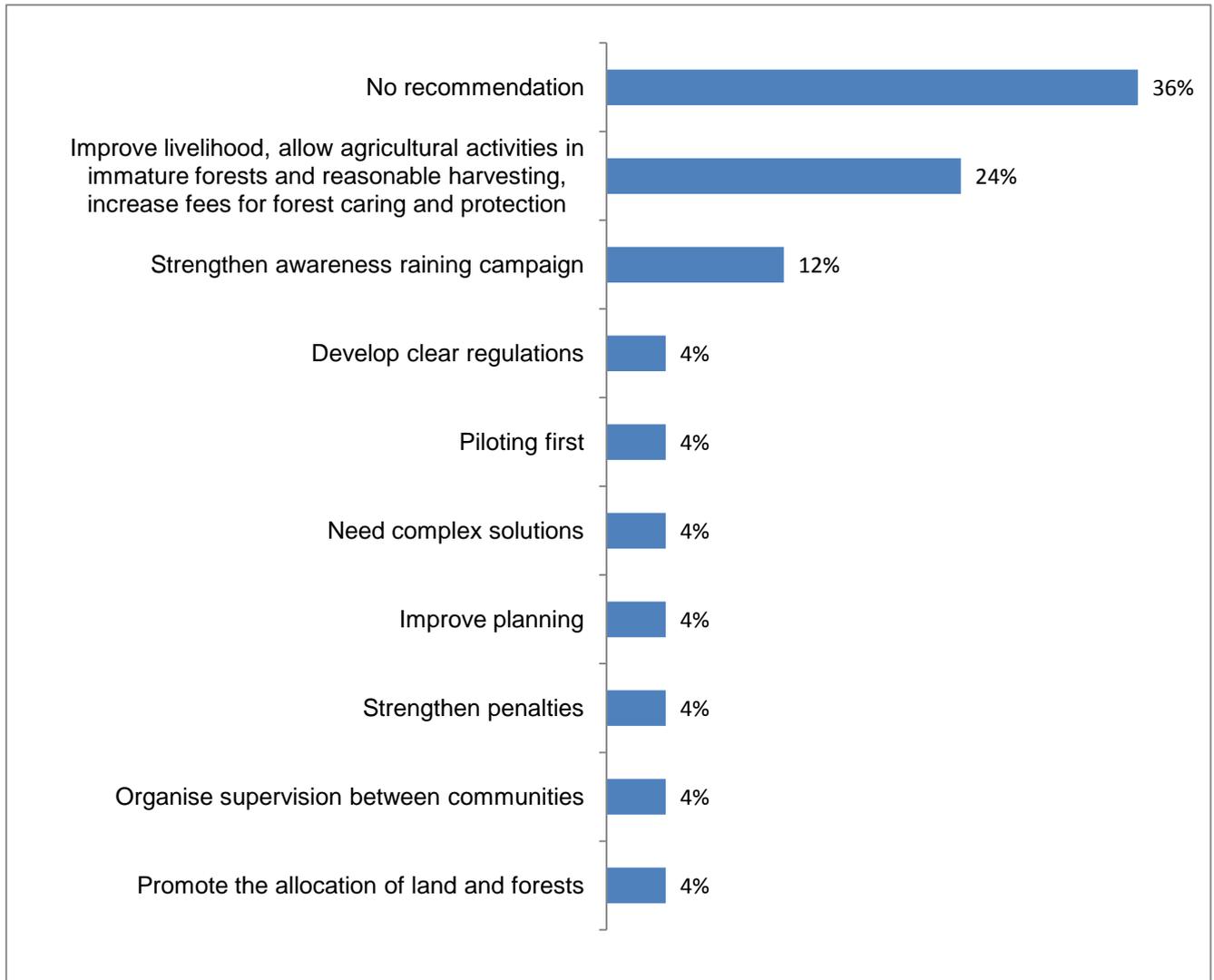
In Bac Kan province, the areas of forests allocated to communities are 29,374 ha out of the total 267.628ha, which is equivalent to 10.9%. In Ca Mau province there is no a hecta of mangroves forests allocated to communities. A deputy head of forest protection sub-department in Bac Kan province said *“actually forests allocated to communities are usually poor, in the remote areas or nobody want them. If they are good, people had claimed them a long time ago”*

Knowledge and skills on forest community management are not common in general. The Deputy head of forest protection station in Lam Ha district, Lam Dong province said *“the district has 12 communes of forests, each commune has approximately 10 villages. Up to now there have been pilot forest community management in 2 villages”* (equivalent to 1.6% of the total number of villages)

In the community forest management practice, there is a term of *“cộng đồng hờ”* (meaning *unreal community*) which is common in use. The term implies the situation of *“cha chung không ai khóc”* (meaning *everybody’s business is nobody’s business*). In Vietnam, community members are usually relatives of one another. So they respect each other’s property. Once forests have been allocated to a certain household, it is considered their property. Other households rarely violate it, even for wood collection for cooking. But community forests don’t belong to any specific household so people have no consideration of protection of them. Some forestry management officers believe that *“forests would disappear if they are handed over to communities”*; therefore no forest has been allocated to communities (as in Ca Mau province). Some provincial authorities have direction to re-allocate community forests to households (as in Bac Kan province). However, to be fair it should be said that some community forests have been very well managed (for example *“religious forests”*, piloting forests of some projects)

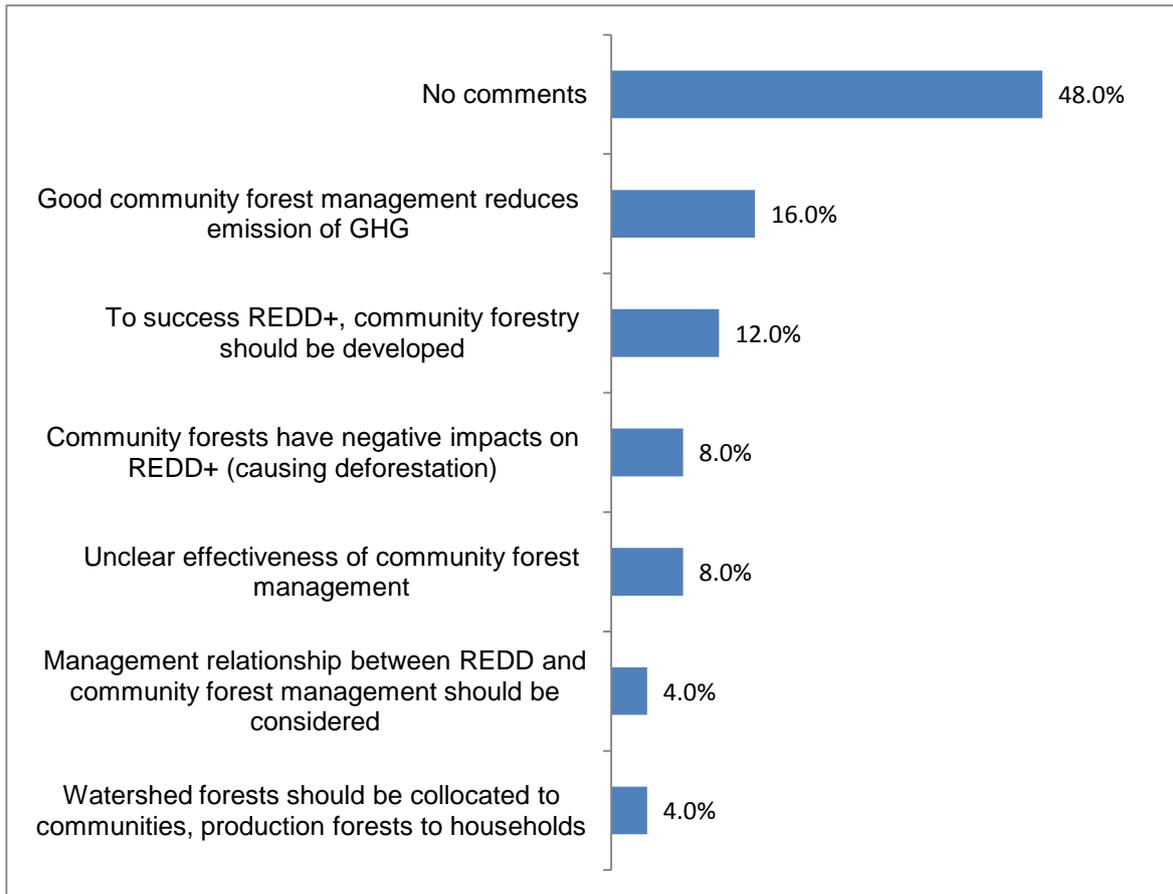
Due to lack of consideration and understanding on community forest management, when being asked to propose recommendations for improvement of community forest management, 36% of the respondents gave no recommendation, the remaining offered generic answers (See Figure below)

Figure 8: Technical staff recommendation for community forest management



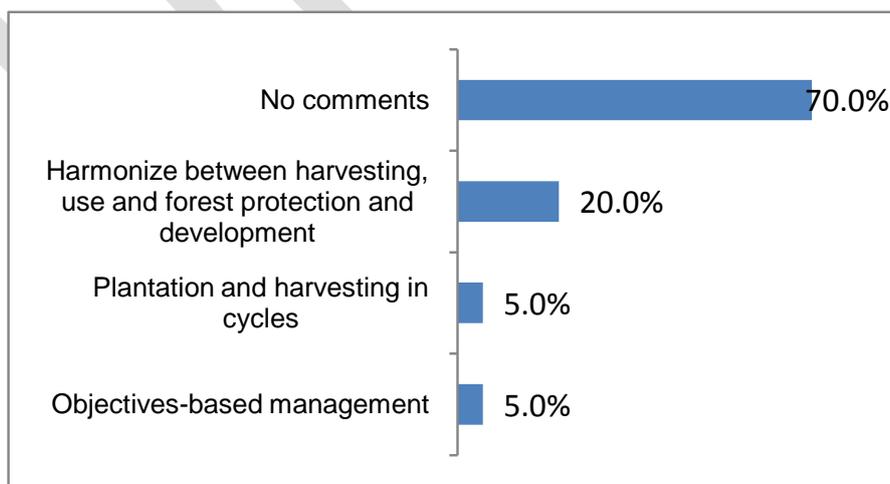
Most of them has unclear linkage between REDD+ and community forestry, even there is some contradictory opinions (See Table below)

Figure 9: Technical staff perception on linkage between REDD+ and community forestry



70% of the respondents in the mass organisation group has “no comments“ when they were asked about sustainable forestry (See Table below)

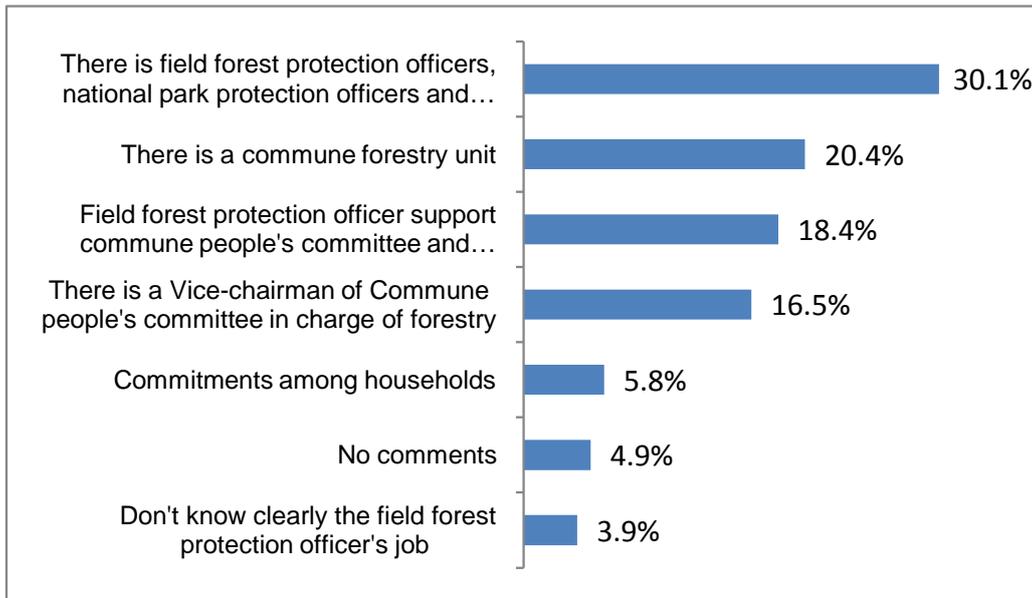
Figure 10: Mass organisation staff perception about sustainable forestry



100% of the respondents in the state enterprises and community groups had no ideas about sustainable harvesting of natural resources (as a part of sustainable forestry) or gave generic answers (such as harvesting in line with Government regulations, good management, etc).

However, most of them was able to describe the forestry management system at the commune level (See Table below)

Figure 11: Understanding of households on the forestry management system at the commune level



To sum up, the current capacity in the cluster of integration of REDD into the context of community forestry of the technical staff is level 1, of the state enterprises and mass organisations and community is lower than level 1

Limited knowledge relating to forest carbon trade

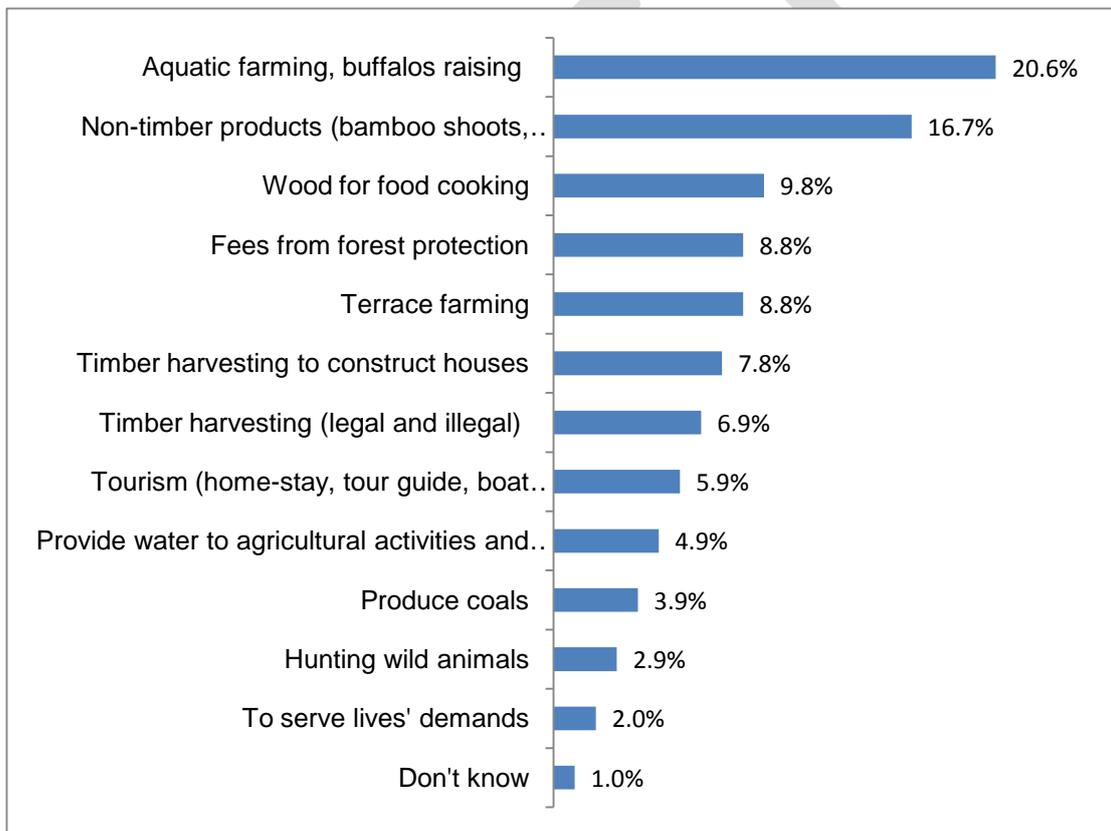
As mentioned at the beginning, this Assessment has been carried out in three provinces of Lam Dong, Ca Mau and Bac Kan, of which Lam Dong is where the UN-REDD Vietnam programme has been implementing since 2009. Lam Dong province is also one of the two provinces (Lam Dong and Son La) piloting PES. Therefore the leaders of DARD in Lam Dong, particularly the Director of DARD cum Head of pilot REDD+ unit, Mr. Pham Van An, has deep understanding on issues relating to forest carbon such as forest carbon market and trade (cluster 4) and benefit sharing from forest carbon trade (cluster 5). He has emphasised that the Government should issue specific legislations and institutional settings in order to control the forest carbon market, open information to make it transparent and controlled developed and avoid cheating and reduce risks, etc. He has proved having experience relating to forest carbon trading with some companies (domestic and foreign ones) in Lam Dong province. At the national level, he believes that it would be necessary to develop not only international forest carbon market but also domestic one, for example the market between industrial enterprises (who destroy environment) and farmers who protect and develop forests.

However, in the provinces where there has no projects on REDD+ or with local authority at the district and commune levels and mass organisations and households, their understanding on

forest carbon trade and benefit sharing from forest carbon trade is very limited. Except the DARD Director in Lam Dong province, nearly 100% of the respondents in all four groups (government agencies, state enterprises, mass organisations and communities) has no knowledge on forest carbon trade. Nobody can describe processes and requirements of forest carbon trade. The relevant concepts as forest carbon, carbon credits, functions and operation of forest carbon market, etc are totally new to them.

When being asked about benefits from forests, the respondents from district government agencies, state enterprises, mass organisations and households mentioned a lot of different benefits from forests but not income from PES. They also did not consider forest carbon as a type of goods, which can be exchanged, sold and bought (See Figure below)

Figure 12: Benefits from forests



This reveals that forest carbon in particular and environmental values of forests in general have not been considered as a product or benefit from forests

It may conclude that all four groups have no capacity in the cluster of forest carbon market and trade

Limited knowledge relating to benefit sharing from forest carbon trade

All the respondents in four groups (government agencies, state enterprises, mass organisations and communities) have understood the importance of community participation in the decision making process on sharing benefit from forests in general as well as the equity and livelihood

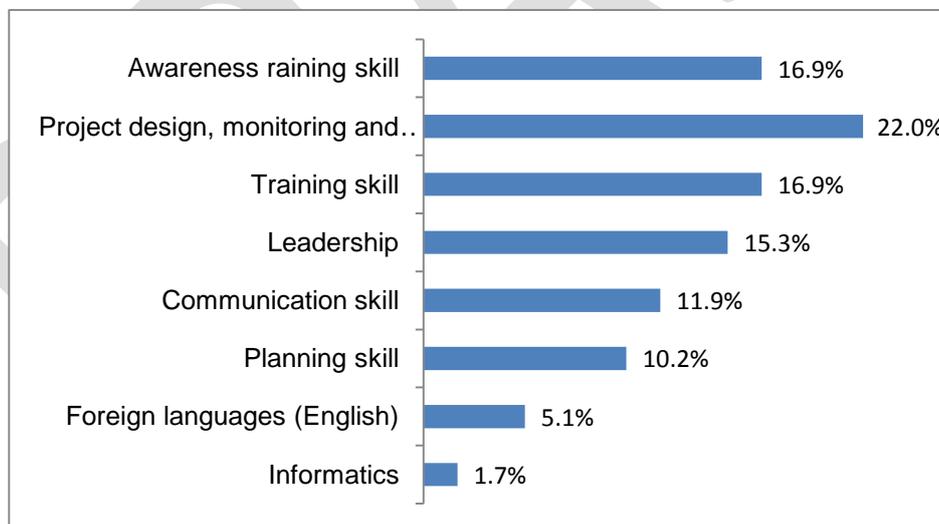
supports to difficult households and the importance of social economic and cultural values to sustainable forestry. However, nearly 100% of the respondents in all four groups had no answers to the questions on carbon value chain, principles and indicators of FPIC, etc. 46.6% of the respondents of provincial government agencies believed that REDD+ and PES were similar (quantify the environmental values of forests). 100% of the respondents of district and commune authorities, state enterprises, mass organisations and households had no answers for those questions. Even in Lam Dong province, one of the two piloting provinces of PES, the commune people’s committees, mass organisations and households had little understanding on these issues

To sum up, all the four groups have no real capacity on the cluster of benefit sharing from forest carbon trade.

High demand on cross-cutting knowledge support indirectly the implementation of REDD+ mechanism

During FGD with government agencies and mass organisation, a high demand on cross-cutting knowledge and skills has emerged, which supports indirectly the implementation of REDD+ mechanism. These knowledge and skills include planning, project monitoring and evaluation, management skills, training and awareness raising skills, etc (See Table below)

Figure 13: Demand on knowledge and skill indirectly supporting REDD+ implementation



Overall remarks

In general the current knowledge of the grassroots stakeholders in all five clusters relating to CC and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) has been considered lower than the competency standards developed by RECOFTC. The smallest knowledge gap has been found in the cluster of CC and bigger in the clusters of forest carbon trade and benefit sharing from forest carbon trade. It is understandable because forest carbon trade and benefit sharing from forest carbon trade are totally new topics. The gaps are smaller

in the group of provincial government agencies (policy and technical sub-groups) and bigger in the groups of mass organisation and communities including households whose livelihood relates to forests

3.5. Assessment results of institutional and organisational settings relating to readiness for REDD+

Unclear institutional setting and policy relating readiness for REDD+

While the Government has issued a Decree 99/2010/NĐ-CP on policies relating to PES creating legal basis for implementation of PES to relevant stakeholders particularly government agencies, up to now there has been no legislation relating to reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). Leaders of DARD in the survey province have expressed their wish to have legal papers issued by the Government to create a legal corridor for carrying out necessary actions, firstly planning, budget allocation, training to build up staff capacity, awareness raising activities, etc. Due to lack of relevant legislation, the limited understanding on issues relating to REDD+ mechanism of technical staff, mass organisation and households is understandable

Within the framework of the UN-REDD Vietnam programme, phase I, a draft decree on payment policies and benefit sharing implementation from the central to local levels and integrated with PES has been developed. In the phase II, the draft decree will be submitted to the Government and after having approved it may be issued in form of a decree or a decision.

The UN-REDD Vietnam programme has also supported the Government in development of a national strategy on REDD+ including key points such as policy on REDD and ways to implement them at the central and local levels. The main components of REDD have been mentioned as follows:

- Governance: functions and tasks of central and local agencies including task and responsibilities of forest owners (as households) in participation with REDD activities.
- Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV): methods to collect data to compile reports with high quality on reducing emissions and GHG. This will be served as basis to receive international payment.
- Benefit sharing system: How to share the benefits and under what types?

The National Strategy on REDD is developed on the basis of consultation with all actors from the central to local levels. The consultation has been estimated to complete in June 2011. After that the Strategy will be submitted to the Government for consideration and approval.

The clear legal status of households on land and forests is one of the prerequisites for successful implementation of forest protection and development in general and REDD+ mechanism in particular. However, the policies relating to forest land allocation to households still need improvement. The Government has issued a lot of legislation on forest land allocation to

households such as Decree 02/CP dated 15/01/1994, Decree 01/CP dated 04/01/1995, Decree 163/1999/NĐ-CP dated 16/11/1999, etc. However, the areas of forest land allocated to households are quite low (See Table below)

Table 10: Area of forested land allocated to households up to 31/12/2009

(Unit: ha)

| Type of forested land | Total area | Households | Percentage |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Forested land | 13,258,843 | 3,287,070 | 24.8% |
| A. Natural forest | 10,339,305 | 1,961,517 | 19.0% |
| 1. Wood forest | 8,235,838 | 1,416,918 | 17.2% |
| 2. Bamboo forest | 621,454 | 168,587 | 27.1% |
| 3. Mix forest | 685,631 | 123,032 | 17.9% |
| 4. Mangrove forest | 60,603 | 3,527 | 5.8% |
| 5. Rocky mountain forest | 735,779 | 249,452 | 33.9% |
| B. Plantation forest | 2,919,538 | 1,325,553 | 45.4% |
| 1. With reserves | 1,464,330 | 564,374 | 38.5% |
| 2. No reserves | 1,124,930 | 557,321 | 49.5% |
| 3. Bamboo | 87,829 | 76,084 | 86.6% |
| 4. Specialty | 206,730 | 110,406 | 53.4% |
| 5. Mangrove, alkaline forest | 35,719 | 17,369 | 48.6% |

(Source: DOF/MARD, 2010)

The forested land which has been allocated to households is usually divided into pieces. On average a household has received 4.7ha divided into 2-3 pieces, particularly in Cao Bang province there is a household has 14 Certificates of land use rights (Dang Kim Son, Policy Institute for Rural Development of Vietnam, Forests and Land Allocation: Practice and Policy, 2007, p.6)

Some main reasons of this situation is dispute emerged during the process to transfer the land allocation authority from DARD (Forest protection) to DONRE; the authority to allocate land is under DONRE while the authority to assess and manage forests (i.e property on land) is under DARD; dispute due to land measurement and original land; limited financial resources. According to Deputy Minister of MARD cum General Director of DOF, Mr. Hua Duc Nhi, at the National Workshop on Forestry Sector Policies and Orientation to 2020, Hanoi 6 Jan. 2011, it needs some 1.5 million VND to implement allocation of one hecta of forested land to households. Therefore the financial resource for forested land allocation in provinces having hundreds thousand hectares of forests (usually poor mountainous provinces) is a big difficulty to their local budget.

The forested land allocation has not accompanied with sustainable livelihood for households who receive the land. Consequently the allocated forest and land have not used properly and in line with the allocation objectives. According to Dang Kim Son in the book mentioned above, p.

9, only 20-30% of the households who had received than forests and land, has used the allocated forests and land properly and in line with the allocation objectives. In many locations, after having allocated, the area of terraced farms has increased. In addition, due lack of capital for plantation, people increase animal raising, collecting non-timber products and timber harvesting including illegal one. At the interview with DARD Director of Lam Dong province, Mr. Patrick Van Laake, Technical Adviser of the UN-REDD Vietnam programme had a remark saying “*REDD and PES only work when people are not hungry*“. In Bac Kan province, a piece of sindora wood of 35cm in diameter and 80cm long can be sold at price of 800,000VND (some 40 USD) just right at the forest exit. This sum of money is equivalent to the fees of forest caring and protection of one hecta of forest for 4 years(!)

A complete organisational structure ready to implement REDD+ mechanism has not been developed yet

With the Decree 380/QGG-TTg issued by Prime Minister on 10/04/1008 about piloting implementation of PES in two provinces of Lam Dong and Son La, Vietnam has become the first country in South East Asia to pilot the Payments for Forestry Ecological Services (PFES) mechanism. On the 24/09/2010 Government issued the Decree 99/2010/NĐ-CP regulating details in organisation and structure of relevant agencies nationwide in relation to implementation of PES. The Decree 99/2010/NĐ-CP took effect since 01/01/2011. However, at the moment of compiling of this Report, there are any organisation or structure for implementation of PES in the survey provinces, except Lam Dong.

In comparison with PES, the mechanism of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is much newer and actually unclear. Up to now as mentioned above, all the relevant legislation papers such as decrees of the Government, etc are still in the draft status. They have not been considered and approved. Some structures relating to REDD+ has just formed at the national level such as the National REDD+ Network and its Technical Working Groups, etc. The National Steering Committee on REDD+ was just set up in Jan. 2011.

At the local level, at the moment there has been no structure relating to REDD+. Within the framework of the UN-REDD Vietnam programme, phase I, one of its three expected results is technical and institutional capacity for management and coordination of REDD activities at the central level (MARD) improved including proposal of a coordination mechanism between MARD and other relevant ministries and provinces in management and implementation of REDD activities. This mechanism will be reviewed and improved in the phase II of the programme. In short term in Lam Dong province, where the UN-REDD Vietnam programme has been implementing since 2009, an inter-sectoral structure called as REDD+ Team has been piloted. The Team includes representatives from DARD, DONRE, DPI, etc and headed by a Deputy Director of DARD. In other provinces as Bac Kan and Ca Mau, there are no similar structures yet.

Such pilot structure as in Lam Dong province is very important because it can help draw lessons learned and advise the Government and MARD on organisation and structure for

REDD+ implementaion in the future. However, it also needs to mention that similar inter-sectoral structures have existed for issues of road safety (headed by the transportation sector) or food safety (headed by the public health sector) and their effectiveness is still questionable. One of the reasons causing their low effectiveness is that all of their members are part-time. So they usually do not spend enough time for their job at the structure. They are leaders of the relevant sectors (heads or deputy heads). However, due to too busy with their full-time jobs, they usually nominate their staff to join meetings of the structure. These nominated staff are usually technical experts having no authority for decision making on issues discussed during the meetings. Therefore their jobs are simply taking notes and reporting back to their leaders or authorised level for decision making. As a result, meetings of the structure are usually long and not able to make decision on issues on the table.

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4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1. Conclusions

1. Now Vietnam has 12,899,434 ha of forests out of 13,258,843 ha of forestry land. The forest coverage is 39.1%. Deforestation and forest degradation are one of the big challenges of the forestry sector. Their main drives include conversion of forested land into land for agricultural production, unsustainable timber harvesting, infrastructure development and forest fires. Vietnam has been recognized as one of the top five countries in the world the most threatened by climate change. The Government of Vietnam has aware the impacts of deforestation and forest degradation so actively participated the Initiatives of reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) by development of the National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change (NTP), the Action Plan Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change of the Agricultural and Rural Development Sector, period 2008-2010 (APF), etc. Vietnam is also one of the first countries implementing the UN-REDD programme. In March 2011, the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) of Vietnam has been approved at the eighth meeting of the Participants Committee (PC8) of World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) with a readiness grant allocation of 3.6 million of USD. At the national level, a National REDD+ Network and its Technical Working Groups and the Steering Committee for Implementation of the Initiative on "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity Conservation and Enhancing Forest Carbon Stocks (REDD+) in Viet Nam (or REDD+ Steering Committee for short) have been established. At the provincial level, there is only Lam Dong, where a pilot REDD+ Steering Unit has been set up
2. 20 of forestry sector grassroots stakeholders of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) have been identified and categorised into 04 groups: Local government agencies relating to forests, State enterprises, Mass organisations and Communities. The local government agencies include DARD (Forest protection sub-department, Forestry sub-department, Extension centre, Management units of protection and special forests), DONRE (Land management, Environment protection), Committee for mountains and ethnic affairs, District people's committee (Agro-forestry division/Phòng NN-PTNT), Forest protection station, Commune people's committee (Agro-forestry section/Forestry section, Field forest protection officer). The state enterprises include Forestry company Ltd. The mass organisations include Women Union (province, district, commune), Youth Union (province, district, commune), Farmer's association (province, district, commune), provincial union of scientific and technological associations. The communities include Village head and households. Four extents of interest/influence of the grassroots stakeholders of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) have been identified including: very high (++++), high (+++), average (++) and low (+). A participation strategy with grassroots stakeholders of reducing emissions from

deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) has been proposed with four different levels of participation (as Information, Consultation, Partnership and Control) for different stages of the capacity building programme (needs assessment, programme development, programme implementation and programme evaluation)

3. A competency standards relating to CC and REDD for grassroots stakeholders of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) has been developed and categorised into 5 clusters: Basic knowledge and skills on CC; Understanding of REDD in the context of CC; Integration of REDD into CF; Forest carbon market and trade and benefit sharing from forest carbon trade. The competency standards in each of the clusters have been divided into 5 levels, of which level 1 includes the most basic knowledge and skills and level 5 the most advanced ones. In the group of government agencies, the sub-group of policy of province (i.e MARD and DONRE) requires the competency standards of the level 4, the sub-groups of policy of district and provincial technical staff require the level 3, the state enterprises and mass organisations require the level 2, the communities require the level 1.
4. The current capacity of grassroots stakeholders of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is lower than the required competency standards relating to CC and REDD. The gaps vary from group/sub-group to group/sub-group and from cluster to cluster. In the cluster of understanding and knowledge relating to CC (cluster 1) all the groups have basic understanding on CC, are able to describe climate changes in their locations and to apply local and scientific knowledge in responding to CC at the simple level (level 1). The group of provincial government agencies (policy making and technical support sub-groups) has been able to apply local knowledge and scientific and technological progress in responding CC (such as changing structure of farming and domestic animal husbandry, production habits, farming season adjustment, diversification of income generation activities, etc) (level 2). In the cluster of understanding of REDD+ in the context of CC (cluster 2) and integration of REDD+ into CF (cluster 3), sub-group of provincial policy making and technical support have their capacity at the level 2, the remaining groups at the level 1. In the cluster of forest carbon market and trade (cluster 4) and benefit sharing from forest carbon trade (cluster 5), the provincial government agencies (policy making and technical support) has their current capacity at the level 1, the remaining groups lower than level 1.
5. Regarding the relevant organisational and institutional settings, the Government has not issued relevant legislations to create a legal corridor for readiness to implement REDD+ mechanism. Within the framework of UN-REDD programme phase II, a decree on REDD+ and REDD+ National Strategy will be issued by the Government. The legislations and legal papers relating to forest and forested land allocation to households have been available but their implementation are still slow. The percentage of forested land allocated to households is only 24.8%, of which the natural forests allocates is very low. For example only 5.8% of mangroves forests has been allocated. The main reasons of such situation include disputes in planning, sources of land, authority regulation between the forestry sector and the environment and natural resources sector, limited resources for land allocation, etc. The

forests and land allocation has been accompanied with sustainable livelihood for forest-relating households. The percentage of households who has received forest and land and used in line with the allocation objectives is only 20-30%. There has not been a complete system which is ready to implement REDD+ mechanism. At the national level there have been the National REDD+ Network and its technical working groups, the National Steering Committee for REDD+. At the province level, only Lam Dong province is piloting a inter-sectoral REDD+ Unit.

4.2. Recommendations

1. The Government should issue soon legislations and policies regulating organisational and insitutional settings realting to implementaion of REDD+ mechanism to create a legal corridor for goevernment agencies to carry out necessary actions for readiness for REDD+. Within the UN-REDD programme and in collaboration with relevant other projects, some models for REDD+ implementation at the provincial level should be developed and piloted and draw lessons learned and submitt to the Government to disseminate across the country.
2. In order to standardise the capacity building for RED+ for forestry sector grassroots stakeholders, the NORAD – REDD project should collaborate with the National Steering Committe for REDD+ to revise the standard competency for REDD+ and CC (firstly drafted by RECOFTC) and improve and issue it under a set of national standard competency for REDD+ and CC accompanied with tools for capacity building needs assessment and encourage relevant stakeholders to use them. This recommendation is inline with Output 4 of the NORAD – REDD project.
3. The NORAD – REDD project may collaborate with the National Steering Committe for REDD+ and the UN-REDD Vietnam programme to develop a capacity builing programme for all forestry grassroots stakeholders for redusing emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). This capacity builing programme may include 6 modules with basic topics as follows:

Module 1: Climate change science

- Concept, phenomena and impacts of CC
- Greenhouse mechanism
- Resping to CC
- Local knowledge and scientific and technological advances and responding to CC
- Adaptive strategy to CC at landscape and community levels
- International and national legislation relating to CC
- International negotiation on CC

Module 2: REDD+ in the context of CC

- Roles and livelihoods benefits from forests
- Forest degradation: Drivers, sequences and the linkage with emission reduction.
- Forest quality evaluation: Methods, content and trends
- Concepts and methods to assess emission of GHG from deforestation and forest degradation
- Sustainable forest management and competitive land use
- Planning for REDD+ readiness
- Human resources preparation for REDD+ implementation
- Policy planning at national and local levels relating to REDD+
- National and regional REDD+ mechanism

Module 3: Integration of REDD+ into CF

- Concept of community forestry and sustainable forestry
- Participatory forest management
- Forest resource governance including planning and implementation of inventory and monitoring of forest resources
- Forest biomass and methods to assess forest biomass and conversion to forest carbon stock.
- Methods to assess and verify forest carbon stock
- Conflict management in forest resource use
- Establishment and management of forest user groups
- Sustainable livelihood and REDD+ implementation
- Verification and certification of forest sustainable products

Module 4: Forest carbon market and trade

- Concept, functions, operation and trend of forest carbon market
- Capacity to participate forest carbon trade
- Broker related issues in forest carbon market
- Policy planning in order to control and develop a healthy forest carbon market
- Financial sources for forest carbon market

Module 5: Benefit sharing from forest carbon trade

- Livelihood support and poverty reduction
- Equity in the process of benefit sharing and livelihood support to vulnerable groups
- Cultural, economic and social values of communities
- Stakeholder participation in the decision making process realing benefit sharing from forest carbon trade
- Methos and indicators of FPIC
- Forest carbon value change
- FPES
- Design and implementaion of benefir sharing mechanism

Module 6: Coross cutting issues

- Leadership and management
- Project planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Communication and community awareness raising
- Capacity building and training

Targets of the proposed capacity building programme include forestry government agencies, state forestry enterprises, mass organisations and communities including households who live in/near forests.

The six modules mentioned above could be used to design short traning courses at five levels for forestry sector grassroots stakeholders for redusing emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)

ANNEXES

Phụ lục 1 Logframe of the NORAD-REDD project

Annex 2 List of Data collection team

Phụ lục 3 Schedule of data collection

Annex 4 Data collection tools

Annex 5 List of people met

Annex 6 List of programmes and projects in the sector of responding to climate change in the period of 2010 – 2015, that are proposed for mobilisation of international aid

Annex 7 Profiles of forestry sector grassroots stakeholders

Annex 8 Standard competency of forestry sector grassroots stakeholders

Annex 9: Current competency of forestry sector grassroots stakeholders

Annex 10: List of materials reviewed